



# AMERICAN INNS of COURT

I'ANSON-HOFFMAN INN OF COURT NEWSLETTER

2024

VOL. 35, NO. 2

## NEXT MEETING

**END OF YEAR BANQUET**  
**May 22, 2024**

**College of William and Mary**  
**Wren Hall**  
**5:30 p.m.**

We're down to our final meeting of the 2023-2024 I'Anson-Hoffman Inn of Court, and it's the one you really don't want to miss. We'll be treated to remarks from The Honorable Dominique A. Callins of the Virginia Court of Appeals. Also, who wouldn't want to eat a meal in the oldest college building in the United States? Let's make sure to show up!

## FEBRUARY MEETING RECAP

In February, members gathered at the Norfolk Yacht and Country Club for a truly memorable meeting. Our scheduled toastmaster was unavailable, but Fernando Groene, who always has something to say, swooped in like the hero we needed to deliver a fantastic toast. Fernando chose to read "If" by Rudyard Kipling, with some light edits to provide a gender-neutral ending. The poem captures the difficulty of maturing in a broken world and how maturity requires embracing adversity, loss, embittered enemies, and balance. One line in particular seems to resonate with the Inn of Courts movement: "If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue, or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch..." Thanks, Fernando, for answering the call!



Pupilage Group 5 brought a guest speaker, Dr. Aurelia Williams, who dazzled us with an interactive presentation. Dr. Williams had Inn-members complete a brief personality questionnaire on their phones. Each person was then assigned a personality "color" based on their responses. Members were grouped into one of the following types: **Blue** – creative, sympathetic and emotionally driven; **Green** – logical, efficient, analytical; **Gold** – loyal, respects rules and authority, organized (unsurprisingly, most judges were grouped here); and the best color by far – **Orange** – spontaneous, adventurous, impulsive and charismatic. The exercise led to introspection, laughter, and an appreciation for other personality types and how other people perceive our personality type. The exercise culminated with each group describing how they would make a PB&J sandwich and explaining their methodology to the room. Each group presentation revealed how the same task is handled differently by different personality types.



It comes as no surprise that the Newsletter is run by two (2) of the four (4) people in the Inn that identify as orange, because orange is the most fun. If you read this far then maybe you appreciate us oranges a little more than you did before.



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## APRIL MEETING RECAP

On Wednesday, April 17, 2024 the I'Anson Hoffman and James Kent inns held their joint meeting at the beautiful Norfolk Yacht and Country Club. Many I'Anson-Hoffman members regularly work with members of our sister Inn, so it is always nice to get together and socialize outside of the courtroom setting. We had a wonderful time congregating in the true spirit of the American Inns of Court.



We had the pleasure of welcoming the Honorable Jamar K. Walker, Federal District Court judge for the Eastern District of Virginia as our guest speaker. Judge Walker is a native of the Eastern Shore and the newest judge in the Norfolk division of the EDVA. Judge Walker had insightful comments regarding bench-bar relations with a witty twist given his perspective as a young judge, and everyone enjoyed his remarks. He gave us a list of “8 rules for appeasing my teenage judge” – clearly willing to joke about his relative youth in taking the bench. Some of his great “rules” included giving grace whenever possible, following simple instructions from the court, and treating court staff as well as you would the judge.

We'd like to extend our appreciation to Judge Walker for his time and the excellent remarks!



We look forward to seeing you at the Wren Building!

**Until Next Time,  
Andrew Gordon and Joseph Sherman  
Newsletter Committee 2023-2024**