



Fiorenzo V. Lopardo
Chapter 303
Vista, California

American Inns of Court History

The Mission of the American Inns of Court is to foster excellence in professionalism, ethics, civility, and legal skills.

The American Inns of Court was the product of a discussion in the late 1970's among the United States members of the Anglo-American exchange of lawyers. Chief Justice Warren E. Burger and Chief Judge of the Ninth Circuit J. Clifford Wallace were among those members. These discussions eventually lead to a pilot program being entrusted to Senior United States District Court Judge A. Sherman Christensen. Judge Christensen made their idea into a feasible concept.

The first American Inn of Court was founded in 1980 in the Provo/Salt Lake City area of Utah. It included law students from Brigham Young University. Additional Inns were formed in Utah, Mississippi, Hawaii, New York and Washington, D.C. within the next three years.

In 1983, Chief justice Burger created a committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States. Their task was to explore whether the American Inns concept was of value to the administration of justice and, if so, whether there should be a national organization to promote, establish and assist in their mission. The committee endorsed the concept and the formation of a national structure. The American Inns of Court Foundation was formally organized in 1985.

AMERICAN INNS OF COURT PROFESSIONAL CREED

Whereas, the Rule of Law is essential to preserving and protecting the rights and liberties of a free people; and,

Whereas, throughout history, lawyers and judges have preserved, protected and defended the Rule of Law in order to ensure justice for all; and

Whereas, preservation and promulgation of the highest standards of excellence in professionalism, ethics, civility, and legal skills are essential to achieving justice under the Rule of Law;

Now therefore, as a member of an American Inn of Court, I hereby adopt this professional creed with a pledge to honor its principles and practices:

* I will treat the practice of law as a learned profession and will uphold the standards of the profession with dignity, civility and courtesy.

* I will value my integrity above all. My word is my bond.

* I will serve as an officer of the court, encouraging respect for the law in all that I do and avoiding abuse or misuse of the law, its procedures, its participants and its processes.

* I will develop my practice with dignity and will be mindful in my communications with the public that what is constitutionally permissible may not be professionally appropriate.

* I will contribute time and resources to public service, charitable activities and pro bono work.

* I will represent the interests of my client with vigor and will seek the most expeditious and least costly solutions to problems, resolving disputes through negotiation whenever possible.

* I will work continuously to attain the highest level of knowledge and skill in the areas of the law in which I practice.

* I will honor the requirements, the spirit and the intent of the applicable rules or codes of professional conduct for my jurisdiction, and will encourage others to do the same.

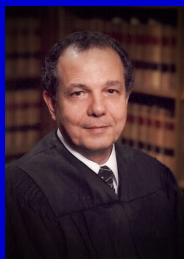
* I will work to make the legal system more accessible, responsive and effective.

CHAPTER 303 — VISTA, CALIFORNIA

Chapter 303 was founded in 1997. The organizing committee included George W. Brewster, Jr., Philip Burkhardt, Hon. John S. Einhorn, Hon. J. Morgan Lester, Hon. David B. Moon, Jr., Deborah L. Peterson and Hon. Dana M. Sabraw. Chapter 303 is one of five American Inns of Court in San Diego County. Chapter 303 services attorneys and judges that work or live in the northern part of the County. Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. was chosen originally for the name of the Inn to inspire members by his integrity, work ethic, legal opinions and passion for the rule of law. Along that line, all meetings began with one of his many famous quotes about the law, legal profession or life.



In 2007 a group of North County attorneys and judges suggested to the Board of Directors of Chapter 303 they consider renaming the Inn for an individual with an identity and connection to the local legal community who epitomized the principals of the American Inns of Court. A number of individuals were considered. The Hon. Fiorenzo V. Lopardo was nominated. He was then chosen by a large majority of the active and inactive members to replace Justice Holmes as the Inn's name sake and role model.



To honor Judge Lopardo's dedication to these principals, beginning September 16, 2008 Chapter 303 shall be known as the Fiorenzo V. Lopardo Chapter of the American Inns of Court.

CHAPTER 303 - VISTA, CALIFORNIA

CHAPTER 303 FOUNDING MEMBERS

George W. Brewster, Jr.

Philip Burkhardt

Hon. John S. Einhorn

Hon. J. Morgan Lester

Hon. David B. Moon, Jr.

Deborah L. Peterson

Hon. Dana M. Sabraw

PAST PRESIDENTS - CHAPTER 303

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JUDGE DANA M. SABRAW 2000

JUDGE DAVID B. MOON, JR. 1999

JUDGE DAVID B. MOON, JR. 1998

JUDGE DAVID B. MOON, JR. 1997

FIorenzo V. LOPARDO - A BIOGRAPHY

Judge Lopardo was born in Hoosick Falls, N.Y., the 10th of 14 children of Italian immigrants. Judge Lopardo spoke Italian in the family home as a child. He learned English in school and later added German, French, and Spanish while majoring in languages and literature at the University of Notre Dame.

Judge Lopardo graduated in May 1941 from the University of Notre Dame. To finance his undergraduate education, he worked three jobs - a waiter and at two cobbler stores, one at Notre Dame and the other off-campus. After graduation from the University of Notre Dame, Judge Lopardo entered Harvard University School of Law.

World War II interrupted Judge Lopardo's legal education. After completion of his first year at Harvard Law School, he became an officer in the United States Marine Corps in 1942. During the battle of Iwo Jima, he served as a company commander in 28th Marines, the regiment that raised the American Flag on Mt. Suribachi. He was decorated for leading his company of 360 men, of which only 11 were not killed or wounded during the battle. He served in Japan during the post war occupation, and left the Marine Corps as a Major.



Capt. Robert Spangler General Leo Hermle Maj. Oscar Peatroll
Capt. Misty Rice Col. Harry Liversedge Lt. Parker Stortz
Maj. Tolson Smaok 1st Lt. Fiorenzo Lopardo

After the war, Judge Lopardo returned to his studies. While awaiting readmission to Harvard Law School, he enrolled in a master's program in international business at the

FIORENZO V. LOPARDO - A BIOGRAPHY

University of Southern California. He earned his master's degree in one year instead of two by taking a full load of day and evening classes. Judge Lopardo then returned to Harvard Law school and completed work for his law degree in 1948.

After earning his law degree, Judge Lopardo practiced civil law with a small firm in Los Angeles. He traveled to San Diego periodically and happened to pass through a sleepy little town named Escondido. He felt it would be the ideal place to raise his family and horses. Judge Lopardo moved to Escondido in late 1960 and continued to practice civil law for eleven years until Governor Reagan appointed him to the Superior Court in 1971. He earned a reputation as a highly intelligent, resourceful, and aggressive lawyer. Judge Lopardo's habit of extremely thorough case preparation was a hallmark of his legal reputation. Judge Lopardo's community service included serving on the Escondido Union School District Board of Trustees and director of the Escondido Chamber of Commerce.

When Judge Lopardo was first appointed to the Superior Court, he was appalled by what he perceived to be pervasive incompetence of many lawyers. He called upon several seasoned North County attorneys and created "Lopardo's Academy" - a forerunner of the Inns of Court. He literally held night school at the courthouse using experienced attorneys to instruct young or inexperienced attorneys. He mentored hundreds of attorneys in this way and by his demands on them in his courtroom. The most notable were for them to be on time and prepared. Judge Lopardo was known for his punctuality and preparation. He demanded no less from others. An attorney arriving late or unprepared suffered his wrath and a fine payable to the North County Branch of the San Diego County Law Library. In the early 1960's, Judge

FIORENZO V. LOPARDO - A BIOGRAPHY

Lopardo helped form the San Diego County Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates, a prestigious national organization for the improvement of trial lawyers. He also shared his judicial expertise to mentor judges serving on the faculties of the California Judges College, California Center for Judicial Research and Education and the National Judicial College.

Judge Lopardo was one of the first full-time judges in North County. He was a strong advocate for expansion of the North County Branch of the Court. He always believed North County Cases should be tried in North County and decided by North County jurors. To further facilitate this, Judge Lopardo was a moving force to obtain the North County Branch of the San Diego County Law Library. He not only helped raise funds to build it through North County Bar Association functions but, had those tardy and otherwise errant lawyers in his courtroom contribute to this worthy cause.

Judge Lopardo ended 16 years of distinguished service and dedication as a judge when he retired from the Superior Court in 1987. He continued his service to the legal community for another decade as a private judge, specializing in complex civil cases. Judge Lopardo died January 24, 2004.

Judge Lopardo was deeply committed to North County. He left us with the tangible fruits of his public service in the form of the North County courthouse and library. More importantly, he has been an example of how lawyers and judges, alike, must strive for excellence in their profession and their community.

REMEMBRANCES OF FIORENZO V. LOPARDO

Never give up, always keep trying. You must always exceed your expectations of yourself.

HON. FIORENZO V. LOPARDO

Fio Lopardo was a legend when he was on the bench, a first-rate human being and first-rate lawyer and judge.

JUSTICE GILBERT NARES (4th District Court of Appeal)

He did what jurors and judges are supposed to do—he took the facts and applied them to the law.

HON. RUNSTON MAINO

He was a teacher and mentor. He may have had a rough exterior, but the man was all heart.

HON. DAVID B. MOON, JR. (Judge of the Superior Court, Retired)

I've heard it said by more than one competent attorney presenting a motion or case in Fio's court that it seemed during the argument that he knew more about the case than they did.

HON. CHARLES W. FROEHLICH, JR. (Justice, Court of Appeal, Retired)

The Pro Tem Judge Program, initiated by Judge Lopardo in 1973-1974, encouraged and enhance the dialogue between the bench and bar, an attribute recognized today by virtually every San Diego judge assigned to this area.

ATTY. CHARLES W. SALTER

Often he would agree to meet with me at 7:00 or 7:30 a.m., at a local coffee shop, to discuss the practical and technical aspects of lawyering, case and client management, and the application of engaging the law with the legal system. Little did I know then that I was learning from the master. He was good-natured, patient and generous with his time.

ATTY. EDWARD C. DOWD

He demanded of those around him his own greatest attributes — punctuality, integrity, and plain hard work. He gave me, and many others, a foundation and appreciation for the practice of law we would never have found elsewhere.

ATTY. DORTHY A. COLE

He always believed cases should be tried on the facts of the case, not the personalities of the people trying the case.

ATTORNEY AND SON STEPHEN LOPARDO

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Judge of the Superior Court, Retired

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 - Probate Judge 5 years
- Instructor, Civil Mediation, National Judicial College
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(1933 - 2005)

