



Colorado Trial Attorney Mentoring Program



COLORADO ATTORNEY MENTORING PROGRAM

Getting face time in front of a judge or a jury is a relatively rare opportunity for new lawyers that also presents a chronic challenge for law firms. With the high cost of litigation, most cases settle before reaching the courts. But when they do, clients want experienced litigators making their arguments.

In many firms, associates spend their early years in the law library doing research for legal briefs or in front of tons of corporate documents doing tedious discovery for civil lawsuits, all on behalf of more senior attorneys. Courtroom appearances are rare, and the opportunity to argue a motion or cross-examine a witness is even more unlikely.

Indeed, trials are less common as the time and cost of pursuing litigation makes settling a case an economic

alternative to putting a case in the unpredictable hands of a jury. As a result, it takes longer for new attorneys to get courtroom experience.

The Trial Attorney Mentoring Program is a pilot program developed by the Colorado Attorney Mentoring Program to give new lawyers early courtroom exposure to improve their trial practice skills.

The program provides access to federal and state judges to talk about courtroom protocol and places new attorneys with seasoned attorney mentors where they can try actual cases together.



Colorado Attorney Mentoring Program- Mission & Vision

Through attorney mentoring CAMP promotes professional pride and identity in the legal profession; promotes the pursuit of excellence in service to clients; promotes the value of inclusiveness and diversity; and promotes strong relationships between the bar, courts, clients, law schools and public, through the teaching of the core values and ideals of the legal profession and the training in the best practices for meeting those ideals.

Experiential Mentoring



The Trial Attorney Mentoring Program provides participants with a unique opportunity to gain real world jury or bench trial experience while receiving one-on-one coaching and mentoring from seasoned litigators.

PROGRAM BENEFITS

- Attorneys seeking trial practice are paired with experienced mentors who assist in all aspects of trial preparation and practice
- Mentors and mentees act as co-counsel and each receives ample responsibility and credit for representation
- Mentees have the benefit of a safety net as they develop trial practice skills
- Clients receive the benefit of two attorneys at trial
- Mentors have the opportunity to learn from the mentee through critique of and questions regarding trial technique
- Professional succession planning by training the next generation of trial attorneys
- Improvement of the trial experience for everyone involved
- Free CLE Credit
- Cost effective for law firms looking for ways to train new trial lawyers
- Learn trial technology skills
- Broader opportunity for feedback from Judges, Opposing Counsel, and Jury Members
- Improved access to job opportunities for mentees with practical experience
- Supplement to expensive trial training programs
- Access to new areas of practice
- Pro bono opportunities

What Our Participants Say



The CAMP program provides an exceptional opportunity for our junior lawyers to gain valuable real world trial experience and mentorship. In today's market, with fewer trials, budget constraints, and client requests for controlling costs, it is becoming more difficult to provide real world trial experience to our younger lawyers. We believe our clients and firm benefit by our continuing to develop trial lawyers with the requisite experience and confidence to deliver in the courtroom. The CAMP program does just that.

– **Mollie Benedict, Chair, Medical Device & Pharmaceutical Liability Group Tucker Ellis LLP**

I would like to think that I'm a good mentor for what I am, but my experiences are vastly different from the "old guys" who routinely tried 4-5 jury trials a month – often with very little time to prepare. Those days will never return and with jury trials quickly becoming an endangered species, I have to wonder what the profession will look like in another 15 or 20 years. It strikes me that now - more than ever- we all need to be sharing what we know with younger attorneys or jury trials in this country will disappear.

– **Rob Jones, Mentor, In-House Counsel State Farm Insurance**

Staying Engaged In Practice

CAMP recognizes that the practice of law comes in various forms. The integration of work and life responsibilities requires some lawyers to limit or pause their practice at some point during their careers. The Trial Attorney Mentoring Program is here to ensure that no Colorado attorney has to worry about their trial skills going stale during a period of absence or limitation in practice.

In addition to new lawyers, the Trial Attorney Mentoring Program is also available to lawyers seeking to stay engaged in the practice of law while taking time away from traditional practice to raise a family, enjoy a sabbatical, care for an ailing spouse or parent, or reassess the direction of their legal career.

Whatever the reason, the Trial Attorney Mentoring Program can help non-traditional and transitioning attorneys keep their fingers on the pulse of Colorado trial practice. Whether you are a mentor or a mentee seeking to stay engaged in the practice, the Trial Attorney Mentoring Program is the right fit for you.



Considering a Practice Shift

The Trial Attorney Mentoring Program is also ideal for any attorney considering making the leap to trial practice. Take advantage of the opportunity to co-counsel a bench or jury trial with a mentor to assess your trial skills and interest in litigation practice. This opportunity is ideal for transactional attorneys and government or public interest attorneys without previous trial experience.

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