

**American Inns of Court**

The bench and the bar have mutual interest in addressing the issue of civility and ethics in lawyer-to-lawyer and lawyer to judge relations. Over the years, this issue has been addressed, in part, by various codes of conduct. In addition to the codes of conduct, the American Inns of Court are a collective effort to improve the quality of legal professionalism in the United States.

The American Inns of Court are the fastest growing legal movement in the country. Today, there are over three hundred American Inns of Court in all fifty states and the District of Columbia. Over 25,000 judges, lawyers, law professors, and law students are currently members of American Inns of Court. Inn of Court members include forty percent of all federal judges and more than fifteen hundred state court judges.

We pattern American Inns of Court after the English Inns of Court, which began in 1292 when King Edward I directed his chief justice to satisfy a growing need for skilled advocates at the Royal Court in Westminster. The English Inns of Court grew in number and importance during the Middle Ages. They emphasized the value of learning the craft of lawyering from those individuals already established in the profession. Their collegial environment fostered common goals and nurtured professional ideals and ethics.

In 1977, Chief Justice Warren E. Burger and other American lawyers and judges spent two weeks in England as part of the Anglo-American Exchange. They were particularly impressed by the collegial approach of the English Inns of Court and by the way the Inns passed on the standards of decorum, civility, ethics, and professionalism necessary for a properly functioning bar to new lawyers. Following his return, Chief Justice Burger authorized a pilot program that could be adapted to the realities of law practice in the United States.

Chief Justice Burger, former Solicitor General Rex Lee, and Senior United States District Judge A. Sherman Christensen founded the first American Inn of Court in 1980. The Inn was affiliated with the J. Reuben Clark School of Law at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. The number of American Inns increased slowly at first, but the growth of the movement began to accelerate in 1985 with the establishment of the American Inns of Court Foundation.

The Chester Bedell American Inn of Court, Florida’s first Inn and the fourteenth in the nation, was founded in 1985 in Jacksonville. Although actually the twelfth in operation, the number twelve had already been reserved, and the Bedell Inn’s founders were loath to be named thirteen. The Pinellas Inn of Court (now the Barney Masterson Inn of Court) was formed in 1988 and was Florida’s fifth Inn. There are currently three Inns in the Sixth Judicial Circuit. The Canakaris American Inn of Court, also in Pinellas County, was founded in 1993 and is a family law inn. The Thomas E. Penick, Jr. Elder Law Inn of Court At Stetson Law, was formed in 2014. As of the year 2000, there were twenty-nine inns operating across the state of Florida; and, by 2008 that number had grown to thirty-six inns. There are currently 40 Inns in Florida.

American Inns of Court are designed to improve the skills, the professionalism, and the legal ethics with which the bench and the bar perform their functions. They help lawyers become more effective advocates, with a keener ethical awareness, by providing them with opportunity to learn side-by-side with the most experienced judges and lawyers in their communities. The objectives of each inn are as follows:

* To establish a society of judges, lawyers, legal educators, law students, and others to promote excellence in the legal advocacy in accordance with the Professional Creed of the American Inns of Court;
* To foster a greater understanding of and appreciation for the adversary system of dispute resolution in American law, with particular emphasis on ethics, civility, professionalism, and legal skills;
* To provide significant education experiences that will improve and enhance the abilities of lawyers as counselors and as advocates and of judges as adjudicators and as judicial administrators;
* To promote interaction and collegiality among all legal professionals in order to minimize misapprehensions, misconceptions, and failures of communication that obstruct the effective practice of law;
* To facilitate the development of law students, recent law school graduates, and less experienced lawyers as skilled participants in the American court system;
* To preserve and transmit ethical values from one generation of legal professionals to the next; and
* To build upon the genius and strengths of the common law and the English Inns of Court and to renew and inspire joy and zest in legal advocacy as a service worthy of constant effort and learning.

**THE BARNEY MASTERSON AMERICAN INN OF COURT**

The formation of the Barney Masterson American Inn of Court is largely attributed to the efforts of Judge William Castagna. In 1988, the efforts of Judge Castagna and others who had worked together to create and build a Pinellas County Inn of Court were realized and the Pinellas County Inn of Court was formed.

The Inn was not given its current name until 1995 after the death of one of its beloved members, Bernard J. “Barney” Masterson. Barney Masterson practiced primarily in Pinellas County. The renaming of the Inn posthumously for Barney was fitting because of Barney’s involvement in the Inn and the high standards by which he lived his life and practiced law.

The size and focus of the Barney Masterson Inn has changed over the years, reflecting the needs and interests of its membership and the changing legal profession. While the American Inn of Courts permits specialization, the Barney Masterson Inn is a general inn. The Inn strives to focus on issues of importance to lawyers in Pinellas County, regardless of their practice area (civil or criminal, family or commercial, bankruptcy or administrative law) or nature of the practice (private practice or government entity, large firm or solo practitioner). If this Inn focuses on any particular area, it is litigation. The Inn attempts to cover all areas of litigation that may be of interest to its members. The Inn tries to balance the educational aspects of its programs with the goals of camaraderie, mentoring, and professionalism that are of the utmost importance to the Inn.

**BARNEY MASTERSON**

Bernard J. “Barney” Masterson was born in Chicago, Illinois in March of 1919. He received his B.A. degree from the University of Florida in 1941 and immediately joined the Army, serving during World War II as a Staff sergeant in New Guinea. Following his Army days, he returned to the University of Florida, where he received his J.D. degree in 1952.

Masterson started his career as a solo practitioner in St. Petersburg; but soon joined the firm of Mann, Harrison & Stone where he began establishing a reputation as an impeccable gentleman who was hard-working but fun-loving and who displayed an air of graciousness and an incomparable sense of humor. By 1960, Masterson struck out on his own with a successful plaintiff’s personal injury practice. Never one to seek the limelight, Masterson was nevertheless one of the first attorneys in the nation to take on General Motors in a case arising out of the Corvair. In 1991, he obtained for his client one the largest jury verdicts ever awarded in a personal injury case in Pinellas County, Florida.

Masterson was well-known throughout his career for his devotion to his clients. His goal was always to do what was in the best interest of his client, but never at the expense of others. He refused to take advantage of the inexperience of his opposing counsel. He refused to denigrate other lawyers or witnesses to advance his case at trial. He refused to file suits he did not believe in, saying he “had no business filing a medical malpractice case that was in any respect dubious, that all doubts about filing the suit should be resolved in favor of the defendant doctor.” His idea of discovery was to open his file to the other side and say, “Here is my case. If you need anything else, let me know and I will get it for you.”

Masterson earned the respect of others by treating everyone – be they clients, judges, other lawyers or opposing parties – with respect. For example, in a medical malpractice case, Masterson was taking the deposition of a doctor who was a witness to some of the events giving rise to the case. During the course of the deposition, it became obvious that the doctor would have to be made a party to the suit. Rather than simply serving the doctor with a summons, Masterson asked if he could speak with the doctor in his office after the deposition. There, Masterson explained that he was going to have to include the doctor in the suit and explained why. Years later, Masterson’s son, Tom - also an attorney - needed to depose the same doctor in another case. With some trepidation, Tom called the doctor and introduced himself, expecting caution or even anger since his father had previously sued the doctor. Instead, the doctor greeted Tom warmly, asked about Masterson, and went on to praise Masterson for his professionalism and graciousness in handling the prior suit.

In addition to his law practice, Masterson was active in politics and Bar activities. He headed several political campaigns and fund-raising drives for local Democratic candidates. He was appointed by several Florida governors to various commissions concerning medical malpractice and Florida’s malpractice insurance crisis. He served as a City Judge for the City of Pinellas Park. During his years of practice, he served as president of the Pinellas County Trial Lawyers Association and President and Treasurer of the Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers. He was a member of the Judicial Nominating Commission for the Florida Second District Court of Appeal and a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. He was also active in the Trial Lawyers Section of the Florida Bar and was famous for his memorable lecture on “How to Try a Dog.” In addition, he was an Adjunct Professor at Stetson University College of Law in St. Petersburg.

Despite his busy legal schedule, Masterson did not let the law take over his life. He enjoyed traveling, particularly to Ireland and throughout the Northeast United States. He loved Shakespeare, classical music and classic movies. He was an avid tennis player, especially when he could play doubles. As in court, his graciousness and humor would disarm his opponent, and he would then take them apart point by point.

One of the most powerful testimonials to Masterson’s legal career is the fact that following his death, two separate groups independently created a “Barney Masterson Award” in his memory. The Barney Masterson American Inn of Court gives the “Barney” award annually to that Inn member who best exemplifies the qualities Masterson expressed, including the highest levels of professionalism, civility, ethics, and legal excellence. The Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers award in honor of Masterson is given to an attorney recognized as an excellent advocate who has had a distinguished career and who has an “unimpeachable reputation with both the defense and plaintiff’s bar for ethical and moral behavior and fair play in the practice of law.”

Upon his passing in 1994, Masterson left his wife, Stella, four children, Thomas, Steven, Michael and Sharon, and ten grandchildren. At a memorial service for Masterson, former Florida Bar President Bill Blews said of him, “Barney practiced as he lived - with modesty, honesty, integrity, good humor and respect for all. It has been said that to be a good lawyer, first you must be a good person. Barney was the best.”

**MEMBERSHIP IN THE BARNEY MASTERSON AMERICAN INN OF COURT**

The Barney Masterson American Inn of Court generally has between 65 and 75 active members, divided into three classifications. Masters include lawyers with fifteen or more years of experience and judges of various courts. Barristers include lawyers with more than four but less than fourteen years of experience. Associates include lawyers with less than four years of experience. Students attending law school are also admitted to the Inn on a limited basis through a partnership with Stetson College of Law.

In addition to its active members, the Barney Masterson Inn has also created a classification for Inactive Sustaining Members. Inactive Sustaining Members must have been members of the Barney Masterson Inn for a period of three years prior to becoming Inactive Sustaining Members. Inactive Sustaining Members are not members of the American Inn of Court, but are members locally of the Barney Masterson Inn. Inactive Sustaining Members who are also masters may attend masters meetings. All Inactive Sustaining Members may attend two dinner meetings per year and may attend the Barney-B-Q and year end banquet.

While members are expected and encouraged to continue their membership in the Inn for a number of years, a portion of the membership of the Inn is expected to change from year to year. Masters are encouraged to continue their participation in the Inn indefinitely; however, the Inn grows and flourishes through both the strength of its established members and the addition of new members to rejuvenate the Inn. Some members will choose to become Inactive Sustaining Members for a period and then return as active members. Others will leave the Inn and return years later. The Inn of Court is a living organization that changes and grows with its ever-changing membership. The participation of each and every Inn member is crucial to the livelihood of the Inn.

Each member is selected for a one-year term. The Executive Committee selects members each year through the application process. Renewal of membership is contingent upon each member’s level of participation in the Inn the previous year and that member’s commitment to the Inn.

**SELECTION OF MEMBERS**

Beginning in January of each year, the Executive Committee encourages current members of the Barney Masterson Inn to renew their membership for another year. The Executive Committee then begins soliciting nominations for new members and begins accepting applications for membership from prospective new members on or about March 1 of each year. New members are identified through current members of the Inn, local judges, and other respected members of the legal community.

In the summer, when the pool of returning members and new applicants has been identified, the Executive Committee selects the membership for the following year. Consideration is given to the following factors in the selection process: level of participation and commitment to the Inn (for current members only), diversity (of practice area, nature of firm affiliation, sex, gender, race, etc.), classification of membership (for balance between the three primary levels of membership), interest and involvement in developing personal professional skills and improving the judicial system, level of interest in the Inn (for new members), and ability to fulfill a commitment to the Inn.

Students are chosen by the Stetson College of Law based on the applicants’ qualifications giving consideration to the student’s ability to participate fully in the Inn, academic performance, participation in extracurricular and community activities, and professionalism.

**INN GOVERNANCE**

Governance of the Barney Masterson Inn is entrusted to the officers and the Executive Committee. The officers include the Judicial Co-President, Attorney Co-President, President(s)-Elect, Immediate Past President(s), Secretary, and Treasurer. In addition to the officers, members of the Executive Committee include the Executive Director, three at-large committee members, and the Counselor. One of the at-large committee members will serve as Mentor Liaison and one will serve as Pupilage Group/CLE Liaison, with the selections made at the discretion of the President.

The Executive Committee nominates a slate of officers each spring. The slate of officers is presented to the masters at a masters meeting for approval. Officers serve a one-year term and are eligible for successive terms. Inn members are encouraged to contact Executive Committee members with regard to any questions or comments concerning any aspect of the Inn or suggestions regarding the Inn.

The masters of the Inn are entrusted with the power to make decisions concerning the governance of the Inn. Masters may present proposed changes with regard to Inn policy and must approve significant changes to the operation of the Inn. The Executive Committee will submit proposed changes in policy or procedure to the masters at masters meetings for approval and discussion. The masters are expected to provide guidance and direction to the Barney Masterson Inn.

**PUPILAGE GROUPS**

The Barney Masterson Inn is organized annually into pupilage groups, a structure basic to the English Inns of Court. Each pupilage group is composed of a judge, one or more masters, a number of barristers and associates, and one or two pupils.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY**

All active members are expected to attend and to participate in the Inn’s meetings and functions throughout the year. The Inn recognizes that judges and lawyers must occasionally be absent, but requests advance notice. Members who are unable to attend a particular meeting must, therefore, inform their pupilage group leader prior to the meeting of the reason for their absence. Absences without advanced notice are unexcused. Two or more unexcused absences will have a significant bearing on whether an existing member is re-invited for membership in a succeeding year.

Some masters may choose to “go inactive.” Inactive Sustaining Masters must still pay partial dues. Inactive Sustaining Masters may attend two of the monthly dinner meetings without cost. They are also invited to attend the Barney-B-Q and end of year banquet.

**GUEST POLICY**

The Inn’s programs are primarily for the benefit of its members. However, members may invite guests from time to time. Members who wish to invite guests must inform the Executive Director in advance of the meeting of their guests’ names**.** They must also agree to be responsible for the cost of the guests’ meals, which for 2015-2016 is $35.00. Members may pay for their guest prior to or at the meeting in question.

**CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION CREDIT**

The Inn is a CLE provider. Members may earn CLE credit, including ethics credit, by attending and participating in the Inn’s programs. The number of credit hours available for participating in or attending a program is one hour.

Members and guests desiring to obtain CLE credit must document their attendance at each program. The CLE fees are included in members’ dues.

**MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS**

Although each Executive Committee designs its Inn year differently, the program year usually begins in August with a meeting of the pupilage group leaders. Thereafter, the Inn as a whole gathers eight times a year on the Fourth Thursday of every month, except for the November Judicial Reception, the Stetson Distinguished Speaker banquet, the Barney-B-Q, and the annual end of year banquet. In addition, the Inn meets for its End of the Year Banquet in June. Meetings in 2015-16 are held at Holiday Inn, 3535 Ulmerton Road, Clearwater 33762, unless otherwise noted. Each meeting begins with a cocktail reception with a cash bar from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Following the cocktail reception, there are announcements and introductions. Dinner follows, beginning at 6:15 p.m. At 6:30 p.m., one of the Inn’s pupilage groups presents a fifty to sixty minute program dealing with a practical aspect of the practice of law. The program should last no longer than one hour. At 7:30 p.m., further announcements shall be made and adjournment will take place by 7:40 p.m.

The programs are the heart of the monthly meetings. They involve practical legal skills with an emphasis on ethics, civility, and professionalism in lawyering. They are generally comprised of a demonstration or presentation of principles, skills, techniques, and relationships involved in trial or appellate court proceedings or in activities preliminary to courtroom appearances, although there is no set format. The programs also incorporate opportunities for critique and discussion.

Another crucial aspect of the Inn’s focus is the individual pupilage group meetings, organized by the pupilage group leader. These meetings should take place monthly at breakfast, lunch, dinner, or after work, both in preparation for that pupilage group’s demonstration and simply to encourage and manifest the relationships that develop among the pupilage group members. Pupilage groups may organize meetings with other pupilage groups as well.

The most important aspect of the Inn presentations is creativity and originality; every year, the Barney Masterson Inn tries to encourage new ideas. Every evening affords an opportunity to try a novel application on the members. When the program calls for it and if the budget permits, Inn meetings may be held in venues other than Holiday Inn.

Programs are prepared by the pupilage groups, usually one group per monthly program. It is not necessary for every member of the pupilage group to have a speaking role in the program, although everyone in the pupilage group usually has a contribution, whether it is research, or writing, or design, or demonstration, in order to ensure that the program is instructive and interesting.

The Executive Committee will establish the presentation schedule assigning a pupilage group for each of the monthly meetings and suggest general topics for presentations. The pupilage group is free to choose the format for the presentation. Panel discussions, demonstrations, game-show formats, skits, or small-group discussions are ways in which a program can be presented. Some of the most memorable programs have been those involving frank and spirited disagreements among Inn members. Humor is also an effective teaching tool.

Audience participation is very important. Whatever the format, it is preferable to allow for at least ten minutes of discussion. If you present a demonstration or skit, use “freeze-frame” technique to stop the action periodically to encourage Inn members to make comments or ask questions.

**ORGANIZATION**

The Inn’s active members are divided into equal number pupilage groups. The Executive Committee selects the groups and ensures that each group includes masters (one of whom is generally a judge), barristers, associates, and pupils who would not otherwise encounter each other frequently in their daily work. Pupilage group assignments may be altered for good cause.

Pupilage groups are encouraged to meet at least monthly to prepare their programs and to promote camaraderie among the pupilage group members. Pupilage groups choose their own meeting places and times. The pupilage group leader shall coordinate meeting times and places.

Each pupilage group is led by a pupilage group leader who shall be chosen by the Executive Committee. The pupilage group leader is responsible for convening the pupilage group in its own meetings, for assuring that the members attend the Inn’s meetings and activities, and for promoting contacts among pupilage group members between Inn meetings. The leaders also supervise the preparation of the pupilage group’s program and are responsible for all other pupilage group activities.

The pupilage group’s responsibilities in connection with the monthly Inn presentation include: (1) selecting the format most likely to present the assigned topic in an interesting manner; and (2) preparing written materials that meet the requirements of The Florida Bar. In addition, the group is encouraged to prepare an American Inns of Court demonstration report to be submitted to the American Inns of Court Foundation for inclusion in the national programming library.

In addition to presenting a program, the pupilage groups provide Inn members with an opportunity to become better acquainted with other lawyers practicing in the Clearwater/St. Petersburg area. The pupilage groups are the principal component of the Inn’s mentoring activities. Their diverse membership is intended to build an inter-generational relationship that encourages frank and personal discussion of matters of practice, ethics, civility, and all other aspects of the practice of law. The most experienced members of the pupilage group are encouraged to pass on the best of the practice to the less experienced members. Accordingly, masters are encouraged to provide their barrister and associate colleagues with opportunities to observe them in court, in deposition, or in the office.

**ANNUAL DUES**

The annual dues for Associate, Barrister, Government, and Master members of the Inn range from $250 to $395 depending on the membership category and whether the member is in private practice or government employ. The funds provided by the dues defray the Inn’s operating expenses, including the cost of the members’ meals at the monthly Inn meetings and the members’ dues to the American Inns of Court Foundation.

The American Inns of Court Foundation has received a 501(c)(3) designation from the Internal Revenue Service, and the Barney Masterson Inn benefits from this designation as an affiliate of the foundation. Members may deduct their dues either as a business expense or as a charitable contribution. Members electing to deduct their Inn dues as a charitable contribution must reduce the amount of their contributions by the value of the meals. The value of each meal for the 2015-2016 is $35.

**BENEFITS FROM THE FOUNDATION**

Members of the Barney Masterson Inn receive benefits from the American Inns of Court Foundation. They receive a subscription to The Bencher, the Foundation’s bi-monthly newsletter, and a national membership directory. Members of local inns are also entitled to attend the annual meeting and to purchase videotaped programs such as the Visions of Excellence series. Members traveling to England may also obtain letters of introduction to any of the four English Inns of Court.

For further information about your membership in the American Inns of Court Foundation, please contact the foundation directly at:

American Inns of Court Foundation

225 Reinekers Lane #770  
Alexandria, VA  22314

Telephone: (703) 684-3590  
Fax: (703) 684-3607

Email: [info@innsofcourt.org](mailto:info@innsofcourt.org)

Website: www.innsofcourt.org

**Additional Information**

If you wish to be excused from an Inn meeting or if you desire other information concerning the Barney Masterson Inn or the American Inns of Court Foundation, please contact:

Robyn M. Featherston - Co-President

Robyn@FeatherstonLawFirm.com.com

Joelle Schultz - Executive Director

[joelle@roberteckardlaw.com](mailto:joelle@roberteckardlaw.com)

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Caitlyn Docherty - Secretary

[CDOCH@brdwlaw.com](mailto:CDOCH@brdwlaw.com)

Barney Masterson Inn of Court website: <http://www.innsofcourt.org/inns/barney>

**INN AWARDS AND RECIPIENTS**

**Best Program Award**

The Best Program Award is presented to the pupilage group that presents the best program of the year. A secret ballot of the entire Inn present at the final dinner meeting of the year is taken to determine the winner. The pupilage group with the highest vote total is the winner. The Executive Director and the co-presidents of the Inn count the votes. The winner is announced at the end of the year banquet.

**The William Castagna Award for Judicial Excellence**

The William Castagna Award for Judicial Excellence is awarded annually to a sitting member of the Pinellas County judiciary who displays the highest standards of judicial excellence in knowledge of the law, ethics, civility, professionalism and demeanor.

A nominating committee comprised of all past recipients of the Barney, the Richard T. Earle, Jr. Award for Professionalism and the William Castagna Award for Judicial Excellence will provide a list of three nominees to the president no later than January 1st of each year. At the masters meeting held in May of each year, a secret ballot will be held to select the winner from the three nominees. The Executive Director and the co-presidents of the Inn count the ballots. The person with the greatest number of votes is the winner. The award is presented by the non-judicial president of the Inn or the highest-ranking non-judicial officer of the Inn. Past recipients are:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2000 | Judge Susan F. Schaeffer |  | 2008 | Judge Robert Morris |
| 2001 | Judge David A. Demers |  | 2009 | Judge Nancy Ley |
| 2002 | Judge Thomas E. Penick |  | 2010 | Judge Amy M. Williams |
| 2003 | Judge Anthony Rondolino |  | 2011 | Judge Thomas McGrady |
| 2004 | Judge Frank Quesada |  | 2012 | Judge Robert Beach |
| 2005 | Judge George W. Greer |  | 2013 | Judge Pamela A. M. Campbell |
| 2006 | Judge Nelly Khouzam |  | 2014 | Judge Lauren C.Laughlin |
| 2007 | Judge Henry Andringa |  | 2015 | Judge John A. Schaefer |

**The Richard T. Earle, Jr. Professionalism Award**

The Richard T. Earle, Jr. Professionalism Award is awarded annually to the lawyer who demonstrates the highest degree of professionalism in the practice of law.

A polling of the judiciary of Pinellas County is conducted annually and the lawyer receiving the highest number of votes is the winner. If a clear winner is not evident then a second polling is done. In the event of a tie, the award is given to both winners.

The winner is also announced at the End of the Year Banquet. This award can only be won once.

Whenever possible, the Chief Judge shall present the award. Past recipients are:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1999 | Dennis de Vlaming, Esq. Wally Pope, Esq. |  | 2008 | Ky Koch, Esq. |
| 2000 | Martin Rice, Esq. |  | 2009 | Steve Herman, Esq. |
| 2001 | Susan H. Churuti, Esq. |  | 2010 | C. Bryant Boydstun, Jr., Esq.  Jeffrey Marc Goodis, Esq |
| 2002 | Thomas Masterson, Esq. |  | 2011 | Robert S. McClure, Esq. |
| 2003 | Pamela A.M. Campbell, Esq |  | 2012 | Barry Cobb, Esq. |
| 2004 | Bruce Bartlett, Esq |  | 2013 | Hamden Baskin, Esq. |
| 2005 | Andy Sasso, Esq |  | 2014 | Michael J. Keene, Esq. and  Peter A. Proly, Esq. |
| 2006  2007 | Jack Hellinger, Esq  Josh Magidson, Esq. |  | 2015 | Richard N. Watts, Esq. |

**“The Barney”**

The Barney is awarded annually to the lawyer who demonstrates the highest degree of professionalism, ethics, civility, and legal excellence in the practice of law.

A nominating committee comprised of all past recipients of the Barney, the Richard T. Earle, Jr. Award for Professionalism, and the William Castagna Award for Judicial Excellence will provide a list of at least three nominees to the president. At the masters meeting held in May of each year, a secret ballot will be held to select the winner from the three nominees. The Executive Director and the co-presidents of the Inn count the ballots. The person with the greatest number of votes is the winner.

The winner will be announced at the end of the year banquet. The judicial president of the Inn presents the award. The recipient can only receive this award once. Past recipients are:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1995 | Joseph Donahey, Esq. |  | 2006 | William Walker, Esq. |
| 1996 | Glenn Woodworth, Esq. |  | 2007 | Fletcher Belcher, Esq. |
| 1997 | Denis de Vlaming, Esq. |  | 2008 | Kenneth Deacon, Jr., Esq. |
| 1998 | Thomas Masterson, Esq. |  | 2009 | F. Wallace Pope, Jr., Esq. |
| 1999 | Judge Thomas Penick, Jr. |  | 2010 | Patrick D. Doherty, Esq. |
| 2000 | Joseph McDermott, Esq. |  | 2011 | Steven Dupre, Esq. |
| 2001 | William F. Blews, Esq. |  | 2012 | Lee Rightmyer, Esq. |
| 2002 | Michael Keane, Esq. |  | 2013 | Kent M. Whittemore, Esq. |
| 2003 | Jack Hellinger, Esq. |  | 2014 | Robert Persante Esq. |
| 2004  2005 | Aubrey Dicus, Esq  John Williams, Esq. |  | 2015 | Shirin M. Vesely, Esq. |

**“The Rock”**

“The Rock” is an award that began in June 2004, which is presented annually by the Barney Masterson Inn of Court to a lawyer with less than five years in practice who has provided exceptional service to the community.  The award is named in honor of Judge Thomas E. Penick, Jr., who was one of the four founders of the Barney Masterson Inn of Court and who believed strongly in a lawyer’s duty to provide service to the community.  Judge Penick practiced what he preached.

All nominations for “The Rock” award should be forwarded to the Executive Committee no later that April 1st of each year.  In the event that more than three nominations are received, the Executive Committee will vote to reduce the number of nominees to three.  Those three nominees will be given an invitation to attend the May meeting of the Inn where the names of all nominees will be announced, the three nominees up for the consideration for the award will be presented with their service to the community detailed, and a vote will be taken by all those Inn members who are present.

“The Rock” is considered a once in a lifetime award and symbolizes the idea that community service is the bedrock and basic foundation of a strong community.  In the past, the award was sponsored by Judge Penick’s friends in the P.I.G.S. (People Intensely Gobbling Sustenance). Past recipients are:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2004 | Ya’Sheaka S. Campbell, Esq. |  | 2010 | Brent A. Gordon, Esq. |
| 2005 | Sabrina Beavens, Esq. |  | 2011 | Carin Constantine, Esq. |
| 2006 | Stephanie R. Bolton, Esq. |  | 2012 | Brittany Maxey, Esq. |
| 2007 | Cary A. Cash, Esq. |  | 2013 | Vince Massaro, Esq. |
| 2008 | Zackary T. Zuroweste, Esq. |  | 2014 | Caitlin C. Docherty, Esq. |
| 2009 | Kimberly Sharpe, Esq. |  | 2015 | Amanda Felten, Esq. |
|  |  |  |  |  |