

Temple American Inn of Court

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting
May 9, 2011

Present: Hon. A. Rizzo, Hon. P. Dembe, Hon. C. Rufe, Hon. S. Moss, Hon. A. Lazarus, L. Bendesky, D. Davis, A. Duffy, M. Cedrone, M. Gaier, B. McCormick, J. Platzkere Snyder, P. Weiner, C. Whitney

After circulating an Agenda, the Committee discussed the following items:

- 1. Welcome to Judge Rizzo's "Last Official Meeting"**
- 2. Approval of the Minutes from April 4, 2011**

The Committee reviewed the February 28, 2011 meeting minutes, made a few minor edits, and following a motion, unanimously approved same.

- 3. Treasurer's report**

Treasurer Jennifer Platzkere Snyder reported that there is \$18,416.78 in the main Operating Account and \$4,528.35 in the Scholarship Account.

The balance in the Operating Account does not yet reflect the following payable items: a payment to Precise, Jennifer is awaiting an invoice; a catering bill for the May 11th meeting of approximately \$500; the June Closing Dinner, which is estimated to be approximately \$8,000 - \$10,000 based on last year's closing dinner; the cost a Rome book and a London book for the display case in the Inn's archives; the cost of a London book for Judge Reed.

Paul Weiner reported that there had been a change in the tax filing requirements, so that the Inn will no longer need to file an EZ form. Rather, it will be able to file the more simple post card form, which will result in a cost savings of approximately \$1,000 per year in tax preparation costs. The deadline is November 19th. There are no state tax requirements.

Judge Lazarus suggested that as a matter of best practices, the Inn should conduct an audit every three (3) years. Our last audit was conducted two (2) years ago, which would make our next audit due in 2012.

- 4. NJ CLE Credits**

Yvette Cooper is continuing in her efforts to get Inn members dual CLE credit for Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Once it is approved, credit will be retroactive. Judge Moss offered to reach out to Andy Turner and to assist Yvette.

5. **Closing Dinner/Anniversary Celebration- June 8, 2011**

Currently, 65 people are scheduled to attend the Closing Dinner. Six people have responded that they are unable to attend, and approximately 473 have not responded.

Another reminder email will be sent May 18th to those with email addresses, otherwise a hard copy invitation will be sent. Jennifer will provide a list to Judge Dembe so that she may assist in obtaining the correct email addresses for those without one. In addition, Judge Rizzo will make an announcement at the next meeting reminding members to RSVP, and an on-the-spot RSVP sheet will be provided.

In response to our invitations to National: Lisa Chapin and Judge Lemmons are not able to attend; Malinda Dunn, the new Executive Director of the American Inns of Court plans to attend; Rudy Garcia and Kathy Wilkerson have been invited.

The Judges on the Executive Committee volunteered to call other judges to encourage their attendance.

Regarding the final preparations, the video is on its way; there will be an acknowledgement of Judge Reed's contributions to the Inn; the new slate will be presented; and member's guests will be in attendance.

6. **Committee reports**

- Nominating Committee

Judge Rufe reported that after several discussions among the Nominating Committee, it was presenting the following slate:

President-	Paul Weiner
Vice President-	Judge Dembe
Treasurer-	Jennifer Platzkere Snyder
Recorder-	Clark Whitney

Don Davis raised the issue that we need additional new judges to join our Inn. A discussion followed regarding reaching out to judges, and perhaps Administrative Law Judges who have CLE requirements.

Judge Rizzo thanked the Nominating Committee.

- By-laws Committee

The By-laws Committee reported that it would present the proposed revisions to the By-laws at the May meeting. An updated version of the proposed revisions

would be circulated to the Executive Committee due to an accidental omission. There was discussion about potential revising the By-laws in the future to address disciplinary issues. The revised By-laws will be raised for vote on Wednesday May 11, 2011.

- PR

Judge Rizzo reported that she had spoken with Jennifer Chalal and Mark Tarasiewicz from the Philadelphia Bar Association about a historic piece about our Inn's Anniversary that had been drafted by Hank Delacato and Don Davis; it is slated for the Fall. Jennifer Platzkere Snyder volunteered to assist in having the piece placed.

A discussion followed regarding the submissions we will be submitting to National. Scott Sigman and Liz Turchee prepared a special submission about the Rome trip; Hank Delacato and Dan McKenna will be preparing a special submission on the Wills for Heroes program; and there will be a special submission regarding the history of our Inn.

Clark Whitney reported that the majority of the program submissions were still outstanding. Don suggested that we reiterate that it is a requirement that each team's program be turned in within 30-60 days. It is a requirement every year, but one that is never followed by the teams. Judge Lazarus proposed forming a committee to chase down program reports. Making it part of the program chair's responsibility was also discussed as an option.

- Formation of New Inns

Judge Rizzo raised the concern that the formation of new Inns such as the new criminal Inn being formed by Judge Anders would dilute current and potential members for our Inn, however, she reported that she had been told that the member judges joining the new criminal Inn would continue to maintain membership in our Inn as well.

Judge Moss proposed that we have one family court oriented and one criminal program per year. There was also discussion of emailing a list of potential program ideas, or handing them out at the first meeting.

- Mentoring – "Wills for Heros"

Judge Lazarus reported on the great success of the Wills for Heroes program. Along with others, our Inn was responsible for preparing over 750 wills for first responders. There has been discussion of possibly having a similar program for city employees and the team has already reached out to the unions to propose the idea and make sure that it will not create any conflicts with union lawyers.

There will be a special submission to National about the program, and an article.

Judge Rizzo recognized and thanked Judge Lazarus, Hank Delacato, and Dan McKenna for their efforts in leading the program.

7. **Old Business**

- March Team Program- Endowed Speaker Series on Mentoring in Memory of Ed Edelstein

The group continued our discussion regarding the speaker series in memory of Ed Edelstein. It was suggested that we pick a stand-alone time for the programs, perhaps in March or April, rather than having the series be adjunct to general Inn meetings. The Ed Edelstein Speaker Series Committee comprised of Don Davis, Judge Moss, Alan Epstein, and Larry Bendesky planned to meet and to report to the Executive Committee at the next meeting.

Judge Rizzo said that she would invite Barb Edelstein to the Closing Dinner. A framed photo of Ed is now included in our display cases in the Inn archives. Judge Rizzo thanked Judge Lazarus for having the photo framed.

8. **New Business**

- Judge Moss presented an update on the status of National elections. It was decided that the Inn Administrator would send an email to the membership announcing the commencement of voting.
- Judge Rufe reported that the Philosophical Society had been booked for our Oxford-style debate scheduled to be held on October 18, 2011. Inn members will be treated to a private tour of the exhibit, which will include a draft of the Declaration of Independence. The event will include a reception and cocktail hour. We plan to invite the Delaware and New Jersey Inns. Judge Rizzo lauded Anthony Haller and Judge Rizzo for their vision.

Next Executive Committee Meeting:

Tuesday, July 19, 2011 @ 4:30pm

Little Mendelson PC, 1601 Cherry Street, 14th Floor
(Dial in: 877-492-4020, Pass Code: 267-402-3010)

Clark Whitney, Recorder

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