

The Office of the Wisconsin State Public Defender
26th Annual Trial Skills Academy

May 14-18, 2018
Abbey Resort – Fontana, WI

About the Program

Trial Skills Academy is a week-long program, which provides intense, hands-on learning in a wide range of trial skills to criminal defense lawyers at all experience levels. The program instructors are experienced trial lawyers from Wisconsin and all around the country. Many of the instructors teach at the National Criminal Defense College's Trial Practice Institute in Macon or other trial skills programs. Follow this link to read the [Faculty Bios](#).

This year, **participants will bring one of their own cases to work on throughout the week!** Participants will be divided into small groups (eight lawyers per group) based on experience level. In small groups, participants will develop a theory for their case and will prepare, practice and receive immediate feedback on:

- Voir dire
- Opening statement
- Cross examination
- Direct examination
- Closing argument

In addition to small group exercises, the Trial Skills Academy format includes lectures and demonstrations. Citizens from the surrounding communities act as jurors for the Voir Dire exercise. The skills taught can be applied universally, and are not specific to Wisconsin law. To assure a quality experience, the program is limited to 64 participants. Here is this year's preliminary [Agenda](#).

Comments from past participants include:

"As a result of attending, I am much more knowledgeable and confident. I feel invigorated and energized. I'm a better lawyer already."

"It is a must for anyone wanting to try cases, criminal or otherwise."

"I wanted to go through the whole trial process without having a client's fate in the balance."

"New ideas and courage to try!!" (comment from an attorney with 48 years of experience)

Tuition

Tuition for public defenders, private attorneys actively accepting public defender appointments and civil legal services lawyers is \$529.00. Tuition for all other criminal defense attorneys is \$829.00. Tuition includes lunch Monday through Thursday and breakfast Tuesday through Friday.

Registration payment may be made by credit card or check. Complete the [On-Line Registration Form](#) before you submit your payment. Payment instructions are included at the on-line registration confirmation page once you have finished the registration process. Your seat at the program will be reserved after you have completed the on-line registration form **and** paid the registration fee.

Lodging

A limited number of rooms are available at The Abbey Resort at the state rate of \$82/night on a first-come, first-served basis. **Reservations must be made before Thursday April 12, 2018 to qualify for the state rate.** To make a reservation, call The Abbey Resort at 800.709.1323 then press #2. Mention that you are attending the **Wisconsin Public Defenders' Trial Skills Academy**. To learn more about the amenities offered at The Abbey Resort, visit their website at: <http://www.theabbeyresort.com/>

Additional Information

For additional information or if you have questions about Trials Skills Academy, contact SPD Training Director Gina Pruski at pruskig@opd.wi.gov or 608.266.6782. Please note that the agenda and faculty are subject to change.

Enrollment limited to 64 participants – Register today!