

**RESOLUTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY BY MEMBERS OF THE
AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF THE
UNITED STATES ON THE AMERICAN INNS OF COURT
AT ITS MEETING IN WASHINGTON, DC,
OCTOBER 26, 27, 1983
("The Interim Report")**

1. The American Inns of Court have demonstrated the potential for supplying a significant new dimension to legal training.
2. The American Inns of Court experience has proven significantly favorable to warrant national structuring.
3. The Ad Hoc Committee should encourage the formation of new Inns.
4. The American Inns of Court program should be under the direction of federal judges. Both federal and state judges shall be eligible for membership in every Inn.
5. The official duties of judges are consistent with participation in an American Inn of Court.
6. The state judiciary should be represented on the Ad Hoc Committee on American Inns of Court.
7. THE COMPOSITION AND PURPOSE OF AN AMERICAN INN OF COURT MAY BE STATED:
An intimate amalgam and interaction of judges, master lawyers, less experienced barristers, law students and law professors in an organized and continuing structure, including pupilage groups to directly enhance the ethical and professional quality of legal advocacy in America. While recognizing the inescapable differences, The American Inns of Court will be patterned on, and will enjoy kinship with the English Inns of Court, so as to share their professional ideals and standards and the pride they engender as a part of our legal heritage.
8. THE OPERATION OF AN AMERICAN INN OF COURT MAY BE STATED:
 - 1) Demonstrates by pupilage groups of forensic techniques at regular meetings.
 - 2) Critiques and discussions following the demonstrations.
 - 3) Association of pupilage group members between meetings of the Inn.
 - 4) Promotion of interest and collegiality by sharing of entertainment and refreshments from time to time.
9. The American Inns of Court should retain an essential uniqueness and should not attempt to duplicate any other educational or fraternal programs.
10. A permanent organization should be created. A subcommittee of the Ad Hoc Committee should be formed to report back to the Chairman on or before 1 February, 1984, on details of the nature, structure and financing of such an organization and possible identification of a national sponsor for the Inn of Court program. A second subcommittee shall be formed, work of which will include preparation of an Inn of Court organizational handbook.
11. The national organization should prepare and maintain a permanent roster of national Inn membership.
12. An American Inn of Court newsletter should be prepared and published on a regular basis.
13. Each individual Inn will be responsible for the financing of its own activities.

**REPORT OF THE JUDICIAL CONFERENCE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON
AMERICAN INNS OF COURT; MARCH, 1985**
(“The Final Report”)

SUMMARY

This report contains the following recommendations:

1. That the Conference accept and approve the report of the Ad Hoc Committee.
2. That the Conference approve the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee concerning the establishment of a national organization.
3. That the Conference authorize the continued operation of the Ad Hoc Committee and authorize such reorganization to enable it to fulfill its objectives.

**REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE
JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES
MARCH 6-7, 1985
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

“The Conference thereupon accepted and approved the report of the Ad Hoc Committee including its recommendations for the establishment of a national organization and authorized the continued operation of the Ad Hoc Committee with such reorganization as will enable it to fulfill its assigned objectives.”

**CONFERENCE OF CHIEF JUSTICES
RESOLUTION XV
REGARDING THE INNS OF COURT MOVEMENT**

WHEREAS, the American Inns of Court and other organizations with similar missions are dedicated to the encouragement of a culture in which excellence is the expected - excellence in skill, ethics, civility and professionalism;

WHEREAS, experience has shown that the American Inns of Court are successful in accomplishing this purpose through a system of mentoring, example, discussion, and constant focus upon skill, ethics, civility and professionalism;

WHEREAS, this success depends upon the involvement of judges at all levels and experienced lawyers as role models and mentors;

WHEREAS, the Inns of Court program is a proven and effective method of integration of the law schools, the bench, and the bar in the training of law students and young lawyers in their professional obligations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Conference of Chief Justices that:

- The American Inns of Court and other organizations with similar missions are commended for their effective dedication to improving the skill, ethics, civility and professionalism of lawyers; and
- Judges and experienced lawyers are encouraged to become members of the American Inns of Court or other organizations with similar missions; and
- State courts should promote the mission of the Inns of Court and encourage members of the bench and bar to become actively involved in that movement.

(Proposed by the Professionalism and Lawyer Competence Committee of the
Conference of Chief Justices in Monterey, California, at the
Forty-Seventh Annual Meeting, on August 3, 1995.)

**THE JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN BAR
ASSOCIATION RESOLUTION REGARDING THE AMERICAN INNS OF COURT
FEBRUARY 7, 1994**

RESOLVED

WHEREAS, some attorneys are not fully competent to perform in trial and appellate courts, thus resulting in increased costs of litigation and less than optimum results for their clients;

WHEREAS, some attorneys are not fully conscious of their ethical duties to their clients, to the court, and to the legal profession and thus do not practice in accordance with the highest ethical standards, resulting in increased problems for courts only tangential to the merits of cases and increased costs for all concerned in the process;

WHEREAS, some attorneys are not fully aware of the need to be civil to tribunals, to opposing counsel, to witnesses, and to others, thus resulting in increased costs to all concerned, including their clients, and increased stress in the practice of law;

WHEREAS, the lack of competency, ethical conduct, and civility by those attorneys bring into disrepute the entire profession;

WHEREAS, today the lack of mentoring and training of newer members of the profession contributes to the problems noted above;

WHEREAS, the American Inns of Court are dedicated to the encouragement of a culture in which excellence is the expected - excellence in skill, in ethics, in civility, in professionalism;

WHEREAS, experience has shown that the American Inns of Court are successful in accomplishing this purpose through a system of mentoring, example, discussion, and constant focus upon skill, ethics, civility, and professionalism;

WHEREAS, this success depends upon the involvement of judges at all levels and senior attorneys as role models and mentors;

WHEREAS, experience has shown that the American Inns of Court are successful in accomplishing this purpose through a system of mentoring, example, discussion, and constant focus upon skill, ethics, civility and professionalism;

WHEREAS, the American Inns of Court program is a proven, effective method of integration of the law schools, the bench, and the bar in the better training of law students and young lawyers in their obligations toward the profession.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Council of the Judicial Administration Division of the American Bar Association that:

1. The American Inns of Court are commended on their effective dedication to an improvement in the skill, ethics, civility and professionalism of the legal profession;

2. All judges and senior lawyers are encouraged to become members of American Inns of Court and if there be none with room, to assist in the creation of new American Inns of Court so that more members of the profession can partake of the American Inn experience;
3. The Judicial Administration Division should undertake, in any way practicable, within its resources, to promote the spread of the word about the American Inns of Court and to encourage its members to become actively involved in the American Inns of Court;
4. Each of the Conferences of the Judicial Administration Division is urged to include within its publications and meetings encouragement of the members of the Conference to become actively involved in the American Inns of Court;
5. The Board of Governors of the American Bar Association is encouraged to include within the projects of the Association the encouragement of all judges and members of the bar to become actively involved in the American Inns of Court as an effective way of helping to resolve the perceived problems of the profession listed above and as an effective means to carry out the recommendation of the McCrate Report that there be increased intersection between the bench, the bar, and the law schools toward the better, integrated training of law students and young lawyers in their obligations to the profession.

**FINAL REPORT
OF THE COMMITTEE ON CIVILITY
OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
JUNE 9, 1992**

III. Final Recommendations

After consideration of all the comments and suggestions submitted following the release of the Interim Report, the Committee adopts the following Final Recommendations:

1. The Proposed Standards for Professional Conduct within the Seventh Federal Judicial Circuit, as amended and set forth in Appendix A, should be adopted.
2. Each lawyer admitted to practice (or appearing *pro hoc vice*) in any court in the Seventh Federal Judicial Circuit should receive a copy of the Standards for Professional Conduct. Each court within the Circuit should consider adoption of a local rule requiring each lawyer admitted to practice (or appearing *pro hoc vice*) to certify, as a precondition to admission and to filing an appearance in any court within the Seventh Federal Judicial Circuit, that he or she has read and will abide by the Standards.
3. Civility training, including education regarding the Standards for Professional Conduct, should be implemented by public law offices, private law firms, and corporations with in-house counsel. This training should also be available at federal judicial workshops.
4. All lawyers and judges within the Seventh Federal Judicial Circuit should consider participation in civility, professionalism, or mentoring programs in professional legal associations and bar associations as well as participation in one of the American Inns of Court.
5. If a professional organization or bar association does not have a civility, professionalism, or mentoring program, or an American Inn of Court does not exist in a particular area, lawyers and judges should consider establishing such a program or an Inn of Court.
6. Law Schools should encourage discussion of the Standards for Professional Conduct in the classroom and, especially, in clinical training programs, and should encourage discussion among faculty members.

CONFERENCE OF CHIEF JUSTICES

Resolution 6

In Support of the American Inns of Court Movement

WHEREAS, the American Inns of Court fosters excellence in professionalism, ethics, civility, and legal skills for judges, lawyers, academicians, and students of the law in order to enhance the quality, availability, and efficiency of justice in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the American Inns of Court engages over 28,000 members on a monthly basis in over 280 separate Inns in the United States in an educational forum that promotes its core values and provides an opportunity for mentoring young lawyers; and

WHEREAS, the American Inns of Court shape a culture of excellence in American jurisprudence by promoting a commitment to professionalism, ethics, civility, and legal skills in the practice of law, and transmit these values from one generation of lawyers to the next; and

WHEREAS, the Conference previously commended the American Inns of Court with Resolution XV in 1995; and

WHEREAS, since 1995, the American Inns of Court has expanded its scope, increased its membership, and consequently enhanced its positive effect upon the legal profession;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Conference of Chief Justices commends the American Inns of Court for their commitment and dedication to improving the professionalism, ethics, civility, and legal skills of judges, lawyers, academicians, and students of the law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference encourages judges and experienced lawyers to become involved in such organizations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference encourages members of the bench and bar to become actively involved in promoting the mission and goals of the American Inns of Court.

Adopted as proposed by the Professionalism and Competence of the Bar Committee at the CCJ Midyear Meeting, January 26, 2011.