



MEMO

TO: 2026 Trial Academy Attendees

FROM: Leeza Abramovich, IADC Meetings Coordinator
Mary Beth Kurzak, Executive Director/CEO

CC: Trial Academy Faculty

RE: IADC Trial Academy Details

Congratulations on your acceptance in the 52nd International Association of Defense Counsel Trial Academy. The Academy will commence the morning of Saturday, August 1 and will conclude with departures on the morning of Friday, August 7. The Academy will be held at the University of South Carolina School of Law in Columbia, South Carolina. Please read below for general information on the program materials and logistics.

PROGRAM MATERIALS

Your hypothetical case materials and demonstration assignments can be found at this link: <https://www.iadclaw.org/2026-trial-academy-materials> **It is imperative that you study these materials in advance of the Academy. You should come to the Academy prepared to perform your assigned demonstrations. Please note that your specific student number and group number are important to your demonstration assignments. (See “Trial Academy Faculty and Student Groups” document for student # and “Student Assignments 2026” document on web page referenced above.)**

ARRIVAL

Attendees should arrive the afternoon or evening of Friday, July 31. The Academy program begins at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 1. Those staying at the Hilton Garden Inn will have breakfast included from 6 to 8 a.m. each morning in the Azalea and Dogwood Rooms (Palmetto B and C). For all others, there will be coffee, sodas and pre-packaged snacks available throughout each day at the Academy as well as lunch at the Law School each day. Please reference your schedule for what evenings we have dinner events and

what evenings you are on your own for dinner. Participants may depart anytime on Friday, August 7. For those staying at the Hilton Garden Inn, check in time is 3 p.m. and check out time is 11:00 a.m.

TRANSPORTATION

The closest airport is Columbia Metropolitan Airport (CAE) which is about a 20-minute drive to the School of Law. The Charlotte Douglas International Airport (CLT) in Charlotte, North Carolina is about a 90-minute drive to the School of Law. Car rental is available at both airports. Taxis and Uber/Lyft are frequently used in Columbia. The many restaurants, bars, shops, and vibrant cultural scene in the city center of Columbia and on the university campus are easily accessed on foot or by a very short ride from the Hilton Garden Inn. The Hilton Garden Inn is one block away from the Law School. If you do decide to drive, there is complimentary parking included at the Hilton Garden Inn.

For those driving to the Law School each day, since school is not in session, there should be plenty of free parking on the street around the Law School. There are also several covered paid garages in the immediate area.

WEATHER

The weather in Columbia in late July and early August is hot, humid, and typically sunny with average high temperatures near 90°F and overnight lows around 70°F. Please pack your attire accordingly for these varying temperatures. All indoor areas used by the conference are air-conditioned facilities.

ATTIRE

You may want to bring a bag to carry your belongings, a change of clothes and conference materials to class unless you plan to return to the hotel to change. Business casual or smart casual attire is appropriate for faculty demonstrations and for the social functions in the evening. You will want to bring appropriate courtroom attire for your small group student exercises.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Trial Academy covers each segment of a trial, and you will perform the role of counsel in each aspect of a trial. The Academy emphasizes the “learning by doing” approach. The schedule is devised so that you will watch faculty demonstrations most mornings, and you will present an opening statement, direct and cross examination of lay witnesses, direct and cross examination of medical and economic expert witnesses and closing arguments during the afternoon sessions.

Please review the hypothetical problems used in the exercises and your assignments. You should come to the Academy prepared to perform your assigned demonstrations. Please note that your specific student number and group number are important to your demonstration assignments. (See “Trial Academy Faculty and Student Groups” document for student # and “Student Assignments 2026” document on web page referenced above for specific assignments.)

Regardless of assignment, you should be familiar with all the hypothetical cases and be prepared to work in various roles within each of the student cases when you arrive. Everyone, including the witnesses, are using the same set of facts presented in the case materials. Do not interject facts which are incompatible with the

facts in the materials and for which you cannot expect the witness to have knowledge of or follow. There are inconsistencies in the problems by design and you must deal with those and discuss this with your witness during direct examination prep time onsite. During the exercises, you may want to use demonstrative aids. Each classroom is equipped with a computer and projection capabilities. If you use PowerPoint, please plan to bring your presentation on a flash drive to transfer your presentation to the classroom's computer. **You also will need a flash drive to save your recorded demonstrations after review with your faculty member.**

Each classroom is set up with state-of-the-art equipment for recording your exercises and projecting your PowerPoint presentations. Each room also has a white board and markers as well as a remote to advance your slides. Please watch this video through the link below for a review of how the AV equipment is set up in each room. We will have a Law School AV technician available to go over the AV set up with students and answer any questions on Sunday at 1 p.m. in the plenary session room. A technician will be in the building during your student exercises each day if there are issues.

AV overview:

<https://uofsc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=f60a0ddd-a14f-4e59-aedd-b332012d32a1>

It is entirely your responsibility to prepare in advance any demonstrative aids you would like to use. None will be prepared for you.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS AND CANCELLATION POLICY

Location: Hilton Garden Inn Columbia Downtown 1200 Pickens Street, Columbia, South Carolina, 29201
USA Phone: +1.803.227.3400

www.hilton.com/en/hotels/caecdgi-hilton-garden-inn-columbia-downtown

Reservations and Room Rates

The room rate is \$119 per night, which is subject to the current applicable occupancy and sales tax. In order to make your hotel reservation you must first register for the meeting with the IADC. Once registered, a link will be generated by the IADC, along with your registration confirmation, that will allow you to secure a hotel room at the Hilton Garden Inn Columbia Downtown. You must contact the hotel directly, either by web link or telephone. Reservations must be made on or before Friday, July 10, 2026. Unused rooms held for this meeting will be released on this date. Any reservation requests received after July 10, 2026 will be accepted only on a space-available basis at the group rate. Please note that the room block may filled before July 10. Cancellations must be made at least 48 hours in advance of check-in to avoid forfeiture of first night room deposit. Check-in time is 3:00 p.m. and check-out time is 11:00 a.m. EST.

Complimentary: Parking/Breakfast/Wi-Fi

Trial Academy attendees receive complimentary parking, Wi-Fi, and breakfast at the Hilton Garden Inn. The School of Law is located directly across the street within easy walking distance. The Hilton Garden Inn is the closest hotel to the School of Law and has plenty of public areas for attendees to gather and utilize following daily programming including the Garden Grille and Bar, a spacious lobby with plenty of seating, a game room, an outdoor patio with grill, and a fitness center with an indoor swimming pool. A self-serve, enhanced continental breakfast is included in the room rate and will be available from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. daily in a private meeting room for IADC attendees and registered spouses/significant others.

MEALS

We will have coffee breaks and lunch available each day of the meeting at the Law School. We also have a hosted welcome reception and dinner at the Law School on Saturday, August 1 and a reception on Sunday, August 2 before individual Faculty Group dinner outings that night. The Academy ends with a reception and dinner on Thursday, August 6 at the University of South Carolina Pastides Alumni Center. On the evenings that a dinner event is not scheduled, you will be responsible for making your own arrangements and paying for dinner. There are plenty of great restaurants close to [campus](#).

INTERNET ACCESS and PRINTING/SHIPPING

Wifi will be free and available throughout the conference.

There will be minimal access to photocopiers at the Academy. We suggest that you do all your heavy printing and copying before arriving and bring the materials you want printed with you.

SHIPPING

There is a FedEx located at 1111 Greene St which is a four-minute walk from campus. The campus also has its own postal office at 1600 Hampton St.. There is a UPS on Gervais Street about a 15-minute walk from the hotel.

SPOUSES/ GUESTS

If your spouse/guest plans to join you at the Academy, and you have not yet registered them, please do so as soon as possible. The spouse/guest registration fee is \$250 (fee includes spouse's/guest attendance at the Get-Acquainted Dinner on Saturday evening, the Sunday evening cocktail reception, the Closing Reception/Dinner on Thursday evening and attendance at morning faculty demonstrations).

SPECIAL NEEDS

If you have any special needs during the meeting (i.e. diet or accessibility), please email Leeza Abramovich, Meetings Coordinator, at labramovich@iadclaw.org in advance of the meeting.

OTHER QUESTIONS

We look forward to seeing you soon. If you have other questions, please email Leeza Abramovich, Meetings Coordinator, at labramovich@iadclaw.org.