



AMERICAN INNS of COURT

I'ANSON-HOFFMAN INN OF COURT NEWSLETTER

2024

VOL. 35, NO. 1

NEXT MEETING

**JOINT Meeting with James Kent
April 17, 2024**

**Norfolk Yacht and Country Club
5:30 p.m.**

Hello Inn Members! The newsletter committee finally came out of hibernation to update you on your favorite Inn. First, the newsletter committee welcomes a new member. Joe Sherman has graciously agreed to copilot our newsletter in place of our beloved friend, Micaylee Noreen, who is off gallivanting in California. I neglected to tell Joe this is a permanent position and he can't be fired, so thank him for his service to the Inn!



(I used his photo here without permission, a common tactic of the Newsletter Committee and violation of Va. Code § 8.01-40 (allowing jury to consider punitives)).

It's been a fantastic year for the Inn so far, with 2 important meetings remaining. Make sure to attend the next meeting in April, which will be with James Kent, our sister Inn. It's important to show up and show out at these joint meetings; we can't let James Kent think they have a more robust Inn.

FOODBANK SUCCESS!

As most of you know, we participate in the Southeastern Virginia and Eastern Shore Foodbank drive every year, and this year we have absolutely crushed it. Aaron Kass, who manages our drive effort, reports that

we have raised **\$3,250** so far, enough money to provide **6,500 meals**. That number is simply incredible, and it's a part of what makes our Inn so special. There's still time to donate, but you'll need to do so directly through the foodbank website at: <https://foodbankonline.org>. Please let Inn leadership know if you make an online donation so we can update our numbers.

Without further ado, let's get to recapping some of our meetings from this year:

OCTOBER MEETING RECAP

In October, the group met at William & Mary and heard a professor of law explain the downsides of allowing Artificial Intelligence to perform legal research and writing. While the machines can do voluminous work in little time, "they" desire to please their operators and often tell the operator what the operator prefers to hear rather than the truth. This is called "lying" and unhelpful to hitch your name to in a legal pleading or filing. The group did debate the merits of A.I. and seemed to conclude that the technology is useful for drafting cover letters to employers and generating funny images.

Our new President, Judge Duffan, taking charge:



NOVEMBER MEETING RECAP

On November 17, 2023, members gathered at the Norfolk Yacht and Country Club for an excellent fall meeting. Toastmaster Steve Clark led us in a toast



AMERICAN INNS of COURT

I'ANSON-HOFFMAN INN OF COURT NEWSLETTER

2024

VOL. 35, NO. 1

to the importance of gratitude and generosity in our practice. His message certainly seemed to resonate with members, based on the tremendous response we received for our food drive!



Pupilage Group 1 provided a phenomenal guest speaker, The Hon. John R. Doyle, III (Ret.). Judge Doyle treated us to a presentation on civility and professionalism, as well as some tidbits of advice he's accumulated over the years. One such tidbit stuck with me: the "four categories of work." Judge Doyle explained it's useful to categorize any particular job-related task into four different containers: 1) unimportant/non-urgent, 2) important/non-urgent, 3) unimportant/urgent, and 4) important/urgent. our mission statements. In budgeting our time, we can't forget about category 1 items such as paperwork and closing out files, lest they become category "4" down the road. Thanks to Group 1 and Judge Doyle for his time and message, which tied in directly with our mission statement.



JANUARY MEETING RECAP

In January, Joe Sherman toasted the Inn by imploring its members to stop lying, cheating, and stealing from each other. He explained that our society

encourages these behaviors by telling us that we need to be perfect and as a result we put our ego on trial everyday. Rather than give an open and vulnerable answer about ourselves, we are taught to answer that we are "good" or "great" whenever asked how we are doing. If everyone is good or great, why is society falling apart at the seam? He explained that we cheat each other out of meaningful relationships by protecting our ego and steal each others' ideas to promote ourselves as clever – again protecting ego. Joe hooked the audience into this rhetoric by mentioning that Merriam-Webster declared "authentic" as the word of the year as the most-searched term on Google. Given the rise of A.I., it has never been harder to know what is real. He implored our Inn, as leaders of society, to keep it real. The rowdy judges in the back applauded with zeal.

Judge Gibney, the keynote speaker and one of the rowdy judges in the back, continued the momentum with an exhortation for lawyers to participate in society as natural leaders. He mentioned that 15% of the General Assembly is lawyers – the lowest of all-time. He encouraged writing letters to the editor, running for office, and participating meaningfully in local politics. He seconded the message of the toast and lamented that his speech was shorter than the toast.



**Until Next Time,
Andrew Gordon and Joseph Sherman
Newsletter Committee 2023-2024**