

# THE STANN GIVENS FAMILY LAW INN OF TAMPA

## 2024 / 2025 INN HANDBOOK

Formed in 1995, the Stann Givens Family Law Inn of Tampa is an organization of family law judges, general magistrates, hearing officers, attorneys, and law students. At the monthly meetings, members have the opportunity to engage socially and informally with family law colleagues and to attend an informative, educational family law presentation and earn CLE credits.

The Stann Givens Family Law Inn of Tampa uses the American Inn of Court website for our Chapter Management. All members need to keep their contact information current by logging onto the web site at [www.innsocourt.org](http://www.innsocourt.org) (your username is your email address and you will be prompted to create a password to log in).

### OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS (2024 / 2025)

President – Judge Wendy DePaul	
President-Elect – Judge Kelly Ayers	
Past President - Judge Fred Pollack	
Executive Director - Susan Miles Whitaker	swhitaker@bals.org
Treasurer - Ralph Mangione	rmangione@burr.com
Secretary – Angie Rosello	angelica@sessumsblack.com
Program Co-Chairs - Cory Brandfon & Mark Baseman	Cory@harrishunt derr.com mbaseman@felixbasemanlaw.com
CLE Coordinator – Lawrence Hodz	lawrence@corteshodzlaw.com
Membership Co-Chairs – Ellie Probasco & Lexy Bubby	ellie@psbfamilylaw.com LMB@bubleylaw.com
Mentoring Chair – Michelle Hutt	mhutt@thehuttlawfirm.com
Community Liaison – Shirin Rustomji	srustomji@shirinlaw.com
IMS/Platinum Administrator – Kristin Kirkner	Kristin@kirknerfamilylaw.com
Ex Officio - Stann Givens	stann@tampafamilylaw.com

### MEMBERSHIP AND DUES INFORMATION

- 1) **Pupils** - \$200 (law students),
- 2) **Associates**- \$350 (admitted to the Bar less than 5 years),
- 3) **Barristers** - \$400 (attorneys admitted to the Bar between 5 and 15 years),
- 4) **Masters** - \$450 (attorneys admitted to the Bar more than 15 years),
- 5) **Judges** - \$375 (also referred to as Benchers),
- 6) **General Magistrates, Hearing Officers, and Government Attorneys** - \$300 (regardless of the number of years they have been admitted to the Bar. Includes attorneys with Bay Area Legal Services.)
- 7) **Guests**- \$50 per meeting. Please RSVP in advance.
- 8) **Late Fees**- Failure to pay your fees by the due date on your invoice will result in a \$25.00 late fee.

## **INCLUDED IN MEMBERSHIP FEE**

- 1) Seven dinners at the Hillsborough County Bar Association, plus a dinner with the Canakariss Inn and the 2<sup>nd</sup> DCA judges, and a holiday party in December.
- 2) A new member orientation welcome event prior to the first meeting for new members, Masters and Judiciary members.
- 3) Up to 12 hours of CLE credit, six hours of CLE credit for attendance at the regular Inn meetings as well as the possibility of six additional hours of CLE credit for participation in our pre-meeting mentoring programs. Our mentoring program is very popular and many of the presentations are given by members of our judiciary. Please contact Lawrence Hodz for more information regarding CLE credit at [lawrence@corteshodzlaw.com](mailto:lawrence@corteshodzlaw.com).
- 4) Access to our Inn's official website (<https://inns.innsforcourt.org/for-members/inns/the-stann-givens-family-law-american-inn-of-court-of-tampa.aspx>), our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Stann-Givens-Family-Law-Inn-of-Tampa-100319701686004/>).
- 5) Access to the American Inns of Court website and resources including your own personal profile, the ability to network, refer and receive referrals from Inn members on a national basis, and information and events sponsored by the American Inns of Court.
- 6) Subscription to the American Inns of Court's online publication, "The Benchner."
- 7) Name tag. (If new member, lost or need a replacement tag, please contact Lawrence Hodz at [lawrence@corteshodzlaw.com](mailto:lawrence@corteshodzlaw.com)). \$15 for replacement of lost name tag.

## **Payment of Membership Dues:**

**Check payable to: The Stann Givens Family Law Inn of Tampa**

**Payment to: Attention: Ralph P. Mangione, Esquire, Burr & Forman, LLP, One Tampa City Center, 201 North Franklin Street, Suite 3200, Tampa, Florida 33602 (813) 221-2626 / Questions to: [Rmangione@burr.com](mailto:Rmangione@burr.com)**

## **MEETING LOCATION AND INFORMATION**

- 1) Meetings typically are held on the first Wednesday of the month beginning on September 6, 2023 at the **Hillsborough County Bar Association, 1610 North Tampa Street, Tampa, FL 33602**. Cocktail hour and Mentoring program is from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Regular program begins at 6:00 p.m.
- 2) **Meeting Schedule 2024 / 2025** (changes will be posted on our website)  
August 14, 2024 (New Member Orientation)  
Weds., Sept. 4, 2024  
Weds., Oct. 9, 2024 (2<sup>nd</sup> Weds.)  
Weds., Nov. 6, 2024  
December Holiday Party (TBD)  
Weds., Jan. 8, 2025 (2<sup>nd</sup> Weds.)  
Weds., Feb. 5, 2025  
Tues., March 25, 2025 (Joint Meeting with 2<sup>nd</sup> DCA and Canakariss Inn at the Feathersound Country Club)  
Weds., Apr. 2, 2025  
Weds., May 7, 2025

- 3) **RSVP'S ARE REQUIRED.** Please make sure to RSVP via the link provided via email prior to each monthly meeting. Members and their guests **MUST RSVP** by 12:00 p.m. on the **FRIDAY** before the meeting in order to guarantee your meal. *Even if you do not plan on attending and are sending a substitute in your place, please make sure to RSVP for your substitute.* Due to venue restrictions, members or substitutes who attend but who have not RSVP'd may **NOT** be able to receive a dinner but are welcome to stay for the program.
- 4) The mentoring class is mandatory for all **PUPILS** and **ASSOCIATES**. However, all members are encouraged to attend and those who attend will receive an additional hour of CLE credit.
- 5) Requests for vegetarian/vegan meals should be made online when you RSVP for the meeting, as well as any other dietary restrictions. These meals must be pre-ordered.

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

- 1) Each member **must** attend each monthly meeting and participate with their pupilage group by attending meetings and actively participating in the program.
- 2) If you cannot attend, you must send someone in your absence to participate in your place. A substitution list will be provided for your convenience. Any lawyer can act as a substitute.
- 3) Members, and their substitutes, **MUST RSVP** by the deadline stated in the email notice of the meeting. Due to venue restrictions, members, guests or substitutes who attend but who have not RSVP'd will **NOT** receive a dinner but are welcome to stay for the program.
- 4) No more than **TWO** unexcused absences without substitution are allowed. Absolutely no more than four absences with or without substitution.
- 5) Penalty for not complying: If a person does not meet the attendance requirement then the next year that person's dues are increased by \$100.00.
- 6) **Four absences with or without substitution will result in your immediate dismissal inasmuch as we will presume that you are unable to commit to participating in the Inn of Court.**
- 7) You must attend your group's program presentation and participate in the planning of the program to be considered for membership the following year.
- 8) There is no extra cost to have a substitute appear in your absence.
- 9) If dismissed or asked to relinquish your seat, no refund will be given.

### **GUESTS**

Guests are permitted up to a limit of three per meeting with prior approval. By 12:00 p.m. the **WEDNESDAY** before the meeting, please email Ellie Probasco or Lexy Bubby at [ellie@psbfamilylaw.com](mailto:ellie@psbfamilylaw.com), and [LMB@bubleylaw.com](mailto:LMB@bubleylaw.com), respectively. In the email provide what pupilage group the person will be invited to sit in and the guest's name so that we may plan accordingly. **The inviting member is responsible for paying \$50 for their guest. Guests must be lawyers, bailiffs, members of the judiciary, paralegals, or law students. Guests may not distribute materials or "market" at Inn meetings.**

## **PROGRAMS and PUPILAGE GROUPS**

There will be eight pupilage groups. Seven pupilage groups each will present a one-hour family law program in the months of October, November, January, February, March, April and May. Each of the seven pupilage groups is also required to present a brief (5-minute) case law update immediately before their presentation. The case law update is to cover relevant family law cases that were published in the Florida Law Weekly the previous month. This requirement is in addition to the program presented. The eighth pupilage group will be in charge of organizing Community Outreach/Charitable activities for the entire Inn.

Each pupilage group will have an assigned team leader. We will try to place a member of the judiciary with each group, but judiciary members are limited in number. We appreciate your understanding. Although a judiciary member may be assigned to your group, please understand that their participation with the group will be limited and you **must** not rely on the judiciary member to direct the group.

### **Team Leader Responsibilities**

- 1) Have your group meet at least monthly outside of our regular Inn meetings.
- 2) Make sure that the Pupils and Associates in your group are comfortable. Establish an informal mentor system so that group members can develop the skills necessary to practice family law with ethics and professionalism.
- 3) Make sure all group members participate in the planning and presentation of the group's program.
- 4) Present your program when it is scheduled. Keep the Program Co-Chairs informed as to your progress.
- 5) Provide program materials to the Program Co-Chairs no later than 5 p.m. the Friday before your presentation so that materials may be sent to members in advance of the presentation.
- 6) Provide an outline of your program and materials to the CLE Reporter 1 month before your presentation.
- 7) Organize collection of funds from your group to reimburse member expenses for program material for your group's presentation.
- 8) Judiciary members serve in an advisory role and may be unable to participate actively in the pupilage group's presentation; however, each Judiciary member's level of participation is up to their own discretion.

### **BEST PUPILAGE GROUP PRIZE**

The pupilage group that best accomplishes their goals (best program; best organization and recruitment for a community/charitable event, etc.) will be recognized and awarded \$500 to be donated to a selected charity designated by the winning pupilage group.

## **EXPENSES**

Expenses incurred for presentations are the responsibility of the pupillage group presenting the presentation and will not be reimbursed. For example, props, materials, copying expenses, etc. Each group will be able to vote as a group as to what expenses they wish to incur or not incur.

## **SPONSORSHIP POLICY**

For \$500 sponsorship the Sponsor will have the following opportunities:

- 1) Meet and mingle
- 2) Table to set up materials (not distribute on tables)
- 3) Sign-up sheet to request member emails
- 4) 5 minutes at podium
- 5) Stay for dinner (2 sponsor dinners included; additional have to pay)
- 6) Facebook page mention
- 7) Maximum 1 sponsor per event

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH / CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES GUIDELINES**

- 1) 3 Official Charitable Activities per year
  - a. October-November meetings/Thanksgiving: Academy Prep
  - b. December Holiday Party / Holidays: TBD
  - c. April: Bay Area Legal Services: Inn matches cash donations from members up to a total of \$1,000.00. Recommend up to \$350/attorney per Florida Bar Guidelines for Annual Pro Bono donations
- 2) Target Organization must have a 501(c)(3) exemption from IRS
- 3) Charitable activities shall be publicized at the beginning of the year in a calendar of meetings provided to all new and renewing members and again one month prior in the "Notice of Meeting" during the month of the charitable activity
- 4) ALL DONATIONS ARE VOLUNTARY
- 5) No other charitable activities or solicitations of the Stann Givens Family Law Inn of Court shall be allowed without the prior approval of the Inn Executive Committee

## **DIVERSITY POLICY**

The American Inns of Court Embraces and Encourages Diversity and Inclusiveness. More than just an organization, the American Inns of Court is the embodiment of an ideal. We are dedicated to upholding the standards of the legal profession, to practicing law with dignity and respect, and to encouraging respect for our system of justice. Achieving a higher level of excellence and developing a deeper sense of professionalism occur only with an abiding commitment to the goals of diversity and inclusiveness.

The American Inns of Court firmly believes that personal diversity in all its aspects is essential to our ability to accomplish our mission. Diversity embodies all those differences that make us unique individuals and includes people of different race, ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, gender, religion, age, personal style, appearance, physical ability as well as people of diverse opinions, perspectives, lifestyle, ideas and thinking. We value the differences in views and perspectives and the varied experiences that are part of a diverse membership. Diversity enriches and broadens our membership, which in turn leads to more creative and meaningful programs.

For the same reasons, the American Inns of Court values professional diversity. Legal professionals and law school faculty, administrators, and students, from all disciplines, from all practice types, from both the public and private sectors, from all economic strata, and from the least experienced to the most seasoned are vital to maximizing the Inn experience. Only by drawing and retaining a diverse membership will we guarantee the success of our unique organization as well as our respective professional pursuits. Therefore, the American Inns of Court are committed to creating and maintaining a culture that promotes and supports diversity not only throughout our organization, but in our profession as well.

## **LOG-IN TO OUR WEBSITE**

The Stann Givens Family Law Inn of Tampa uses the American Inn of Court website for our Chapter Management. All members need to keep their contact information current by logging onto the web site at [www.innsocourt.org](http://www.innsocourt.org) (your username is your email address and you will be prompted to create a password to log in).

On the website you will find the latest news, resources and features. Through this link you also have the ability to update/edit your profile including pictures, email addresses, etc. It is a very useful tool.

With respect to log in information, the national office has e-mail addresses on file for most of our active members. The e-mail address they have on file for you serves as your username or login. Anyone who has an e-mail address on file with them has an account.

### **To log in:**

- 1) Go to the American Inns of Court home page at [www.innsocourt.org](http://www.innsocourt.org)
- 2) Click on Sign In.
- 3) Enter your e-mail address.
- 4) Enter your case-sensitive password.
- 5) Click on the Submit button.

### **To find out your password:**

- 1) Go to the American Inns of Court home page at [www.innsocourt.org](http://www.innsocourt.org)
- 2) Click on Sign In.
- 3) Click on the Reset Password button if you do not know your password.
- 4) Enter your e-mail address.
- 5) Click on the Submit button.