

**THE Q. TODD DICKINSON INTELLECTUAL**

**CHAPTER**

***Member Handbook and Directory***

***2023-2024***

**AIC HISTORY & OBJECTIVES**

American Inns are patterned after the English Inns of Court. The first English Inn of Court was established in 1292 by King Edward I to provide housing for his barristers while they were trying cases in London. The English Inns grew in number and importance during the Middle Ages. The English Inns emphasized the value of learning the craft of lawyering from those already established in the profession. Their collegial environment fostered common goals and nurtured professional ideals and ethics.

In 1977, Chief Justice Warren E. Burger and other American lawyers and judges spent two weeks in England as part of the Anglo-American Exchange. The Chief Justice was particularly impressed with the collegial mentoring approach and, following his return to the United States, authorized a pilot program that could be adapted to the realities of law practice in the States.

Chief Justice Burger, former Solicitor General Rex Lee, and Senior United States District Judge A. Sherman Christensen founded the first American Inn of Court in 1980. The Inn was affiliated with the J. Reuben Clark School of Law at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. In 1985, the American Inns of Court Foundation was established, with 12 Inns, based on a recommendation of the Judicial Conference of the United States. Since then, the AIC movement has grown faster than any other organization of legal professionals. Today there are 320 American Inns of Court in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Over 25,000 state, federal and administrative law judges, attorneys, law professors, and third-year law students are active members of an American Inn of Court, and over 50,000 are AIC alumni.

The American Inns of Court have adopted the traditional English model of legal apprenticeship. Through the mentoring process, the Inns are designed to improve the skills, professionalism and legal ethics of the bench and bar. The Inns help newer lawyers to become more effective advocates, with a keener awareness of ethics and civility. The objectives of each Inn are as follows:

 To establish a society of judges, lawyers, legal educators, law students, and others to promote excellence in legal advocacy in accordance with the Professional Creed of the American Inns of Court.

 To foster greater understanding of and appreciation for the adversary system of dispute resolution in American Law, with particular emphasis on ethics, civility, professionalism, and legal skills.

 To provide significant educational experiences that will improve and enhance the abilities of lawyers as counselors and advocates, and of judges as adjudicators and administrators.

 To promote interaction and collegiality among all legal professionals in order to minimize misapprehensions, misconceptions and failures of communication that obstruct the effective practice of law.

 To facilitate the development of law students, recent law school graduates and less experienced lawyers as skilled participants in the American court system.

 To preserve and transmit ethical values from one generation of legal professionals to the next.

 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.

**AMERICAN INNS OF COURT CREED**

Whereas, the Rule of Law is essential to preserving and protecting the rights and liberties of a free people; and

Whereas, throughout history, lawyers and judges have preserved, protected and defended the Rule of Law in order to ensure justice for all; and

Whereas, preservation and promulgation of the highest standards of excellence in professionalism, ethics, civility, and legal skills are essential to achieving justice under the Rule of Law;

Now therefore, as a member of an American Inn of Court, I hereby adopt this professional creed with a pledge to honor its principles and practices:

I will treat the practice of law as a learned profession and will uphold the standards of the profession with dignity, civility and courtesy.

I will value my integrity above all. My word is my bond.

I will develop my practice with dignity and will be mindful in my communications with the public that what is constitutionally permissible may not be professionally appropriate.

I will serve as an officer of the court, encouraging respect for the law in all that I do and avoiding abuse or misuse of the law, its procedures, its participants and its processes.

I will represent the interests of my client with vigor and will seek the most expeditious and least costly solutions to problems, resolving disputes through negotiation whenever possible.

I will work continuously to attain the highest level of knowledge and skill in the areas of the law in which I practice.

I will contribute time and resources to public service, charitable activities and pro bono work.

I will work to make the legal system more accessible, responsive and effective.

I will honor the requirements, the spirit and the intent of the applicable rules or codes of professional conduct for my jurisdiction, and will encourage others to do the same.

**MEMBERSHIP**

The active membership of this Chapter is divided into four classifications. Masters include senior lawyers with a minimum of fifteen years of litigation experience and federal and state judges, all of whom have committed to participate actively for at least three years and may serve for an indefinite term. Barristers are attorneys who have a minimum of five or more years of litigation experience. They commit to participating for a two- to-three-year term and are selected through an application process. Associates are attorneys who have less than five years of litigation experience. They commit to participating for a two-year term and are also selected through an application process. Finally, law school students also are welcome to join.

In addition to the active members, this Chapter extends "honorary" status to Masters. Honorary Masters may be assigned to a pupillage group and encouraged to participate in that group's educational program development and presentation. Many Honorary Masters have attended monthly meetings, although they are not required to do so.

Membership is open to all qualified individuals, regardless of race, color, sex, age, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, or disability. This Chapter's members are drawn primarily from Western Pennsylvania and Allegheny County in particular. This Chapter's membership reflects the rich diversity of the bench and bar in this area and includes counsel for plaintiffs and defendants, in-house and outside counsel, state and federal court practitioners, judges, trial and appellate counsel, solo practitioners, law professors, and counsel practicing with small, medium and large firms.

**SELECTION OF MEMBERS**

The Executive Committee extends invitations for membership. In extending invitations to renew membership, the Committee considers the participation and attendance of members in accordance with the bylaws. Vacancies are filled by vote of the Committee based on the needs of the Chapter.

This Chapter seeks applicants for membership through nomination from current members. The Chapter strives to identify persons who have a demonstrated interest in developing their own professional skills and in improving the quality of litigation in our legal community. The Chapter favors making the Inn experience available to as many lawyers as possible. Former members of the Chapter may re-apply; however, new applicants will generally be given priority.

**INN GOVERNANCE**

Governance of this Chapter is entrusted to the Executive Board. The Board includes the president, president-elect, counselor, secretary, treasurer, ex officio members and the program chair. Barrister and Associate representatives also may hold Executive Board positions. The elected members of the Board are the president and president-elect, who should be Masters; the counselor, who must be a member of the judiciary; the secretary and the treasurer. These officers serve a two-year term and are eligible to serve successive terms. Officers are nominated by the Masters in the Chapter.

Elections are held every two years in conjunction with the beginning of the program year. The president, president-elect and counselor are elected by a majority of the Masters, and the secretary and treasurer are elected by a majority of the entire membership.

The program chair is appointed by the Board and serves a two-year renewable term.

The Barrister and Associate representatives may be appointed by the Board and serve a two-year term. Any Barrister and Associate are eligible to receive such an appointment and should advise the Chapter President of his or her interest in serving.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Attendance at the Inn’s meetings is **mandatory**. Absence from more than two meetings per year will constitute automatic resignation from the Inn at all membership levels. Attendance will be taken at each meeting: each member **must** "sign in" on the attendance sheet. In the event that an automatic resignation occurs under these circumstances, the former member may re-apply to membership in the Inns.

If, at the last minute, you are unable to attend a monthly meeting, you are encouraged to send a “substitute” colleague who may enjoy the Inn experience. Please advise the Administrator of this substitution so that your colleague may be properly introduced at the meeting.

Members are reminded that because this is truly a participatory organization, attendance at each meeting is vital to the success of the programs and the overall mission of the Inns.

**GUEST POLICY**

The Chapter's programs are primarily for the members' benefit. However, members may invite guests to join them from time to time. Members who wish to invite guests must inform the president in advance of the meeting of their guests' names so that they may be introduced at the beginning of the program. Members must agree to be responsible for the catering costs for their guests and for the CLE fee, if the guests desire credit. Members may pay for their guests prior to or at the meeting. The catering cost per meeting during 2020 - 2021 is $40.00 per guest.

Guests who attend meetings as the last minute “substitute” will **not** incur any catering charge.

**CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION CREDIT**

This Chapter has been certified as a Continuing Legal Education (CLE) provider by the Pennsylvania Commission on Continuing Legal Education. Members may earn as many as 6 hours of CLE credit, including 1 hour of ethics, by attending and participating in all five of the Chapter's programs. Each program is accredited for 1 hours; active participation in your pupillage group's presentation garners another 1 hours. Members desiring to obtain CLE credit should submit the election form and fee to the Chapter. Members are required to complete an evaluation and attendance form at the conclusion of each program.

The CLE yearly assessment for members is a blanket fee of $90.00, regardless of the number of meetings attended. The CLE assessment for guests is $40.00 per meeting.

**PUPILLAGE GROUP CONCEPT**

The Chapter's members are divided into pupillage groups. The Executive Board selects the group members and ensures that each group includes Masters, Barristers, Associates and Student Members who would not otherwise encounter each other frequently in their daily work. Group assignments may be changed for good cause. Members desiring to change groups must do so as early as possible. They may also be asked to find a member of another group willing to take their place and inform the president of the changes.

Pupillage groups will generally include 1 Master, 2-3 Barristers, 2-3 Associates and 1 or 2 Student Members. The pupillage groups meet on several occasions to prepare their program. The groups choose their own meeting places and times. Each group has a designated "group leader" who is responsible for scheduling the group meetings.

Each pupillage group must prepare and present one of the Chapter's programs. Suggested program topics of interest are formulated by the Executive Committee and assigned to each pupillage group. (Modifications to the assigned program topic may be requested, so long as approval is obtained from the Program Chair to insure there is no duplication of programs in any given year.) The group's responsibilities include: (1) selecting the format most likely to present the assigned topic in an interesting manner; (2) preparing and copying for distribution any written materials; and (3) preparing an AIC Demonstration Report which is submitted to the President for transmission to the AIC Foundation. For presentation purposes, programs are structured to elicit audience participation and to foster general discussion.

In addition to presenting a program, the pupillage groups provide Inn members an opportunity to become better acquainted with other lawyers practicing in our legal community and with members of the bench. The pupillage groups are the principal component of the Inn's mentoring activities. Their diverse membership is intended to build an inter-generational relationship that encourages frank and personal discussion of matters of practice, ethics, civility, and all other aspects of the practice of law. The most experienced members of the group are encouraged to pass on the best of the practice to the less experienced members. Accordingly, Masters are encouraged to provide their Associate colleagues with opportunities to observe them in court, in depositions, or in the office. Masters are also expected to schedule and participate in social gatherings of their pupillage group.

**GUIDELINES**

**FOR EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT**

These guidelines are intended to confirm our practice to date with regard to reimbursement of expenses for pupillage groups. These guidelines have been developed to ensure that pupillage groups and individual members know which expenses in connection with Inns of Court activities are reimbursable and in keeping with the Inns’ mission.

1. Expenses incurred in preparation of materials for use in presentations by pupillage groups are generally considered non-reimbursable. Our Chapter’s position is that we look to the law firms with whom our members are associated to absorb the expense of photocopying and reproducing materials for use in presentations. The Executive Board will consider requests for reimbursement of extraordinary expenses for photocopying and reproduction on a case by case basis.

2. Honoraria, gifts, speaker fees or any other expenses directly connected with a guest speaker **must** be approved in advance by the Executive Board. Where pre-approval is not sought or given, there will be no reimbursement for such expenses.

3. It is imperative that expenses for joint presentations between this AIC Chapter and any other Chapter be submitted for pre-approval according to the guidelines set forth above, before any Chapter member commits to the payment of such expenses.

4. The Executive Board will consider any request for any expense reimbursement on a case by case basis.

**MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS**

The programs are at the heart of the monthly meetings. They involve practical legal skills with an emphasis on ethics, civility and professionalism in lawyering. They generally involve a demonstration or presentation of principles, skills, techniques, and relationships involved in trial and appellate court proceedings and in activity preliminary to courtroom appearances. The programs also incorporate valuable opportunities for critique and discussion.

**2023-2024 PUPILLAGE GROUPS**

September 18, 2023  
**Group Leader: Christopher Verdini**  
***Is It Live or Memorex?!***

(Program Description: Best Practice in Virtual Advocacy – a panel discussion with judges and lawyers)

Robert Wagner

Bryan Opalko

William Smith

Alan Towner

Steven Czajkowski

Patrick McElhinny

Eric Soller

Jaden Rankin-Wahlers

Alexander Bernard (S)

November 13, 2023

**Group Leader. Jayme Butcher**

***Trade Secrets and their Proactive Protection in an Employer-Employee Context***

(Program Description. The program is based on a skit presentation that elicits discussion surrounding Trade Secrets and their proactive protection in an Employer-Employee context. The presenters provided three-act skit presentation on protecting a company's trade secrets.  Act 1 was a meeting between feuding principals of a startup, and their outside counsel talking about how to protect their internally developed trade secrets.  Act 2 was between that outside counsel and a disgruntled departing key employee.  Act 3 was between respective outside counsel of the startup and of the competitor who hired that departing employee.  Audience Q&A was made available, and was amply provided, for each of the three skits. The group will modify program materials originally created by the Benjamin Franklin American Inn of Court, and the group is encouraged, as time permits, to include discussion of developments/tips relative to development of a trade secret case through trial, including the use of trade secret claim charts, discovery, handling sealed documents, etc.

Source: <https://home.innsofcourt.org/Downloads/P15944.pdf>

Bryan Clark

Christian Ehret

Kirsten Rydstrom

Duane Stewart, III

Wendy West-Feinstein

Kent Baldauf

Lynn Alstadt

Jeffrey Depp

Michael Monyok

Henry Sneath

Brandon Day Zabo (S)

Matthew Nealon (S)

January 22, 2024

**Group Leader: Cecilia Dickson**

***Appellate Review***

(Program Description: An update of recent Supreme Court and other Appellate Courts in the field of Intellectual Property, including Jack Daniel’s Properties v. VIP Products, Amgen v. Sanof, and *Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc. V. Goldsmith* )

Judge Mark Hornak

Fred Colen

Stanley Ference

Brian Bozzo

Jonathan Parks

Charles Yeomans

Jason Camillo

Maximilian Meese

Donald Shelton

James Capone (S)

Ashley Crane

Sharon Basch (S)

March 13, 2024

**Group Leader: David Oberdick**

***Roundtable with University Counsel***

(Program Discussion. This is a joint program with the Pittsburgh Intellectual Property Law Association and will include a panel discussion of university general counsel in the Pittsburgh area as to their varying IP experiences).

Judge Cathy Bissoon

Richard Graham

Ralph Fischer

Mike Lazzara

Mark Mazza

Matthew Pilsner

Michael Stephenson

Sreekar Gadde

Ryan Estatico (S)

May 20, 2024  
**Group Leader: Anthony Brooks**  
***Annual Game***  
(Program Description: This group will plan and execute our annual IP litigation-themed game during which Masters will again compete for bragging rights against Barristers, Associates and Students)

Alicia Passerin

Timothy Ryan

Rebeca Himena Miller

Craig Cochenour

Ahmad Malik

June 17, 2023

**Group Leader: Anna Shabalov**

***The Ethics of AI***

(Program Description. The Ethics of Using Artificial Intelligence in the Practice of Law)

Anthony Gestrich

David DuMont

Richard James

John McIlvaine

Barry Coyne

Michael Dever

Joshua Nightingale

Greg Bradley

Christopher Owens

**ANNUAL DUES**

The annual dues for this Chapter are structured for 2023 - 2024 as follows: $250 for Masters, $200 for Barristers, $150 for Associates, $125.00 for Clerks and $25.00 for Students. The dues defray the Inn's operating expenses, including the catering cost for the monthly meetings and the national dues paid to the AIC Foundation. Dues statements are mailed in late summer and prompt payment is expected. Special circumstances relating to deferred payment of dues should be addressed to the Chapter's Treasurer.

Those members interested in receiving CLE credit are required to submit their CLE Election Form and CLE payment ($90.00) together with their dues payment.

**BENEFITS FROM THE FOUNDATION**

By becoming members of a local American Inn of Court, individuals automatically become members of the AIC Foundation. The primary objectives of the Foundation are: to charter Inns nationwide; to serve Inns and foster communication between Inns; to assist and encourage the organization of new Inns; and to encourage membership in an American Inn of Court. As a member of the AIC Foundation, Hay Chapter members receive a subscription to *The Bencher* newsletter, published bimonthly. Members also receive a *National Handbook & Membership Directory*, published annually, which contains a full membership listing.

Members are eligible to attend the annual national meeting, known as the National Leadership Conference.

Additionally, members traveling to England may obtain letters of introduction to one of four English Inns of Court.

The AIC’s website can be found at [www.innsofcourt.org.](http://www.innsofcourt.org)

**CONTACT PERSON**

The Administrator serves as the contact person for general information and attendance for the Q. Todd Dickinson Intellectual Property Chapter. Please contact Administrator Deanna Durika at the location listed below:

Q. Todd Dickinson Intellectual Property Address:

Q. Todd Dickinson Intellectual Property

American Inns of Court

c/o Deanna Durika, Administrator

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Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Tel: (412) 412-562-8800

E-mail: deanna.durika@bipc.com

**OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES FOR 2023 - 2024**

President: Duane A. Stewart, III

Counselor: Hon. Cathy Bissoon

President-Elect: Alicia Passerin

Secretary: Jayme Butcher

Treasurer: Richard A. Graham, Jr., Esq.

Program Chair: David G. Oberdick, Esq.