



Justice Randy J. Holland acknowledging inauguration of the Holland Inn.



Left to Right: Officers of the Holland Inn, Matthew R. Fogg, President, Julie S. Pezzner, Treasurer, Justice Lemons, Justice Holland, H. Garrett Baker, Vice-President, Cassandra F. Roberts, Administrator.

# Inaugural Meeting of the Randy J. Holland Delaware Workers' Compensation American Inn of Court

By H. Garrett Baker, Esquire

On November 13, 2013, over 100 Justices, Judges, Industrial Accident Board members and practitioners gathered to celebrate the inauguration of the seventh American Inn of Court in Delaware — the Randy J. Holland Delaware Workers' Compensation American Inn of Court. Named for Justice Randy J. Holland, this Inn will focus on Delaware workers' compensation law. The concept was originated by Justice Holland during a chance meeting with Inn Vice-President H. Garrett Baker.

"Justice Holland approached me and said he thought it would be a good idea to create a new Inn of Court in Delaware with a focus on worker's compensation. I agreed that an Inn of Court would be perfect for our practice group, so we set about to explore creating one. But, we had no idea the response would be so overwhelming." The Holland Inn had the largest opening membership in the history of the American Inns of Court,

at 109. "When it came time for the founding committee to select a name for the Inn, the decision was an easy one. There is no one who has invested more in the Delaware legal community and the American Inns of Court than Justice Holland. We are pleased and honored that he was willing to accept our request," Baker noted.

The inauguration of the new Inn was attended by Justices Berger and Jacobs, as well as Judges Vaughn, Cooch, Jurden, Rapposelli, Wallace, and Rocanelli of the Superior Court and members of the Industrial Accident Board. In addition the Inn received letters of encouragement from Vice-President Biden, Gov. Markell, and U.S. Supreme Court Justices Scalia, Kennedy, Ginsburg, Alito, Sotomayor, Stevens, O'Connor, and Souter, as well as all constitutional federal and state courts in Delaware. The charter establishing the Holland Inn was personally conveyed by the national President of the American Inns

of Court, Justice Donald W. Lemons, of the Supreme Court of Virginia.

Inaugural President, Matthew R. Fogg, Esquire, detailed the moment thusly. "It was an incredible evening. The level of involvement of the Workers' Compensation Bar, members of the Judiciary and Industrial Accident Board members was stunning. The Inn has captured a significant amount of the Workers' Compensation Bar in this State and I firmly believe that this Inn will make being a workers' compensation practitioner in the State of Delaware even better. No one imagined that Delaware's specialty Inn would have the largest inaugural launch in American Inn history. Now, we will move forward, advancing the values of the American Inns of Court and standing by the foundation that has been laid for us by Justice Holland."

The Inn's Administrator, Cassandra F. Roberts, Esquire, commented,



“For those of us who have been practicing workers’ compensation for decades, this is no doubt the pinnacle of our professional lives. To have the Workers’ Compensation Inn named for Justice Holland and all that stands with his great name in terms of dignity, civility, courtesy and legal acumen — that alone renders this Inn one which is parallel to none. We owe Justice Holland such a debt in that any venture associated with his name cannot help but elevate the stature of those who participate.”

“To have an American Inn of Court dedicated to the practice of workers’ compensation in Delaware is tremendously important. The field of workers’ compensation strikes at the hearts of people’s lives by encouraging workplace safety and by providing protection to workers and security to their families in the forms of prompt payment of wage benefits and of provision of medical treatment. It is truly an incredible and yet humbling honor for this Inn to bear the name of Justice Holland — an honor that commands achieving only the highest standards. Judging by the unbridled energy on a statewide level exuded by our Judiciary, our Industrial Accident Board, our Hearing Officers and our State Bar at the inaugural meeting, the potential of the Randy J. Holland Delaware Workers’ Compensation Inn of Court is limitless,” added the Inn’s Treasurer, Julie S. Pezzner, Esquire.

In commenting on the evening, Justice Holland stated, “The lawyers who practice workers’ compensation law in Delaware already have a reputation for ethics, civility, professionalism and legal excellence. The establishment of an American Inn of Court will support and enhance their collective personification of those principles. I am greatly honored and humbled by having the membership name the new Inn for me. I look forward to being a part of this significant contribution to the Delaware legal community.”

In welcoming the new Inn, Justice Scalia stated, “It is risky to name anything for anybody until he is dead. But, I share the total confidence of the benchers at the Randy J. Holland Inn that your best days lie ahead.”

Justice Kennedy, himself the namesake of an Inn of Court, set the marker. “The two of us might look forward to the time when the Randy J. Holland American Inn and the Anthony M. Kennedy Inn compete for the first place in the contest for best program of the year. Perhaps we will settle for a tie.” If the inaugural meeting is a harbinger of what lies ahead, it is doubtful the Holland Inn will settle for a tie. ⚖️



Presentation of charter by Justice Donald W. Lemons, President of the American Inns of Court, to Justice Holland.



Justice Lemons conferring Inn of Court pins to Holland Inn officers.



Matthew R. Fogg, President of the Holland Inn.



Hon. Vivian L. Rapposelli, Delaware Superior Court.



Inaugural reception.



Frank Petro, past President of the James H. Coleman, Jr. Inn, in New Jersey.