

News: Firm News

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AALRR Hosts Two-Day Administrative Hearing Academy for its Associates

On August 3 and 4, Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo's (AALRR's) Cerritos office became the training grounds for nineteen of its associates as the firm hosted its second Trial Academy. Last year's program focused on jury trials; this year's program focuses on administrative hearings. Organized by AALRR's Associate Training and Mentoring Committee, the Academy offers participants the opportunity to learn from the firm's experienced trial lawyers and gain the valuable knowledge, skills, and experience that translate directly into the first-rate service our clients have come to expect from the firm.

"AALRR places a high priority on training our associates and giving them every opportunity to thrive, both within in our firm and in their client relationships," commented Managing Partner Mark Palin. "The Academy offers a valuable opportunity for knowledge sharing from partner to associate: It's a hugely beneficial experience for those involved."

To prepare for the Academy, associates reviewed a mock case file concerning a community college district that terminated a permanent employee who exercised his right to a hearing. Half of the associates were selected to act as the district's counsel, while the other half acted as the employee's counsel.

The Academy kicked off with presentations by partners Jim Romo, Adam Newman, Sharon Ormond, and Sundee Johnson, who spoke on various topics related to administrative hearings, including opening statements, direct examinations, cross examinations, closing arguments, and briefs. Subsequently, associates participated in a small group practicum, presenting their opening statements, examinations, and arguments to their trial lawyer coaches, who reviewed and critiqued each session. All sessions were videotaped for the benefit of the associates.

Upon completion of the training, associates will have advanced their skill development so that they can successfully prepare for and assist in conducting administrative hearings with confidence.

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