

## **AUGUST 1, 2021 MEMORANDUM ON THE COLLEGE OF ADVOCACY**

In 1981 when I taught at the University of Virginia Law School, I co-founded what is now The National Trial Advocacy College at the University of Virginia where we teach trial advocacy to 50 3L law students and approximately 100 lawyers from around the country. I remain the College's Director. The course runs from Saturday morning thru Thursday afternoon, and we will celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in January 2022 one year late (covid permitting).

I saw over the years that the U VA students who immersed themselves in the National College out-performed the GW students who took trial advocacy once a week during a 13-week semester. So I changed my course to the GW College of Advocacy which runs 2 intensive weekends in the Fall semester, and I found that the students who took the GW College did as well as the U VA students. I teach the GW College with 14 or 15 carefully chosen adjuncts.

This year the GW College of Advocacy will take place on October 1, 2, 3, 15, 16, and 17. It is offered only once each year, and there is a limit on the number of students who can take it. The GW College offers substantial advantages over the traditional 13-week course, including the following:

1. Students in the College do nothing but advocacy for the two weekends, and their skill set at the end is amazing.
2. I offer the syllabus for the College at the start of the semester so students can do the reading (which is actually fun) before the College starts.
3. At the close of business Sunday night, October 17<sup>th</sup>, students will have earned 3 hours credit and completed one of the courses for the semester.
4. Students can advertise their completion of the College in applying for summer or permanent jobs and can do so early in the school year.
5. Students who complete the College often compete well in advocacy competitions.
6. Students can take the College even if they have not completed an Evidence course, although it is preferable if they have done so or are taking Evidence and the College simultaneously.