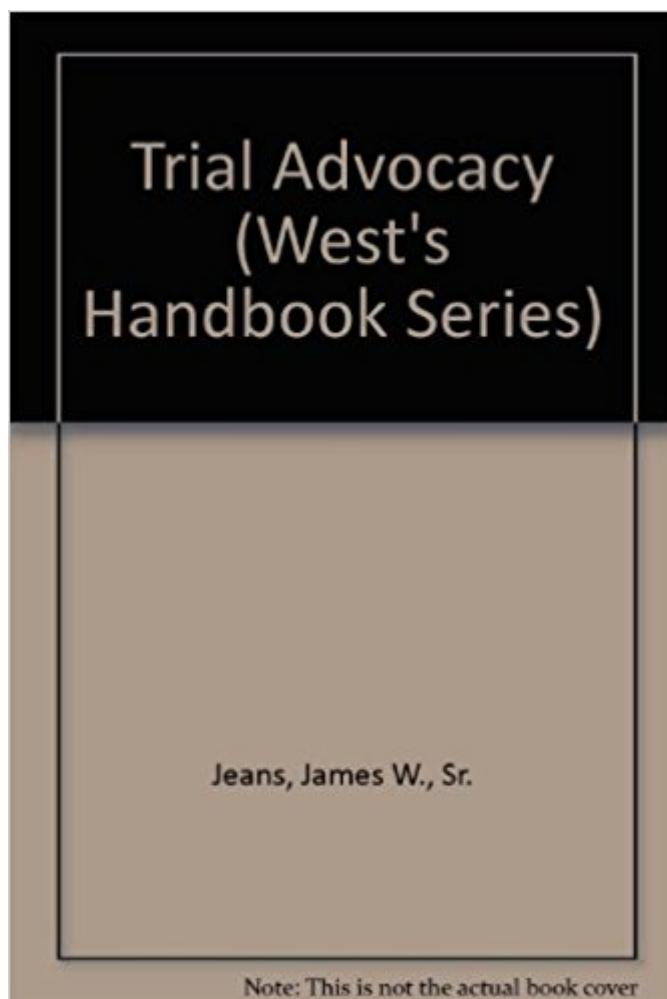


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Trial Advocacy (West's Handbook Series)



Synopsis

Advocates must develop a discipline and demonstrate that ours is not simply an unstructured art form depending upon hokum, gimmickry and trial ploys. To do so we must create standards by which we can analyze the component parts of an examination, a voir dire, a summation and express those standards by professional terminology. This book represents a beginning of this awesome task. Most of the recent offerings in the areas of advocacy have explored the more sophisticated aspects of our art. They have evolved, as one might suspect, to a more elevated and more complicated state. Good for the seasoned practitioner, not so good for the neophyte law student. So it is that this second edition seeks to explore advocacy from the ground up. Nothing is taken for granted, no assumptions made that the reader is already familiar with what goes on in a courtroom or, indeed, what the courtroom looks like, who is in it and what they do. If some of such information is too basic for you, skip on to more pertinent stuff; but sometimes it is profitable to go back to the basics, even when you know them.

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This is the absolute best book on trial advocacy out there. James McElhaney's 'Trial Notebook' is excellent, too. Someone needs to bring this book back into print. It should be the most used textbook in law school trial advocacy classes today. I work in a busy public defenders office, and I buy copies of this book every year to give to our summer interns. The lack of a current edition, though, means that I am constantly scrounging for used ones wherever I can find them.

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