
The Center for Advocacy (CFA) at University of Denver Sturm College of Law
NATIONAL TRIAL TEAM TRYOUTS
Candidate Informational Form

Congratulations on deciding to try out for the National Trial Team! Email these 2 completed forms to Prof Schott at DSchott@law.du.edu. Information about the tryouts can be found on the CFA webpage.

YOUR NAME: _____ **CELL #:** _____ **LAW GRAD YEAR:** _____

EMAIL: _____ **UNDERGRAD INSTITUTION:** _____

POST-COLLEGE WORK EXPERIENCE:

PLEASE LIST ANY HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE MOCK TRIAL, OR THEATER EXPERIENCE?

ARE YOU AWARE OF THE "CONCENTRATION IN ADVOCACY" THAT SCOL STUDENTS CAN EARN?

CHECK WHICH COURSES YOU HAVE ARE TAKING OR HAVE COMPLETED:

	Have Completed	Currently Taking	Taking This Summer
Trial Practice I – Basic Courtroom Skills	[]	[]	[]
Evidence	[]	[]	[]
Evidence Practicum	[]	[]	[]
Trial Practice II – Depositions	[]	[]	[]
Trial Practice II – Voir Dire	[]	[]	[]
Trial Practice II – Motions Practice	[]	[]	[]
Trial Practice II – Advanced Courtroom Skills	[]	[]	[]
Trial Practice III: Day One Civil or Criminal	[]	[]	[]

LIST OTHER COURSES, TOURNAMENTS (Summit, Hoffman, Advocates Cup), INTERNSHIPS, JOBS OR ORGS (STLA) IN WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN INVOLVED THAT ARE RELEVANT (list your STLA coach/es):

PLEASE LIST OTHER TIME COMMITMENTS THAT MAY COMPETE OR CONFLICT WITH YOUR POTENTIAL TRIAL TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES (e.g. job, internship, SBA, law review, etc.):

WHAT ARE YOU DOING THIS SUMMER (job, internship, travel, etc.)?

IF INVITED ONTO THE TEAM, WILL YOU BE AVAILABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- 1. Trial Practice I – Intensive?** Yes [] No []
(If you already have taken TP1 Intensive or TP1 regular, you do not have to take the Intensive course)
- 2. Trial Team course: Summer Session / Thurs 6:00 to 10:30 p.m.** Yes [] No []

IMPORTANT POINT #1: PLEASE ATTACH A PHOTOCOPY OF A PHOTO OF YOU WITH THIS FORM (This helps us remember who you are. It is very difficult to remember everyone.)

IMPORTANT POINT #2: Please read and sign the Letter-Agreement below and email it to Prof Schott.

**UNIVERSITY OF DENVER
NATIONAL TRIAL TEAM
LETTER-AGREEMENT**

Congratulations on having the courage to try out for the University of Denver Sturm College of Law's ***Trial Practice III – The National Trial Team (TP3-NTT)***. Trying out is a big step in developing your critical thinking, professional writing, advocacy and persuasive skills. It also deepens your understanding of the application of the Federal Rules of Evidence (FRE), substantive areas of both criminal and civil law (e.g. torts, contracts, etc.), the rules of courtroom procedure, and the rules of civil and criminal procedure. This experience accelerates you to being an excellent advocate in “The Profession that Takes the Oath.”

The Center for Advocacy (CFA) is one of the top-ranked advocacy programs in the country and the rewards of being on The National Trial Team and pursuing a “Concentration in Advocacy” are exponential. We are passionately dedicated to *professional teaching* – preparing law school students to successfully engage in the practice of law after graduation.

The TP3-NTT course is an intense simulation-based advocacy course. Simulated courses are one of the most effective methods for a law school student to develop professionally. In simulated environments the depth and breadth of variables can be optimized to emulate the professional situations a student will encounter in the practice.

The greatest benefit of being in the course and on the team is not the travel. Rather the greatest benefit is the education you will receive in one of the country's top programs from its award-winning, nationally-ranked corps of Adjunct Instructors. We strive to maintain a 4-1 Student-to-Adjunct ratio. **All of the National Trial Team instructors are successful licensed and practicing litigators and trial attorneys from a variety of civil and criminal areas of the profession who continue to sharpen their skills in courtrooms every day.**

Every week you will receive personalized attention in a small group environment. You will get hundreds of “reps in the well” presenting Opening Statements, Direct Examinations, Cross Examinations, Closing Arguments, *Motions in Limine*, and much more. Additionally, through “*Flash Advocacy*” you will practice applying the Rules of Evidence, and their underlying concepts and law, in a fluid and dynamic environment. You will apply the tenets of strategic thinking in a fast-paced, pressurized environment. Most of all, you will learn to build a case from the ground floor.

If you work hard and dedicate yourself, you will learn a great deal and be more prepared in the world of trial advocacy than the vast majority of practicing attorneys. As is proven by the history of job placement of our National Trial Team graduates, if you successfully commit yourself to this experience, at the end you will be ready to embark on a very effective advocacy career whether that is in civil or criminal law, and whether it is as a trial attorney or as a litigator.

The primary goal of our NTT is “**Learning First**” -- for you to learn and grow as a member of a team. Whether you travel or not, being a member of the NTT is a very intense and consuming commitment. Each team member, whether competing nationally or not, is required to participate in **The Summit Cup** (as a witness), in **The Hoffman Cup**, and **The Advocates Cup**. When not preparing for tournaments, the focus will be on developing your skills in the areas of depositions, courtroom technology, advanced legal writing for the bench, jury instructions, *Voir Dire* and motions practice. All are designed to help you be “Profession-Ready” in Pre-Trial Advocacy, Client Advocacy and Trial Advocacy.

IMPORTANT. Just like the actual practice of law, this is an extremely competitive environment. Only the best students will compete nationally. There will be constant opportunities to replace “starters”, or be replaced if you are a starter. Also, making the team one year does not assure an invitation the following year. By signing up to tryout, you acknowledge that you may be selected to be enrolled in the course, be on The National Trial Team, and be coached by our corps of Adjunct Instructors, however in the end you may be competing in the tournaments in our school, rather than elsewhere, under the tutelage of your coach.

It is important that you understand the dynamic nature of this team, and more importantly, of this learning experience.

The Big Picture. The National Trial Team experience is a lot of fun. Being on a team was the best experience I had in law school. You will create memories, forge friendships, and learn lessons upon which you will rely your whole career. Whether you are selected to travel or not, being accepted into this course means you are a member of our school's

National Trial Team. Thus, you represent the school, its faculty, its students, and alumni. The attractiveness to employers of a student's National Trial Team experience cannot be overstated. But it's important to remember, being on the team is a privilege, not a right. Thus, there are responsibilities. The team seeks students who are not only skilled, but who are committed and understand the meaning of the term "team." This team is founded upon the notion that "the whole is greater than the sum of the parts." **Unprofessional conduct or unprofessional comments will not be tolerated. Such conduct will result in dismissal from the course and from the team.**

Graded Credits. As evidence of our law school's commitment to professional education you will receive **three (3) graded "in class" academic credits each semester. The course is subject to the curve.** As you'll see, you will work harder in this class than any other. Your grade will be based upon a variety of factors: your attendance; the quality of your weekly work in the well; your written work product; your research; your success at tournaments (inter- or intra-school); and most of all, your ability to be a member on the team – communication, supporting others, and teamwork.

Time Commitment. The TP3-NTT course meets during the school year on **Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.** The team also practices on **Saturdays (from 8:30 a.m. to noon)** for approximately twelve (12) to sixteen (16) weeks a year. It is expected that you will spend, on average, 1 hour per week outside of practice for each 1 hour in practice (10 hours practice/week = 10 hours outside practice/week).

In addition to each team member being responsible for drafting examinations, participating in Run-Throughs and drills, and all of the other aspects of preparing a team for a tourney, each member also has a team "operational responsibility." The first such responsibility is that each Trial Team member will serve on a Trial Team committee. This participation is mandatory (however it is at most 15 to 20 hours per year.)

Due to the time commitment, each member of the team agrees that they will not be a member of any other traveling or appellate team. There is too great of a chance for there to be time conflicts. With that said, it is not uncommon for team members to have clerkships, part-time jobs at firms, be in a clinic or externship, or serve on a law journal or law review while on the team. However, since our class times are specified, it is your responsibility to assure you can make the commitment before trying out.

Summer Course. The National Trial Team also collectively meets during the summer on one night per week during the Summer School Session (**Thursdays from 6:00-10:30 p.m.**). This is also for three (3) in-class credits. Enrolling in this course is not mandatory since some students go out of state for jobs, taking the course is strongly recommended.

Advocacy Concentration & Summer Intensive Course. If you are accepted into this course, you are encouraged to pursue a "**Concentration in Advocacy**", as explained on the CFA website (24 advocacy course credits over your law school career). You are encouraged to enroll in **Trial Practice I – Intensive** that is taught in the last week of May and the first week of June. You are also strongly encouraged to take, as soon as you can, these advocacy courses: **Evidence, Evidence Practicum, the Day 1 Civil Practice Lab or Day 1 Criminal Practice Lab, and additional Trial Practice II course** (e.g. Depositions, Voir Dire, Motions Practice, Litigation Technology).

Commitment in Future Years. Also, if you are invited to be a member of the National Trial Team, you are agreeing that you will be available for the two (2) years following your graduation from law school to support the team if you continue to be in the Denver metro area. The most common way in which you will be asked to help is to serve as a scoring judge or a ruling judge or play a witness for a run-through. Do not worry, we will not encroach on your professional duties at your new job.

Finally. Hopefully this letter makes clear the anticipated commitment. The purpose of this letter is to encourage you, should you be given the opportunity, to participate in this law school experience. If you have questions do not hesitate to contact me or current National Trial Team members (their names and email addresses on The Center for Advocacy webpage). For your tryout, please acknowledge these terms with your signature below. If you are not extended an invitation, you have all of our thanks and admiration for trying out and I hope to see you in another class.

David C. Schott, Director
The Center for Advocacy

Your Printed Name

Your Signature

Date