

Family Law Education Reform Project

Hofstra Trial Evaluation (General)

OVERVIEW

This document is a general trial evaluation. It may be edited, customized and updated to fit any general presentation or exercise.

EXPLANATION AND COMMENTS

This document was produced as a template for more extensive and specific exercises.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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Professor Liebmann has directed the interdisciplinary Hofstra Child Advocacy Clinic since its inception. In his capacity as Attorney-in-Charge, he supervises law students and mental health trainees working together to advocate on behalf of children involved in the child welfare system. Professor Liebmann and his students have represented hundreds of children in cases involving physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect, as well as related delinquency, custody and special immigrant juvenile matters.

Prior to his current position at Hofstra, Professor Liebmann was a lawyer for children in maltreatment and juvenile delinquency cases at the Manhattan office of the Legal Aid Society's Juvenile Rights Division. Professor Liebmann serves as Co-Director of the National Institute for Trial Advocacy's Training the Lawyer to Represent the Whole Child program, frequently leads workshops on topics such as the role of the law guardian and immigrant youth issues, and co-authors regular columns in the New York Law Journal on children and the law.

Introduction to Child and Family Advocacy

Mock Trial Evaluation Sheet

Evaluator: _____

Student: _____

Please rate the student in the relevant categories below, using a scale from one to five points for each category: 5 = outstanding; 4 = very good; 3 = good; 2 = fair; 1 = poor.

Direct Examination

- ___ Overall Organization and Structure
- ___ Introduction of Witness
- ___ Development of Basis for Expert's Opinions
- ___ Eliciting of Expert's Opinions
- ___ Use of Non-leading Questions
- ___ Clarity of Questions
- ___ Use of / Response to Objections
- ___ Demeanor

Cross Examination

- ___ Overall Organization and Structure
- ___ Control of Witness
- ___ Ability to Elicit Favorable Testimony from Witness
- ___ Ability to Discredit/Limit Unfavorable Testimony
- ___ Use of Leading Questions
- ___ Clarity of Questions
- ___ Use of / Response to Objections
- ___ Demeanor

Closing Argument

- ___ Overall Organization and Structure
- ___ Use of Effective Themes; Coherency of Argument
- ___ Ability to Tie Evidence Presented into Argument
- ___ Ability to Highlight Strengths of Argument
- ___ Ability to Deal Candidly with Weaknesses of Argument
- ___ Demeanor

Additional Comments: