

Justice Marie L. Garibaldi American Inn of Court for ADR

In 1998, a group of visionary lawyers came together at a meeting of the New Jersey State Bar Association and embarked upon the innovative idea of forming a American Inn of Court devoted exclusively to alternative dispute resolution (ADR). At the time, this was a completely revolutionary concept because Inns have, for the most part, been structured around a traditional Master of the Bench-Pupil model, usually based upon a substantive area of law or trial practice. Because the ADR field and its principal participants do not usually include novice lawyers as in other areas of practice, what was being proposed would be a novel idea in the history of the American Inns of Court movement.

The Inn was named after Justice Marie L. Garibaldi, the first female Justice on the New Jersey Supreme Court. She was also one of the first proponents of integrating ADR into the New Jersey court system and called it Complementary Dispute Resolution. She was inspired by Professor Frank E.A. Sander of Harvard Law School, who, in 1976, proposed that ADR should be used to reduce reliance on conventional litigation, leading to changes in court systems, including the creation of the “multi-door courthouse” to provide more procedural choice to disputants. For approximately two decades, the Garibaldi Inn was the only Inn exclusively focused on ADR. In 2017, the Inn was particularly proud to have had a role in helping to establish a new Inn focused on ADR—the Pepperdine/Straus American Inn of Court for Dispute Resolution in Malibu, California.

In those 20 years, the Garibaldi Inn has had a critical impact on the legal practice and culture in New Jersey. Focused on the inherent links between the key tenets of the American Inns of Court, civility and professionalism, and ADR, the Inn has been at the forefront of helping to spread the word about mediation, arbitration, and other forms of ADR. Not only has the Inn played an enormous role in educating both the New Jersey bench and the bar about various ADR processes—particularly through its long tradition of excellent programming—but also has essentially had a part in conducting nearly all of the mediation and arbitration trainings for individuals interested in being admitted to the state court rosters. The Inn has also helped provide



Members of the Garibaldi Inn's executive committee are in the back row, from left to right, Hon. Stephan C. Hansbury; Denise Wennogle; Hon. John J. Harper; Terri R. Reicher; Robert J. Lenrow; Joseph A. Spinella; Andrew Smith; Bonnie Goldsamt; Richard H. Steen; Suzanne McSorley; Jonathan J. Lerner; Hon. Helen E. Hoens; Alan Pralgever; F. Peter Phillips; and Richard Byrnes. In the front row are, from left to right, Sheryl Mintz Goski; Robert E. Margulies; Laura A. Kaster; Nicholas Stevens; and Theodore K. Cheng.

expertise in formulating the rules governing mediation and arbitration in the court-annexed mediation and arbitration programs. Additionally, last year, the Inn successfully advocated for the enactment of a new statute that permits consent awards in international arbitration, which will have a significant impact on the future for New Jersey neutrals and practitioners.

The Garibaldi Inn has reached Platinum level in the American Inns of Court Achieving Excellence program for the past five years. We are happy to provide programming to other Inns and to continue to reinforce the American Inns of Courts' focus on collegiality, civility, professionalism, education, and mentoring. The Garibaldi Inn is a voice for the movement for civility in the courts and in the legal profession more generally. The Inn looks forward to the next 20 years and continuing to fulfill its mission to the bench, the bar, and the ADR profession. For more information on the Garibaldi Inn, we invite you to view our short, celebratory video at <https://bit.ly/2OKJz97>. ♦