

Gus J. Solomon Inn of Court

Dedicated to improving the skills, professionalism, ethics and collegiality of the Portland legal community.

MEMBER HANDBOOK

2025-2026

"I LOOK UPON THE PRACTICE OF LAW AS AN
OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN GREAT SOCIAL
MOVEMENTS."

~ GUS J. SOLOMON, C. 1951



Gus J. Solomon Inn of Court

Key Information

Website

<http://www.innsofcourt.org/inns/gisolomoninn> (Meeting Info / Current Written Materials; Pupilage Group Rosters / Inn Directory)

Please keep your membership data up to date on the national website!

(Information on how to access your account is available in the appendix)

Meeting Information

Sept. 16, 2025
Pear Gallery
(338 NW 6th Ave.)
5:00-5:30 New Member Orientation
5:30-6:30 Meeting

Sentinel Hotel
2nd Floor Library
614 SW 11th Ave.
5:00 p.m. – Social
5:45 p.m. – CLE

October 28, 2025 (Sentinel)
November 18, 2025 (U.S. District Court)
January 20, 2026 (U.S. District Court)
February 17, 2026 (Sentinel)
March 17, 2026 (Sentinel)
April 21, 2026 (U.S. District Court)
May 19, 2026 (Sentinel)

U.S. District Court
1000 SW Third
5:00 p.m. – Social
5:30 p.m. – CLE

Joint Inn Meeting (TBD)
EOY Dinner: June 16, 2026
Community Service (TBD)

Executive Committee & Officers

Inn Email: GusJSolomonInn@gmail.com

President: **Margie Schroeder** <margie@millerinsurancelaw.com>

Counselor (President-Elect)/Community Service: **Samuel Zeigler** <samuel.b.zeigler@doj.state.or.us>

Immediate Past-President: **Tyler Volm** <tv olm@sussmanshank.com>

Treasurer/Membership: **Kendra Matthews** <kendra.m.matthews@oid.state.or.us>

Secretary/Program: **David Sorek** <sorek@pdx.edu>

Membership: **Sonia Montalbano** <sonia@mckean smithlaw.com>

CLE Accreditation: **Lake Perriguet** <lake@law-works.com>

Social/Facilities: **Lea Schneider** <lschneider@swlaw.com>

Judicial Representative: **Hon. Stacie Beckerman** <stacie_beckerman@ord.uscourts.gov>

Mentoring: **Mark Ginsberg** <mark@berkshireginsberglaw.com>

Platinum Distinction

In 2024-25, our Inn once again earned the “Platinum” distinction, which is the highest that can be achieved by an Inn. Kudos to us! Criteria include community outreach, mentoring, social events, membership handbooks, and program development.

Pupilage Groups

A pupilage group is a team of 7-15 members with a mix of Students, Associates, Barristers, Masters, and Judges. During the Inn season, each group should:

- Meet regularly. (**Ideally, Pupilage Groups should be meeting at least once a month, even after they present their CLE.**)
- Plan and present 1-hour CLE
- Complete a Community Service Project of some sort together.

Individual Member Responsibilities

- Register/Attend CLEs (List is sent to Bar for CLE credit.)
- Assist in the preparation of a CLE presentation.
- **Actively participate in pupilage group and Inn meetings and communicate with your group when you cannot!!**
- Keep **contact information up to date** at American Inns of Court website.
<https://home.innsofcourt.org/>

Pupilage Group: Leaders

The **Group Coordinator** will schedule group meetings and communicate the dates, times and locations (or method) of meeting.

The **Service Coordinator** will help the group coordinate a community service project.

The **Written Materials Coordinator**:

- **1 week before CLE:** Submit **written CLE materials** to **Lake Perriguet** <lake@law-works.com>. Be sure to mention to Lake if the group believes the CLE qualifies for a special category CLE credit (e.g., Ethics or Access to Justice).
- **1 week before CLE:** Submit a brief description of **CLE program and the written materials** to the Inn email: GusJSolomonInn@gmail.com.
- **No later than 1 week after CLE:** Submit AIC Program Submission form to **Lake**. The form is included in the Appendix and is also available on the national website:
<https://inns.innsofcourt.org/for-members/inns/the-gus-j-solomon-american-inn-of-court/inns-program-submission-form/>.

*Pupilage group members should gather to share stories,
build mentoring and networking relationships,
learn about different practice areas,
discuss ways to advance professionalism and ethical practices, and
develop presentation skills.*

Pupilage Group Rosters

Pupilage group rosters will be maintained on the national AIC website.

<http://www.innsofcourt.org/inns/gjsolomoninn>

CLE Presentations

The primary mission of the Inn is to “foster excellence in professionalism, ethics, civility, and legal skills.” One practical way we advance our mission is to ensure that seven of our meetings qualify for 1-hour of CLE credit each. Groups are welcome to use their “topic” as a springboard to any legal subject that interests them, ***so long as they check-in on the other group presentations to minimize overlap in content.*** There is no obligation to stage a full-blown production whether your presentation is in person or over Zoom production, etc. (Though groups that want to put on a real show are welcome to give it their best shot!) The point is that each group should determine the tone and content of their own presentation based upon what works best for them.

Guest speakers are welcome, but please remain cognizant of the dual purpose of our small groups: to forge connections among members and to provide members public speaking opportunities.

Each group is required to submit a Program Submission Form (included in the Appendix) documenting the details of your presentation. These are submitted to the American Inns of Court. If you would like your CLE submitted for a national award, consider polishing your materials and recording it. This year’s topic:

The Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon

Pupilage groups will give presentations on important legal topics that impact both our professional and personal lives. The “inspiration” for these CLEs will be the work of Kevin Bacon.

The specific topics for the presentations will be maintained on the National AIC website

<http://www.innsofcourt.org/inns/gjsolomoninn>.

Don’t Forget:

- Please submit your written materials and a brief description of the CLE to Lake Perriguet <lake@law-works.com> and to the Inn email: GusJSolomonInn@gmail.com ONE WEEK before the CLE presentation.
- No later than a week after your presentation, please submit a completed program submission form to Lake Perriguet <lake@law-works.com>. The form is in the Appendix and is also available on the national website: <https://inns.innsofcourt.org/for-members/inns/the-gus-j-solomon-american-inn-of-court/inns-program-submission-form/>.

CLE Key Rules

It is each pupilage groups' responsibility to ensure that their presentation meets the requirements to secure CLE credit. If you have any questions, please consult the OSB rules: <https://www.osbar.org/docs/rulesregs/mclerules.pdf> Here, however are a few key reminders: A program must "include the use of thorough, high-quality written materials[.]" OSB RL 9.1(3).

OSB MCLE Rule 9.2(1) provides:

A group CLE program will be considered for accreditation on a case-by-case basis and must satisfy the accreditation standards for the particular type of program for which accreditation is being requested. The group CLE program must have significant intellectual or practical content with the primary objective of increasing the participant's professional competence as a lawyer or LP. It should contain materials that deal primarily with substantive legal issues, legal skills, practice issues, or legal ethics and professionalism, or access to justice.

If you want to present a program that will qualify for Ethics, Child and Elder Abuse Reporting, Mental Health and Substance Use Education or Access to Justice credit, please pay particular attention to OSB RL Rule 9.8, which is available at the link listed above.

Community Service

Margie Schroeder <margie@millerinsurancelaw.com>, will be working to schedule service projects for the entire Inn. She will communicate with each group's Service Coordinator but reach out to her if you have thoughts or want to help.

We appreciate that it is ambitious, but each group should try to "get out there," in some way too. If you do, please let the rest of the Inn know at a meeting and send a few photos to the Inn (GusJSolomonInn@gmail.com) that we can share with the Inn and, possibly, the national organization.

Membership

Roster

A full copy of our membership roster is available on the AIC version of the Solomon Website: <https://inns.innsofcourt.org/inns/members.aspx?innid=30049>. You *must* be signed in to be directed to the page. To get the entire list, make sure the “Chapter Status” lists “Active” as its criteria (and that no other box has an entry) and click search.

Member names for each pupillage group are also available on the “Teams” drop down on the National Website. (Each month’s program is listed as a hyperlink; if you click on the link, it will take you to a roster. The tab is updated for the year after the September meeting.)

Membership Categories

Judges

Masters of the Bench: At least 15 years practice

Barristers: 5+ years

Associates: 0 to 5 years

Pupils: Law students

Emeritus & Honorary Members: Retired practitioners or otherwise designated by EC

The Inn is a great place to make new professional connections and friends. In addition to connecting to the friends within the Inn, we encourage you to reach out to new and different people, particularly across membership categories.

Applications for Membership

Applications for membership (whether new or for renewal) are, ideally, submitted by early June, along with payment of dues in full. We do not want finances to be an impediment to membership, but we can only accommodate a limited number of people paying on a delayed schedule, so people are encouraged to reach out to the Treasurer if making a payment in full will be an issue. (See also Marc D. Blackman Grant section below.)

Applications (whether new or renewal) are considered on a rolling basis. Traditionally, we have been able to accommodate qualified applicants who submit applications late in the process. However, you should anticipate that the Executive Committee is working to finalize the roster as early as possible and that if you delay submitting your renewal application, you might find yourself on the outside looking in.

We also ask that before you submit a renewal application you take a moment to reflect on whether you were a “good” Inn member during the past year. Did you show up? Did you stay in touch with your pupillage group? (Could they pick you out of a line-up?) If you were not a good Inn-mate, was it a fluke or are the disruptions likely to continue into the next year? We all know that our profession, and our lives, can be unpredictable. Our Inn functions best, however, when people who know—

heading into the year—that their schedule is not going to permit meaningful participation self-identify and take off a year.

Increasing the Diversity of our Inn

As noted on the page that follows, the Inn is committed to the goals of inclusiveness. In 2024, we started a “pilot” program in which we asked members of the Inn to consider donating the cost of an Associate Membership (currently \$258) so that we could offer a free membership to an attorney who is a member of an affinity bar association (<http://www.osbar.org/members/localbars.asp>). We were able to secure donations for three memberships. We hope to continue to develop this program in the coming years.

If you are interested in the development of this program or in making a donation to support it, please reach out to a member of the executive committee. (See page 1 for a list.) The American Inn of Court is a 501(c)(3) organization and, thus, the non-meal portions of donations are tax deductible. (Of course, members should always consult their tax advisor before taking any deduction.)

Marc D. Blackman Membership Discount

Our Inn has a membership discount to honor founding member and former Inn President Marc D. Blackman (1947-2014). Following a clerkship with Chief Justice Kenneth O’Connell of the Oregon Supreme Court, Marc became an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Oregon. In 1977, Marc founded what would become known as Ransom Blackman LLP. He specialized in criminal defense for the next 36 years. Marc devoted his professional life to seeking justice and assuring access to justice for everyone. He was known for his public service work, for his dedication to his clients, and for his genuine modesty. Marc cared deeply about advancing the goals of the Gus J. Solomon Inn of Court.

The so-called Blackman Discount is something we have tried to work into our budget to offer a discount to members of the Bar who have demonstrated commitment to public service in the practice of law (e.g. public defender, legal services, civil rights law) and whose means are such that paying regular dues would be difficult. Depending on the qualified applicants, the discount may vary in amount as the Executive Committee may elect to offer multiple qualified applicants a reduced membership, rather than one applicant a free membership. **Even if you do not qualify for the discount, please consider whether you know someone you’d like to encourage to apply.** Applications for future grants will generally be due no later than August of each year. We do **NOT** publicize who receives this discount.

AIC 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, lifestyles, 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.

Hon. Gus J. Solomon

United States District Court Judge for the District of Oregon

Appt. 1950 ~ Chief Judge 1958-71 ~ Sen. Judge 1971-87

In 1929, anti-Semitism & the Depression drove Solomon into a struggling legal practice for small businesses & fellow Jewish people. He labored for equal opportunities for Jewish people, African-Americans, & others in and out of his profession. He helped establish Legal Aid (1936). He handled cases for the ACLU, serving as local counsel in *DeJonge v. Oregon*, 299 U.S. 353 (1937) ("[P]eaceable assembly for lawful discussion cannot be made a crime."). He helped end Portland law firms' discrimination in hiring & promoting Jewish people & women & local social clubs' bans on Jewish people.

As Oregon's longest serving federal judge, his legacy includes several key civil rights decisions. See, e.g., *Falkenstein v. Or. Dept. of Rev.*, 350 F.Supp. 887 (D. Or. 1972) (Portland Elks Lodge not state tax exempt due to racially exclusive membership policies); *Henderson v. [BOLI]*, 405 F.Supp 1271 (D. Or. 1975) (use of different life expectancy tables for women to determine benefits unlawful discrimination); *Burton v. Cascade School Dist. Union High School No. 5*, 353 F.Supp. 254 (D. Or. 1973) (immorality statute used to fire gay teacher unconstitutionally vague).

Founded March 10, 1988, the Gus J. Solomon Inn of Court carries on the traditions of this diligent, able, energetic and colorful lawyer & judge. In pursuing Judge Solomon's ideals, we advance egalitarian principles and actively attempt to foster a membership diverse in race, ethnicity, sexual preference, & income.

For More See: *Gus J. Solomon: Liberal Politics, Jews, & the Federal Courts* (2006), by Harry Stein. Info. Reprinted with Permission of H.Stein.

Appendix:

- [AIC Professional Creed](#)
- [AIC Program Submission Form](#)
- [How to Access your AICF Profile](#)