

American Inns of Court Foundation
Official Charter Number 139

Presented to

The Sarasota County American Inn of Court
In Sarasota, Florida

This first day of June, 1991,
at the Seventh Annual Meeting of the
American Inns of Court in
New Orleans, Louisiana.

American Inns of Court Foundation
Charter Number 139 of

THE SARASOTA COUNTY AMERICAN INN OF COURT

IN Sarasota, Florida

Inasmuch as Charles J. Bartlett, Esquire, Jill H. Breslau, Esquire, The Honorable Stephen L. Dakan, Theodore C. Eastmoore, Esquire, G. Hunter Gibbons, Esquire, Claire L. Hamner, Esquire, M. Joseph Lieb, Jr., Esquire, A. Lamar Matthews, Jr., Esquire, The Honorable John M. Scheb, Frank E. Strelec, Esquire, and The Honorable James W. Whatley have made due and proper application to the American Inns of Court Foundation for a charter to organize, establish and carry on activities as a participating American Inn of the American Inns of Court Foundation, and,

Whereas, the aforesaid applicants have agreed to abide by and conduct their activities consistent with the requirements of this Charter, and the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and Policies of the American Inns of Court Foundation, as they now exist or may be hereafter interpreted, modified or amended by the Board of Trustees of said Foundation, and,

Whereas, applicants have requested that their member American Inn be granted use of the American Inns of Court name, service mark, seal and copyrighted materials and be designated as The Sarasota County American Inn of Court.

NOW THEREFORE, subject to the conditions hereinafter set forth, the American Inns of Court Foundation, by and through its Board of Trustees, does hereby grant American Inns of Court Foundation Charter Number 139 to the above-named applicants, their successors and to such others as are or shall be joined with them as members of the within described American Inn to be known as The Sarasota County American Inn of Court in Sarasota, Florida.

FURTHERMORE, subject to the conditions set forth hereinafter, the American Inns of Court Foundation, by and through its Board of Trustees, does hereby grant to The Sarasota County American Inn of Court the right to use the Foundation name, service mark, seal and copyrighted materials as long as the American Inn is in good standing and the use is in compliance with conditions established from time to time by the Foundation.

ARTICLE I OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this American Inn are:

1. To be a membership of judges, lawyers, legal educators, 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 of communication 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 legal advocacy as a service worthy of constant effort and learning.
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 American Inn shall be and remain chartered and affiliated with the American Inns of Court Foundation as a member American 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. Governing Body and Officers.

The officers of this American Inn shall be a President, a Counselor, a Secretary/Treasurer and such other officers as the Benchers, by majority vote of those present at a meeting duly called for that purpose, may deem necessary. The President and Counselor must be selected from among the Benchers and shall be elected by vote of a majority of the Benchers present at a meeting called for that purpose. All other officers, including the Secretary/Treasurer, may be selected from any class of membership and shall be elected by vote of a majority of all members present at a meeting called for that purpose. Unless otherwise authorized by the Board of Trustees of the Foundation, either the President or the Counselor shall be a judge. The officers, along with such other members as the Benchers, by majority vote of those present at a meeting duly called for that purpose, shall select, shall constitute an Executive Committee.

Pursuant to Article II, Section 1 of the Foundation Bylaws, it is suggested that the Executive Committee select either the President or the Counselor to serve as a member of the American Inn of Court Foundation during his or her term of office. (See Article II, Section 2d of this Charter.)

A. Term of Office.

The term of each office 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 typically shall be designated as the meeting for elections, but exceptions may be established by the Executive Committee.

B. Duties of President and Counselor.

In addition to other duties which may be imposed by the Benchers and by the Trustees of the American Inns of Court Foundation, the President and the Counselor shall have the following duties, which, in the absence of agreement between them as to division, shall be allocated by vote of the Executive Committee of the American Inn:

1. Schedule and preside at all meetings of the American Inn;
2. Ensure that an annual curriculum and agenda for American Inn meetings and activities are developed and furnished to members;
3. Notify members of their appointment to serve on American Inn of Court committees;
4. Call and conduct meetings of officers and committees as required to plan and conduct activities of the American Inn;
5. Conduct all American Inn activities in accordance with the Articles, Bylaws and Policies of the American Inns of Court Foundation and this Charter;
6. Supervise and monitor pupillage group activities in order to encourage the proper functioning of this important aspect of American Inn organization;

7. Encourage attendance at all American Inn meetings;
8. Serve as liaison with other American Inns of Court as they may be established;
9. Extend invitations for membership in the American Inn of Court as authorized by the Executive Committee.

C. Duties of Secretary/Treasurer.

The Secretary/Treasurer shall:

1. Prepare, maintain and forward to the American Inns of Court Foundation Secretary, at least annually, a complete roster of all present and past members of the American Inn specifying name, last known address, telephone number, membership category, beginning date of membership and ending date of membership;
2. Prepare and maintain minutes of each meeting of the American Inn and forward a copy thereof to the American Inns of Court Foundation Secretary within one month of each meeting;
3. Receive and disburse monies and other property paid to the American Inn of Court in accordance with directives and policies of the American Inns of Court Foundation;
4. Prepare and maintain accurate financial records for the American Inn in accordance with directives and policies of the American Inns of Court Foundation;
5. Furnish application forms to persons interested in becoming members of the American Inn and see that the Executive Committee receives such completed applications;
6. Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President.

D. Duties and Authority of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee, acting by majority vote of its members, shall:

1. Select a Member of the American Inns of Court Foundation pursuant to Article II, Section I of the Bylaws of the said Foundation. Usually this will be the President or Counselor.
2. 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, Bylaws, Policies or Directives of the American Inns of Court Foundation.
3. Confer and terminate memberships in the American Inn.
4. Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President or the Counselor.

3. Relationships with Courts.

This American 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. Invitations to Membership.

Memberships shall be conferred upon those accepting invitations extended by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee's discretion in extending invitations to membership is absolute and non-reviewable. Such invitations may be extended on the basis of recommendations made to the Executive Committee by any member of the American Inn or in response to written application filed with the Secretary/Treasurer of the American 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 five categories and shall be given suitable certificates of membership in this American Inn of Court:

A. Masters of the Bench (Benchers)—Active.

Membership as Active Masters of the Bench or "Active Benchers" may be held by judges, lawyers and law teachers who have demonstrated superior character, ability and competence as trial or appellate advocates. Retention of status as an Active Bencher is contingent upon reasonable American Inn activity to be periodically reviewed by the Executive Committee. There is no required tenure of membership in this category but it is suggested that Active

Benchers serve continuously for at least five (5) years before being eligible for election to Emeritus status. Any person who has been granted Emeritus status as a Bencher may be reinvited to serve again in an active capacity. At least twelve (12) Active Benchers shall be practicing lawyers. The remainder shall be judges or law teachers as determined by the Executive Committee.

B. Masters of the Bench (Benchers)—Emeritus.

Membership as Emeritus Masters of the Bench or "Emeritus Benchers" may be conferred upon Active Benchers by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Active Benchers of the American Inn in attendance at a meeting called for that purpose. The vote shall be by secret ballot. Such membership status may be granted on the basis of long and distinguished service to the American Inn. Emeritus Benchers shall be under no obligation to pay dues, attend meetings or participate in other programs of the American Inn but will enjoy all privileges of Active membership except the right to vote. Emeritus Benchers will retain such membership status for life if they so desire.

C. Barristers.

Active membership as Barristers may be held by attorneys who have been in active practice for at least two (2) years prior to selection as a Barrister and must have demonstrated good character and a desire to improve and refine their skills as trial and appellate advocates. Barristers shall be eligible to remain as active members for up to three (3) years in the discretion of the Executive Committee. After such time Barristers may remain as members of the American Inn invited to participate in such activities as the Executive Committee may deem appropriate.

* The actual number of members in each category should be consistent with the original application for charter. An American Inn may propose a different number so long as the spirit and concept of the American Inn of Court movement is not violated and the maximum number of active members of the American Inn of all categories does not exceed sixty-five (65).

D. Pupils.

Membership as Pupils shall be held by persons who are either students at an accredited law school or are recent law school graduates admitted to the practice of law for not more than two (2) years. Tenure of membership for Pupils shall be not more than on (1) year. Membership may be terminated in the sole discretion of the Executive Committee.

E. 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 Benchers in attendance at a meeting called for that purpose. Election shall be by secret ballot. Consideration for selection is 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 pay dues, attend meetings or participate in other programs of the American Inn but will have all privileges of membership except the right to vote.

ARTICLE IV FINANCES

1. Financial matters within this American Inn shall be managed and controlled in accordance with policies and directives established by the American Inns of Court Foundation and this Charter.
2. This American Inn shall remit annually to the American Inns of Court Foundation a reasonable amount to be levied by the Board of Trustees of said Foundation for the purpose of paying its proportionate share of operating expenses of the said 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 its obligations to the American Inns of Court Foundation as well as the American Inn's operating needs. Failure to pay assessments and dues within a reasonable time and 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 American 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 American Inn shall be called by the Executive Committee at least six times per year at such intervals as it may determine. The operative year of the American Inn of Court shall be as determined 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 relationships involved in the courtroom and in activities preliminary to courtroom appearances and should involve critique and questions from the membership of the American

Inn, all designed to assist members in better discharging their duties to clients and society. Programs should ordinarily be presented by previously assigned pupillage groups.

ARTICLE VI PUPILLAGE GROUPS

As an American adaptation of the pupillage system which is basic to the English Inns of Court, each Pupil and Barrister will be assigned to work with a Bencher (who is a practicing attorney) during meetings and at other times throughout the year. At least one (1) Active Bencher who is a practicing attorney, one (1) Barrister, and one (1) Pupil, appropriate to the numbers in the American Inn, shall comprise the Pupillage Group. Each Pupillage Group shall be assigned to a Bencher who is a Judge who shall exercise general supervision over the group assigned to him or her and shall monitor the group's attendance at meetings, encourage its meaningful participation at meetings, and at scheduled pupillage events, and oversee presentation of assigned meeting topics. All Active Benchers should strive to make contact with Pupils and Barristers between the scheduled American Inn meetings. On such occasions Pupils and Barristers should be advised about pertinent points of trial or appellate advocacy as is appropriate.

ARTICLE VII OTHER AMERICAN INNS OF COURT

This American Inn shall promote or cooperate in the establishment of similar American 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.

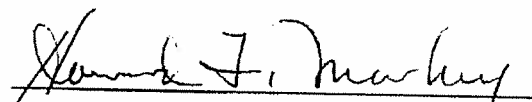
ARTICLE VIII AMENDMENTS TO CHARTER

This Charter may be amended only with the approval of the Board of Trustees of the American Inns of Court Foundation following a two-thirds vote of the non-Pupil American Inn members present at a meeting called and reasonably noticed for such purpose, or upon written consent of at least two-thirds of such membership.

ARTICLE IX REVOCATION OF CHARTER

This Charter may be revoked by the Board of Trustees of the American Inns of Court Foundation upon the occurrence of any one or more of the following events: (1) The American Inn of Court hereby chartered does not become organized and operational within one year of the issuance hereof; (2) Violation by the American Inn of Court hereby chartered of the laws under which the American Inns of Court Foundation was organized or violation by the American Inn of the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws or Policies of the American Inns of Court Foundation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF this Charter is hereby granted by the American Inns of Court Foundation by and through its Board of Trustees this First day of June, 1991.


Chairman of the Board of Trustees
American Inns of Court Foundation