

## South Carolina Inns Hold Second Joint Meeting

For the second time in three years, several American Inns of Court in South Carolina held a joint meeting. The meeting was hosted by the Coastal American Inn of Court, of Conway. As before, participants included The John Belton O'Neill American Inn of Court, of Columbia; James L. Petigru American Inn of Court, of Charleston; Haynsworth-Perry American Inn of Court, of Greenville; Pee Dee American Inn of Court, of Florence; and J. Bratton Davis Bankruptcy Inn of Court, of Columbia. The state's newest (and eighth!) Inn also participated: The South Carolina Family Law American Inn of Court.

The featured speaker was Judge James E. Lockemy, the retired Chief Judge of the state's Court of Appeals. Judge Lockemy's presentation "An Officer and The Gentleman" discussed the historical background of, the leadup to, the decision in, and the effects of the 1834 case *M'Cready v. Hunt*. *M'Cready* was an officer in the state militia. A state statute required he recite a pledge of loyalty to South Carolina rather than the federal government. He refused, was denied a commission, and sued. In a two to one decision, the state court of appeals held the statutory oath was unconstitutional.

As Lockemy explained, the case was a seismic event and a brave judicial pronouncement of constitutional supremacy in a time of nullification. One of *M'Cready's* lawyers was John Belton O'Neill; a man considered by many to be one of the finest lawyers in the state's history. The list of counsel appearing in the case for the state included the sitting Governor. Backlash to the court's ruling was swift—the year after the decision, the legislature abolished the Court of Appeals.

Technology allowed 124 registrants from across the state to enjoy in Lockemy's engaging and effective presentation.