



Benefits of Membership for the Judiciary

Enhance the Legal Profession by Joining an American Inn of Court

INSPIRE AND IMPROVE THE LEGAL PROFESSION

- Emphasize the importance of and expectation for the highest standards of ethics, civility, and professionalism in the practice of law.
- Inspire attorneys to strive for the highest levels of integrity, civility, and advocacy.
- Give back to the profession by mentoring young lawyers and law students.
- Build confidence in the courts by publicly demonstrating interest and involvement in the law beyond the bench.
- Recognize judges and lawyers who demonstrate the highest level of professionalism, ethics, civility, and excellence through the American Inns of Court awards programs.

ENGAGE IN OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN OR EDUCATE OTHERS

- Inn of Court dinners and programs expand legal knowledge in many areas, including changes in substantive and procedural laws.
- Programs allow the exchange of ideas on innovations that might benefit courts, judges, lawyers, and litigants.
- Programs can be entertaining and enjoyable as well as informative, and reveal the talents, creativity, and humor of members.
- The relationship between the American Inns of Court and English Inns of Court expands member horizons through exchange programs, conferences, and visits to the English Inns and court system.

NETWORK WITH AND GAIN ACCESS TO COLLEAGUES

- Meet and interact with federal and state judges on a local, regional, and national level.
- Stay current with the local bar and connected to attorneys in different practice areas, law professors and deans, in-house lawyers, and others who do not have a litigation practice.
- The American Inns of Court member directory is a means to reach out to and communicate with other judges on issues of common interest.
- Attend the Celebration of Excellence at the Supreme Court of the United States with justices of the high court as well as jurists and attorneys from across the country.

ACHIEVE CAREER GOALS

- Demonstrate to judicial nominating committees, evaluation commissions, and the public, your steadfast commitment to professionalism, ethics, civility, and excellence.
- Become better acquainted with and respected by the local legal community.



Hesitant to join an American Inn of Court? Fear not!

TIME AND FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

- Membership is a time commitment and added responsibility.
 - *Experience has shown that the commitment is manageable and the benefits of membership are worth the time and added responsibility.*
- There are competing requests, even amongst Inns, for judicial participation in law-related organizations or activities.
 - *The value of Inn membership to judges and the profession makes the Inn of Court a productive activity for judges that exceeds the overall benefits of other law-related organizations and activities.*
- There is a financial cost to Inn membership that covers dues, dinner, and other Inn expenses.
 - *The benefits of Inn membership to judges and their courts far exceed the cost of membership.*
 - *Inns may structure cost based on membership categories to reduce fiscal disincentives for judges to join.*
- Membership occasionally involves travel to participate in joint meetings with other Inns of Court in the area.
 - *Judges who are unduly inconvenienced by travel to these meetings are not required to attend.*

FAMILIARITY CONCERNS

- The familiarity that develops among Inn members who work together to educate and promote professionalism, ethics, civility and excellence might raise a concern that there will be an appearance of favoritism in the courtroom.
 - *Membership in an American Inn of Court, focused on promoting professionalism, ethics, civility and excellence, does not give rise to a reasonable inference of judicial favoritism toward attorney members.*
 - *The Conference of Chief Justices commended the American Inns of Court with resolutions in 1995 and 2011, encouraging judges and experienced lawyers to become involved, and members of the bench and bar to promote the mission and goals of the American Inns of Court.*
- Holding meetings at law firms whose lawyers appear regularly in court might be of concern to a judge.
 - *There are many alternate venues in which to hold Inn meetings.*
- Only a few Inns encourage using first names during Inn meetings, which might make some judges uncomfortable.
 - *Inns with a first-name policy intend to convey that the input of all members is encouraged regardless of position or status, and attorney members do not call a judge by his or her first name unless the judge insists.*



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