



INFORMATION ON THE ADOPT-A- BARRISTER PROGRAM

A number of Inns have hosted Benchers or Barristers from the English Inns, and benefitted from lively presentations on the history and function of the English Inns, the structure of the English legal system, the relationship between the English Inns and early American history, and other interesting topics. As a result, the American Inns of Court and the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple established the Adopt-a-Barrister program to facilitate presentations by English Barristers to American Inns of Court.

The San Francisco Bay area Richard M. Sangster American Inn of Court hosted a Bencher from Middle Temple in May 2012. The Inn was extremely pleased with the outcome of the visit, and has shared the information below. The Inn contacted the Executive Director, AIC, in October about hosting an English Barrister at their May meeting. The Inn provided a general description of the program they wanted, and the Executive Director coordinated with Middle Temple to find a Barrister who was interested, available, and known for his or her lively presentations. Once the Barrister was identified (in this case a new Bencher and experienced advocacy trainer from Middle Temple), the Sangster Inn worked directly with the Barrister to arrange the visit.

The Barrister arrived on Wednesday, presented her program at the Inn on Thursday, was hosted by various Inn members on Friday and Saturday, and departed on Sunday. The Sangster Inn spent approximately \$1,900, split evenly between the plane ticket and four nights hotel accommodation (noting that hotel rooms in San Francisco/Napa Valley are extremely expensive). In its summary, the Inn suggests that costs could be cut considerably by using frequent flyer miles, if available, for the ticket and by hosting the Barrister in someone's home rather than paying for a hotel.

The schedule was as follows:

Wednesday: Barrister arrived, was picked up at the airport by Inn members, and taken to her hotel. Fruit/snack basket in room.

Thursday: Inn member hosted Barrister to observe a jury trial, and for a lunch discussion with Inn members in his firm. The Barrister spent the afternoon at her hotel preparing for her evening presentation, was picked up by Inn members, escorted to the meeting and dinner, and returned to her hotel. She had emailed her presentation to the Inn earlier, and the Inn had set up all necessary audio visual equipment.

Friday: One Inn member hosted the Barrister for breakfast and a tour of a local business and a second Inn member hosted her for lunch, a horseback ride, and a casual dinner with some other Inn members.

Saturday: Hosted by three separate Inn members for a morning balloon ride, a lunch, and an evening dinner.

Sunday: Check out of hotel, brunch hosted by a judge, museum visit, and taken to airport.

Individual Inn members volunteered to arrange and host the activities (generally including a small group of Inn members) for the Barrister. This gave both Inn members and the Barrister the chance to discuss a wide variety of topics.

Note from the Executive Director: This was a gold-plated visit. While it was wonderful for all involved, I think you could arrange an equally wonderful visit without a hot air balloon ride, horseback ride, etc. As noted above, your Inn could reduce costs considerably by having the Barrister stay in a member's home rather than a hotel, and by using frequent flyer miles if available. Another idea might be to co-host the Barrister with another Inn or Inns. Please contact me at mdunn@innsofcourt.org or 571 319-4704 if you would like further information on hosting a Barrister.