

# EARL E. O'CONNOR INN OF COURT THE INNFORMATION

October 2011

Volume 21 (more or less), Issue 1



## UPCOMING MEETING DATES (NO DECEMBER MEETING)

November 8, 2011 Meeting	For all Dinner Meetings: 5:15 Social Hour 6:00 Dinner 6:50 Program
January 10, 2012 Meeting	
February 15, 2012 Meeting	
March 13, 2012 Meeting	
April 10, 2012 Meeting	
May 8, 2012 Meeting	
June 2012 Ethics CLE	1:00

## NOVEMBER PROGRAM TOPIC:

Social Media & Discovery: What Every Trial Lawyer Should Know. Judge McAnany's team will be presenting.

## SPECIAL PROM

Our Outreach Committee is hard at work. They recently met with the school officials responsible for putting on the prom for special needs high school students in Wyandotte County. They are close to pinning down the spring date that will facilitate the best opportunity for school-provided transportation. If the budget has room for transportation, it will open up the prom to all of the special needs students instead of serving only those whose parents are willing to bring them back to school after hours. The teachers assure us that all of their students want to attend the event. If the transportation issue is resolved, we will be looking for extra volunteers to chaperone this heart-warming and much-appreciated event. Stay tuned for more information!

## President's Message

I want to welcome our thirteen new and all returning members of the Earl E. O'Connor Inn of Court, the largest Inn in Kansas and one of the largest in the nation. I'm certain our new members will find the Inn to be an enjoyable and rewarding experience for many years to come.

My predecessor, Judge Karen Arnold-Burger, and her Board accomplished much last year and brought great distinction to our Inn by earning the Platinum Designation in the American Inn of Court's Achieving Excellence Program. The Achieving Excellence program measures Inns' achievements in the five core competencies of administration, communications, programs, mentoring and outreach. In 2010, only 12 of the 350 Inns nationwide achieved Platinum status. For its achievements, our Inn will be recognized on the national website and in a future issue of the *Bencher*, the bi-monthly magazine of the American Inn of Court sent to all members of the Inns of Court nationwide. Our

Inn will also be honored at the Celebration of Excellence dinner to be held at the United States Supreme Court on November 5, 2011. I will attend the dinner and report about it in a future newsletter.

Our Newsletter Committee, chaired by Casey Tourtillott, will produce four newsletters this year to keep you informed about our Inn and its programs.

Another great source of information is our website, which can be accessed through the American Inns of Court website. Visit [www.Innsofcourt.org](http://www.Innsofcourt.org), click on "Find an Inn Near You" and then "Visit my Inn's Website." There you will find lists of members, committees and program teams, a history of our Inn and other useful information.

In addition to our monthly CLE programs, we have a number of special events to look forward to in the coming months. In April, our Outreach/Social Com-

mittee will organize a Prom for children with special needs. In May, we will have our annual joint meeting with another Inn of Court. In June, our Ethics CLE Team will hold the Thirteenth Annual G. Thomas VanBebber Ethics in Litigation Forum at the federal court in Kansas City, Kansas. Details on these and other special events will appear in future newsletters and on our website.

Those of you who attended our meetings in September and October know that our meetings include a Civility Moment in which a member of the Inn recounts an act of civility that made a lasting impression on him or her. If you would like to share such a moment at a future meeting, please send me an email. We are looking for volunteers.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve this year as President of this great Inn. I look forward to an exciting and rewarding year.

—Charles A. Getto

## THE INFORMATION

### Welcome New Members!

We are thrilled to have thirteen new members join the Inn this year! We will be featuring each new member in this and subsequent issues of the newsletter. Make sure to say hello to them at our next meeting!

Joseph E. Bant	Stacey L. Janssen	Denise M. Portnoy
William F. ("Brad") Bradley, Jr.	Lynn R. Johnson	Peter C. Simonsen
Mark A. Dupree	David Langston	Jennifer K. Vath
Amy M. Fowler	Jessica R. Madrid	
David Jack	Lindsay Todd Perkins	

### New Member Profiles

#### DAVID JACK

David Jack is an associate at the law firm of Martin, Pringle, Oliver, Wallace & Bauer, LLP. David is originally from Andover, Kansas. David obtained his undergraduate degree from the University of Kansas, Masters in Business Administration from Baker University, and his Juris Doctorate from Washburn University School of Law. Prior to law school, David worked in the financial services industry reviewing the suitability of variable annuities and variable universal life insurance policies. Currently, David's practice areas are business litigation and creditor's rights. What does David enjoy most about practicing law? "People come to us with real problems that directly affect their businesses and families. We have the rewarding task of assisting them in resolving these issues in a manner that they could not accomplish without our expertise." When asked about the one thing most people don't know about him, "Immediately after law school, I was a bartender at 'Beach Combers,' a bar located directly on the beach in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands." David and his wife Ashlee have a two-year-old daughter named Ella.

#### AMY M. FOWLER

Amy Fowler is a Labor & Employment partner with Husch Blackwell LLP. She hails from Dartmouth College and University of Kansas School of Law. Amy is a diehard Jayhawks, Chiefs, and Royals fan . . . but really just a sports fanatic in general. She played basketball, volleyball, softball, and track for Bishop Miege, and played basketball for Dartmouth. She continued her basketball career when she clerked for Judge VanBebber from 2001-2003, earning a coveted spot on the Team Murguia Basketball Team. Amy still plays softball (although she humbly downplays her skills) and golfs when she can. A closet Celine Dion fan, Amy has seen the movie The Bodyguard at least 75 times (presumably making her a closet Whitney Houston fan, too). Her favorite book is The Power of One by Bryce Courtenay, and her favorite TV show is Law and Order. Plus, she loves Glee—but don't ask her to sing or dance. Amy lives in the Waldo/Brookside area and has a four-year-old, Ashton, two dogs—Carmello, a Golden Retriever, and Murphy, a Shiba Inu—and one Beta fish, Blue 3. When you get the opportunity, ask her about Blue 1 and Blue 2.

#### Mentoring

As you know, mentoring is a time-honored legal tradition and a cornerstone of the American Inns of Court. Laura Smith and Tracy Gullickson are co-chairs for this year's mentoring program and are working to create a meaningful mentoring experience for both mentees and mentors. The mentoring committee sent out a survey to Inn members in late September. If you have not yet responded to this survey, please do so at your earliest convenience. The mentoring committee will plan to announce its mentoring plans at the November meeting based on the information provided in the survey.

#### Bar Show

Don't forget: The 2012 Bar Show is right around the corner. It will be held June 14, 2012, during the KBA annual meeting. If anyone is interested in singing, dancing, acting, filming, editing, or writing, please contact Veronica Dersch, [veronica@smizak-law.com](mailto:veronica@smizak-law.com) or 913-661-9800.

The mission of the American Inns of Court is to foster excellence in professionalism, ethics, civility, and legal skills.

*All meetings at Homestead  
Country Club, 6510 Mission Road,  
Prairie Village, KS 66208*

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