

BYLAWS OF THE NEVADA AMERICAN INN OF COURT

ARTICLE I OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this American Inn are:

1. To be a membership of judges, lawyers, law students and others to promote excellence in legal advocacy at the trial and appellate court levels;
2. To foster greater understanding of, and appreciation for the adversary system of dispute resolution in American law, with particular emphasis on ethics and professional standards of excellence;
3. To provide significant educational experiences that will improve and enhance the skills of lawyers as counselors and advocates and of judges as adjudicators and judicial administrators;
4. To promote interaction among members of all categories in order to minimize misapprehensions, misconceptions, and failures of communication that obstruct the effective practice of law;
5. To facilitate the development of law school students and lawyers as skilled participants in the American court system;
6. To build upon the genius and strengths of the common law and the English Inns of Court and to renew and inspire joy and zest in legal advocacy as a service worthy of constant effort and learning; and
7. To promote collegiality among professionals and to transmit ethical values from one professional generation to another.

ARTICLE II

ORGANIZATION

1. Nature of Association. This American Inn shall be and remain chartered and affiliated with the American Inns of Court Foundation as a member American Inn and shall be an incorporated association composed of judges, practicing lawyers, and law school students, who accept an invitation to membership as hereinafter described.
2. Governing Body of Officers. The officers of this American Inn shall be a president, a president-elect, a counselor, a secretary/treasurer, a master representative, barrister representative, a representative-at-large, a program chair and a program chair-elect and such other officers as the Masters, by majority vote of those present at a meeting

duly called for that purpose, may deem necessary. All officers must be selected from among the Masters and Barristers and shall be elected by vote of a majority of all Masters and Barristers present at a meeting called for that purpose. It is recommended that either the president or the counselor be a judge. The officers, along with such other members as the Masters shall select, by majority vote of those present at a meeting duly called for that purpose, shall constitute an executive committee.

a. Term of Office: The term of each office shall be as follows:

President	2 years
President-elect	1 year (begins 2 nd year of President=s term.)
Counselor	2 years
Sec./Treas.	3 years
Master Rep.	2 years
Barrister Rep.	2 years
Rep-at-large	2 years
Program Chair	2 years
Prog. Chair-elect	1 year (begins 2 nd year of Chair=s term.)

Officers may succeed themselves. The executive committee shall designate the dates for the commencement and termination of the operative years, except that the terms shall be staggered so that no more than five members of the board are elected in any one cycle. The final meeting of each operative year typically shall be designated as the meeting for elections, but exceptions may be established by the executive committee.

b. Duties of President and Counselor: In addition to other duties which may be imposed by the Masters and by the Trustees of the American Inns of Court Foundation, the president and the counselor shall have the following duties, which, in the absence of agreement between them as to division, shall be allocated by vote of the executive committee of the American Inn:

- (i) schedule and preside at all meetings of the American Inn;
- (ii) ensure that an annual curriculum and agenda for American Inn meetings and activities are developed and furnished to members;
- (iii) notify members of their appointment to serve on American Inn of Court committees;
- (iv) call and conduct meetings of officers and committees as required to plan and conduct activities of the American Inn;
- (v) conduct all American Inn activities in accordance with the Articles, Bylaws, and Policies of the American Inns of Court Foundation and these Bylaws:

(vi) supervise and monitor pupilage group activities in order to encourage the proper functioning of this important aspect of American Inn organization;

(vii) encourage attendance at all American Inn meetings;

(viii) serve as liaison with other American Inns of Court as they may be established; and

(ix) extend invitations for membership in the American Inn of Court as authorized by the executive committee.

c. Duties of Secretary/Treasurer: The Secretary/Treasurer shall:

(i) prepare, maintain and forward to the national office of the American Inns of Court Foundation, at least annually, a complete roster of all present and past members of the American Inn specifying name, last known address, telephone number, membership category, beginning date of membership, and ending date of membership;

(ii) prepare and maintain minutes of each executive committee meeting of the American Inn;

(iii) receive and disburse monies and other property paid to the Nevada American Inn of Court in accordance with directives and policies of the American Inns of Court Foundation;

(iv) prepare and maintain accurate financial records for the American Inn in accordance with directives and policies of the American Inns of Court foundation; and

(v) perform such other duties as may be assigned by the president.

d. Duties and Authority of the Executive Committee: The executive committee, acting by majority of vote of its members, shall:

(i) establish such committees as may be necessary to carry out or assist the officers in carrying out the responsibilities imposed by these Bylaws or by the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Policies, or Directives of the American Inns of Court Foundation;

(viii) confer and terminate memberships in the American Inn; and

(iii) perform such other duties as may be assigned by the president or the counselor.

3. Relationships with Courts. This American Inn shall be and remain outside the jurisdiction of the courts but shall endeavor to work in close cooperation with the trial and appellate courts. Federal, state, and local trial and appellate judges will participate in the organization in the tradition of the common law.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

1. Invitations to Membership. Memberships shall be conferred upon those accepting invitations extended by the executive committee. The executive committee's discretion in extending invitations to membership is absolute and non-reviewable. Such invitations may be extended on the basis of recommendations made to the executive committee by any member of the American Inn or in response to written application filed with the secretary/treasurer of the American Inn. Membership shall not be denied to any person on account of race, creed, religion, sex, age, disability, or national origin.

2. Designation of Categories of Membership. Members shall be selected in the following five categories.

a. Masters of the Bench (Masters) B Active: Membership as Active Masters of the Bench or ~~A~~Active Masters~~@~~ may be held by judges and lawyers who have been in active practice for at least fifteen (15) years prior to selection as a Master and who have demonstrated superior character, ability, and competence as trial or appellate advocates. Retention of status as an Active Master is contingent upon reasonable American Inn activity to be periodically reviewed by the executive committee. There is no required tenure of membership in this category but it is suggested that Active Masters serve continuously for at least five (5) years before being eligible for emeritus status. Any person who has been granted emeritus status as a Master may be reinvited to serve again in an active capacity. Transfer to emeritus status shall be in the sole discretion of the executive committee.

b. Masters of the Bench (Masters) B Emeritus: Membership as Emeritus Masters of the Bench or ~~A~~Emeritus Masters~~@~~ may be conferred upon Active Masters by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the executive committee. Such membership status may be granted on the basis of long and distinguished service to the American Inn. Emeritus Masters shall be under no obligation to pay dues, attend meetings or participate in other programs of the American Inn but will enjoy all privileges of active membership except the right to vote. Emeritus Masters will retain such membership status for life if they so desire.

c. Barristers: Active membership as Barristers may be held by attorneys who have been in active practice for at least five (5) years prior to selection as a Barrister and must have demonstrated good character and a desire to improve and refine their skills as trial and appellate advocates. Membership may be terminated in the sole discretion of the executive committee.

d. Associates: Membership as Associates shall be held by persons who are recent law school graduates or have been admitted to the practice of law for less than five (5) years. Membership may be terminated in the sole discretion of the executive committee.

e. Pupils: Membership as Pupils shall be held by persons who are in their final year of studies at an American Bar Association accredited law school. Upon admittance to practice law in the State of Nevada, a pupil member who wishes to continue to be a member of the Inn may request that he or she have their membership reclassified to associate status. Granting of a reclassification request shall be in the sole discretion of the executive committee.

f. Honorary Members: Honorary members may be elected from time to time upon a two-thirds affirmative vote of the executive committee. Consideration for selection is on the basis of distinguished service to the bench or bar, the furtherance of American Inn of Court objectives, or other noteworthy achievements. Honorary members shall be under no obligation to pay dues, attend meetings, or participate in other programs of the American Inn but will have all privileges of membership except the right to vote.

ARTICLE IV

FINANCES

1. Financial matters within this American Inn shall be managed and controlled in accordance with policies and directives established by the American Inns of Court Foundation and these Bylaws.

2. This American Inn shall remit annually to the American Inns of Court Foundation a reasonable amount to be levied by the Board of Trustees of said Foundation for the purpose of paying its proportionate share of operating expenses of the said Foundation.

3. The executive committee is empowered to levy and collect assessments in the form of dues in amounts which it may deem appropriate in order to meet its obligations of the American Inns of Court Foundation, as well as the American Inn=s operating needs. Failure to pay assessments and dues within a reasonable time and after reasonable notice may be considered by the executive committee as a ground to terminate membership of the person in default.

ARTICLE V

MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

1. Schedule for Meetings. Regular meetings of the membership of the American Inn shall be called by the executive committee at least six times per year at such intervals as it may determine. The operative year of the American Inn of Court shall be as determined by the executive committee.

2. Content of Meetings. The main themes and subject matter of regular meetings shall be practical legal advocacy, with emphasis on legal ethics and excellence in lawyering. Programs should present, demonstrate, teach, and explain the principles, skills, techniques, and relationships involved in the courtroom and in activities preliminary to the courtroom appearances and should involve critique and questions from the membership of the American Inn, all designed to assist members in better discharging their duties to clients and society. Programs should ordinarily be presented by previously assigned groups.

ARTICLE VI

PROGRAM GROUPS

As an American adaptation of the pupillage system which is basic to the English Inns of Court, each Pupil, Associate and Barrister will be assigned to work with a Master (who is a practicing attorney) during meetings and at other times throughout the year. These assignments are known as program groups. At least one (1) Active Master who is a practicing attorney, one (1) Barrister, one (1) Associate and one (1) Pupil, appropriate to the numbers in the American Inn, shall comprise a program group. Each program group shall be assigned to a Master or Barrister, who shall exercise general supervision over the group assigned to him or her and shall monitor the group=s attendance at meetings, encourage its meaningful participation at meetings, and at scheduled program events, and oversee presentation of assigned meeting topics. All Active Masters should strive to make contact with Pupils, Associates and Barristers and should be advised about pertinent points of trial or appellate advocacy as is appropriate.

ARTICLE VII

OTHER AMERICAN INNS OF COURT

This American Inn shall promote or cooperate in the establishment of similar American Inns in the same or different localities of the state or elsewhere, to meet existing or developing needs in order to more widely achieve the objectives of the American Inns of Court Foundation.

ARTICLE VIII

AMENDMENTS OF BYLAWS

These Bylaws may be amended only with the approval of the Board of Trustees of the American Inns of Court Foundation following a two-thirds vote of the Active Masters and Barristers members present at a meeting called and reasonably noticed for such purpose, or upon written consent of at least two-thirds of such membership.

ARTICLE IX

REVOCAION OF CHARTER

The Charter may be revoked by the Board of Trustees of the American Inns of Court Foundation upon the occurrence of any one or more of the following events: (1) the American Inn of Court does not become organized and operational within one year of the issuance of said Charter; (2) violation by the American Inn of the laws under which the American Inns of Court Foundation was organized, or (3) violation by the American Inn of the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, or Policies of the American Inns of Court Foundation.

December 3, 2002

