



THE GILES S. RICH AMERICAN INN OF COURT

January 28, 2017
Via Electronic Transmission

January 2017 Meeting Recap

On Wednesday, January 18, the Giles S. Rich American Inn of Court held its first meeting of 2017. The Honorable John Witherspoon opened with remarks about Judge Rich, his life, anecdotes related to clerking for him, and what life was like at the U.S. Court of Customs and Patent Appeals.

Mr. Witherspoon's well-received talk then transitioned into a panel discussion on IP and Malpractice Issues. The program, led by Margaret Kelley of Williams & Connolly LLP, comprised a panel discussion including Mrs. Kelley, Deborah Shortridge, Loss Prevention Counsel of the Attorneys' Liability Assurance Society (ALAS), and Michael Sundermeyer, and was moderated by Bruce Genderson, both also of Williams & Connolly.

The panel explored hypotheticals demonstrating ethical issues often confronted by patent prosecutors, opinion counsel, licensors, and litigators, explaining in asides that the many of the cases of malpractice in intellectual property involve missed filing dates during prosecution, and highlighting examples of conflicts of interest. The panel stressed repeatedly that it tends to be the actions take once counsel first becomes aware of a potential conflict or lapse that tend to make the difference between an actionable case and one of limited liability.



Following the program, Inn members proceeded to a reception at the Tayloe House. The Inn thanks our terrific panelists and the Pupilage Group for organizing an informative event.

We look forward to seeing members at the February meeting, to be held at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit on Thursday, February 16, 2018. The topic will be "The Supreme Court Landscape," and will be chaired by the Hon. Susan Braden, U.S. Court of Federal Claims.



by Inn Historian Jonathan Stroud; photographs courtesy of Charles Rone.