

Guide to the Criminal Advocacy Course in Florida

This guide has been put together by the 2017 delegates. We hope it will be added to in future years. Please feel free to contact us to find out more information: Aaron Dolan has our contact details.

The Course

The Florida Bar runs an annual one-week intensive advocacy training course for about 120 young state prosecutors and defenders. The trial experience of the delegates ranges from none to a few years. There are mock trials, feedback in groups, and feedback based on video-recordings of cross examination etc: the model is very similar to UK training but for most of the advocates it will be the first advocacy training they have received. The South East Circuit sends one silk and four juniors each year. The silk becomes a trainer, alongside judges and senior advocates. The silk has to do one demonstration cross-examination. The juniors participate in the course in the same way as the American delegates. The juniors are assigned a role for the week as either a state prosecutor or defender.

The course runs from a Sunday lunch through to Friday lunch, 9am to 5.30. On one afternoon the juniors have time off while the rest do ethics training (but the silk has to stay to do the demonstration later that afternoon).

Our experience

All of us really enjoyed the week and highly recommend it. Silk: do this if you really enjoy training. Juniors: do this if you are prepared to work hard to improve your advocacy.

Although the rules of evidence etc are different, the basic principles of persuasive advocacy are the same, so there is much to learn and much to share.

This week does not feel like a holiday at all, and we are aware of previous UK delegates who have been disappointed because they expected to have more free time. There is no time to see any other part of Florida during the week as the hours are so long.

There are three social events in the evenings which the UK contingent is expected to attend, and which we enjoyed: it was fascinating to talk to the US lawyers and judges, and we were treated like minor celebrities.

Gainesville is not a place you would visit as a tourist, but is an interesting town to stay in for a week: it has a lively 'downtown' area, a historic university centre, and decent restaurants.

Funding

All: you have a hotel paid for (at the Hilton Gainesville Suites, a good size room in a clean hotel with a tiny kitchen area, microwave only). Breakfast is included. During the course, a couple of lunches and a couple of dinners are provided.

Silk: the Florida Bar pays a \$3000 honorarium (taxable in the UK). From this you have to pay for your flights, car hire, and 20% of the party : you may break even or be in pocket by about £500 at the end of the week. There is also a food allowance.

Juniors: you do not receive any payment for travel or any allowances. You will be out of pocket by about £1300 at the end of the week. You may be able to apply for a bursary from the International Legal and Development Grant Programme (http://www.barcouncil.org.uk/media/553697/2017_guidance_document.pdf).

Travel

Gainesville is 1hr 45m drive from Orlando International airport. To get from the airport to Gainesville if you are not hiring a car you can take a bus (which is slow), or an Uber (about \$120), or a 'limo' taxi (e.g. Interplex Transportation).

The hotel in Gainesville is about 3 miles from the course (which is at the Levin law school) so you will either need one person to hire a car, or use Uber. None of us hired a car in 2017 so we all used Uber which was very convenient and cheap, and there were always Ubers nearby. The delegates stay in the hotel next door, and the trainers stay in the same hotel as you, so you will be able to get lifts to and from the course once you meet a few people. We recommend flying in on Friday, giving you a full day on Saturday to relax before the course starts. Some of our group flew in on Saturday, arriving late at the hotel, and started the course exhausted on Sunday.

Clothes

The first and last days are 'casual' but many of the trainers wear suits. For the rest of the time all need to wear suits, not necessarily black. It is very hot and humid outside, and over-chilled inside! Ponchos are provided when it is stormy.

They would be pleased to see the silk's outfit when the silk does the demo.

The social events are smart/casual.

Party

The UK contingent hosts a PIMMS party on the Tuesday evening, 6.30-9. This party has caused significant stress for the UK contingent before, as it is difficult to know what is expected and the hotel tries to sell you things you don't need: hence the information below extends into what seems like ridiculous detail!

- (i) The total cost should be about \$1,200 (it was \$1,500 in 2016). Circuit pays 80% of the cost. The silk pays 20%.
- (ii) Drink. The party has traditionally been a PIMMS party. You could choose not to do PIMMS at all, but the cost would then be much higher, as the hotel charges high prices for their own spirits plus a 21% service charge on the bill whereas you can provide the PIMMS from duty-free! The Americans liked the PIMMS and it was all drunk. You will need about 5 bottles. You provide the bottles to the hotel, and they make up the punch if you ask with lemonade, mint, strawberries, and cucumber. Ask them to cut the garnishes quite small else you end up with a garden in a glass. You will also need some beer and wine, but no other spirits. You can put a limit on the other alcohol cost (say \$500).
- (iii) The party is arranged by the Hilton Garden Suites hotel (where you will be staying). They will contact you before you fly out to deal with the arrangements.

- (iv) Food: You don't need half of what they recommend. You don't need masses of food, although there is an expectation to do some food. I would suggest 1 dip with chips, and pretzels and setting them a limit of \$100 for the snacks (we paid \$200 for a selection of dips and almost all of it went to waste).
- (v) You need one bartender (\$150). They tried to charge us for two. You don't need two, and serving the PIMMS yourselves is a good way to meet the others!
- (vi) Our receipt is below: as a shortcut you could ask for the same as 2017 with (a) food limited to \$100; (b) no gin; (c) other drinks (red and white wine, Stella and Yuengling beers) with a \$500 limit.
- (vii) Decoration: The hotel sets up the room for the party. We took some Union Jack bunting... general over-the-top Britishness is very welcome!
- (viii) Presentation: there is no expectation or appetite for any presentation or skit at the party. People really just want to talk to you! A short speech by the silk is welcomed.

Miscellaneous

- There is a pool and gym at the hotel. If anyone wants a yoga studio, the Searchlight yoga studio is great and you can walk to it from the university.
- You can walk from the hotel to a supermarket (Trader Joes) but the cooking facilities in the room are limited to a microwave. There is no kettle, but you can use the coffee machine for hot water for tea (or the microwave as was suggested by the hotel reception). You can also walk to restaurants: try Bentos for sushi etc.
- Lunches: there are a couple of lunches provided on the course, but generally you have to get your own lunch during a 1.5hr break. You could order an Uber delivery to the law school, or drive to get lunch (eg Mildreds is a great local café a few blocks away).
- Juniors have Tuesday afternoon off: you may want to go tubing at Ginnie springs.
- Take business cards if you have them: everyone wants to stay in touch!



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 Reservations
 www.hilton.com or 1 800 HILTONS

UF LAW PIMMS RECEPTION

Room No: PIMMS

Arrival Date:

Departure Date:

Adult/Child:

Cashier ID: MARY

Room Rate:

AL:

HH #

VAT #

Folio No/Che 260723 A

FL 32608

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HILTON GARDEN INN GAINESVILLE 8/3/2017 2:09:00 PM

GROUP CHARGES - ,

DATE	DESCRIPTION	ID	REF NO	CHARGES	CREDIT	BALANCE
8/3/2017	Tortilla Chips/Salsa 8/1/17	MARY	918319	\$200.00		
8/3/2017	RESTAURANT TAX	MARY	918319	\$13.46		
8/3/2017	Tonic & Lemons 8/1/17	MARY	918320	\$12.00		
8/3/2017	RESTAURANT TAX	MARY	918320	\$0.81		
8/3/2017	Bombay Gin 8/1/17 1.5 bottles	MARY	918321	\$33.00		
8/3/2017	RESTAURANT TAX	MARY	918321	\$2.22		
8/3/2017	Stella 8/1/17 40 bottles	MARY	918323	\$240.00		
8/3/2017	RESTAURANT TAX	MARY	918323	\$16.15		
8/3/2017	Yeungling 8/1/17 19 Bottles	MARY	918324	\$114.00		
8/3/2017	RESTAURANT TAX	MARY	918324	\$7.67		
8/3/2017	Chardonnay 8/1/17	MARY	918326	\$105.00		
8/3/2017	RESTAURANT TAX	MARY	918326	\$7.07		
8/3/2017	Cabernet 8/1/17	MARY	918327	\$35.00		
8/3/2017	RESTAURANT TAX	MARY	918327	\$2.36		
8/3/2017	Soda/Bottle Water 8/1/17	MARY	918328	\$21.00		
8/3/2017	RESTAURANT TAX	MARY	918328	\$1.41		
8/3/2017	Service Charge 8/1/17	MARY	918330	\$159.60		
8/3/2017	Bartender 8/1/17	MARY	918346	\$150.00		
BALANCE						\$1,120.75

EXPENSE REPORT
SUMMARY

	8/3/2017	STAY TOTAL
MISCELLANEOUS	\$1,069.60	\$1,069.60
OTHER	\$51.15	\$51.15
DAILY TOTAL	\$1,120.75	\$1,120.75