



FAMILY LAW ADVOCACY SKILLS WORKSHOP

21, 22, 31 August 2024

TIMETABLE AND TASK ALLOCATIONS

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Legal Aid NSW - Family Law

Advocacy Skills Workshop - 21, 22, 31 August 2024

Please read the information below immediately and thoroughly as it is important to your preparation and contribution to learning at the workshop.

Dear Workshop Advocate,

The AAI and Legal Aid NSW are pleased to be able to provide this advocacy workshop for you and we are sure that you will find this course helpful in improving your advocacy skills.

Workshop Program:

Part 1: Introductory Session 1. ONLINE – Wednesday 21 August, 2024

Time: *5.00pm to 6.30pm

Part 2: Introductory Session 2. ONLINE – Thursday 22 August, 2024

Time: *5.00pm to 6.00pm

Part 3: Advocacy Performance Skills Workshop IN-PERSON – Saturday 31 August, 2024

Time: 8.45am to 3.30pm. Venue: Family Court of Australia, Sydney

*Workshop will open 30 minutes early each day for online connection.

Workshop Format:

The following “**Timetable and Task Allocation**” details the format for this workshop. At the start of the following Timetable you will find a table that allocates a GROUP and ADVOCATE NUMBER for each advocate.

On Saturday, Group Performance Sessions and General Sessions have been scheduled through the day.

In the Group Sessions, you will break into smaller groups to individually **present your allocated advocacy tasks** before a Judge/Instructor in the same manner that you would present in court. You will find your allocated advocacy tasks set out within each session of the timetable attached, together with all the case studies and materials.

Once you have finished each performance you will be given a review by the AAI instructor. This review is designed to be positive, not critical. You will be given advice on ways that your individual performance can be improved using various advocacy skills, including a demonstration and explanation of the particular skills relevant to your performance.

A note on the nature of the AAI Trainer Reviews:

The AAI philosophy behind the AAI skills training method is on identifying ways in which each advocate can improve their advocacy, based on his/her performance of each task during the workshop. The AAI trainer will suggest, then demonstrate a skill that will allow each individual advocate to improve. You will not necessarily be complimented on what you may have done well, but that does not mean you have not shown good skills in other areas. It is just a better use of the limited workshop time to encourage improvement over praise.

The Workshop Case Studies:

We acknowledge that the case studies used, while relevant to Family Law, may not be the type you generally deal with. We use these case studies deliberately as we believe them to be very good for the teaching of advocacy, demonstrating skills that can be applied in any jurisdiction. The advocacy skills you will learn are of universal application – the same skills apply regardless of the type of case, the jurisdiction you appear in or the side you appear on. This has been proven over three decades of advocacy instruction by the AAI.

Please don't get bogged down in your preparation with any legal technicalities within the case studies. Don't research or bring statutes or precedents. Do not be distracted with “the law”. Evidence is restricted to **only** that contained within each case study so don't look outside the immediate information provided. The purpose of this workshop is to help you structure your advocacy, how to prepare, how to ask purposive relevant questions, how to argue, how to be persuasive in court. We are not concerned with jurisdictional procedure.

A note on the case study “Wilson v Wilson”:

For the purposes of this workshop, the evidence-in-chief of the witnesses is not on affidavit and their evidence will be adduced orally. (You can assume no procedural or judicial impediment to this). Advocates may assume that the witnesses will give evidence in accordance with the instructions contained in the brief.

You will be asked to act as a witness for other advocates.

When a task requires a witness in Evidence in Chief and Cross Examination, the Timetable nominates an advocate from your group to act the witness role. **THIS MAY BE YOU**, so a thorough knowledge and understanding of the facts of each case study will help both you and your colleagues get the most out of the workshop. Know the witness statements to the same degree you would expect of the witness when it is your turn to present. Evidence is restricted to **only** that contained within each case study, so please do not embellish, add or make up evidence.

Preparation before the workshop:

This is a performance-based workshop. You are required to prepare each of your set tasks between now and the commencement of the workshop. Please **allow yourself time to prepare properly** – it is anticipated that you should allocate 6 hours+ for this preparation. Please prepare in advance – do not wait until after the Wed/Thurs. introductory sessions.

If you are not totally familiar with the requirements of any particular advocacy task, you may find it helpful to refer to the “Specific Advocacy Tasks” summary at the end of the Course Materials document. I also recommend you consult the “AAI Advocacy Manual” PDF document provided as part of the workshop materials. The Manual has detailed chapters on all the aspects of advocacy you will be using at this workshop. Copyright restrictions require this version to be ‘read only’ and thus cannot be printed.

Task Performance:

The Timetable task allocations have a time limit for each task performance. Please prepare as if you were to present the whole of the task. The time allocation means you may not be able to present all of that task and you are not expected to be able to finish your performance. Do not rush and try and fit it all into the allocated time. Your review will be on that part of the task you present, not the parts you may not have reached.

The Workshop ONLINE Platform:

The Wednesday/Thursday sessions will be held using the **ZOOM** platform, with advocates required to log-on using their own computer link. The log-on link is below. The same log-on details will be used each day.

You are advised to check your internet and computer connection, including microphone and camera, in advance of the online sessions.

Follow this link for automatic log-on:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2716263497?pwd=cjZmOXRROUp0dUVpaTdaWEM2TEwyQT09>

ID = 2716263497. Password = Advocacy

I look forward to seeing you both online and in-person at the workshop.

Regards



Scott Wallace

General Manager, Australian Advocacy Institute.

Email: aai@advocacy.com.au

ADVOCATE NUMBER

This is your ADVOCATE NUMBER and is used to determine which **TASKS** you will be performing in the timetable that follows.

No	RED GROUP	BLUE GROUP	YELLOW GROUP	GREEN GROUP
1.	Katrina Conti	Sarah Caplice	Megan Norris	Dana McMullen
2.	Rebecca Greenwood	Julie Marshall	Ivy Tran	Kelly Edwards
3.	Kate Adams	Zouhour El-Ghoul	Kim O'Rourke	Eva Karagiannis
4.	Angelique Thomas	Rachel Dobson	Tim Leishman	Ray Clack
5.	Sarah Holmes	Brooke Thomas	Lexi Ianson	Cassandra Bennett
6.	Meike Bolliger	Annaliese Drayton	Iliana Cruz-Montalvo	Carey Pearson

DAY ONE - Wednesday 21 August 2024 - ONLINE

	<p>4.30 pm – Zoom workshop opens</p> <p>Join Zoom meeting:</p> <p>Click this link: OPEN WORKSHOP (Password = Advocacy)</p>
SESSION 1	5.00 – 6.30 pm (90 mins)
<p>General Session ONLINE</p>	<p><u>INTRODUCTORY SESSION</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Nature of Advocacy - Case Theory - Argument

DAY TWO - Thursday 22 August 2024 - ONLINE

	<p>4.30 pm – Zoom workshop opens</p> <p>Join Zoom meeting:</p> <p>Click this link: OPEN WORKSHOP (Password = Advocacy)</p>
SESSION 2	5.00 – 6.00 pm (60 mins)
<p>General Session ONLINE</p>	<p><u>INTRODUCTORY SESSION</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Techniques in Cross Examination - Communication in Court

Day Three – SATURDAY 31 August 2024 – IN-PERSON

Venue: Family Court of Australia, 99 Goulburn Street, Sydney

General Session	8.45 – Workshop Opens – AAI Instructor introductions 9.00 – Advocates move to group rooms.
SESSION 3 9.00 – 10.00 (60 mins)	
Group Performance Session Task Performances in Group: 5 minutes per task Instructor Review: 5 minutes per advocate	<u>APPLICATIONS</u> <u>Case Study 1: Wood v. Simpson</u> TASK: ADVOCATE: 1 Present application for injunction by Ms SIMPSON TASK: ADVOCATE: 2 Present application for injunction by Ms SIMPSON TASK: ADVOCATE: 3 Present application for injunction by Ms SIMPSON <u>Case Study 2: Davies v. Riverside Grammar</u> TASK: ADVOCATE: 4 Present application for DAVIES TASK: ADVOCATE: 5 Oppose application for RIVERSIDE GRAMMAR TASK: ADVOCATE: 6 Present application for DAVIES
<i>Morning Tea Break 10.00 to 10.15</i>	
SESSION 4 10.15 – 11.30 (75 mins)	
Group Performance Session Task Performances in Group: 5 minutes per task Instructor Review: 6 minutes per advocate	<u>EVIDENCE-IN-CHIEF and CROSS EXAMINATION</u> <u>Case Study 3: Wilson v Wilson</u> TASK: ADVOCATE: 3 (Witness role: ADVOCATE: 1) For Applicant, present Evidence in Chief of Margaret Wilson TASK: ADVOCATE: 4 (Witness role: ADVOCATE: 1) For Respondent, Cross Examine Margaret Wilson (Applicant) TASK: ADVOCATE: 6 (Witness role: ADVOCATE: 2) For Respondent, present Evidence in Chief of Julie Wilson TASK: ADVOCATE: 5 (Witness role: ADVOCATE: 2) For Applicant, Cross Examine Julie Wilson TASK: ADVOCATE: 1 (Witness role: ADVOCATE: 6) For the Applicant, Cross Examine Dr Foster TASK: ADVOCATE: 2 (Witness role: ADVOCATE: 5) For the Respondent, Cross Examine Dr Gloucester

SESSION 5		11.30 – 12.10 (40 mins)
General Session	Applying the CASE THEORY Led by the AAI Moderator	
SESSION 6		12.10 – 12.30 (20 mins)
Group Session	<u>REVISION:</u> Advocates revise their notes for performance in Sessions 7 & 8 in light of feedback received in earlier performance reviews.	
<i>LUNCH BREAK 12.30 – 1.00</i>		
SESSION 7		1.00 – 2.15 (75 mins)
Group Performance Session	<u>CROSS EXAMINATION</u> <u>Case Study 3: Wilson v Wilson</u>	
Task Performances in Group: 5 minutes per task	TASK: ADVOCATE: 2 (Witness role: ADVOCATE: 3) For the Respondent, Cross Examine Margaret Wilson	
Instructor Review: 6 minutes per advocate	TASK: ADVOCATE: 1 (Witness role: ADVOCATE: 4) For the Applicant, Cross Examine Julie Wilson	
	TASK: ADVOCATE: 6 (Witness role: ADVOCATE: 5) For the Respondent, Cross Examine Dr Gloucester	
	TASK: ADVOCATE: 3 (Witness role: ADVOCATE: 6) For the Applicant, Cross Examine Dr Foster	
	TASK: ADVOCATE: 4 (Witness role: ADVOCATE: 1) For the Respondent, Cross Examine Dr Gloucester	
	TASK: ADVOCATE: 5 (Witness role: ADVOCATE: 2) For the Applicant, Cross Examine Dr Foster	
<i>Short break 2.15 – 2.20</i>		
SESSION 8		2.20 – 3.20 (60 mins)
Task Performances in Group: 5 minutes per task	<u>THE CLOSING ARGUMENT</u> <u>Case Study 3: Wilson v Wilson</u>	
Instructor Review: 5 minutes per advocate	TASK: ADVOCATE: 1 Present closing argument for Applicant	
	TASK: ADVOCATE: 2 Present closing argument for Respondent	
	TASK: ADVOCATE: 3 Present closing argument for Applicant	
	TASK: ADVOCATE: 4 Present closing argument for Respondent	
	TASK: ADVOCATE: 5 Present closing argument for Applicant	
	TASK: ADVOCATE: 6 Present closing argument for Respondent	
SESSION 9		3.20 – 3.30 (10 mins)
General Session	Debrief and Discussion	