



American College of Trial Lawyers
Judicial Resources



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I. Information on the ACTL

The American College of Trial Lawyers is composed of Fellows who represent the best of the trial bar in the United States and Canada. Founded in 1950, the College is dedicated to maintaining and improving the standards of trial practice, the administration of justice and the ethics of the profession. Through its Board of Regents, its general committees and its state and province committees, the College engages in a wide variety of activities to further those purposes.

Fellowship

Fellowship is extended by invitation only, after careful investigation, to those experienced trial lawyers who have mastered the art of advocacy and whose professional careers have been marked by the highest standards of ethical conduct, professionalism, civility and collegiality. Fellows are selected from among advocates who represent plaintiffs or defendants in civil proceedings of all types, as well as prosecutors and criminal defense lawyers. There are more than 5,800 Fellows of the College, including Judicial Fellows elected before ascending to the bench and Honorary Fellows, who have attained eminence in the highest ranks of the judiciary, the legal profession or public service.

The qualifications for fellowship include:

- *A reputation for the highest ethics, professionalism and collegiality*
- *Exceptional courtroom trial skills*
- *At least fifteen years of active trial practice*

Each nominee is thoroughly investigated by the relevant state or province committee. Candidates recommended by the committee are included in a state- or province-wide confidential poll. With poll results in hand, a Regent conducts a further, independent investigation and presents his or her findings to the Board of Regents. A nominee approved by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Regents is asked to fill out a questionnaire. If the responses are satisfactory, only then is the candidate elected by the Board to fellowship and an invitation for induction is issued. The nominee must be inducted at a national meeting before he or she becomes a Fellow. All aspects of the process are conducted in strict confidence.

Committees

The work of the College is conducted principally through committees, of which there are two kinds.

State and Province Committees - There are sixty-one state and province committees. In addition to identifying and investigating suitable candidates for fellowship, the committees are also the face of the College and its liaison to judges, lawyers, court administrators, law schools, the practicing bar and the general public in their respective jurisdictions. Committee members

participate in educational activities, such as teaching trial skills to public interest lawyers and presenting the College's Code of Conduct to judges, lawyers and law students, and in the trial and appellate moot court competitions sponsored by the College in the United States and Canada.

General Committees - There are more than thirty-five General Committees. Some monitor and frequently participate in rule-making and related judicial processes. Others focus on issues affecting the profession. Still others are concerned with College administration and the conferral of awards. The Access to Justice Committee acts as a clearinghouse for Fellows who wish to volunteer as counsel in complex pro bono litigation in which the College is not itself involved.

For many years, a noteworthy contribution of the College's general committees has been papers on timely subjects affecting the profession and the administration of justice. These papers, confined to subjects on which the College believes it can make a significant contribution, are reviewed and approved by the Board of Regents for publication and distribution.

Representative College Programs

Codes of Conduct - First published in 1956, the College's Code of Trial Conduct was a precedent-setting effort to articulate a standard of ethics, deportment and professional conduct for trial lawyers. A companion Code of Pretrial Conduct was published in 2003. The current version, revised in 2009, incorporates both the Code of Trial Conduct and the Code of Pretrial Conduct. The Code of Pretrial and Trial Conduct includes an introduction by Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. of the United States Supreme Court commending it to the trial bar and judiciary. Committees of Canadian Fellows have approved French and English versions of these codes, adapted to the Canadian practice and similarly endorsed by the Chief Justice of Canada. The Codes have been distributed to courts of general jurisdiction and to appellate courts and to law schools throughout the United States and Canada.

Publications - The Codes of Conduct and papers and reports prepared by General Committees are illustrative of the College's written contributions to the administration of justice and the profession. Reports may range from brief analyses of proposed amendments to the federal rules to a book-length manual on complex tort litigation. Because Fellows are drawn from all branches of the trial bar and include lawyers who represent plaintiffs and defendants in civil cases, prosecutors and criminal defense attorneys, the College speaks with a balanced voice and objectivity. The College's internal publication, The Bulletin, is published three to four times a year and keeps the Fellows informed of recent College activities.

Law Student Competitions - More than 150 accredited law schools in the United States and every law school in Canada participate in College-sponsored national law student mock trial and appellate moot court competitions, some of which include both regional rounds and a final national round. Fellows serve as judges and jurors and use the occasion to introduce the participants to the trial and appellate process.

Teaching of Trial Advocacy - Fellows of the College participate in a wide range of trial advocacy training programs. They conduct trial skills training sessions for public interest and government lawyers. Fellows have taught educational programs at the National Judicial College for new federal judges and at many law schools.

Legal Exchanges - For many years, the College has sponsored periodic exchanges between the bench and bar of the United States and Great Britain and between the bench and bar of the United States and Canada. A small group of judges and lawyers from each of the two participating countries meet for all or part of a week in one of the countries and later meet again in the other country. The delegates prepare and discuss papers on predetermined topics of common interest affecting the legal profession or the administration of justice. The Exchanges have led to innovations in the administration of justice and created close relationships between the College and the respective benches and bars of the participating countries.

Awards - The College has established awards to recognize examples of courageous advocacy and significant contributions to improvement of the litigation process.

Governance and Meetings

The management of the College's affairs is vested in a Board of Regents, consisting of five officers and fifteen Regents; each of the latter has an assigned group of states or provinces, as well as liaison responsibility for a number of General Committees. The Regents are elected to serve a four-year term by the members at the Annual Meeting. The officers, each of whom must previously have served as an elected Regent, are nominated by the Past Presidents and elected by the Board. They constitute the Executive Committee, which exercises most of the powers of the Board of Regents between Board meetings. The Past Presidents are ex officio members of the Board, participate fully in the Board's deliberations and act as its institutional memory, but do not have the right to vote.

The Annual Meeting of the Fellows is held in the early fall, and the spring meeting in March or early April. These meetings are noted for the breadth and quality of their programs. Each is preceded by an extended meeting of the Board of Regents. The Executive Committee meets as necessary. The Fellows in most states and provinces gather one or more times a year for a dinner or social gathering. States and provinces in the same jurisdiction join together to hold regional meetings with professional as well as social programs.

Additional information about the College, its activities, publications and meetings may be found on the College's public website, www.actl.com.

II. Alabama Fellows of the American College of Trial Lawyers

The Alabama Fellows of the American College of Trial Lawyers

Hon. W Harold Albritton, III	Fred D. Gray	Hon. Donna Sanders Pate
M. Clay Alspaugh	William B. Hairston, Jr.	W. Lee Pittman
D. Leon Ashford	Robert B. Harwood, Jr.	Scott A. Powell
W. Michael Atchison	Hon. Truman Hobbs	Harlan I. Prater, IV
Walter W. Bates	Broox G. Holmes	W. Boyd Reeves
Randy Beard	Wilbor J. Hust, Jr.	W. Stanley Rodgers
Gloria A. Bedwell	Edward R. Jackson	Alan T. Rogers
Richard Bounds	Anthony A. Joseph	Nicholas B. Roth
Harold A. Bowron, Jr.	Thomas Howard Keene	John D. Saxon
Gregory B. Breedlove	John S. Key	Robert D. Segall
Walter R. Byars	Fred W. Killion, Jr.	Henry H. (Hank) Self, Jr.
Joe C. Cassady	M. Christian King	Randal H. Sellers
Allan R. Chason	Michael D. Knight	Charles E. Sharp
Thomas W. Christian	John N. Leach, Jr.	Clarence Simmons, Jr.
William N. Clark	William L. Lee, III	Henry E. Simpson
Ralph D. Cook	Warren B. Lightfoot	Clarence M. Small, Jr.
Robert T. Cunningham, Jr.	Jack Livingston	Finis St. John IV
John V. Denson, II	Louis B. Lusk	Charles A. Stakely
William J. Donald	Robert P. MacKenzie, III	W. Stancil Starnes
James J. Duffy, Jr.	David H. Marsh	Robert G. Tate
Michael L. Edwards	Jerry A. McDowell	T. W. Thagard, Jr.
Joe Espy, III	Crawford S. McGivaren, Jr.	Fred W. Tyson
Michael A. Florie	Walter E. McGowan	Joe R. Whatley, Jr.
George P. Ford	Hobart A. McWhorter, Jr.	James E. Williams
Samuel H. Franklin	Oakley Melton, Jr.	James A. Yance
A. Danner Frazer, Jr.	Harvey B. Morris	
Charles P. Gaines	John H. Morrow	
James W. Gewin	M. Roland Nachman, Jr.	
Richard H. Gill	Alex W. Newton	
Hon. Callie V. S. Granade	Tabor R. Novak, Jr.	

III. Publications

1. American Code of Conduct for Trial Lawyers and Judges Involved in Civil Cases with Self-Represented Parties (2011)
2. Jury Instructions Cautioning Against Use of the Internet and Social Networking (2010)
3. Code of Pretrial and Trial Conduct (2009)
4. Judicial Compensation: Our Federal Judges Must Be Fairly Paid (2007)
5. Report on Cameras in the Courtroom (2006)
6. Judicial Independence: A Cornerstone of Democracy Which Must Be Defended (2006)

IV. CLE Presentations

Fellows interested in promoting the College and its programs may contact the College's National Office (nationaloffice@actl.com), to obtain any of the below outreach materials:

- **CLE Teaching Syllabus to the Code of Pretrial and Trial Conduct:** Available on thumb drive, the video presents ethical and professionalism vignettes with various fact patterns and suggestions to stimulate discussion. Accompanying the video is a teaching syllabus with references to the applicable provisions of the American College of Trial Lawyers *Code of Trial and Pretrial Conduct* and the American Bar Association's Model Rules of Professional Conduct. Prepared by the Legal Ethics and Professionalism Committee, the video is available from the National Office (nationaloffice@actl.com).
- **Mock Trial:** Also available on thumb drive, *NITA Housing Authority v. Ladonna Johnson*, presents a mock trial that may be used in whole or in part. The video offers excellent trial practice training for trial lawyers, particularly public interest lawyers likely to handle cases similar to the one shown. This CLE presentation was prepared by the Teaching Trial and Appellate Advocacy Committee, with the assistance of Stetson University School of Law.
- **Persuasive Advocacy through Effective Writing:** Prepared by the Teaching Trial and Appellate Advocacy Committee, this course, available on CD/DVD, includes supplementary documentation to accompany the video portion of the program. The course is designed to be used in its entirety or in parts.
- **Judicial Vignettes:** This CLE program serves as an outstanding introduction of the College to the judiciary in your area. Two independent series of vignettes present issues frequently confronted by the courts, with suggested solutions to the various scenarios. The first series deals with in-court problems judges may encounter with lawyers. The second series deals with pre-trial problems judges may also confront. The vignettes incorporate various issues, including:
 - Striving for Fairness with a Pro Se Party
 - Dealing with Uncivil/Argumentative Lawyers
 - Scheduling a Case with Complications/Conflicts
 - Document Retention Spoliation: Restoration of Back-Up Tapes

- Number of Depositions: Format for Production of Hard Copy Document:
Costs – Shifting
- Setting Limits on Number of Witnesses/Disparity Parties' Resources
- Criminal Pretrial Conference – Discovery and Scheduling
- Plea Hearing – Victims' Rights

This CLE program was prepared by the Federal Judicial Center and the College's Jury Committee.