



Ross T. Roberts Trial Academy

Named in memory of one of Kansas City's most distinguished federal judges, the Ross T. Roberts Trial Academy (formerly Inn of Court) 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 more 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 lawyers 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 for participation is \$575 which includes all CLE luncheons, all training sessions, a trial notebook, handout materials, the mock trial competition and a year-end dinner. Further details and scheduling information for this year's program are included on the application form which can be found at www.kcmba.org. Scholarship opportunities are available for those in need of financial aid (see the attached application which is due by August 27, 2012). Questions may be directed to KCMBA (816-474-4322).

ROSS T. ROBERTS TRIAL ACADEMY APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED

Applications are now being accepted for the 2012-2013 Ross T. Roberts Trial Academy Program. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month, beginning in September 2012. All evening sessions will be held from 5:15-7:45 p.m. A "prep" session led by the Hon. Robert E. Larsen will be held the week before each evening session. All 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 of participation is \$575, which includes registration for all sessions, trial notebook, handout material, mock trial competition and the year-end dinner. Past registrants are eligible to participate in the program again.

The evening program is 9 sessions totaling 25 CLE hours in MO and 20 CLE hours in KS (pending). Prep sessions are also eligible for CLE credit with 9 sessions totaling 21.6 hours in MO and 18.0 hours in KS. The luncheon series is 8 CLE hours including 3 hours of ethics in MO and KS (pending). To register, copy the form below, fill out and fax to (816) 474-0103. Space is limited, so sign up today! If you have questions contact KCMBA at (816) 474-4322.

2012-2013 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 _____

Please enclose a check made payable to KCMBA for \$575 for the program
(Fee Includes all Sessions, Hand-out Materials, Mock Trial Competition and Year-end Dinner)

Credit Card Information: _____ FEIN – 43-0860985
____ American Express _____ Visa _____ MasterCard Exp. Date _____
Card No. _____ Signature _____

Cancellations: After September 7, 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**

**2012-2013 Ross T. Roberts
Trial Academy 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 standard Trial Academy Application (available at www.kcmba.org), should be sent no later than **August 27, 2012** to KCMBA, 2300 Main St., Ste.100, Kansas City, MO 64108 or by email to ejones@kcmba.org. If you have questions about the Trial Academy, contact Jen Kiper at 816-474-4322 or jkipper@kcmba.org.
- Recipients will be selected by a committee composed of representatives from the Federal Court Advocates Section of the KCMBA and Judges from the Court.
- KCMBA membership fees will be waived for scholarship recipients for 2012-2013, entitling recipients to full membership benefits through the end of 2013.

Name:	
Current Position:	
Type of Legal Practice: <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Aid <input type="checkbox"/> Sole Practitioner <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit <input type="checkbox"/> Corporation <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 Five Years from Now:	
References (at least two, include telephone 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:	