

*Bylaws for the
Robert Van Pelt American Inn of Court
Lincoln, Nebraska*

On the 10th day of October 2013, and pursuant to the Charter issued by the American Inns of Court Foundation to the Robert Van Pelt American Inn of Court, the following bylaws were adopted, to wit:

1. Categories of Active Members

There shall be the following categories of active members of the Robert Van Pelt American Inn of Court:

Name	Experience Requirement	Length of Active Membership
Masters of the Bench	An experienced judge	Indefinite
Master of the Bar	An experienced lawyer	3-5 years, but term may be extended by Executive Committee
Barrister	A lawyer with at least 5 years experience	3-5 years, but term may be extended by Executive Committee
Associate	A lawyer with 2 years or lesser experience	3-5 years, but term may be extended by Executive Committee
Law student	A law student	1 year

2. Alumni Members

After a non-law student member has completed his or her active membership, such member shall become an alumni member. Any alumni member who becomes an alumni member, by paying the dues as set forth in paragraph four, shall be privileged to attend and

participate in all meetings of the Robert Van Pelt American Inn of Court, but shall have no right to vote.

3. Emeritus and Honorary Members

A. Emeritus Members. Emeritus Membership may be conferred upon active Masters of the Bench or Bar on the basis of long and distinguished service to the American Inn of Court. Emeritus Members shall be under no obligation to attend meetings or pay dues.

B. Honorary Members. Honorary Membership may be conferred upon individuals whether they are lawyers or not, on the basis of distinguished service to the bench or bar, furtherance of American Inn of Court objectives or other noteworthy achievements. Honorary Members shall be under no obligation to attend meetings or pay dues.

4. Dues

Each active member shall pay dues in the amount and at the time established by the Executive Committee. The dues structure shall be such that financial burden of the organization falls mainly upon the Masters of the Bench and Masters of the Bar.. The Executive Committee's discretion regarding the responsibilities set forth in this paragraph is absolute and not subject to review.

An alumni member who contributes to the Inn during a program year, at the minimum level designated by the Executive Committee will be entitled to attend meetings and to receive mailings regarding the programs during the year.

5. Invitation to Membership

Active Membership shall be conferred upon those accepting invitations extended by the Executive Committee. In offering membership in the organization, the Executive Committee shall keep in mind that the sole reason for the existence of the organization is to promote ethics, civility, professionalism and excellence by those who are called to service before the Bench and the Bar.

6. Teams

The Robert Van Pelt American Inn of Court shall be comprised of at least seven Teams. Each Team shall be comprised of a minimum of: (1) one Master of the Bench; (2) two Masters of the Bar; (3) two Barristers; (4) one associate; and (5) two law students. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for assigning members to the Teams and for creating new Teams as may be necessary. In unusual cases, the Executive Committee may vary the number of members of a particular Team notwithstanding the suggested numbers set forth above, bearing in mind that each team should remain a small group.

7. Officers

A. The officers of the Robert Van Pelt American Inn of Court shall consist of the following: (1) President; (2) President-Elect & Program Chair; (3) Counselor for Mentoring; (4) Secretary/Treasurer; (5) Inn Administrator; (6) Membership Chair; (7) Alumni/Emeritus Chair; (8) Past President; and (9) Systems Administrator.

B. The powers, responsibilities and terms of office for each of the officers are set forth below:

President

The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Robert Van Pelt American Inn of Court, and shall have all the powers and duties that are normally associated with that position. The term of office of the President shall be one year, and no person may serve more than one year as President. It will not be the practice of the President to be a member of a Team.

President-Elect & Program Chair

The President-Elect & Program Chair shall assist the President, exercise the powers and perform the duties delegated to him or her by the President or Executive Committee, and, in particular, shall be responsible for supervision of the programs and coordination of Continuing Legal Education aspects of the programming. It is expected, although not

required, that the President-Elect & Program Chair will become the President the following year. The term of office for the President-Elect & Program Chair shall be one year, and no person may serve more than one year as President-Elect & Program Chair. It will not be the practice of the President-Elect and Program Chair to be a member of a Team.

Counselor for Mentoring

The Counselor for Mentoring shall have the powers and perform the duties delegated to him or her by the President or Executive Committee, and, in particular, shall be responsible for supervision of the mentoring program. The term of office for the Counselor for Mentoring shall be one year, but he or she may serve as many additional one-year terms as the Executive Committee may from time to time provide. It will be the practice of the Counselor for Mentoring to be a member of a Team.

Secretary/Treasurer

The Secretary/Treasurer shall have the powers and perform the duties delegated to him or her by the President or Executive Committee, and, in particular, shall be responsible for supervision of the treasury, maintenance of financial records and collection of dues. The term of office for the Secretary/Treasurer shall be one year, but he or she may serve as many additional one-year terms as the Executive Committee may from time to time provide. It will be the practice of the Secretary/Treasurer to be a member of a Team.

Inn Administrator

The Inn Administrator shall have the powers and perform the duties delegated to him or her by the President or Executive Committee, and, in particular, shall be responsible for providing administrative support for the organization, its officers and the Executive Committee. The term of office for the Inn Administrator shall be five years and no person shall serve more than one consecutive five-year term. It will not be the practice of the Inn Administrator to be a member of a Team. It will be the practice to select a judge to serve as the Inn Administrator.

Membership Chair

The Membership Chair shall have the powers and perform the duties delegated to him or her by the President or Executive Committee, and, in particular, shall be responsible for supervision of the membership roles. The term of office for the Membership Chair shall be one year, but he or she may serve as many additional one-year terms as the Executive Committee may from time to time provide. It will be the practice of the Membership Chair to be a member of a Team.

Alumni/Emeritus Chair

The Alumni/Emeritus Chair shall have the powers and perform the duties delegated to him or her by the President or Executive Committee, and, in particular, shall serve as a liaison between the organization and Alumni, Emeritus, and Honorary members so that the organization will benefit from their continued participation and financial support of those members. The term of office for the Alumni/Emeritus Chair shall be one year, but he or she may serve as many additional one-year terms as the Executive Committee may from time to time provide. It will be the practice of the Emeritus Chair to be a member of a Team.

Past President

The Past President shall have the powers and perform the duties delegated to him or her by the President or Executive Committee, and, in particular, shall serve as an advisor to the President. The term of office for the Past President shall be one year and no person may serve more than one year as Past President. It will not be the practice of the Past President to be a member of a Team.

System Administrator

The System Administrator shall have the powers and perform the duties delegated to him or her by the President or Executive Committee, and, in particular, and shall be responsible for information technology issues to include maintaining the website of the Robert Van Pelt American Inn of Court and its entries in The Chapter Management System (CMS) of the American Inns of Court. The term of office for the System Administrator shall

be one year, but he or she may serve as many additional one-year terms as the Executive Committee may from time to time provide. It will be the practice of the System Administrator to be a member of a Team.

8. Powers and Responsibilities of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall establish the policies, practices and procedures of the Robert Van Pelt American Inn of Court in accordance with the American Inns of Court Charter by majority vote of the Committee members present and voting at a meeting of the Committee. In the event of a tie vote, the decision of the President shall prevail.

9. Composition of Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall consist of the nine officers identified above together with a sufficient number of other "at large" members such that each Team has at least one representative on the Executive Committee either in the form of an officer or in the form of an "at large" member.¹

¹ An example may be helpful. First, remember that four of the nine officers are expected to be members of a Team. Second, assuming those four officers are from different Teams, that would mean there would be three "at large members" of the Executive Committee. In other words, the Executive Committee should be comprised of at least one representative from each Team.

10. Selection of President, President-Elect & Program Chair and Secretary/Treasurer

The selection of the President, President-Elect & Program Chair and Secretary/Treasurer shall be made in the Spring of the year at a meeting of the active members called for such purposes by the Executive Committee. No formal notice need be given of such meeting, and such meeting may be held in conjunction with the regular meeting of the organization. The Executive Committee shall nominate the President,

President-Elect & Program Chair, and Secretary/Treasurer. The election of these officers shall be held in the following manner:

A. The President and President-Elect & Program Chair nominated by the Executive Committee shall be selected to fill the position for which they have been nominated if such person receives a simple majority of the votes cast by the Masters of the Bench and Masters of the Bar who are present and who vote at the meeting. If an Executive Committee nominee does not receive a simple majority of such votes, then those eligible to vote at the meeting on such nominee may nominate one or more candidates to fill the position and the person who receives the greatest number of votes cast by the Masters of the Bench and Masters of the Bar who are present at the meeting and voting shall be selected to fill the position.

B. The Secretary/Treasurer nominated by the Executive Committee shall be selected to fill the position for which he or she has been nominated if such person receives a simple majority of the votes cast by the Masters of the Bench, Masters of the Bar, Barristers and Associates who are present and who vote at the meeting. If the Executive Committee nominee does not receive a simple majority of such votes, then those eligible to vote at the meeting may nominate one or more candidates to fill the position and the person who receives the greatest number of votes cast by the Masters of the Bench, Masters of the Bar, Barristers and Associates who are present and who vote at the meeting shall be selected to fill the position.

11. Selection of the Other Officers and Selection of the Executive Committee

The selection of the other officers and members of the Executive Committee shall be determined as follows:

A. All other officers and members of the Executive Committee for the coming year shall be tentatively selected in the Spring of each year by the predecessor Executive Committee prior to the predecessor Executive Committee nominating the President, President-Elect and Treasurer. The tentative selection of any such new officers or new member of the Executive Committee shall be made known to the organization at the time of

the election of the President and may be challenged by any Master of the Bench, Master of the Bar, Barrister or Associate who is present for the election of the President. If not challenged, the tentative selections shall be deemed elected as if upon unanimous consent.

B. If any such tentative selection is challenged, the tentative selection shall not serve in such position unless he or she receives a simple majority of the votes cast by the Masters of the Bench, Masters of the Bar, Barristers and Associates who are present for the election of the President. If the challenged tentative selection does not receive a simple majority of such votes, then those eligible to vote at the meeting may nominate one or more candidates to fill the position and the person who receives the greatest number of votes cast by the Masters of the Bench, Masters of the Bar, Barristers and Associates who are present and who vote at the meeting shall be selected to fill the challenged position.

12. Fiscal Year and Terms of Office

The fiscal year of the Robert Van Pelt American Inn of Court shall be the same as the fiscal year of the American Inns of Court Foundation, which is from July 1 to June 30 of each year. The terms of officers and members of the Executive Committee, including single and multiple year terms where applicable, shall begin on July 1 and end on June 30.

13. Deviation from Bylaws

For good reason, and upon majority vote of the Executive Committee, strict adherence to these Bylaws, or any portion thereof, may be waived in the discretion of the Executive Committee. Nevertheless, the Executive Committee shall at all times strive to implement the evident intent of these Bylaws.

14. Adoption and Amendment of Bylaws

A. Adoption.

These Bylaws will be adopted by this American Inn of Court upon approval by a majority of the Masters of the Bench and Masters of the Bar of this American Inn of Court and after being submitted to and approved, in writing, by the Board of Trustees of the American Inns of Court Foundation. The Masters may make valid decisions by voting by

mail, facsimile, electronic mail, or other means when deemed necessary by the Executive Committee or the President.

B. Amendments.

Amendments to these Bylaws may be made by a majority of the Masters of the Bench and Masters of the Bar of this American Inn of Court and must be submitted to and approved, in writing, by the Board of Trustees of the American Inns of Court Foundation. The Masters may make valid decisions by voting by mail, facsimile, electronic mail, or other means when deemed necessary by the Executive Committee or the President.

15. Expenses

This American Inn of Court shall pay all reasonable expenses incurred by members of the Executive Committee for such things as attendance at state, regional or national events of the American Inns of Court Foundation and payment to an administrator.

These Bylaws were adopted on the date and year first above written.

Robert Van Pelt American Inn of Court



Becky Gould, President

Attest:



Cheryl R. Zwart, Inn Administrator