



American College of Trial Lawyers

DIVERSITY TRIAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM SEEKS APPLICANTS

Tuition Free Program Focusing on Diversity in the Courtroom

NEWPORT BEACH, CALIFORNIA (July 12, 2023) – Due to overwhelming demand, The American College of Trial Lawyers (ACTL) is inviting diverse trial lawyers to participate in the second Diversity Trial Advocacy Program to be held in 2023. The first program, capped at 50 participants, generated a waiting list of qualified applicants.

Diversity in the Courtroom Program

The College has long been committed to increasing its ranks of talented, accomplished and diverse trial lawyers by including more women and persons of color, varying ethnicities, disabilities, and sexual orientation. Through this program, the College expands its commitment by helping to develop the next generation of diverse and inclusive trial advocates.

“Our society is diverse. Our courtrooms are diverse. We believe the talented lawyers trying cases should better mirror the diversity in our courtrooms,” said ACTL **Teaching of Trial and Appellate Advocacy Committee Chair Thomas J. Heiden** of Latham & Watkins LLP (Chicago, IL). “The emergence of a broader group of talented and diverse trial lawyers will benefit clients and our system of justice in general. We are delighted with the enthusiasm and talent of the participating lawyers and we will work to bring even more talented advocates of excellence to our courtrooms.”

After being enthusiastically endorsed by prior participants, faculty, and legal media, there was a universal plea that this program be continued as an annual event. The response to the second program, held in May 2023, was even greater. A second ACTL Diversity Trial Advocacy Program has been scheduled this year to meet this demand.

The College is thrilled to announce the third Diversity Trial Advocacy Program will take place in Chicago October 27-29, 2023. The program will again be organized by the ACTL Teaching of Trial and Appellate Advocacy Committee and ACTL Fellows will serve as faculty. The program will be held at the Chicago offices of Latham & Watkins LLP (330 N Wabash Ave, Chicago, IL 60611).

This innovative program strives to build faith, trust, and belief in the civil justice system. Preserving and protecting the rule of law and the civil trial system depends in part on the



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commitment provided today. The College is committed to these goals and to nurturing the next generation of excellent courtroom trial advocates.

You can help ensure the continued success of this program by nominating diverse litigators that you believe would benefit from this opportunity. The program will again be limited to 50 attendees and place will be reserved in the order of registration.

There is no tuition charge for the program.

Please contact Tom Heiden (thomas.heiden@retiredpartner.lw.com) with questions, notes of interest, or to nominate a lawyer. Please contact Brittany Ehardt (brittany.ehardt@lw.com) or Macauley Rybar (macauley.rybar@lw.com) for questions related to registration. Please [click here to register for the program](#).

About the [American College of Trial Lawyers](#)

The American College of Trial Lawyers is composed of preeminent members of the trial bar from the United States and Canada and is recognized as the leading trial lawyers organization in both countries. Founded in 1950, the College is an invitation only fellowship. The College thoroughly investigates each nominee for admission and selects only those who have demonstrated the very highest standards of trial advocacy, ethical conduct, integrity, professionalism and collegiality. The College is dedicated to maintaining and seeking to improve the standards of trial practice, professionalism, ethics, and the administration of justice through education and public statements on important legal issues relating to its mission. The College strongly supports the independence of the judiciary, trial by jury, respect for the rule of law, access to justice, and fair and just representation of all parties to legal proceedings. For more information about the College, visit its website at www.actl.com.

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