



# Benefits of a Partnership with an American Inn of Court

**Bridging the gap between law school and law practice through example, education, and mentoring.**

## What is an American Inn of Court?

The American Inns of Court is an association of lawyers, judges, law professors, and law students who share a passion for professional excellence. Through regular meetings, members build and strengthen professional relationships; discuss fundamental concerns about professionalism and pressing legal issues of the day; share experiences and advice; provide mentoring opportunities; and advance the highest ideals of professionalism, ethics, civility, and excellence.

The American Inns of Court has gained a national and international reputation as an organization that bridges the gap between formal law school education and legal practice by offering career-long continuing education in the Common Law tradition.

### AMERICAN INNS OF COURT AT A GLANCE:

- **28,000+** Active members
- **365** American Inns of Court in the United States, Guam, and Tokyo
- **2,466** Current and retired federal, state, and local judges
- **150+** Law school deans and professors
- **1900+** Law students
- **119** Specialty Inns including appellate, intellectual property, family, bankruptcy, workers' compensation, administrative/regulatory, and alternative dispute resolution practice areas.

## LAW STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

"My most valuable experience with the Inn was the regular exposure to so many different attorneys, firms, and practice areas. At any Inn event, I would be able to interact with trial lawyers, federal prosecutors, judges, transactional attorneys, solo practitioners, criminal defense attorneys, law professors—lawyers of every shape and size. I was able to form relationships with several different law firms, primarily through the Inn, that proved valuable as I was leaving law school and looking for a job."

—**TRAVIS BLAKE, ESQUIRE**

*Former Pupil member of the Judge Abner V. McCall  
American Inn of Court, Waco, Texas*



## Why Your Law School Should Participate in an American Inn of Court

Similar to many law schools' missions, the American Inns of Court's mission is to: "...inspire the legal community to advance the rule of law by achieving the highest level of professionalism through example, education, and mentoring." Law schools have been an integral part of the American Inns of Court movement for more than 40 years.

### THE BENEFITS TO LAW SCHOOLS AND LAW STUDENTS FROM INVOLVEMENT WITH AN AMERICAN INN OF COURT ARE SIGNIFICANT:

- Inns include the leading role-model judges and lawyers in all areas of the country. Through regular programs and social gatherings, students work with and learn from these judges and lawyers in "pupillage teams."
- At a time when students increasingly seek more exposure to legal practice, Inn programs involve students directly with the significant practice issues that form the basis for these programs.
- Mentoring, a cornerstone of the American Inns of Court, is integrated into most Inn meetings, with member judges and lawyers providing invaluable insights for students.
- Inns can provide a unique way for law schools to reach out to alumni and other leading judges and lawyers on common issues of professionalism and ethics.
- At a time of retrenchment within the legal profession, participation in an Inn can provide students with invaluable networking opportunities.
- Inn membership is a recognized mark of professional distinction, with student members often joining Inns as attorney members after graduation.
- There are no fees or costs for law schools to become involved with an American Inn of Court. Law schools have the opportunity to offer meeting space, faculty expertise, and enthusiastic student participation.

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"It was a unique opportunity to work with attorneys of all experience levels in a non-adversarial way. The networking opportunities are unparalleled. The Inn has definitely made a positive impact on me professionally. As someone who is just beginning my career, I feel that I now have a tremendous network of colleagues that would otherwise take years to develop.

—MARGOT WILSON, ESQUIRE

*Former Pupil member of the Richard Linn  
American Inn of Court, Chicago, Illinois*

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## Frequently Asked Questions:

### What is the cost for student participation?

Each Inn of Court determines its own dues structure for student members. In many cases, the Inn covers all of the cost of student members, while other Inns may require student members to pay a small dues amount to have “some skin in the game.” Many law schools partner with Inns to pay a portion or all of the students’ dues.

### What is the time commitment for Inn participation?

Typically, Inns meet two to three hours once per month from September to June, with breaks over the holiday season. Meetings usually include a social/networking period, dinner, and an educational program.

### How do students participate in the “pupillage teams”?

Students are fully engaged members of the teams, and may be involved in researching an issue, playing a role in a case reenactment, or facilitating a topic discussion.

### How is the mentoring component of the Inn structured?

Informal mentoring occurs through the interaction between the student members and more senior members in the pupillage teams. Many Inns also conduct formal mentoring programs, where student members are paired or grouped with more senior attorneys and judges to address specific questions of practice management, ethical concerns, and professional expectations.

## American Inn of Court opportunities in your area

If your law school is looking for additional ways to teach and mentor professionalism, ethics, and civility, consider an affiliation with or creating an American Inn of Court.

### Interested? Please contact the chapter relations director for your state:

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### Contact the following deans and professors whose law schools have benefited from involvement with the American Inns of Court:

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University of South Carolina School of Law



“The Inn provides one of the best opportunities available to converse with seasoned practitioners, many of whom are the leaders in their fields and all of whom are more than happy to impart some of their knowledge onto the next generation of attorneys. I am confident that the practical knowledge gained via the Inn will allow me to hit the ground running upon my official entry into the profession.”

—**THOMAS DAMARIO, ESQUIRE**

*Former Pupil member of the Richard Linn American Inn of Court, Chicago, Illinois*



# LAW STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

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My advice would be to “buy in” to the experience. As a student member, you truly get out of this experience what you put into it, so spend the time to foster your relationships with fellow Inn members and you will be glad you did!

Professionally, I now can walk into a room full of lawyers confident that I can carry on a conversation with the best of them. Through the connections I made in our Inn, I have now clerked for a judge and local firm here in town—I don’t know how I would have found these positions without the Inn!

**KATE HARRISON**

*Former Pupil member of the Judge Abner V. McCall  
American Inn of Court, Waco, Texas*

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As a law student member of the Inn, I found my experience in the James S. Bowman American Inn of Court invaluable. My participation in the Inn allowed me to interact and network with members of the local legal community from all areas of practice and with varying legal backgrounds. My interactions led to the development of long standing mentorships in the legal community, which have greatly assisted me in my early years of practice. The opportunity the Inn provides for young lawyers to develop professional and collegial relationships with more seasoned members of the Bar is unmatched.

**TRICIA LONTZ, ESQUIRE**

*Former Pupil member of the James S. Bowman  
American Inn of Court, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania*

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