

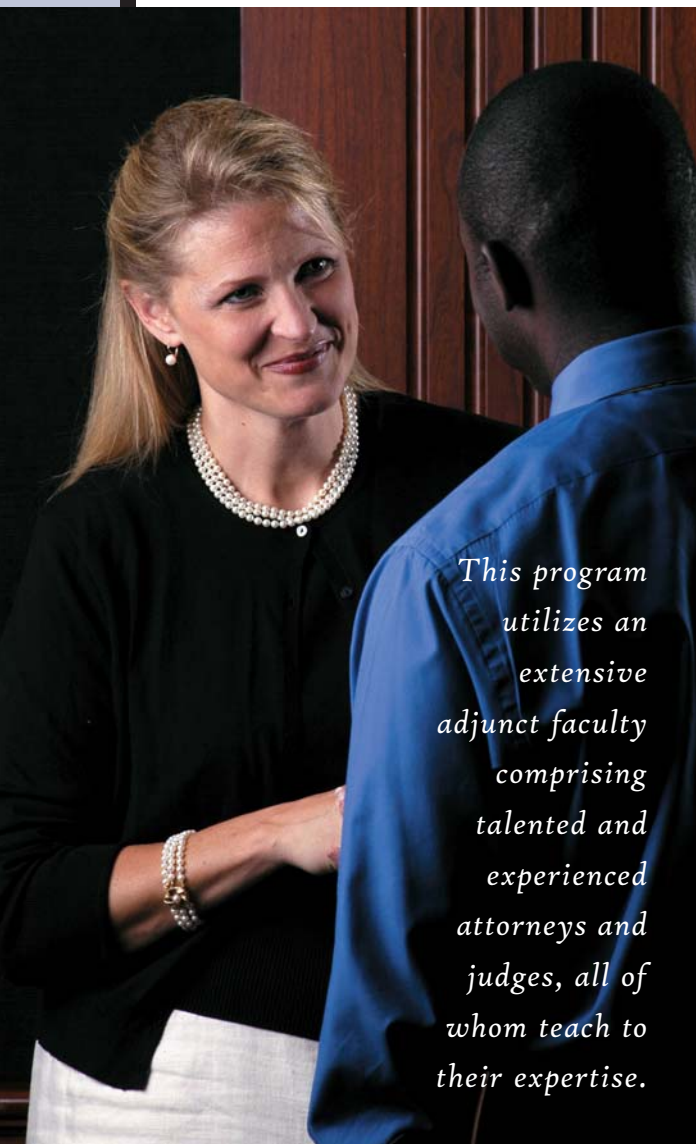
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS ADVOCACY PROGRAM



*A Nationally Recognized Center
of Training in Advocacy*



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SCHOOL OF LAW is a nationally recognized center of training in advocacy and winner of the American College of Trial Lawyers' Emil Gumpert Award. The Advocacy Program began more than 25 years ago as a response to concerns expressed by many distinguished graduates. The critics were judges and legal professionals at work in the field; their targets, the influx of new law graduates who, while well versed in the theory and history of the law, had little or no idea how to function in a courtroom. Through a series of trial tactics courses and the initiation of the stu-



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dent advocacy organization, the program began to flourish. Today, the Advocacy Program offers a broad-based curriculum designed to prepare students for the rigors of a modern law practice. Uniquely integrating the traditional practical advocacy skills with emerging applications, the program now focuses on all aspects of advocacy, ensuring that students develop a core set of skills that will help them to be persuasive advocates no matter who the audience is.

The Advocacy Program's state-of-the-art teaching facilities include the John L. Hill Trial Advocacy Center and the John B. Connally Center for the Administration of Justice. The school also houses the Kraft W. Eidman Courtroom, a large, fully functional courtroom complete with judicial chambers,

jury rooms, and attorney conference rooms, which serves as both a teaching facility and an official Travis County courtroom. The Eidman hosts many district court trials, and federal and appellate court proceedings, as well as the Advocacy Program's Judges in Residence series, during which a court's entire docket is moved to the Law School for several weeks each semester. Students are invited to view the various judicial proceedings held in the Eidman and often discuss the day's events with the presiding judge . . . a truly exceptional opportunity for them to witness firsthand the intricate workings of the judicial system.

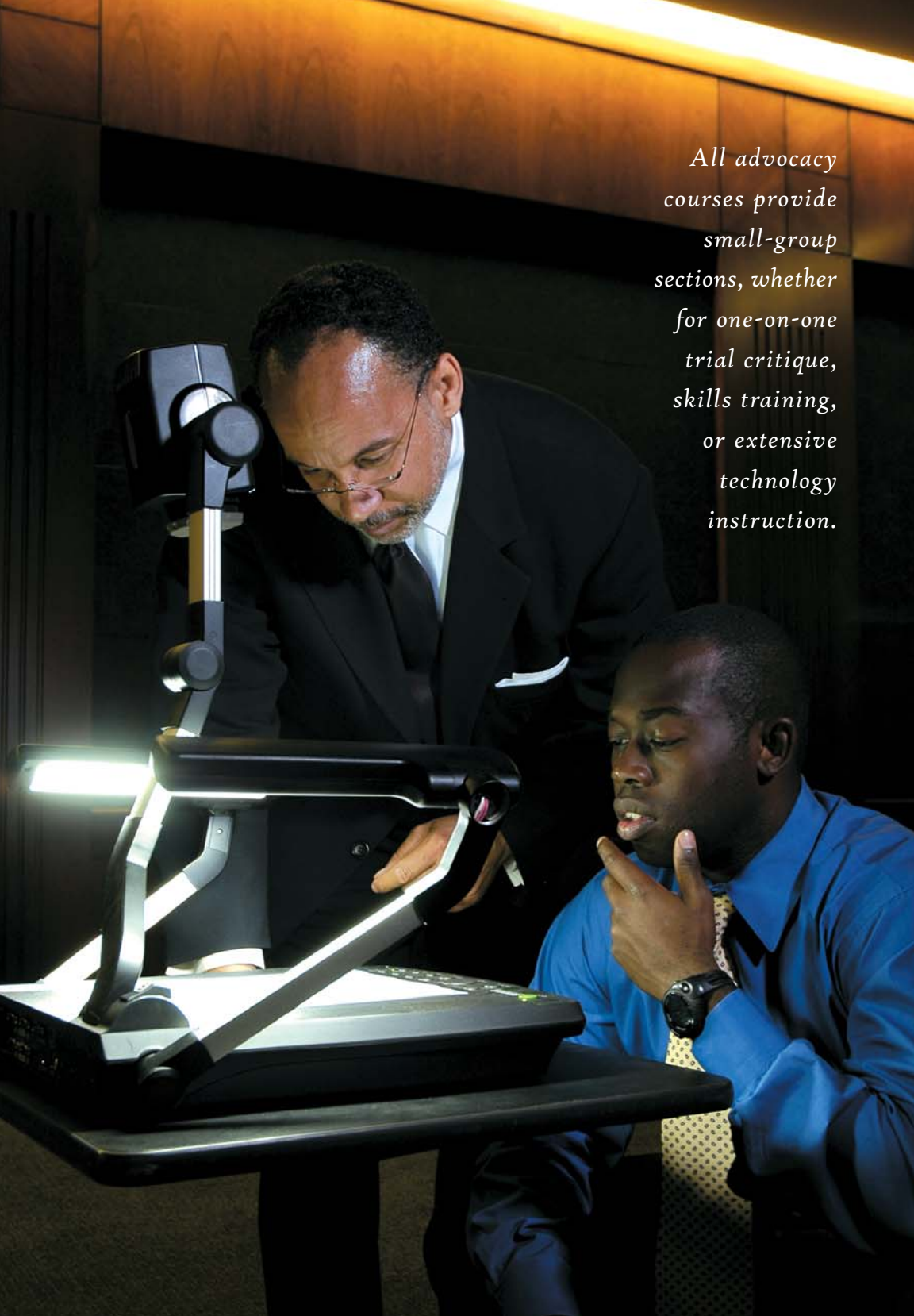


FROM TRADITIONAL THEORY and courtroom skills to Aristotle and progressive advances in the behavioral sciences, The University of Texas School of Law advocacy courses cover a wide range of current issues and trends in the legal industry. The philosophy of this program is that successfully maintaining a curriculum this comprehensive requires a “cast of thousands.” Rather than the usual large, impersonal lecture classes taught from the perspective of one or two professors, this program utilizes an extensive adjunct faculty comprising talented and experienced attorneys and judges, all of whom teach to their expertise. To accommodate the interdisciplinary features of the advocacy education, professors from departments throughout the University collaborate with the program to integrate the relevant parts of those fields into this curriculum. All advocacy courses provide small-group sections, whether for one-on-one trial critique, skills training, or extensive technology instruction. In this setting, students have unusual opportunities, such as voir dire practiced in front of a jury panel made up of volunteers from the community, opening and closing statements performed in front of focus groups, real depositions taken and transcribed by court reporting students, and motions argued at the courthouse before a state or federal court judge.

Introductory and intermediate courses lay the foundation by stressing basic advocacy theory and trial technique training, but also



expose students to a sampling of more complex topics such as motion practice, alternative dispute resolution, and courtroom technology. The advanced courses offer intensive training in various specialized areas of advocacy. A student may choose a course devoted predominantly to the development of trial skills through rigorous training in small sections, trying several cases throughout the semester, and focusing on case analysis, evidentiary issues, and effective



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cross-examination. A student with different interests may choose a course concentrating on cutting-edge persuasion theories and such techniques as mirroring, anchoring, storytelling, and personality profiling. Working with community-based jury panels and focus groups, students examine the different methods by which collective decision making can be influenced.

Additional courses center entirely on civil litigation, with an intermediate course covering such topics as depositions, e-issues, courtroom technology, expert witnesses, Daubert/Robinson challenges,

and post-verdict motions, and the more advanced civil litigation course concentrating on motion practice and writing, discovery and depositions, and the use and relevance of technology in litigation. Using business students as clients, witnesses, and experts, the law students develop their cases through interviewing, taking and defending depositions, arguing substantive motions periodically at the courthouse before a state or federal court judge, and working with opposing counsel in creatively exploring alternatives to trial.

MANY OF THE ADVOCACY STUDENTS are also members of the Board of Advocates (BOA), a student organization promoting the development of both oral and written advocacy skills. The BOA organizes all intramural advocacy competitions, including mock trial, moot court, voir dire, mediation, negotiation, and client counseling. The BOA also hosts seminars and programs covering a broad array of such topics as trial strategy, courtroom performance, and the basics of brief writing.

The University of Texas School of Law, in conjunction with the BOA, sponsors more than a dozen interscholastic competition teams such as the ABA National Moot Court Competition, the Phillip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, the National Trial Competition, the National Appellate Advocacy Competition, the ATLA Student Trial Advocacy Competition, the John R. Brown Admiralty Moot Court Competition, and several others. Participation on an interscholastic team requires not only talent and skill but also tremendous commitment. Students who compete for The University of Texas have achieved and continue to maintain a level of excellence rarely matched. University of Texas teams advance in almost every interscholastic tournament in which they compete and continue to win regional and national championships year after year.



THE GOAL

of The University of Texas School of Law Advocacy Program is to produce the best advocates in both the state and the nation. Through the innovative academic courses, the competitive advocacy tournaments, and the instruction of many dedicated attorneys and judges who serve as the program's adjuncts, our students are provided the well-rounded education necessary to achieve this goal. The advocacy students enter the legal world with not only the technical ability to act on behalf of those they represent but also the intellectual ability to think . . . about the objectives of each case, about which method of persuasion will be most successful in each situation, and, most important, about how best to advocate for each client.



“At Texas, we take pride in watching our graduates excel in legal practice. After all, that is why they come to our law school. They come for a legal education that prepares them well, first to enter practice and then to grow in practice and leadership throughout their careers. And that is precisely why we are here.”

DEAN WILLIAM C. POWERS

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