



AMERICAN INNS of COURT

DELAWARE BANKRUPTCY AMERICAN INN OF COURT

**2025-2026 Program Year
Membership Handbook and Directory**

Contains Confidential Information – Do Not Distribute

For more information, visit our web site:
www.innsofcourt.org/inns/debankruptcyinn

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The Delaware Bankruptcy American Inn of Court

*Hon. Laurie Selber Silverstein, co-president
Marisa A. Terranova Fissel, Executive Director
Lawrence J. Kotler, Program Chair
Brenna Dolphin, Social Chair
Ronald Gellert, Board Member*

*Hon. Karen B. Owens, co-president
R. Stephen McNeill, Treasurer
George A. Williams III, Secretary
Michael DiPietro, Membership Chair*

December 2, 2025

Dear Inn Members:

Congratulations! You are part of an award-winning American Inn of Court, which is dedicated to the mission of fostering excellence in professionalism, ethics, civility and legal skills within the bankruptcy community of Delaware.

If you are a returning member, you are well aware of the benefits and privileges of Inn membership. If you are new to the Inn, you will not find a finer group of professionals with whom to associate. Great networking, relaxing fellowship and CLE credit are just a few of the rewards of Inn membership.

Please take few minutes to review our Inn Handbook, particularly the Inn's policies and meeting dates. Additionally, this information, as well as current announcements, can be found on our web site at www.innsofcourt.org/inns/debankruptcyinn. We encourage you to put this site under "favorites" on your computer and visit it often.

As always, the Inn's continued success will depend on your involvement and commitment to each other and to the Inn. Knowing you leads us to believe this will be the best year yet!

Sincerely,

*Judge Laurie Selber Silverstein
Judge Karen B. Owens*

PROGRAM CALENDAR

| DATE | PROGRAM | PUPILAGE TEAM LEADERS |
|-------------------|---|--|
| October 21, 2025 | Orientation Meeting | --- |
| November 6, 2025 | Joint Meeting with the American College of Bankruptcy | --- |
| December 9, 2025 | Fireside Chat with Judge Walrath and Judge Gross (Ret.) | --- |
| January 20, 2026 | Pupilage Team Program | <u>Team Leaders:</u> Bruce Grohsgal & Erin Brignola |
| February 17, 2026 | Pupilage Team Program | <u>Judicial Mentor:</u> Judge Owens <u>Team Leaders:</u> Henry Jaffe & Liz Rogers |
| March 11, 2026 | Joint Delaware Inns | --- |
| April 14, 2026 | Pupilage Team Program | <u>Judicial Mentor:</u> Judge Silverstein <u>Team Leaders:</u> Ron Gellert & Jake Risener |
| May 12, 2026 | <u>Annual Banquet</u> Location - TBD | --- |

PROGRAM TOPICS

Pupilage team mentors, leaders, and team members will be given the opportunity at the Orientation Meeting to discuss their presentation topics as set forth below:

December: Fireside Chat with Judge Walrath and Judge Gross (Ret.) - Current State of Civility in Delaware Courts

January Pupilage Team: Top 10 Bankruptcy Decisions for 2025 and Legal Quizzo

February Pupilage Team: Litigation topics in bankruptcy (including, but not limited to, choice of law issues, arbitration issues in bankruptcy, and jury trials)

April Pupilage Team: SNL – style program

INN POLICIES

Use of Personal Information

Contact information of Inn members is considered confidential. Such information may be used only for Inn business. In particular, use of the Inn's e-mail listserve shall be limited to Inn business only. Unauthorized use or distribution by Inn members of confidential information, including the e-mail listserve, may result in termination of membership.

Corrections and Changes in Personal Information, Firms and Addresses

Inn members may change their Inn profiles, including firms and addresses through the national website at www.innsofcourt.org. In addition to making the changes online, please email your updated information to the Inn Executive Director.

For first time users, please type your professional email address in the member log-in and click "Don't Know Password?" Your log-in password will be sent to your email address. Once logged in, you will see a "My Page" link where your personal profile (including your website password) may be modified.

Attendance Policy

All members are expected to attend and participate actively in the Inn's meetings. Members who are unable to attend a particular meeting must inform the Executive Board of their anticipated absence through the RSVP response link by the applicable deadline. Three absences during the program year, without prior notice, will be deemed to be a resignation by the respective Inn member. This policy shall not apply to honorary members of the Inn.

Should a member who has been deemed to have resigned because of such absences nevertheless desire to remain a member of the Inn, he or she may request that the Executive Board waive the attendance policy, upon a showing of good cause.

Additionally, all members will be assigned (each year or in select years depending on membership category) to a Pupilage Team. Please note that these teams are integral to the program year, and all members are expected to participate actively within the Pupilage Team and its subgroups, if any.

Nominations for Membership in the Inn

Any member of the Inn may submit nominations to the Inn Executive Director. Nomination forms for lawyers, judges, and law students can be found in this handbook or on our website: www.innsofcourt.org/inns/debankruptcyinn. Nominations received throughout the year will be filed and reviewed prior to the commencement of the following term.

Prospective members may attend meetings of the current year with the permission of the Executive Board. For additional information, please contact the Inn Executive Director.

Guests

Unless otherwise provided, out of respect for encouraging full membership to the Inn as well as maintaining costs, members are generally discouraged, but not prohibited, from bringing non-member Delaware bankruptcy practitioners to meetings. However, out-of-town guests and law students are welcome to attend the CLE portion of the meetings. If an Inn member wishes to bring a guest, he or she should contact the Inn Executive Director prior to the deadline to RSVP for the specific program.

Guest attendance for dinners requires that the dinner be covered by the hosting Inn member. Dinner costs are approximately \$50 per plate.

CLE Credit

Typically, members may receive up to 1.5 hours of CLE credit for monthly Inn programs, depending on the length of the program. Additional ethics credits may be awarded by the state bar depending on the content of the program. *Each Pupilage Team should strive to have 30 minutes of its program dedicated to enhanced ethics credits.*

The Inn typically coordinates with the appropriate agencies of Delaware and Pennsylvania for direct CLE accreditation and attendance records. *To receive credit, members must sign and return the attendance certification for each monthly meeting attended.*

The Inn program may also be eligible for CLE credit in other states. Applications for such credit must be made by the individual Inn member.

Pursuant to Rule 8 of the Delaware Rules for Continuing Legal Education, additional credit may be received for preparing for the CLE. Inn members wishing to obtain additional credit hours for preparation of CLE material should use Form 8, available at <http://courts.state.de.us/cle/atty/forms.stm>.

Expense Reimbursement

Members of each Pupilage Team are encouraged to help defray expenses such as copying. This may be accomplished by the contribution of such items by members' firms and/or by e-mailing communications instead of using U.S. mail. To the extent that a Pupilage Team or individual Inn member intends to expend costs for which reimbursement will be sought, **prior** approval by the Inn Executive Director is required.

Execution of Contracts

No officer or member of the Delaware Bankruptcy American Inn of Court, other than the Presidents or Secretary, shall sign any contract on behalf of the Inn.

Distribution of CLE Materials for Monthly Meetings

Program materials will be made available by e-mail and through the Inn's website, and will not be duplicated for distribution at the Inn meetings. Pupilage team leaders should strive to provide all program materials to the Inn Executive Director for electronic distribution **forty-eight hours** prior to the monthly Inn meeting for which the materials are needed.

Dues; Tax Exempt Status

Statements for annual dues are sent to Inn members in November. Full payment is due within four (4) weeks. Failure to pay dues timely may result in termination of membership.

The American Inns of Court Foundation is a tax-exempt organization as defined in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. This provides that (i) the Foundation is not required to pay federal or state tax on its income, except on income derived through activities that are unrelated to its central mission, and (ii) dues made to the American Inns of Court Foundation are considered tax-deductible.

Further, the Foundation has been granted a group exemption ruling that may include any of its "subordinate organizations." The Delaware Bankruptcy American Inn of Court has "opted in" to the Foundation's group exemption, therefore, it is considered a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization and our dues are tax deductible. The method by which an individual may deduct these dues vary depending on the individual circumstances, so be sure to check with a tax advisor as to the proper method.

Donations

Every donation reduces our Inn's expenses and frees funds for other projects. If you wish to make a donation to the Inn, please contact the Inn Executive Director.

Conflict of Interest Policy

The Conflict of Interest Policy of the Delaware Bankruptcy American Inn of Court (the "Organization"): (1) defines conflicts of interest; (2) identifies classes of individuals within the Organization covered by this policy; (3) facilitates the disclosure of information that may help identify conflicts of interest; and (4) specifies procedures to be followed in managing conflicts of interest.

Definition of Conflicts of Interest. A conflict of interest arises when a person in a position of authority over the Organization may benefit financially from a decision he or she could make in that capacity, including indirect benefits such as to family members or businesses with which the person is closely associated. This policy is focused upon material financial interest of, or benefit to, such persons.

Individuals Covered. Persons covered by this policy include the Organization's Executive Board and/or any other individual deemed by the Executive Board to be acting in a position equivalent to that of a member of the Executive Board.

Facilitation of Disclosure. Persons covered by this policy will annually disclose or update to the Executive Board their interests that could give rise to conflicts of interest, such as a list of family members, substantial business or investment holdings, and other transactions or affiliations with businesses and other organizations or those of family members. Should any potential conflict of interest not previously disclosed arise during the course of the Organization's program year, such potentially conflicted person shall provide immediate notice of such potential conflicts to the Executive Board.

Procedures to Manage Conflicts. For each interest disclosed to the Executive Board, the Co-Presidents (or where such interest is one disclosed by one of the Co-Presidents, the acting Secretary/Treasurer) will determine whether to: (a) take no action; (b) assure full disclosure to the Executive Board and other individuals covered by this policy; (c) ask the person to recuse him or herself from participation in related discussions or decisions within the Organization; or (d) ask the person to resign from his or her position in the Organization or, if the person refuses to resign, become subject to possible removal in accordance with the Organization's removal procedures. The Organization's acting Secretary/Treasurer will monitor proposed or ongoing transactions for conflicts of interest and disclose them to the Executive Board in order to deal with potential or actual conflicts, whether discovered before or after the transaction has occurred.

Whistleblower Policy

The Whistleblower Policy of the Organization: (1) encourages the Executive Board and members of the Organization to come forward with credible information on illegal practices or serious violations of adopted policies of the Organization or the American Inns of Court; (2) specifies that the Organization will protect the person from retaliation; and (3) identifies where such information can be reported.

Encouragement of Reporting. The Organization encourages complaints, reports or inquiries about illegal practices or serious violations of the Organization's policies, including illegal or improper conduct by the Organization itself, by its leadership or by others on its behalf. Appropriate subjects to raise under this Whistleblower Policy would include financial improprieties, accounting or audit matters, ethical violations or other similar illegal or improper practices or policies.

Protection from Retaliation. The Organization prohibits retaliation by or on behalf of the Organization against any member of the Executive Board or Organization for making good faith complaints, reports or inquiries under this policy or for participating in a review or investigation under this Whistleblower Policy. This protection extends to those whose allegations are made in good faith but prove to be mistaken. The Organization reserves the right to discipline persons who make bad faith, knowingly false, or vexatious complaints, reports or inquiries or who otherwise abuse this policy.

Where to Report. Complaints, reports or inquiries may be made under this policy on a confidential or anonymous basis. They should describe in detail the specific facts demonstrating the bases for the complaints, reports or inquiries. They should be directed to the Organization's Co-Presidents. However, if both of those persons are implicated in the complaint, report or inquiry, they should be directed to any other member of the Executive Board. The Organization will conduct a prompt, discreet and objective review or investigation. The person making the complaint, report or inquiry must recognize that the Organization may be unable to fully evaluate a vague or general complaint, report or inquiry that is made anonymously.

Document Retention and Destruction Policy

The Document Retention and Destruction Policy of the Organization identifies the record retention responsibilities of the Executive Board (or any person acting on behalf of or at the direction of the Executive Board) for maintaining and documenting the storage and destruction of the Organization's documents and records.

Rules. The Organization's Executive Board (or any person acting on behalf of or at the direction of the Executive Board) is/are required to honor the following rules: (a) paper or electronic documents indicated under the "Terms for Retention" set forth below will be transferred to and maintained jointly by the Secretary/Treasurer and/or the Assistant Secretary/Treasurer and their staff in accordance with the "Terms for Retention" set forth below; (b) all other paper documents may, in the sole discretion of the Secretary/Treasurer and/or the Assistant Secretary/Treasurer, be destroyed after three years; (c) all other electronic documents may, in the sole discretion of the Secretary/Treasurer and/or the Assistant Secretary/Treasurer, be deleted from all individual computers, data bases, networks, and back-up storage after one year; and (d) no paper or electronic documents will be destroyed or deleted if pertinent to any ongoing or anticipated government investigation or proceeding or private litigation.

Terms for Retention.

a. Documents to Retain Permanently:

- *Governance records* - Charter and amendments, Bylaws, other organizational documents, governing board and board committee minutes.
- *Tax records* - Filed state and federal tax returns reports and supporting records, tax exemption determination letter and related correspondence, files related to tax audits.
- *Intellectual property records* - Copyright and trademark registrations and samples of protected works.
- *Financial records* - Audited financial statements and attorney contingent liability letters.

b. Documents to Retain for at Least Three Years:

- *Employee/employment records* - Employee names, addresses, social security numbers, dates of birth, INS Form 1-9, resume application materials, job descriptions, dates of hire and termination/separation, evaluations, compensation information, promotions, transfers, disciplinary matters, time/payroll records, leave/comp time/FMLA, engagement and discharge correspondence and documentation of basis for independent contractor status. The Organization shall retain the foregoing documents for all current employees and independent contractors and for three years after the departure of each individual.
- *Lease, insurance, and contract/license records* - Software license agreements, vendor, hotel, and service agreements, independent contractor agreements, employment agreements, consultant agreements and all other agreements. The Organization shall retain the foregoing documents during the term of each agreement and for at least three years after the termination, expiration and/or non-renewal of each agreement.

c. Documents to Retain for at Least One Year:

- *All other electronic records, documents and files* – e.g., correspondence files, past budgets, bank statements, publications, employee manuals/policies and procedures and survey information.

Diversity Policy

The Inn seeks to foster awareness of and promote the American Inns of Court Diversity Policy. The Diversity Policy emphasizes not only diversity among membership, but a commitment to creating and maintaining a culture of diversity throughout the American Inns of Court organization and in the legal profession.

The American Inns of Court Diversity Policy is as follows:

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, and 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 a 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 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.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES AND DUES

NOTE: Your membership category is determined by the year of your first admission to any state court.

| MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY ¹ | DUES |
|--|----------|
| <i>Masters:</i> Lawyers admitted more than 10 years. | \$400.00 |
| <i>Barristers:</i> Lawyers admitted between 2014 and 2019. | \$350.00 |
| <i>Associates:</i> Lawyers admitted in 2019 or sooner. | \$300.00 |
| <i>Pupils:</i> The Inn is affiliated with the Widener University Delaware Law School. Interested law students are nominated by their professor or a member of the Inn during their matriculation. | \$0.00 |

¹ Members of the judiciary, including judges, law clerks, and employees of the Court, are considered honorary members and are not required to pay dues. Additionally, the Inn has provided a 50% discount on fees for government and non-profit employees.

**DELAWARE BANKRUPTCY AMERICAN INN OF COURT
MEMBERSHIP NOMINATION FORM**

Forms are also available on-line at www.innsofcourt.org/inns/debankruptcyinn

Name of Inn Member Making Nomination: _____

Name of Prospective Member ("Nominee"): _____

Nominee's firm or place of employment: _____

Office Address, City & Zip: _____

Office Phone: _____ Facsimile: _____

E-mail: _____

DE Bar No. _____ PA Bar No. _____

Date of First Admission to Any State Bar: _____

Law School and Year of Graduation: _____

Primary areas of law in which Nominee works: _____

Why is Nominee being proposed as a member? _____

How long have you known the Nominee? _____

Other helpful information regarding the Nominee: _____

Can Nominee attend meetings on Tuesday evenings? _____

Signature of Nominee

Signature of Nominating Member

DELAWARE BANKRUPTCY AMERICAN INN OF COURT
PUPIL NOMINATION FORM

Forms are also available on-line at www.inns of court.org/inns/debankruptcyinn

Name of Nominee: _____

Home Address for School Year: _____

Home Phone: _____ Facsimile: _____

E-mail: _____

Law School: _____

Why would you like to become a member of the Inn? _____

Any other helpful information: _____

Can you attend meetings on Tuesday evenings? _____

Signature of Interested Pupil

RECOMMENDED BY:

Name of Law Professor (Printed)

Signature of Law Professor

Date of Recommendation

BEST PROGRAM AWARD

To promote innovative and creative program development, the Inn will present an award for the most outstanding program offered this year by one Pupilage Team. The winner will be chosen by the Executive Committee and announced at the Annual Banquet.

In recognition of the hard work and dedication that will go into the planning, research and presentation of the winning program, the winning Pupilage Team will not only have bragging rights for the next year but also, will be invited to attend a special event with the Judges. All admission costs are sponsored by the Inn.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Each year the Inn devotes its resources and calls upon its members to help the Delaware and surrounding communities.

In addition to sponsoring the Ambro Fellowship program, the Inn has selected Friendship House, Inc. as this year's charity. Friendship House is a Delaware nonprofit serving individuals and families experiencing homelessness in and around Wilmington. Each year they hold a school apparel drive to provide new or gently-used school uniforms to students in need.

We will be accepting clothing donations the December Inn of Court Meeting (or you can contact George Williams (williams@lrclaw.com) to schedule a clothes drop-off). Alternatively, you can make a donation through one of the registries, or directly to the organization, through one of the links provided in invitation to the December meeting.

MENTORING PROGRAM

According to Webster's Dictionary, a mentor is a trusted counselor, guide, tutor, or coach. A protégé is a person protected or trained, or whose career is furthered by, a person of more experience, prominence, or influence. A legal mentor should be available to answer a protégé's questions about the practice of law, including not only substantive issues, but also civility, ethics, and professional development. The Inn incorporates these principals of mentoring throughout its yearly programs, pupilage teams, and fellowship events.

Focus

The focus of the Inn's mentoring program is the overall development of Associates and Pupils with respect to their legal knowledge, skills, and professional relationships.

Mentors

All Masters and Barristers are considered mentors of the Inn and are expected to actively participate in the mentoring of Associates and Pupils, either during the development and presentation of the monthly programs, through the Inn's monthly fellowship dinners or by participating in the formal mentoring program. Moreover, in recognition that professional and personal development never stops, the Inn also will assign master and judicial mentors to each pupilage team.

Protégés

All Associates and Pupils are considered protégés of the Inn and are expected to actively participate in the preparation and presentment of the monthly programs. Protégés are encouraged to seek guidance from the Masters and Barristers as they work on their pupilage teams and attend the Inn's monthly fellowship dinners.

Confidentiality, Recruitment and Conflict Issues

The Mentoring Program is intended to provide general assistance to protégés, but it is not intended to provide protégés with answers to case specific questions. Specific discussions may require parties to perform conflict checks and review the state Rules of Professional Conduct. Although advice from the mentor about general job hunting strategies and networking suggestions are appropriate, the program is not a recruitment device.

THE HON. THOMAS L. AMBRO FELLOWSHIP
CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF SUMMER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

The Delaware Bankruptcy American Inn of Court is again awarding a \$6,000 stipend for a summer internship with the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware. The candidate must apply for an eight-week summer internship rotating among each of the Judges of the Delaware Bankruptcy Court. The Recipient will be accountable to the Chief Judge (or her chambers designee) for scheduling, hours, etc.

The criteria for the successful candidate should include:

- 1) an interest in practicing law in Delaware;
- 2) a sense of ethics and high moral character;
- 3) intelligent, honest and a willingness to work hard;
- 4) a pleasant personality and ability to work independently or as part of a team; and
- 5) an interest in commercial or bankruptcy law.

To be considered for this scholarship, applicants who meet the selection criteria should send an e-mail no later than March 3, 2026, containing a letter of interest, resume and a writing sample to:

Demi Yeager, Judicial Assistant: Demitra_Yeager@deb.uscourts.gov

The Judges of the Delaware Bankruptcy Court will select the successful candidate in their sole discretion.

Half of the stipend will be paid to the recipient at the start of the fellowship and the remainder will be paid at the end of the fellowship.

NATIONAL AWARDS NOMINATIONS

The American Inns of Court Foundation confers several awards annually that encourages excellence and creativity and endeavors to expand the vision of the American Inns of Court beyond the Foundation and the individual American Inns of Court. These awards are presented each October at the Celebration of Excellence. To recommend someone for any of these awards, please contact any member of the Inn's board.

A. Sherman Christensen Award

Given in the name of the founder of the first American Inn of Court, this award is bestowed upon a member of an American Inn of Court who, at the local, state, or national level has provided distinguished, exceptional and significant leadership to the American Inns of Court movement. The recipient exemplifies the qualities of leadership and commitment displayed by Judge A. Sherman Christensen. The A. Sherman Christensen Award is funded by an endowment established by LEXIS-NEXIS.

Lewis F. Powell, Jr. Award for Professionalism and Ethics

This award is bestowed upon a person who has rendered exemplary service in the areas of legal excellence, professionalism and ethics. Attorneys, judges, government officials, journalists, philanthropists or other community leaders may be recipients of the award. The award gives the American Inns of Court an opportunity to reach out to persons who share the organization's vision of legal service as a distinguished profession. It is not restricted to persons who have been directly involved with the American Inns of Court.

Sandra Day O'Connor Award for Professional Service

The American Inns of Court has established the Sandra Day O'Connor Award for Professional Service honoring an American Inn member in practice ten or fewer years for excellence in public interest or pro bono activities. The purpose of the Award is to honor an Inn member each year for exemplary service and to honor Justice O'Connor for being the paragon of professional service throughout her distinguished career while exemplifying legal excellence, civility, ethics and professionalism.

Warren E. Burger Prize

The American Inns of Court Warren E. Burger Prize is a writing competition designed to promote scholarship in the areas of professionalism, ethics, civility, and excellence.

Bankruptcy Distinguished Service Award

The American Inns of Court Bankruptcy Distinguished Service Award recognizes a judge or attorney who has practiced in the field of bankruptcy law and whose life and practice display sterling character and unquestioned integrity, coupled with ongoing dedication to the highest standards of the legal profession and the rule of law.

Professionalism Awards

The American Inns of Court Professionalism Awards are awarded each year, on a federal circuit basis, to a lawyer or judge whose life and practice display sterling character and unquestioned integrity, coupled with ongoing dedication to the highest standards of the legal profession and the rule of law.

OTHER NATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Publishing in The Bencher

The Bencher is the flagship publication of the American Inns of Court. Circulated to all members, it is published six times a year. The purpose of *The Bencher* is to provide a regular communication link among the national office, Inns, and members of the American Inns of Court. Each issue features articles written to a central theme such as legal ethics, professionalism, civility or mentoring. Also included are reports on the activities of American Inns of Court from around the country, information about Inn programs, and profiles of prominent individuals in the legal profession. Current circulation is more than 28,000 by mail or electronic PDF.

Articles or news items for publication in *The Bencher* must be submitted to the editor. All submissions will be reviewed for suitability. If a submission is chosen for publication, it may be edited for content or to fit in the space available. You may submit content to Rita Zimmerman, Editor, by email to rzimmerman@innsofcourt.org. For Inn records, please “cc” the Inn Executive and the Inn’s Chapter Relations Director, Christina Hartle, chartle@innsofcourt.org, on any submissions to *The Bencher*.

For more information, please visit <http://home.innsofcourt.org/for-members/current-members/the-bencher.aspx>.

The Warren E. Burger Writing Competition

The Warren E. Burger Writing Competition is designed to encourage outstanding scholarship that “promotes the ideals of excellence, civility, ethics and professionalism within the legal profession,” the core mission of the American Inns of Court. The American Inns of Court invites judges, lawyers, professors, students, scholars and other authors to participate in the competition by submitting an original, unpublished essay of 10,000 to 25,000 words on a topic of their choice addressing issues of legal excellence, civility, ethics and professionalism.

The author of the winning submission will receive a cash prize of \$5,000, and the winning essay will be published in the South Carolina Law Review. The Warren E. Burger Prize will be presented to the recipient at the American Inns of Court annual Celebration of Excellence at the Supreme Court of the United States in October.

Additional information, including procedures for submission, are available on the American Inns of Court website at <http://home.innsofcourt.org/about-us/awards/the-warren-e-burger-prize.aspx>.

AIC Alumni Association

The American Inns of Court Alumni Association (AICAA) provides alumni members of local Inns of Court an opportunity to continue to support the Inn movement without the time commitment of active membership. If, in the future, you do not wish to continue your active membership in the Inn, please consider joining the AICAA. Your contribution to the AICAA will help provide crucial support services to local Inns across the country and to help spread the word about the Inns. AICAA applications are available online at: <http://www.innsofcourt.org/alumni>.

2025-2026 Pupilage Teams

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| January 20, 2026 <u>Team Leaders</u> Bruce Grohsgal & Erin Brignola | February 17, 2026 <u>Judicial Mentor</u> Judge Owens <u>Team Leaders</u> Henry Jaffe & Liz Rogers | April 14, 2026 <u>Judicial Mentor</u> Chief Judge Silverstein <u>Team Leaders</u> Ron Gellert & Jake Risener |
| TEAM MEMBERS | | |
| John D. Demmy | Michael Barber | Mark Desgrosseilliers |
| Edward Kosmowski | Joshua Brooks | Shannon Forshay |
| William Jaworski | Kristin Cardoza | Adam Hiller |
| Chase Miller | Andrew Ehrmann | Ericka Johnson |
| Daire Pyle | Gregory Flasser | Larry Kotler |
| | Alexis Gambale | Alison Maser |
| PUPILS | | |
| Joseph D. Pettinato | Jenna Jacobik | Katelin Morales |
| Kellen J. Sweeney | Cameron Krause | Marty Weis |
| Stephen C Krieble II | Jennifer Malow | |
| Gabriel J Washel | James McCauley | |
| | Ashly Riches | |
| | Casey Sawyer | |
| | Margaret Vesper | |