



Virginia Law Foundation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Trial Advocacy College Makes Prestigious Move to William & Mary Law School in August 2026

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA, **October 14, 2025** — The Virginia Law Foundation (VLF) and Virginia CLE announce that the National Trial Advocacy College, one of the most respected litigation training programs in the country, will begin a new chapter in its distinguished history as it relocates to William & Mary Law School in August 2026. After 43 years at the University of Virginia School of Law, this move marks a significant evolution in the program's legacy of excellence and innovation in trial advocacy education.

Founded in 1981 by **Professor Stephen A. Saltzburg** and the **Honorable Herbert J. Stern** and in collaboration with Virginia CLE and UVA Law, the College has trained thousands of attorneys from around the globe. Through its unique combination of expert lectures, small-group training, and realistic trial simulations, the program has earned its reputation as a premier destination for trial skills development.



William & Mary's historic campus and Henry C. Wolf Law Library. Dean A. Benjamin Spencer is welcomed as a Virginia Law Foundation Fellow by President Stephen E. Noona, January 2025.

“The Virginia Law Foundation is thrilled to partner with William & Mary Law School and looks forward to working with such a vital institution to advance the success and future of this College,” shares VLF CEO **Brigadier General (Ret.) Alison Martin**. “This collaboration is especially exciting given William & Mary’s outstanding advocacy training and its deep commitment to preparing students for impactful legal careers.”

The College’s enduring format combines daily lectures and demonstrations by nationally recognized faculty with intensive, hands-on small group training. Each participant engages in exercises covering every key trial skill, culminating in a live mock trial before an experienced judge and, when possible, a jury. To support participant review and growth, all sessions are video recorded.

“William & Mary Law School, the nation’s first law school, brings a strong tradition of advocacy education and a commitment to shaping practice-ready citizen lawyers,” says **Dean A. Benjamin Spencer**, who is also a VLF Fellow. “This new partnership with the Virginia Law Foundation honors our rich legacy while positioning it for continued excellence in the decades ahead. It also complements the important work we are doing in the advocacy space—both through current initiatives and those we have planned for the future—reinforcing our mission to prepare students to be impactful and principled advocates in their communities and beyond.”

Registration for the August 8–12, 2026, session will open in 2026, with space limited to 120 attorneys to preserve the personalized, premier-quality instruction that defines the program. In addition, up to 30 William & Mary law students will be invited to attend on scholarships, which will defray the cost by over 90%.

For more information and registration details, visit **trialadcollege.org**.

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About the Virginia Law Foundation

The Virginia Law Foundation promotes, through philanthropy, the Rule of Law, access to justice, and law-related education. Since 1984, the VLF has provided more than \$30 million in grants to support law-related projects throughout the Commonwealth that further its mission. Its **Fellows Program** encourages civic-mindedness and recognizes excellence in the practice of law and public and professional service, and its education division, **Virginia CLE**, is the recognized leader in continuing education for Virginia lawyers. Learn more at virginialawfoundation.org.

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