



California Family Law Report

FAMILY LAW FROM THE EXPERTS TRIAL ADVOCACY IN CHILD CUSTODY CASES

Frequently Asked Questions

- ***Why should I enroll/register in the Trial Advocacy Program?***

The all-star faculty of the newly updated CFLR Trial Advocacy program will focus not just on the law, but also on *trial strategy*. This program will help you think about not only what you *should* do, but also what you *may* do but should *avoid* doing. For example, you will learn when you should refrain from objecting and how to more effectively deal with the “bad” facts in your case.

- ***Will the program satisfy the trial advocacy requirements of the Board of Legal Specialization?***

YES. This program meets all current BLS requirements for trial advocacy programs offering 2 trial credits – a total of 21 hours of MCLE/Specialization credit, comprised of 15 hours of instruction time and 6 hours of role playing. The instruction and role playing will be available to all students via the live-stream webinar. Although BLS standards require CFLR to state the program is “provisionally” approved, BLS has *always* given final approval to CFLR programs because we scrupulously follow and comply with all BLS mandates. Indeed, in CFLR’s entire 40-year history, not one of its programs has been disqualified from BLS credit.

- ***Will I have an opportunity to actively participate?***

YES. During the program, you will observe our expert faculty members as they determine how to proceed at trial. You will have the opportunity to express your own trial strategy and decisions through electronic polling using your smart phone. And, you will have ample opportunity to ask questions of our faculty members, both during and after the program.

- ***What about student/teacher interaction?***

Because of the importance of social distancing during the COVID-19 Pandemic, student/teacher interaction will be accomplished using electronic polling. Live-stream webinar attendees will have ample opportunity for “real time” question-and-answer interactions with our faculty.

- ***How will trial skills be demonstrated?***

Faculty members will “tee up” the issues, show a presentation, and then discuss the pros and cons of that presentation.

- ***How will examination of witnesses be conducted?***

Students will observe direct and cross-examination. Students will respond to strategic plans for both direct and cross-examination via electronic polling.

- ***How will evidentiary objections be presented?***

Skilled trial lawyers know when to object and when to “let it ride” because it advances their trial plan. During the program, you will “decide” whether an objection should be sustained or overruled through electronic polling. This method will help you hone your skills at the tactics of objecting using well-established principles such as objecting “*timely~wisely~specifically.*”

- ***Will there be practice tips for electronic platforms for trial?***

YES. The program will discuss uses of electronic hearings through web-based platforms such as ZOOM.

- ***Will there be “homework?”***

YES. Students will be expected to review hypotheticals the night before each class, so they are “prepared for trial.”

- ***If I have questions how will they be answered?***

The faculty will be available for questions both at the live program and through email. Judge Lewis will be available during and after the program to address general questions. You can reach Judge Lewis at JudgeTTLewis@gmail.com