



# American College of Trial Lawyers

## **DIVERSITY TRIAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM OPEN FOR QUALIFIED APPLICANTS** ***Tuition Free Program Focusing on Diversity in the Courtroom***

NEWPORT BEACH, CALIFORNIA (April 9, 2024) – The American College of Trial Lawyers (ACTL) is inviting diverse trial lawyers to participate in its highly anticipated fifth Diversity Trial Advocacy Program, to be held in Chicago on August 23-25, 2024 in the Chicago offices of Kirkland & Ellis. Prior programs, each capped at 50 participants, have 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 the first Diversity Trial Advocacy Program was enthusiastically endorsed by prior participants, faculty, and legal media, there was a universal plea that this program be continued as an annual event. “As a first-generation college student and new lawyer, your training was invaluable for my career,” said one participant.

According to a report by Ross Todd in AmLaw Litigation Daily: “After we heard rave reviews from faculty and participants, we offered up a pat on the back to organizers for pressing on through four COVID-related postponements to make the weekend program happen. But we also gave them a nudge to urge that the weekend not be a one-off.”

Since that time, two more programs have taken place, one in May 2023 and the other in October 2023. To meet the substantial increase in demand, a fourth program will take place in Toronto, Ontario on May 10-12, 2024 at the Toronto offices of McCarthy Tétrault. This will be the first College sponsored Diversity Trial Advocacy Program to be held in Canada.



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The response to these subsequent programs has been even greater. “The participants were very engaged and worked so hard,” said one faculty member. “You could almost see them soaking up strategies and tactics, and they continued to get better and better throughout my time with them.”

Each event is organized by the ACTL Teaching of Trial and Appellate Advocacy Committee and hosted by a sponsoring law firm. ACTL Fellows will serve as faculty.

You can help ensure the continued success of this program by nominating diverse litigators that you believe would benefit from this opportunity. There is no tuition charge for the program, which will again be limited to 50 attendees; place will be reserved in the order of registration.

Please contact Tom Heiden ([thomas.heiden@retiredpartner.lw.com](mailto:thomas.heiden@retiredpartner.lw.com)) with questions. To nominate a lawyer or for direct registration, please contact Jagoda Rachwal ([jagoda.rachwal@kirkland.com](mailto:jagoda.rachwal@kirkland.com)).

## 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).

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