

EARL E. O'CONNOR INN OF COURT THE INNFORMATION

December 2011

Volume 21 (more or less), Issue 2



UPCOMING MEETING DATES

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

JANUARY PROGRAM TOPIC:

Wait, Wait. Do Not Tell Me I Am Not Ethical. Approved for 1.0 Ethics & Professionalism Credit. Judge Arnold-Burger's team will be presenting.

SAVE THE DATE: SPECIAL PROM

The Prom for Special Education Students in Wyandotte County will be held on Friday, March 30, from 6 to 9 pm. Be thinking of ways we can spruce up the folding tables and transform the high school common area into something spectacular! Updates to follow. Questions? Email Veronica Dersch, veronica@smizak-law.com, or Janell Avila, javila@salawkc.com.

BAR SHOW REMINDER

Tap shoes gathering dust in your closet? Well, put them on and get involved in the bar show! We need at least three tappers and all the hams we can get! Email veronica@smizak-law.com and dig out your Awkward Firm Photos for the Bar Show program. Email connie@smizak-law.com for details.

President's Message

As I mentioned in my message in the last issue of the Innformation, our Inn has been awarded the Platinum Designation in the American Inn of Court's Achieving Excellence Program. The Achieving Excellence program measures Inns' accomplishments in the five core competencies of administration, communications, programs, mentoring and outreach. In 2010, less than 4% of the 350 Inns nationwide achieved Platinum status, so this is quite an honor for our Inn.

On November 5, 2011, I attended the American Inns of Court Celebration Of Excellence at the United States Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. The purpose of the event was to recognize the 2011 Achieving Excellence awards received by various Inns around the country, including the Earl E. O'Connor Inn.

A total of 20 Inns, including our Inn, received the Platinum Level award. The awards were presented after dinner in the courtroom where the Supreme Court holds oral arguments. Following a key-

note address by Justice Sonia Sotomayor, each of the Platinum Level Inns were identified, and we were asked to stand when the names of our respective Inns were announced. Those Inns achieving the gold, silver and bronze levels were mentioned in the program booklet, but only representatives from the platinum level Inns were asked to stand to receive recognition.

In addition to the platinum, gold, silver and bronze level awards for the Inns of Court, a number of distinguished attorneys (some young and others not so young) received individual awards. These awards included the Warren E. Burger Prize, which is awarded to encourage practical scholarship in civility, ethics, professionalism and legal skills - the core mission of the American Inns of Court; the Sandra Day O'Connor Award for Professional Service, which honors an American Inn of Court member in practice ten or fewer years for excellence in public interest or pro bono activities; and the Lewis F. Powell, Jr. Award for Professional-

ism and Ethics, given each year to recognize a person who has rendered exemplary service to the legal profession.

At the reception and dinner, I had an opportunity to visit with many judges, including the Chief Judge of the Northern District of Illinois, a Justice from the Delaware Supreme Court, and members of Inns from across the country.

I believe our Inn should make it a high priority to receive the platinum level award every year. We are well on track to accomplishing that again this year. I also believe that we should send at least one member of our Inn to the annual Celebration of Excellence. It was a great experience for me, and an honor to have represented our Inn on this proud occasion.

A copy of the Achieving Excellence Platinum Distinction award that was presented to our Inn, and a list of those who attended the Celebration, have been posted on our Inn's website.

—Charles A. Getto

New Member Profiles

JOE BANT

Joe Bant works at Lewis Rice and is a KU undergrad and law school grad. He grew up in Colorado Springs, CO, but became a Jayhawk because he liked Lawrence and the Journalism school. Joe now lives in Overland Park with his girlfriend Jessica Madrid, who is also a member of the Inn. Joe describes his work as “defending businesses involved in civil litigation.” As a result, he has worked on a wide variety of cases, from employment issues involving contracts and discrimination to landlord/tenant and other real estate disputes to lender liability cases. In his spare time, Joe likes to read and listen to music. He recently read *Scorecasting* by Tobias Moskowitz, a University of Chicago behavioral economist, and L. Jon Wertheim, a writer for Sports Illustrated, about “The Hidden Influences Behind How Sports Are Played and Games Are Won.” He has over 8500 songs on his iPod, ranging from alternative to rock to hip hop to country.

STACEY JANSSEN

Stacey Janssen owns her own firm—Law Office of Stacey Janssen, P.A. The focus of her practice is Elder Law, Estate Planning, Special Needs Planning, Probate, Fiduciary Litigation and Social Security Disability. Originally from Salina, Stacey attended KU for both her undergraduate and law degrees. She holds Bachelor Degrees in Art History and Political Science. When asked why she wanted to go to law school, Stacey responded “probably watched too much television.” Her practice gives her the opportunity to work with and for the dead, dying, mentally ill and their families. Stacey considers it an “honor to represent the best people in our community who are going through the worst times of their lives.” She finds this work tremendously rewarding, and enjoys being of assistance to them. When not advocating for her clients, she does volunteer work for her church, kids’ schools, and organizations that provide services for the disabled and elderly. In addition, she likes to read, go to movies, eat out at fancy restaurants, listen to live music, and dance. The divorced mother of three – Charles, Ellyn, and Andrew – also cares for two cats and a dog.

BRAD BRADLEY

Brad Bradley works at NIC, Inc., where he has been the COO for 7 years and has been General Counsel and Corporate Secretary since 1998. Prior to joining NIC, Brad worked in private practice in Hutchinson and Wichita. Originally from Lawrence, Brad graduated from KU for both undergrad and law school. As many of you probably already know, NIC builds online services to federal, state and local government agencies. NIC also manages the official Web sites for 23 states and employs more than 600 people across the country. In fact, Brad wrote the legislation authorizing the creation of the Information Network of Kansas, the first website for the state government. Brad has three grown children and currently lives in Overland Park with his wife and two step-children. Brad is an avid reader and classic movie buff and is currently reading a book on Pendergast. Brad spends a lot of his time at his farm in Linn County and also has vacation homes at a lake in Oklahoma and in Jackson Hole, WY. Brad’s first car was a 1963 White Dodge station wagon with a push button automatic and hard nylon interior that smelled of medicine because his father had used it for his veterinary practice.

LINDSAY TODD PERKINS

Lindsay Todd Perkins is in her second year as an associate in Spencer Fane Britt & Browne’s Labor & Employment group. For Lindsay’s undergraduate degree, she attended Avila University as a psychology major. She received an MBA from Central Missouri State University, and her law degree from University of Missouri—Kansas City. Lindsay keeps a collection of rescue pets at her house: one cat, Willy; and two dogs, Wally (a hound mix) and Griffen (a German Shepherd/Australian Heeler mix). An avid runner, she runs seven miles every morning and competes in half-marathons. She also likes to throw in a little snowboarding in Colorado when she’s not working, running, snowboarding, or spending time with her husband and pets. Lindsay is seeking a support group for her current addiction to the show “Breaking Bad.”

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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