

Vassar B. Carlton American Inn of Court and George C. Young First Central Florida American Inn of Court

On January 11, 2012, the Vassar B. Carlton American Inn of Court in Melbourne, Florida, hosted a presentation on the topic of *Frye v. Daubert*. Before the main topic was discussed, the pupillage team presented an "Ethics Moment" on the issue of an opening statement and what can ethically be offered.

Attorney Doug Marks presented a defense opening statement closely related to the Casey Anthony trial, which was followed worldwide in the media and litigated in Orlando, Florida. He presented facts that he believed the evidence would show support for the defendant's innocence of the charge of murder. After the opening statement, what was intended to be a 5–10 minute discussion evolved into a 40 minute debate on an attorney's obligation to his or her client compared to an attorney's obligation to the tribunal and to the oath they take in order to practice law.

After the discussion, portions of a deposition offered at the Anthony trial by a scientific expert were featured and a distinguished panel gave remarks on the foundation of offering such scientific evidence. The panel contrasted the Frye and Daubert standards for introducing such expert testimony. The panel consisted of Judge John Antoon II, U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida, and Master in the Inn; Magistrate Judge David A. Baker, U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida; and Circuit Judges Jeffrey Mahl and J. Dean Moxley from the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit Court, Brevard County, also members of the Inn. They gave educational comments about the two standards/predicates and how things might drastically change if the state courts adopt the Daubert standard.

As somewhat of an encore performance on March 20, 2012, the George C. Young First Central Florida Inn of Court in Orlando, Florida, presented a similar discussion of the ethical issues related to the opening statement made in the Anthony trial. The Honorable Deb Blechman called court to order and Doug Marks of the Vassar B. Carlton Inn of Court gave the defense opening statement in order to generate comparisons of an attorney's legal and ethical obligations sparking a lively discussion

In additions, a distinguished panel of Judge John Antoon II, former Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Charles T. Wells, and Bill Sheaffer, Master in the Inn who also served as a legal commenta-



Carlton Inn member Cole Oliver serves as the "expert witness," Judge John Antoon II, U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida; Magistrate Judge David A. Baker, U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida; and Circuit Judges Jeffrey Mahl and J. Dean Moxley from the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit Court, Brevard County.

tor throughout the infamous trial, gave insightful advice and dialogue on the ethical obligations of an attorney.

Both Inn presentations were a success and embodied the principles of the American Inn of Court in promoting civility, ethics and professionalism in the practice of law. ♦

The Temple American Inn of Court



The Temple AIC of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, spent Sunday, May 6, 2012, as a Day of Service at the Ronald McDonald House in West Philadelphia. Participants included, from left to right, Harry Sher, Esq.; Diane Sher, Esq.; Ken Carobus, Esq.; Judge M. Faith Angell; Don Davis, Esq.; Noel Davis; Elizabeth Mattioni, Esq.; Beatrice Raccanello, Esq.; Scott P. Sigman, Esq.; Judge Sandra Mazer Moss; Paul Weiner, Esq., Inn president; Carson Morris, Esq.; William Dean; and Tamara Wible, Esq.