



Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association

ROSS T. ROBERTS TRIAL ACADEMY

Named in memory of one of Kansas City's most distinguished federal judges, the Ross T. Roberts Trial Academy runs from September through April of each year and is designed to teach new lawyers trial advocacy skills and to foster professionalism, ethics and collegiality. Participation gives attorneys the opportunity to practice trial techniques and to receive training and guidance from experienced litigators and judges.

The annual program is comprised of three components: (1) a CLE luncheon series; (2) training sessions; and (3) performance sessions. The CLE luncheons are held monthly at the Whittaker Courthouse and focus on practical skills such as depositions, pretrial motion practice, jury instructions and ethics. United States Magistrate Judge Robert E. Larsen leads the training sessions and covers the six major components of a trial:

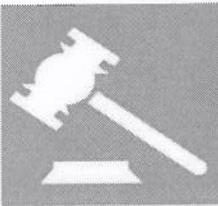
- ▶ Voir Dire
- ▶ Opening Statements
- ▶ Direct & Cross Examination
(using actual FBI agent witnesses)
- ▶ Lay Witness Direct & Cross Examination
- ▶ Evidentiary Foundations
- ▶ Expert Witnesses
- ▶ Closing Arguments

The week following each training session, participants or "Barristers" practice what they have learned in a "mock trial" setting. State and federal judges, along with a select group of experienced litigators or "Masters", are present during the sessions to critique the lawyers and provide one-on-one instruction. Attorneys also receive videotapes of their work to assist in understanding areas for improvement. The Academy concludes each year with a mock trial competition in which the Barristers try a case from beginning to end before a local judge.

With fewer and fewer courtroom opportunities, lawyers face the challenge of how to hone and maintain their trial skills. The Trial Academy addresses this need with educational and practical opportunities for recent law graduates as well as attorneys just embarking on a litigation practice or trying to refresh their skills.

The cost to participate is \$575 which includes all CLE luncheons, all prep and performance sessions, an electronic trial notebook with materials, the mock trial competition and a year-end reception. Further details for this year's program are included on the application form which can be found at www.kcmba.org.

Scholarship opportunities, sponsored by KCMBA's Young Lawyers' and Diversity Sections, are available for those in need of financial assistance. KCMBA scholarship applications and instructions can be found at www.kcmba.org. Questions about the academy and the KCMBA scholarships may be directed to Barb Hannon at bhannon@kcmba.org, or by calling 816-474-4322. Class size is limited. The application deadline is Aug. 1, 2014.



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Applications are now being accepted for the 2014-2015 Ross T. Roberts Trial Academy. The program begins in September, 2014 and runs through April, 2015. Each month, an afternoon instructional "prep" session, led by the Hon. Robert E. Larsen, will be held the week before each evening session to teach participants about the parts of a civil jury trial. The evening "performance" sessions are held on the third Wednesday of every month. All evening sessions will be held from 5:15 - 7:45 p.m. Participants are expected to attend all evening sessions, including the trial competition (held on a Saturday morning in April), and to prepare for each meeting. The amount of preparation time for sessions will vary. Additionally, a luncheon CLE lecture series will be held monthly at the United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri.

The cost to participate is \$575, which includes all prep and performance sessions, CLE luncheons, an electronic trial notebook with materials, the mock trial competition and a year-end reception. Past registrants are eligible to participate in the program again.

The eight evening performance sessions, eight prep sessions and the eight CLE luncheons, including two ethics hours, are eligible for 50-55 CLE hours in MO and KS (pending). To apply, complete the form below and fax to (816) 474-0103 or email Barb Hannon at bhannon@kcmba.org. Space is limited, so apply today! Contact KCMBA at (816) 474-4322 with questions. The deadline to apply is Aug. 1, 2014.

2014-2015 Ross T. Roberts Trial Academy Application

Name _____
Firm/Office _____
Business Address _____
City/State/Zip _____ Business Phone _____
E-mail Address _____
Year Admitted to Practice _____ Law School _____
Description of Current Caseload _____

Payment Information

Cost: \$575 (Includes All Sessions, Electronic Materials, Mock Trial Competition and Year-end Reception)

___ Am Express ___ Discover ___ Visa ___ MasterCard

Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____

Cardholder Name _____

Check No. _____ (Make checks payable to KCMBA)

Cancellations: After September 1, there will be no refunds granted or substitutions.

Special Needs: If you need special accommodations, please contact KCMBA prior to the beginning date.

Please return to: KCMBA Ross T. Roberts Trial Academy, Two Pershing Square,
2300 Main St., Ste. 100, Kansas City, MO 64108

Ross T. Roberts Trial Academy 2014-2015 Scholarship Application

Scholarship Guidelines and Process:

- Scholarships are sponsored by the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri.
- They are intended:
 - To enable attorneys who need financial assistance to participate in the Trial Academy;
 - To encourage participation by attorneys on or interested in the CJA panel;
 - To promote more diverse participation in the program; and
 - To provide mentoring opportunities to attorneys who do not otherwise have access to experienced litigators for guidance and trial practice training.
- Scholarship applications, along with the Trial Academy Application (available at www.kcmba.org), should be emailed no later than **August 1, 2014** to bhannon@kcmba.org.
- Questions about the scholarship application should be directed to Rebecca Suroff at 816-512-5763 or Rebecca_Suroff@mow.uscourts.gov.
- Recipients will be selected by a committee composed of representatives from the Federal Court Advocates Section of KCMBA and Judges from the Court.
- KCMBA membership fees will be waived for scholarship recipients for 2014-2015, entitling recipients to full membership benefits through the end of 2015.

Name		
Current Position		
Type of Legal Practice <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Sole Practitioner <input type="checkbox"/> Corporation	<input type="checkbox"/> Legal Aid <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit <input type="checkbox"/> Firm	Size of Firm (Please mark if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Small (2-20) <input type="checkbox"/> Medium (21-70) <input type="checkbox"/> Large (71+)
Bar Admissions (state and year)		
Professional Memberships		
Trial Experience to Date		
Career Goals in Five Years		
References (at least two, include name, phone number and email address)		
1. 2.		
Does your firm have funds available for training? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
What are your reasons for applying for financial aid?		
Please discuss how you intend to use the skills acquired from this course.		
Additional comments in support of your application		