

# HORACE RUMPOLE INN OF COURT BY-LAWS

## ARTICLE I - OBJECTIVES

The Objectives of the Horace Rumpole Inn of Court (the Inn) are:

1. To be a membership of judges, lawyers, legal educators, and others in order 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 obstructs 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. The 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. Executive Committee and Officers. The executive committee shall consist of the following officers:
  - A. President
  - B. Counselor
  - C. President-Elect
  - D. Secretary
  - E. Treasurer
  - F. Membership Coordinator
  - G. Programming Coordinator
  - H. Immediate Past President
  - I. No more than three Members-at-Large.
3. Elections.
  - A. The President Elect and Counselor shall be nominated from among the Members and shall be approved by vote of a

majority of the Benchers present at a meeting called for that purpose. The President Elect shall be a Bencher, or shall have sufficient years of service to qualify as a Bencher at the conclusion of their term as President Elect. The Counselor shall be a Bencher and a judge.

- B. The Immediate Past President shall serve without election by virtue of completing a term of President. For the purpose of this section “Term” means serving greater than six months as President.
  - C. All other officers shall be nominated by the President and shall be approved by vote of a majority of the Members present at a meeting called for that purpose.
- 4. The term of each office shall be one year, with regular terms commencing on July 1 of each calendar year.
  - 5. Officers may succeed themselves.
  - 6. Duties of the President. In addition to other duties which may be imposed by the members and by the Trustees of the American Inns of Court Foundation, the President shall have the following duties.
    - A. Ensure that an annual curriculum and agenda for American Inn meetings and activities are developed and furnished to members:
    - B. Notify members of their appointment to serve on American Inn of Court committees.
    - C. Call and conduct meetings of officers and committees as required to plan and conduct the activities of the American Inn.

- D. Conduct all American Inn activities in accordance with the Articles, Bylaws and Policies of the American Inns of Court Foundation and this Charter.
- E. Supervise and monitor pupillage group activities in order to encourage the proper functioning of this important aspect of American Inn organization.
- F. Serve as liaison with other American Inns of Court as they may be established.
- G. Extend invitations for membership in the American Inn of Court as authorized by the Executive Committee.

7. Duties of the Counselor. The Counselor shall:

- A. Maintain copies of the the inn's Charter and current Bylaws, and distribute them to members as directed by the President.
- B. As needed, serve as the organization's parliamentarian and issue rulings on procedures in accordance with the Charter and Bylaws.
- C. Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President.

8. Duties of the President Elect. The President Elect shall:

- A. Serve in the absence of the President
- B. Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President.

9. Duties of Secretary. The Secretary shall:

- A. 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.
- B. Provide notice to all members of future events.
- C. Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President.

10. Duties of the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall:

- A. 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.
- B. Prepare and maintain accurate financial records for the American Inn in accordance with directives and policies of the American Inns of Court Foundation.
- C. Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President.

11. Duties of the Membership Coordinator

- A. Maintain a roster of all members.
- B. Coordinate the renewal of members from year to year and solicitation of new members for the upcoming year.
- C. Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President.

12. Duties of the Program Coordinator:

- A. Coordinate with the leaders of the pupilages the topics of the monthly meetings
  - B. Send monthly topics to the American Inn of Courts Foundation.
  - C. Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President.
13. Duties of Members-at-Large. Any Members-at-Large, if elected, shall perform duties as may be assigned by the President.
14. Duties and Authority of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall:
- A. Establish such committees as may be necessary to carry out or assist the officers in carrying out the responsibilities imposed by the Charter, Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws or Policies or Directives of the American Inns of Court Foundation
  - B. Confer and terminate memberships in the American Inn.
  - C. Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the president.
15. 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.

- A. 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.
  - B. Invitations may be extended on the basis of recommendations made to the Executive Committee by any member of the American Inn.
  - C. 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 six categories:
- A. Active Membership Categories
    - i. Masters of the Bench. Membership as Masters of the Bench or "Benchers" may be held by members who are active in the practice of law and have been a member of a State Bar for 12 years and over.
    - ii. Barristers. Membership as Barristers may be held by members who are active in the practice of law and have been members of a State Bar for between 6 and 11 years.
    - iii. Associates. Membership as Associates shall be held by members who are graduates of an accredited law school for less than two years and are not actively seeking admission to a State Bar, or who are active in the practice of law and have been members of a State Bar for up to 5 years.
    - iv. Pupils. Membership as Pupils shall be held by students who are currently enrolled in an accredited law school, or

law school graduates who are seeking admission to a State Bar within two years of their graduation date.

B. Honorary Membership Categories.

- i. Emeritus Members. Membership as Emeritus Masters of the Bench or "Emeritus Members" may be conferred upon a member who is a Master of the Bench by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Active Members of the Inn in attendance at a meeting called for that purpose. Such membership status may be granted on the basis of long and distinguished service to the Inn. Emeritus Members shall be under no obligation to pay dues, attend meetings or participate in other programs of the Inn but will enjoy all privileges of Active membership except the right to vote. Emeritus Members who choose to pay dues as a Master of the Bench shall also receive voting privileges and be treated as Masters of the Bench for all other purposes during that Inn year. Emeritus Members will retain such membership status for life if they so desire.
  - ii. 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 Members in attendance at a meeting called for that purpose. Consideration for selection is on the basis of distinguished service to the bench or bar, furtherance of the Inn's objectives or other noteworthy achievements. Honorary members shall be under no obligation to pay dues, attend meetings or participate in other programs of the Inn but will have all privileges of membership except the right to vote.
3. The number of active members of the Inn in all categories shall be determined by the Executive Committee.



4. Any active member may choose to go on inactive status, however, should that member be inactive for more than two consecutive years, the member must reapply for membership.

## ARTICLE IV - FINANCES

1. Financial matters within this 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 Inn shall remit annually to the American Inns of Court Foundation a reasonable amount to be levied by the Board of Trustees of the 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.
4. 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.
5. The Fiscal Year of the Inn 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 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. Meetings should in addition include a social component.

## ARTICLE VI - PUPILAGE GROUPS

1. 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 during meetings and at other times throughout the year. At least one Bencher who is a practicing attorney, one Barrister, and one Pupil, appropriate to the numbers in the American Inn, shall comprise the Pupilage Group.
2. Each Pupilage Group shall appoint a point person who shall exercise general supervision over the group and shall encourage its meaningful participation at meetings, and at scheduled pupilage events, and oversee presentation of assigned meeting topics.

3. Benchers should strive to make contact with Pupils, Associates, and Barristers between the scheduled American Inn meetings. On such occasions Pupils, Associates, and Barristers should be advised about pertinent points of trial or appellate advocacy as is appropriate.

## ARTICLE VII - OTHER AMERICAN INNS OF COURT

The Horace Rumble 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 - APPROVAL AND AMENDMENTS TO CHARTER

1. These By-Laws shall be approved two thirds of the members of the American Inn present at a meeting called for such purpose.
2. These By-Laws may be amended by a vote of two thirds of the members of the American Inn present at a meeting called for such purpose.
3. The approval and any proposed amendment shall be presented to the membership for review at least thirty days prior to the vote.

Originally adopted February 9, 2021.

Amended October 11, 2023, and approved December 5, 2023.