



## **DIVERSITY IN THE COURTROOM: TRIAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM** *New Program Focusing on Diversity in the Courtroom*

NEWPORT BEACH, CALIFORNIA (May 4, 2022) - The American College of Trial Lawyers (ACTL) launches a new program May 20-22, 2022, to provide training and encouragement to the next generation of diverse and inclusive trial advocates.

### Diversity in the Courtroom Program

The College is actively committed to increasing its ranks with talented and accomplished trial lawyers by including more women and persons of color and varying ethnicities. 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 – judges, jurors, court personnel, and witnesses. Trial lawyers should mirror the diversity in our society and in our courtrooms,” said ACTL **Teaching of Trial and Appellate Advocacy Committee Chair Thomas J. Heiden** of Latham & Watkins, LLC (Chicago, IL). “The emergence of a broader group of talented and diverse trial lawyers will benefit both clients and our system of justice. ACTL’s Diversity in the Courtroom Trial Advocacy Program will work to bring even more talented advocates of excellence to our courtrooms.”

The program, which has no fee to attend, will take place in Chicago on May 20-22, 2022, and is organized by the ACTL Teaching of Trial and Appellate Advocacy Committee. Due to the wide interest in attending the program the number of attendee lawyers was increased to 50. Maximum capacity was reached. Registrants will learn through a traditional trial advocacy training format, involving learning by doing. Attending lawyers will present opening and closing speeches, conduct direct and cross-examinations of witnesses and try a case, all based on a tested case file.

ACTL Fellows will serve as faculty, sharing their extensive experience trying difficult civil and criminal cases all across the country. The program will be hosted and held at the Chicago offices of Latham & Watkins, LLC.

This new 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

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

**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](http://www.actl.com).

###

**CONTACT:**

Sarah Stokes  
Senior Communications Manager  
American College of Trial Lawyers  
949-752-1801  
[sstokes@actl.com](mailto:ssokes@actl.com)