

CENTRAL FLORIDA FAMILY LAW INN  
AMERICAN INN OF COURT

**MEMBERSHIP SELECTION AND MATRICULATION GUIDELINES**

**APPLICATION:**

Any person desiring to apply to the Inn should complete the application process by May 31<sup>st</sup> so that the executive council can meet over the summer and select the following year's members.

Applicants need to complete the membership application, attach a resume, and provide the name of their sponsor and two additional members who are endorsing them. The executive council will only review applications that are complete, and accompanied by a sponsor. The general requirement is that the sponsor or one of the two endorsers must be a Judge; however, flexibility will be allowed for mediators and other professionals who may have limited interaction with the judiciary.

Selection of membership will be based upon proper completion of the application process, practice area, nature of firm affiliation, diversity, classification of membership (to ensure an appropriate balance of the levels of membership as described below), availability of new membership spots (the total Inn membership is limited to 125 members), level of interest/commitment to the Inn, ability to actively participate in the Inn, and the applicants legal and social reputation or known conduct.

Upon application to the Inn, or executive council consideration for matriculation (which is not available through application), the executive council will consider the above factors and vote on admission. Admission shall only be offered in the event that there is a vote in favor of admission by at least 85% of the executive council casting a vote, and at least one-half of the executive council must cast a vote. In the event that there are insufficient spots to invite prospective members, the executive council may put them on a waiting list as a demonstration that the application has been favorably received, but that size limitations have created an inability to reach a final determination of membership.

Pupil applicants need only complete the application, send a resume, and be sponsored by a law professor. The pupil classification is limited to 4 members.

**CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:**

**PUPIL:** The criteria for a pupil is set forth above. A pupil will not be required to pay a fee to join the Inn.

**ASSOCIATE:** An Associate must be a licensed attorney who is in good standing with the Florida Bar. Their practice must consist of no less than 50% family law, and

75% is encouraged. If the person has been a member of the Inn for 10 years without matriculating to Barrister then they will not be eligible for continued membership to the Inn. The associate fee is \$300 per year.

**BARRISTER:** A Barrister must be a licensed attorney who is in good standing with the Florida Bar. They must have at least 6 years of practice experience. Their practice must consist of no less than 50% family law, and 75% is encouraged. If the person has been a member of the Inn for 20 years without matriculating to Master then they will not be eligible for continued membership to the Inn. The Barrister fee is \$400 per year.

**MASTER:** A Master must be a licensed attorney who is in good standing with the Florida Bar. They must have at least 15 years of practice experience (consideration will be given for those members who have less than 15 years of experience but have obtained Board Certification). Their practice must consist of no less than 50% family law, and 75% is encouraged. The Master fee is \$500 per year.

**BENCHER:** Judges, Hearing Officers, General Magistrates, and retired persons who have previously served such a position may be eligible to be a Bencher. The Bencher fee is \$200 per year.

**EMERITUS:** Members who have been actively involved in the Inn for at least 7 years and have reached the level of Master or Bencher may request Emeritus status. That will allow them to come to any meeting or function, and will not require them to participate in the small group meetings. They will only pay a guest fee for each meeting attended.