

The Q. Todd Dickinson American Inn of Court
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THE Q. TODD DICKINSON AMERICAN INN OF COURT PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO MEMBERS

September 24, 2015

Dear Members of the Q. Todd Dickinson American Inn of Court:

On behalf of the Inn Board of Officers, I would like to welcome our New and Returning Inn Members to what promises to be an exciting year with the Q. Todd Dickinson American Inn of Court. We look forward to our Fourth Year of operation which began on April 20, 2012. Our Inn is honored to bear the name of Q. Todd Dickinson, who served with distinction as the former Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and was a founding member of our Inn. Q. Todd Dickinson, an acknowledged leader in the field of intellectual property law, exemplified the mission of the American Inns of Court: to promote excellence in professionalism, ethics, and civility in the practice of law.

We are excited to have twelve new members this year, five Barristers, two Associates and five Students. We will be holding a NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION session preceding our first meeting (Sept. 28) for these new members and others who may be interested. All new members should plan to attend.

So, what are our current plans for 2015-2016? First, we will have five meetings:

- September 28, 2015 – *The Lone Star: A Conversation with Judge Rodney Gilstrap*
 - New Member Orientation (4pm start)
- November 23, 2015 – *Lessons from General Counsel*
- January 25, 2016 – *What? We Have New Local Rules? And Model Jury Instructions?!!*
- March/April Meeting – (TBD) *Advocacy in Action: A Judicial Perspective*
- May 23, 2016 – *Annual Game*

Please mark your calendars now. In addition, we will have a holiday party in December.

The Pupilage Group Program

Our Inn's core program is the Pupilage Group Program. Every member of the Inn is assigned to one of at least five Pupilage Groups, and each Group is responsible for organizing the program for one of our monthly meetings. The Pupilage Group programs are intended to educate and inform our members as to

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cutting edge developments in the field of intellectual property law, or to otherwise further the general goals of the American Inns Movement. Each Pupilage Group will be led by Program Chairs, who will coordinate the Group's efforts in preparing the program. Pupilage Group assignments are in progress and will be announced at our first meeting.

The Q. Todd Dickinson Website and Membership Handbook

New this year, we have appointed Richard Graham and David DuMont as Website Co-Chairs for our Inn. They have worked hard over the summer to update our Inn website. See <http://home.innsforcourt.org/for-members/inns/the-q-todd-dickinson-intellectual-property-american-inn-of-court.aspx>. We have also updated our Membership Handbook which is now available on our website. The Handbook provides the basic information you will need to be an active part of the Inn. The Handbook will include a listing of all of the Pupilage Group program topics for the year, the meeting dates and location, contact information for fellow Inn members, and our rules and policies (including the attendance policy). We encourage our members to complete/update individual profiles on the website.

The Q. Todd Dickinson Mentor Program

Mentoring is a fundamental aspect of the American Inns Movement. Although we have informally practiced a mentoring environment within our Pupilage Group in our past year programs, we plan to pilot a more formal Mentoring Program this year, through which judges and experienced practitioners can mentor newer attorneys and students from our participating law schools. We have appointed Chris Verdini and Alicia Passerin to serve as our Inn's Mentor Program Co-Chairs. You'll find a Mentoring Program registration form in our Handbook, which you can use to sign up to ask that you be assigned a mentor.

Community Outreach

Giving back to our community is a strong tradition of the Inns of Court and the Pittsburgh Bar. Last year we had several Inn members participate in the [Intel International Science and Engineering Fair](#). For example, Richard Graham served as a Grand Award Judge for the [Robotics and Intelligent Machines](#), or ROBO, category of the Fair. He reported that the Fair involved what he described as a very "impressive collection of young minds, many hundreds of students between 9th and 12th grade from all over the world competing in 20 different categories." Although the Fair will not be back in Pittsburgh until 2018, we plan to continue this tradition of involvement and will roll out a voluntary community outreach program this fall. Richard Ting and Bryan Clark have been appointed our Inn's Community Outreach Co-Chairs and we look forward to hearing from them soon on this program.

The Linn Inn Alliance

As of this year, there are 24 IP Inns of Court across the country, which together form the Linn Inn Alliance. As a member of the Q. Todd Dickinson Inn, you are automatically a member of the Linn Inn Alliance. As a member of the Linn Inn Alliance, you are invited to attend the meetings of any other IP Inn. I encourage you to do so.

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We look forward to another great Inn year and seeing you at each of the meetings.

Very truly yours,


Kirsten R. Rydstrom