

**THE HON. ROBERT J. BRYAN INN OF COURT #25**  
**BY-LAWS**  
(As amended 3/21/2016)

The following Articles constitute the By-Laws of The Hon. Robert J. Bryan Inn of Court #25, which organization has been chartered by the American Inns of Court Foundation, Washington, D.C., pursuant to notice granting the charter dated February 9, 1987.

**ARTICLE I**  
**OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of this Inn are:

1. To be a membership of judges, lawyers, legal educators, law students, and others as may be consistent with this Charter, to promote excellence in legal advocacy at the trial and appellate court levels.
2. To foster greater understanding of, and appreciation for the adversary system of dispute resolution in American law, with particular emphasis on ethics and professional standards of excellence.
3. To provide significant educational experiences that will improve and enhance the skills of lawyers as counselors and advocates and of judges as adjudicators and judicial administrators.
4. To promote interaction among members of all categories in order to minimize misapprehensions, misconceptions and failures to communicate that obstruct the effective practice of law.
5. To facilitate the development of law students, and recent law school graduates and less experienced lawyers as skilled participants in the American court system.
6. 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 the legal advocacy as a service of constant learning and effort.
7. To promote collegiality among professionals and to transmit ethical values from one professional generation to another.

## ARTICLE II ORGANIZATION

1. Nature of Association. This Inn shall be and remain chartered and affiliated with the American Inns of Court Foundation as a member Inn and shall be an unincorporated association composed of judges, practicing lawyers, law school educators, recent law school graduates, and law students who accept an invitation to membership as hereinafter described.

2. Officers. The officers of this Inn shall be a President, a President-Elect, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and such other officers as the membership, by majority vote of those present at a meeting duly called for that purpose, may deem necessary.

3. Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall assist the President in managing the affairs of the Inn. It shall be comprised of the officers, the immediate Past President, a Program Chair, a Member at Large, an Outreach Coordinator, and up to three other members of the Inn as appointed by the President.

4. Qualifications of Officers and Executive Committee Members. The President and President-Elect must be an "Active Bencher" or "Active Master". All other officers and Executive Committee members may be elected from any class of membership.

5. Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall consist of two members of the Executive Committee and up to two members of the Inn. The Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the President and shall propose a slate of officers for consideration by the membership.

6. Elections. The slate of officers proposed by the Nominating Committee shall be presented to the membership at a meeting called for the purpose of election of officers. Further nominations may be made from the floor. All officers, except the President, shall be elected by a majority vote of the members present. The President-Elect shall succeed to the office of the President the following term.

7. Terms of Office. The term of each office and Executive Committee member shall be one year. Officers may succeed themselves. The Executive Committee shall designate the dates for the commencement and termination of the operative year. The final meeting of each operative year shall be designated as the meeting for elections, but exceptions may be established by the Executive Committee.

8. Vacancies. In the event that the President or President-Elect is unable to continue to serve, a replacement shall be selected and elected in the same manner as the President-Elect. Vacancies in any other office arising from any cause shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term by the Executive Committee at its next meeting.

9. Duties of President. In addition to other duties which may be imposed by the Benchers and Masters and by Trustees of the American Inns of Court Foundation, the President shall have the following duties:

- a. Schedule and preside at all meetings of the Inn;
- b. Ensure that an agenda for Inn meetings and activities are developed and furnished to members;
- c. Supervise and monitor Pupilage team activities in order to encourage the proper functioning of this important aspect of Inn organization.
- d. Notify members of their appointment to serve on Inn of Court Committees;
- e. Call and conduct meetings of officers and committees as required to plan and conduct activities of the Inn;
- f. Conduct all Inn activities in accordance with the Articles, By-Laws and Policies of the American Inns of Court Foundation and this Chapter;
- g. Encourage attendance at all Inn meetings;
- h. Serve as liaison with other Inns of Court as they may be established; and
- i. Extend invitations for membership in the Inn of Court as authorized by the Executive Committee.

10. Duties of President-Elect. The President-Elect shall:

- a. In the absence or disability of the President, perform the duties of the President, and serve as President for one year after one year as President-Elect;
- b. Plan for any fellowship events that may be scheduled in addition to regularly scheduled meetings of the Inn; and
- c. Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President.

11. Duties of Secretary. The Secretary shall:

- a. Prepare, maintain and forward to the American Inns of Court Foundation Executive Secretary, at least annually, a complete roster of all present and past members of the Inn specifying name, last known address, telephone number, and membership class;
  - b. Prepare and maintain minutes of each meeting of the Inn;
  - c. Furnish application forms to persons interested in becoming members of the Inn and see that the Executive Committee receives such completed applications; and
  - d. Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President.
12. Duties of the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall:
- a. Receive and disburse monies and other property paid to the Inn in accordance with directives and policies of the American Inns of Court Foundation;
  - b. Prepare and maintain accurate financial records, including a yearly budget, for the Inn in accordance with the directives and policies of the American Inns of Court Foundation;
  - c. Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President.
13. Duties and Authority of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee, acting by majority vote of its members, shall:
- a. Select the President or some other member of the Inn as a Member of the American Inns of Court Foundation pursuant to Article II, Section I of the By-Laws of the said Foundation;
  - b. Establish such committees as may be necessary to carry out or assist the officers in carrying out the responsibilities imposed by this Charter or by the Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, Policies or Directives of the American Inns of Court Foundation;
  - c. Confer and terminate memberships in the Inn; and
  - d. Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President.

14. Relationship with Others. This Inn shall be and remain outside the jurisdiction of the courts, but shall endeavor to work in close cooperation with the trial and appellate courts. Federal, state and local trial and appellate judges will participate in the organization in the tradition of the common law.

### **ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP**

1. Invitation to Members. Memberships shall be conferred upon those accepting invitations extended by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee's discretion in extending invitations may be extended on the basis of recommendations made to the Executive Committee by any member of the Inn or in response to written applications filed with the President of the Inn. Membership shall not be denied to any person on account of race, creed, religion, sex, age, disability or national origin.

2. Designation of Categories of Membership. Members shall be selected in the following categories:

- a. "Active Masters" and "Active Benchers". Membership as Active Masters of the Bench may be held by up to twenty-five (25) lawyers and two (2) law professors who have demonstrated superior character, teaching ability, and competence as trial or appellate advocates. Membership as Active Benchers may be held by up to twenty (20) judges who have demonstrated character, ability and confidence as members of the trial or appellate court judiciary. Retention of status of an Active Master and Active Bencher is contingent upon reasonable Inn activity to be periodically reviewed by the Executive Committee. There is no required tenure of membership in these categories, but it is suggested that Active Master and Active Benchers serve continuously for at least five (5) years before becoming eligible for election to Emeritus status. Any person who has been granted Emeritus status as an Active Master or Active Bencher may be reinstated to serve again in an active capacity. To qualify as a Master, a lawyer must have been in active practice for twelve (12) years or more.
- b. "Emeritus Masters" and "Emeritus Benchers." Membership as Emeritus Masters and/or Emeritus Benchers may be conferred upon Active Masters or Active Benchers by the vote of the Executive Committee. Such membership status may be granted on the basis of long and distinguished service to the Inn. Emeritus Benchers and Emeritus Masters shall be under no obligation to pay dues, attend meetings or participate in other programs of the Inn,

but will enjoy all privileges of active membership except the right to vote. Emeritus Masters and Emeritus Benchers will retain such membership status for life if they so desire.

- c. “Barristers.” Active membership as Barristers may be held by up to twenty-five (25) attorneys at any one time. To qualify as a Barrister, a lawyer must have been in active practice for six (6) years or more and must have demonstrated good character and a desire to improve and refine their skills as trial and appellate advocates. Barristers shall be appointed for a three-year term, and may be reappointed for successive three-year terms. Membership may be terminated at the sole discretion of the Executive Committee.
- d. “Associates.” Active membership as Associates may be held by up to twenty-five (25) attorneys at any one time. To qualify as an Associate, a lawyer must have less than six years of active practice. Associates shall be appointed for a one-year term, and may be reappointed for successive one-year terms. Membership may be terminated at the sole discretion of the Executive Committee.
- e. “Students.” Membership as Students shall be held by up to fifteen (15) persons at any one time who are students at accredited law schools. Students shall be appointed for one (1) year, and may be reappointed for successive one-year terms. Membership may be terminated at the sole discretion of the Executive Committee.
- f. “Honorary Members.” Honorary Members may be elected from time to time upon nomination by the Executive Committee and upon a two-thirds affirmative vote of the members in attendance at a regular meeting of the Inn. Election shall be by secret ballot. Consideration for selection is on the basis of distinguished service to the bench or bar, furtherance of the Inn of Court objectives or other noteworthy achievements. Honorary members shall be under no obligation to pay dues, attend meetings or participate in other programs of the Inn, but will have all privileges of membership except the right to vote.

### 3. Attendance Requirement.

- a. New members shall be extended membership conditioned upon completion of a one-year probationary term. New members must attend five (5) or more of the regularly scheduled meetings during

the probationary year; failure to do so will result in termination of membership.

- b. Other members must attend four (4) or more of the regularly scheduled meetings; failure to do so will result in probationary status the following year. Failure to attend four (4) or more regularly scheduled meetings while on probation may result in termination of membership. Members may request Emeritus status in lieu of probation and/or termination, provided the Member otherwise meets the requirements for Emeritus status.
- c. Regularly scheduled meetings shall mean meetings conducted in October, November, January, February, March and April and shall include both the educational program and the dinner meeting. Members are strongly encouraged to attend the social events in September, December and May as well.

## **ARTICLE IV FINANCES**

1. Financial matters of the Inn shall be managed and controlled in accordance with policies and directives established by the American Inns of Court Foundation and this Charter.

2. The Inn shall remit annually to the American Inns of Court Foundation a reasonable amount levied by the Board of Trustees of the Foundation for the purpose of paying its proportionate share of operating expenses of the Foundation.

3. The Executive Committee is empowered to levy and collect assessments in the form of dues in amounts which it may deem appropriate in order to meet the obligations of the Inn to the American Inns of Court Foundation as well as the Inn's operating needs. Failure to pay assessments and dues within a reasonable time after reasonable notice may be considered by the Executive Committee as a ground to terminate membership of the person in default.

4. The Fiscal Year of the Inn for financial reporting purposes shall be the same as the operative year set by the Executive Committee.

## **ARTICLE V MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES**

1. Schedule for Meetings. Regular meetings of the membership of the Inn shall be called by the Executive Committee on a monthly basis during the operative year. The operative year of the Inn shall run from July 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup> unless changed by the Executive Committee.

2. Content of Meetings. The main themes and subject matter of regular meetings shall be practical legal advocacy with emphasis on legal ethics and excellence in lawyering. Programs should present, demonstrate, teach and explain the principles, skills, techniques and relationship involved in the courtroom and in activities preliminary to courtroom appearances and should involve evaluation and questions from the membership of the Inn, all designed to assist members in better discharging their duties to clients and society. Programs should ordinarily be presented by previously assigned Pupilage teams.

## **ARTICLE VI PUPILAGE TEAMS**

As an American adaptation of the pupilage system which is basic to the English Inns of Court, Students, Associates and Barristers will be assigned to teams comprised of Students, Associates, Barristers, Active Masters and Active Benchers. Active Benchers or Active Masters shall exercise general supervision over the teams and shall monitor the team's attendance at meetings, encourage meaningful participation at meetings and at scheduled pupilage events, and oversee presentation of their team's program.

## **ARTICLE VII OTHER INNS OF COURT**

This Inn shall cooperate in the establishment of similar Inns in the same or different localities of the state or elsewhere, to meet existing or developing needs in order to more widely achieve the objectives of the American Inns of Court Foundation.

## **ARTICLE VIII AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS**

These By-Laws may be amended only by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Inn members present at a meeting called and reasonably noticed for such purpose, or upon written consent of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the membership of the Inn.