

# **James E. Doyle American Inn of Court**

## **2014-2015 Membership Handbook**

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# **I. Background**

There are four chapters of the American Inns of Court in Wisconsin. This Inn, The James E. Doyle American Inn of Court, was founded on June 5, 1992 to cover the western portion of the State of Wisconsin. The Thomas E. Fairchild Inn covers the eastern portion of the state. The Robert J. Parins American Inn of Court is located in Green Bay. The Leander J. Foley, Jr. Matrimonial American Inns of Court, which specializes in family law, is located in Milwaukee.

Every April the James E. Doyle and Thomas E. Fairchild Inns get together for a joint program and reception.

## **A. The American Inns of Court<sup>1</sup>**

American Inns of Court are designed to improve the skills, professionalism, and ethics of the bench and bar. An American Inn of Court is group of judges, lawyers, and in some cases, law professors and law students. Each Inn meets approximately once a month both to “break bread” and to hold programs and discussions on matters of ethics, skills, and professionalism.

Looking for a new way to help lawyers and judges rise to higher levels of excellence, professionalism, and ethical awareness, the American Inns of Court adopted the traditional English model of legal apprenticeship and modified it to fit the particular needs of the American legal system. American Inns of Court helps lawyers to become more effective advocates and counselors with a keener ethical awareness. Members learn side-by-side with the most experienced judges and attorneys in their community.

An American Inn of Court is not a fraternal order, a social club, a course in continuing legal education, a lecture series, an apprenticeship system, or an adjunct of a law school’s program. While an Inn partakes of some of each of these concepts, it is quite different in aim, scope, and effect.

American Inns of Court actively involve more than 25,000 state, federal, and administrative law judges, attorneys, legal scholars, and law students.

Most Inns concentrate on issues surrounding civil and criminal litigation practice, and include attorneys from a number of specialties. However, there are several Inns that specialize in criminal practice, federal litigation, tax law, administrative law, white-collar crime, bankruptcy, intellectual property, family law, or employment and labor law.

## **B. Mission of the American Inns of Court**

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

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<sup>1</sup> The information below is reproduced from the website of the American Inns of Court, <http://www.innsofcourt.org>

## **C. History of the American Inns of Court**

The American Inns of Court concept was the product of a discussion in the late 1970s among the United States' members of the Anglo-American exchange of lawyers and judges, including Chief Justice Warren E. Burger and Chief Judge of the Ninth Circuit J. Clifford Wallace. Chief Justice Burger subsequently invited Rex E. Lee (then Dean of the J. Reuben Clark School of Law at Brigham Young University and later United States Solicitor General) and Dallin Oaks (then president of Brigham Young University and later Justice of the Utah Supreme Court) to test the idea.

At the suggestion of Rex Lee, a pilot program was entrusted to Senior United States District Court Judge A. Sherman Christensen, who honed the idea into a feasible concept. The first American Inn of Court was founded in 1980 in the Provo/Salt Lake City area of Utah, and included law students from Brigham Young University. Within the next three years, additional American Inns formed in Utah, Mississippi, Hawaii, New York, and Washington, D.C.

In 1983, Chief Justice Burger created a committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States 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 American Inns, and promote the goals of legal excellence, civility, professionalism, and ethics on a national level. The committee reported to the Judicial Conference affirmatively on the two questions and proposed the creation of the American Inns of Court Foundation. The Judicial Conference approved the reports and, thus, endorsed the American Inns concept and the formation of a national structure. In 1985, the American Inns of Court Foundation was formally organized.

## **D. The James E. Doyle American Inn of Court**

The James E. Doyle American Inn of Court was formed in 1992 as part of the American Inns of Court. Among its founders were the Honorable Barbara B. Crabb, the Honorable John C. Shabaz, the Honorable Gerald C. Nichol, Attorney John S. Skilton, Attorney Daniel A. Rottier, Honorable Patricia J. Gorence, and Dean Daniel O. Bernstine.

The mission of the American Inns of Court is to foster excellence in professionalism, ethics, civility, and legal skills. The James E. Doyle Inn's focus is the same. The James E. Doyle American Inn of Court is made up of judges, lawyers, law professors, and law students who meet approximately once a month in Madison both to socialize and to hold programs and discussions on matters of ethics, skills and professionalism surrounding the practice of law.

The Inn provides a unique opportunity for members to hone their legal skills in a social setting with no agenda other than collegiality and with a shared interest in professionalism and excellence. It also provides an opportunity for the younger lawyer and student members to gain insight from member judges and experienced lawyers from among the best in the area.

## **E. James Edward Doyle, United States District Judge for the Western District of Wisconsin, 1965-1987<sup>2</sup>**

James Edward Doyle was born in Oshkosh, Wisconsin on July 6, 1915. He attended the University of Wisconsin, where he met Ruth Bachhuber, who became his wife in 1940, and where both were active in student politics. After graduating from Columbia Law School, he clerked for Supreme Court Justice James Byrne and then served in the United States Navy for four years before working as assistant to the Solicitor General of the United States and later as assistant to the Secretary of State. He returned to Wisconsin in the late 1940s to take a position as an assistant United States Attorney. He later joined the law firm headed by Philip LaFollette.

In 1965, he was named to the single judgeship in the Western District of Wisconsin after a lengthy and contentious nomination process, in which David Rabinovitz was named to the position in a recess appointment, but never confirmed by the Senate. Judge Doyle was sworn in on May 22, 1965, beginning his new job with a large backlog of cases that had accumulated since the death of Judge Patrick Stone in 1963. Before he had a chance to catch up, the job of a federal district judge was transformed from a quiet, backwater sort of position to something closer to the center of the storm as the United States Supreme Court began recognizing and expanding constitutional rights for criminal defendants, prisoners, welfare recipients, blacks, Native Americans, women, and others.

The resulting flood of cases came close to overwhelming the modest resources of the Western District. Still, each one received Judge Doyle's close and careful attention. Starting early in his tenure, he wrote a number of important decisions, upholding the rights of high school students to wear their hair long, of university students to due process in disciplinary proceedings, of a Catholic priest to due process before being jailed for protesting on the floor of the State Assembly over cuts in welfare, and of state prisoners to correspond with their friends and relatives. The public reaction to these decisions was intense. The haircut opinion generated more adverse mail to the courthouse than any other decision Judge Doyle entered. His holdings that the University of Wisconsin had to provide due process protections for university students facing expulsion for protest activities lost him many of his university friends. It was a lonely period, but he rarely dwelt on that aspect of the job.

Those who never read Judge Doyle's opinions might have assumed them to be the predictable rulings of a judge with a liberal Democratic background. Those who did read them saw that they were painstakingly, yet eloquently, drafted with scrupulous attention to the facts of each case and a deep respect for the law. All were illuminated by the judge's belief that "the majestic phrases of the Constitution—due process of law, the equal protection of the laws—[should] have real meaning for every person within our borders." As for those who make or enforce the laws, it was his view that "[t]he essence of constitutional government is that those who apply the force of the community may not escape their obligation to justify their conduct." He took this rule as applying to himself as much as to any other governmental actor, taking great pains to avoid any assertion of authority not vested in him as a judge.

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<sup>2</sup> This section was graciously prepared by the Honorable Barbara B. Crabb, senior judge for the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin. Judge Crabb was a colleague and friend of Judge Doyle.

Judge Doyle savored the intellectual challenges of judging and brought to his job a probing, speculative intelligence. On or off the bench, he was unfailingly courteous and empathetic, much sought out for advice by staff and former clerks. His quiet dignity was balanced by his quick wit, wry sense of humor and tendency to self-deprecation.

Summing up Judge Doyle is not easy. No one has done it better than John Greene, one of Judge Doyle's law clerks, who said, "The Judge's great gift to the legal world was to demonstrate that a court is a place where grace, dignity, compassion and high intellect would unfailingly prevail."

## **II. American Inns of Court Professional Creed<sup>3</sup>**

The James E. Doyle Inn is a member of the American Inns of Court. The James E. Doyle Inn supports and furthers the American Inns of Court Professional Creed.

### **Professional Creed**

**W**hereas, 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 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.

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<sup>3</sup> The information below is reproduced from the website of the American Inns of Court, <http://home.innsofcourt.org/about-us/get-to-know-the-american-inns-of-court/american-inns-of-court-professional-creed.aspx>

- ❖ 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 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 contribute time and resources to public service, charitable activities and pro bono work.
- ❖ I will work to make the legal system more accessible, responsive and effective.
- ❖ 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.

### **III. Diversity**

The James E. Doyle Inn supports and furthers the American Inns of Court Diversity Policy.

#### **The American Inns of Court Diversity Policy**<sup>4</sup>

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 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

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<sup>4</sup> The information below is reproduced from the website of the American Inns of Court, [http://home.innsofcourt.org/media/35140/AIC\\_Diversity\\_Policy.pdf](http://home.innsofcourt.org/media/35140/AIC_Diversity_Policy.pdf)

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 Inn 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.

## **IV. Monthly Meetings**

The James E. Doyle Inn generally meets once a month from September through April. Meetings are held at the Madison Concourse Hotel, One West Dayton Street, Madison, WI 53703.

Meetings are typically on the second Wednesday of the month and generally follow the schedule below:

5:15-6:00: Cocktails  
6:00-7:00: Program  
7:00-8:30: Reception/Dinner

The April meeting is a joint meeting with the Thomas E. Fairchild American Inn of Court, held at the historic Red Circle restaurant in Delafield.

A board member, program chair, or James E. Doyle Inn administrator will circulate an email to all members approximately one week before each meeting. The email will contain specifics about the meeting location, time, and program. Members must RSVP for each meeting according to the instructions in the email.

### **A. Monthly Meeting Dates**

The monthly meetings for the 2014-2015 term are currently scheduled for:

Wednesday, September 17, 2014  
Wednesday, October 15, 2014  
Tuesday, November 11, 2014  
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No meeting in December  
~  
Wednesday, January 21, 2015  
Wednesday, February 18, 2015  
Wednesday, March 18, 2015  
April 2015 – TBD

These dates are subject to change based upon availability at the Madison Concourse Hotel.



## **B. Content of Meetings**

The main themes and subject matter of regular meetings shall be practical legal skills, with emphasis on ethics, civility, professionalism, and excellence in the practice of the profession. Programs should present, demonstrate, teach, and explain the principles, skills, techniques, and relationships involved in the courtroom and in activities preliminary to courtroom appearances, and should involve critique and questions from the membership of the Inn. These meetings shall be designed to assist members in better discharging their duties to clients and society.

## **C. Attire**

Business or business casual attire is expected for all monthly meetings.

## **D. Guests**

Members may bring guests to monthly programs. If you wish to bring a guest, please include the guest in your RSVP. A guest fee of \$40 may be paid online with a credit or debit card, or the member may bring cash or a check to the meeting. Checks should be made payable to the "James E. Doyle American Inn of Court."

CLE credit is available to guests in the 2014-2015 term if their contact information is provided to the Inn Administrator and the guest signs the attendance sheet.

## **E. CLE Credit**

CLE credit is available for all monthly programs for Inn members that attend the meeting. Each member wishing to receive CLE credit must sign the attendance sheet. Each member should sign the record of attendance and store it for three years after the end of the relevant two year CLE reporting period. In the event the member is audited, the member may be required to submit the record of attendance.

## **F. Name Tags**

Each Inn member will receive a reusable plastic name badge, which must be worn at meetings. Name badges should be returned to the Social Chair or his/her designee following each meeting for safekeeping.

## **G. Annual Holiday Dinner**

The November meeting of the James E. Doyle Inn is the Inn holiday dinner. A buffet-style dinner is served at this meeting. There is no meeting in December to allow for members to travel and enjoy their own festivities.

## **H. Betty Lou Cruise**

Typically in June, the James E. Doyle Inn invites members to participate in a Betty Lou Cruise around one of the beautiful lakes in Madison. This is a social event only. Attendance fees may apply. Either the Inn Social Chair or the Administrator will circulate an email to all members approximately one month before the meeting. The email will contain specifics about the cruise. Members must RSVP according to the instructions in the email.

## **V. Member Responsibilities**

### **A. Membership Structure**

This Inn consists of five membership categories. A member's inclusion into a category is determined generally by the year of admission to the State Bar.

Membership as an "Honorary" is limited to past and present Wisconsin Supreme Court Justices, regardless of the number of years admitted to the Bar.

Membership as a "Master of the Bench" is for those judges and attorneys admitted to practice law on or before 1998.

Membership as a "Barrister" is for those judges and attorneys admitted to practice between 1999 and 2011.

Membership as an "Associate" is for those attorneys admitted to practice between 2012 and 2014.

Membership as an "Academic/Government" is for law professors and attorneys working for the federal, state or local government, regardless of year admitted to practice.

Our Inn also invites a number of law students from the University of Wisconsin, School of Law to attend monthly meetings.

### **B. Attendance**

Each Associate, Barrister and Master is expected to actively participate and attend the Inn monthly meetings. Attendance is important to the collegiality, leadership, and advancement of our Inn. If there are concerns about a member's participation in the Inn, a member of the Board will contact the member to discuss continued commitment to and participation in the Inn.

### **C. Dues**

Members will receive an invoice by email from the Inn identifying the dues membership category and dues amount for the year. Members must pay annual dues before the first meeting of each September-May term. The sole exception is Supreme Court Justices, who may pay at the

time of the meeting. Dues may be paid online. Dues paid by check should be sent to the James E. Doyle Inn Treasurer along with the invoice.

Dues are based upon membership categories which are determined by the year of the member's bar admission or occupation, as identified below:

Dues	Category	Bar Admission From	Bar Admission To
\$25 per meeting attended	Honorary (Supreme Court Justices)	Any	Any
\$310	Master of the Bench (Practitioners & Judges)	...	1998
\$260	Barrister	1999	2011
\$210	Associate	2012	2014
\$210	Academic/Government (excludes the Judiciary)	Any	Any

## **D. Reservations**

Members will receive an email approximately one week before each monthly meeting containing specifics about the program. Members must respond to that email regarding whether they plan to attend the meeting by the RSVP deadline. If the reservation deadline has passed, members may contact the Inn Administrator to be placed on a wait-list in case there are cancellations for the meeting.

## **E. Contact Information**

Members should notify the Inn Administrator of any change in address, phone number, facsimile number, employer, or email address.

## **F. New Member Nominations**

New members are nominated by an Inn member prior to the beginning of a new term. Current members are responsible for identifying potential new members and referring them to the Executive Board. The Executive Board reviews the nominations and extends offers based upon the number of available openings and the mission and goals of our Inn.

For further information on the nomination process and member responsibilities, please see the 2014 New Member Nomination Guide and Nomination Form.

## VI. Officers and Administrators

The officers for 2014-2015 are as follows:

President:	Hon. John Markson <i>john.markson@wicourts.gov</i>
Secretary/Treasurer:	Erik H. Monson, Esq. <i>emonson@cnsbb.com</i>
Membership Chair:	Jeanne M. Armstrong, Esq. <i>jarmstrong@erhardpayette.com</i>
Program Chair:	Jessica Ozalp, Esq. <i>jessica.ozalp@legis.wisconsin.gov</i>
Social Chair:	Tara L. Nielsen, Esq. <i>tnielsen@bmlawyers.com</i>
Long Range Planning Chair/Counselor:	Jason J. Knutson, Esq. <i>jknutson@habush.com</i>
UW Law School Liaison:	Mitch, Esq. <i>mitch@wisc.edu</i>
Administrator:	Judi Will <i>jwill@gklaw.com</i>
Immediate Past President	Hon. Juan Colas <i>juan.colas@wicourts.gov</i>

Please contact the current President if you are interested in serving as an officer of the Board or on a committee.