

GUIDELINES FOR ADMISSION TO THE TRIAL BAR OF THE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS: SIMULATION UNITS

Promulgated as an interpretive guide to simulation units as set forth in Local Rule 83.11(a)

- A. A trial advocacy program will qualify a participant for simulation credit pursuant to Local Rule 83.11(a) if the focus of the program is experiential in accordance with paragraphs (B) and (C) below, with any lecture being incidental thereto and, in any event, comprising less than 25% of the program hours.
- B. In general, to qualify the applicant for simulation unit credit, the trial advocacy program should, with respect to each unit of credit:
 - (1) provide the following hours of classroom instruction:
 - (a) 24 hours in the case of a continuing education program for practicing lawyers; or
 - (b) 40 hours in the case of a law school program for second or third year law students.
 - (2) provide each participant the opportunity to do opening statements, closing arguments, direct and cross examination, and introduction of exhibits.
 - (3) provide each participant the opportunity to conduct one mock trial with a maximum of two participants on each side in which each participant examines at least one witness and gives an opening or closing argument.
 - (4) provides a ratio of participants to full-time or part-time instructors of not more than ten to one (10:1).
- C. If a trial advocacy program does not meet the standards set forth in paragraph (B) above, an applicant, nonetheless, may be entitled to a simulation unit if this is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Court's Executive Committee, that the program fulfills the objectives of providing the applicant with substantial hands-on experience with the phases of a trial set forth in paragraph B(2) above under the competent supervision. In particular, the Committee shall consider the relationship between the hours of instruction and the participant/faculty ratio, the number of student presentations, the experience of the instructors, the syllabus for the program, and the quality of the instructional materials.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

AFFIDAVIT FOR CERTIFICATION OF SIMULATION UNIT

_____ declares under penalty of perjury that the following is true and correct:

1. I submit this affidavit in connection with the simulation unit regulations related to the Trial Bar

Admission of _____
(Give name or attached list)

in which the _____
(Name of course/institution)

law school legal/education course, is proposed for simulation unit credit.

2. As of this date, Affiant's professional relationship with the

Name of course/institution

Street Address City/State/Zip

is _____

and in that capacity, affiant is familiar with all aspects of said course, including content and past enrollment.

3. Petitioner(s) attended and successfully completed the course on

(Date)

4. _____ course is designed to
(Name of course/institution)

teach law students/lawyers trial skills and the primary teaching method is learning by doing.

Students learn to try lawsuits by conducting examinations and participating in all aspects of the trial experience. Those performances are then critiqued by experienced instructors. Students are in class at least _____ law school hours/regular hours and no more than _____ percent of class time is devoted to lectures and demonstrations. The ratio of students to full time or part time instructors is _____ to _____. Each student has the opportunity to give opening statements and closing arguments, to conduct direct and cross examination and to introduce exhibits. Finally, students in teams of no more than two participate as trial counsel in _____ simulated trial(s) in which each student examines at least one witness and gives an opening or closing argument.

Date

Signature

Under 28 U.S.C. § 1746, this declaration under penalty of perjury has the same force and effect as a sworn declaration made under oath.