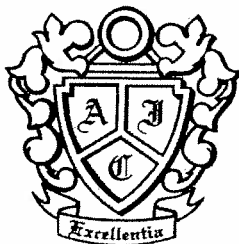


*THE  
JUDGE JOHN M. SCHEB  
AMERICAN INN OF COURT*



*MEMBERSHIP HANDBOOK*



## THE ENGLISH INNS OF COURT

The Inns of Court began in 1292 when King Edward I directed his chief justice to implement a plan to enhance the skill of advocates before the Royal Court of Westminster. The plan created by the chief justice provided new lawyers would be taught to become barristers by judges and master lawyers in a collegial environment.

The English Inns of Court grew in number and importance during the Middle Ages. Through the conduct of "moots", the master lawyers and judges taught those aspiring to become barristers the standards of competency and the ethics required of those who were to become advocates. Their collegial environment fostered common goals and nurtured professional ideals and ethics.

Today, the English Inns are unique institutions because they function as both professional associations and collegiate educational institutions. There are four English Inns: Gray's Inn, Lincoln's Inn (the oldest, which dates back to at least 1422), Inner Temple, and Middle Temple. Each Inn campus is still utilized by students, barristers and "benchers" (masters of the bench) who dine in the halls, study in the library, and work in some of the chambers that function as offices. These Inns remain the proving ground for those who aspire to become English barristers.

## AMERICAN INNS OF COURT

In 1977, the late Chief Justice Warren Burger and other leaders of the American legal profession visited the Inns in London and were impressed with the competency, civility, and professionalism fostered by them. After this visit, Chief Justice Burger, Ninth Circuit Judge J. Clifford Wallace and the late Rex Lee, then dean of Brigham Young University's School of Law, and later to become Solicitor General of the United States, discussed bringing the Inn concept to America.

The pilot program was entrusted to the Late Judge A. Sherman Christensen, then Senior United States District Judge in Utah. Judge Christensen's efforts resulted in the founding of the first Inn of Court in the Provo-Salt Lake City area in 1980. By 1985, the American Inns of Court Foundation was created and acceleration of the Inn movement in America began. Today, there are over 350 chartered American Inns of Court, with more than 27,000 members participating on a regular basis. Since the founding, more than 100,000 members have contributed to and benefitted from their involvement in this national movement.

# OBJECTIVES

The Charter granted to our Inn sets forth the objectives of the American Inns of Court as follows:

1. To be a membership of judges, lawyers, legal educators, and others as may be consistent with this Charter, 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 students, and recent law school graduates and less experienced 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.
7. To promote collegiality among professionals and to transmit ethical values from one professional generation to another.

## THE FOUNDING OF OUR SARASOTA INN

In 1991, the late Judge John M. Scheb, then preparing to retire from a long and distinguished career on Florida's Second District Court of Appeal, asked a group of lawyers and judges to establish an Inn in Sarasota County, Florida. On June 21, 1991, the American Inns of Court Foundation chartered the Sarasota County American Inn of Court as Inn #139.

The new charter was accepted by Judge Chris W. Altenbernd, then Judge Scheb's newest colleague on the Second District Court of Appeal, and a Master in the William Glenn Terrell Inn of Court in Tampa, Florida, Joryn Jenkins, Esq., a trustee of the American Inns of Court Foundation, and Debra J. Sutton, Esq., a former staff attorney of Judge Scheb who had assisted him in organizing an Inn of Court in Polk County.

In addition to Judge Scheb, the subscribers to our charter were Honorable Stephen L. Dakan, Honorable James W. Whatley, Charles J. Bartlett, Esq., Jill H. Bresslau, Esq., Theodore C. Eastmore, Esq., G. Hunter Gibbons, Esq., Claire L. Hamner, Esq., M. Joseph Lieb, Esq., A. Lamar Matthews, Esq., and Frank Strelec, Esq.

The officers elected to serve the first term were Judge Scheb, President; Frank Strelec, Vice President (Counselor); Claire L. Hamner, Secretary and Theodore C. Eastmore, Treasurer.

## THE RENAMING OF OUR SARASOTA INN

In the Spring of 1994, the membership voted to change the name of the Inn to *The Judge John M. Scheb American Inn of Court*. The Inn was renamed as a tribute to Judge Scheb, who represented the ideals of legal excellence, ethics, civility and professionalism.

Judge Scheb had a distinguished record of public service. A Florida native and long-time resident of Sarasota, Florida, he received his B.S. from Florida Southern College and his LL.B (now J.D.) from the University of Florida College of Law in 1950. In 1984 he earned the LL.M. in judicial process from the University of Virginia. He held honorary doctor of humanities and law degrees from Florida Souther and Stetson, respectively.

Judge Scheb practiced law in Sarasota, Florida from 1950 - 1974, serving as City Attorney from 1959 - 1970. He served as Judge of the Second District Court of Appeal from 1975 - 1992, including a term as Chief Judge from 1980 - 1982.

Judge Scheb served as a reserve Judge-Advocate in the U.S. Air Force and as an adjunct instructor of criminal law at Florida Southern College. Although retired, he served for several years as a senior judge. He co-authored textbooks on introduction to laws, administrative law, criminal law and procedure, and appellate practice. He taught at Stetson University College of Law from 1992 - 2001 and was a Distinguished Professional Lecturer Emeritus at Stetson. The American Inns of Court Foundation conferred upon him the *A. Sherman Christensen Award* in 1994. In 1997, the Florida Bar awarded him the *James C. Adkins Award* for significant contributions in the field of appellate practice. Judge John M. Scheb passed away on November 17, 2010, but his many contributions to the practice of law are remembered.

## MEMBERSHIP IN THE INN

Members in this Inn must be attorneys who practice in Sarasota County, judges of courts serving this county, or law professors and law students from Stetson University College of Law. Membership is open to all persons of any race, color, sex, age, religion, or national origin. The Inn aspires to reflect a cross section of the legal profession and the judiciary so that no law firm or specialty is disproportionately represented.

Although our charter originally limited membership of the Inn to 65 active members, we now have 80 active members. The Executive Committee has established the maximum number of members in each category: Masters, 28; Barristers, 32; Associates, 16; Pupils, 4.

### CLASSIFICATION

*Membership is divided into the following categories:*

1. **Masters** are lawyers of outstanding reputation with over 15 years at the bar, judges of courts that serve this area, or law professors. Masters who participate regularly are eligible for annual renewal of their membership.
2. **Barristers** are lawyers with at least 5 years at the bar and are elected to serve three-year terms.
3. **Associates** are lawyers with less than 5 years at the bar and are elected to serve two-year terms.
4. **Pupils** are senior law students from Stetson University College of Law who intend to practice law in Sarasota County. Pupils serve a one-year term.

## **MASTERS EMERITUS**

In addition to the authorized membership of 80, a Master Emeritus may be elected by a two-thirds vote of Masters in attendance at a special meeting called for that purpose. To be nominated as a Master Emeritus, a member must have rendered distinguished service to the bench, bar, and this Inn and have served as a Member in this Inn for at least three years. An exception may be made for a Master entering the judiciary away from the Sarasota areas.

## **HONORARY MEMBERS**

Honorary members may be elected upon nomination by the Executive Committee upon two-thirds affirmative vote of the Masters. To be eligible for honorary membership, a person should have rendered distinguished service to the legal community as a lawyer or as a judge.

## **SELECTION OF MEMBERS**

In March, the membership chair determines which members wish to continue in the Inn and presents to the Executive Committee the names of those who have qualified to change their classification, have applied to be members or have been recommended for membership. The academic Master or Masters nominate four senior law students to become pupils for the coming year.

All nominations are presented to the Executive Committee for consideration in April. Invitations to membership must be approved by the Committee and shall not exceed the number permitted for each classification of membership. The President or the Membership Chair customarily invites new members on behalf of the Inn.



## THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The officers of the Inn include a President, President-Elect, Counselor, Secretary and Treasurer and Immediate Past President. The President-Elect and Counselor must be selected from among the Masters by a vote of a majority of the Masters present at a meeting noticed for that purpose. The Secretary and Treasurer may be elected from any class of membership by a vote of a majority of the membership at a meeting noticed for that purpose. The officers serve for one-year terms and may succeed themselves. It is anticipated for the succession of officers that the Counselor becomes the President-Elect, the President-Elect becomes the President and the President becomes the Immediate Past President.

Annually, the President appoints a nominating committee to nominate officers for the ensuing year. The annual election of officers occurs at the May meeting of the Inn. Officers take office on July 1 of each year.

The President, with consent of the officers, appoints Program, Membership, Hospitality, Historian and Reporter Chairs. The officers and chairs constitute the Executive Committee.

## FORMER PRESIDENTS OF OUR INN

1991 - 94	Hon. John M. Scheb	2003 - 04	Hon. Roy E. Dean
1994 - 95	Frank Strelec, Esq.	2004 - 05	Art Hardy, Esq.
1995 - 96	Hon. Lee F. Haworth	2005 - 06	W. Russ Snyder, Esq.
1996 - 97	Hon. Robert B. Bennett, Jr.	2006 - 07	Mark Kapusta, Esq.
1997 - 98	R. Jackson McGill, Esq.	2007 - 08	Hon. Scott Brownell
1998 - 99	Hon. Robert W. McDonald, Jr.	2008 - 09	Laurie S. Zimmerman, Esq.
1999 - 00	Charles H. Livingston, Esq.	2009 - 10	Hon. Diana L. Moreland
2000 - 01	Jaime L. Wallace, Esq.	2010 - 11	Andrew Clayton, Esq.
2001 - 02	Richard R. Garland, Esq.	2011 - 12	Hon. David L. Denkin
2002 - 03	Hon. Charles E. Williams	2012 - 13	Kate Halvorsen, Esq.

## **ANNUAL DUES**

The Executive Committee establishes dues which are currently as follows:

Masters	\$320.00
Barristers	\$270.00
Associates	\$220.00
Pupils	\$100.00

The Treasurer bills dues annually and payment is expected before the first meeting of the Inn in September.

The Inn's operating year is from July 1 - June 30.

## **ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS**

All active members are expected to attend and participate in each meeting of the Inn. The Executive Committee recognized that Judges and lawyers must occasionally be absent. The Committee, however, looks with disfavor on frequent absences. Frequent absences will have a significant bearing on whether an existing member is re-invited for membership in a succeeding year. If a member misses three or more meetings, the Executive Committee will consider whether that member's participation justifies continued involvement in the Inn.

## **PUPILLAGE GROUPS**

The Inn is organized annually into Pupillage groups, a structure basic to the English Inns of Court. Each group is composed of one or more Master and a number of Barristers, Associates, and where feasible, a pupil. Generally, a judge or senior lawyer will be assigned as the leader of each Pupilage group. Currently, the Executive Committee, through the Membership Chair, creates six Pupilage groups, with one group responsible for presenting a program lasting no more than one hour at each of the six monthly program meetings.

## **MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS**

Each Pupilage group must coordinate with the Program Chair so that a variety of programs demonstrating the practical aspects of the practice of law before trial and appellate courts and related activities are presented. Programs are designed to involve all members of the Pupilage group and may include guests. Pupilage groups should prepare handouts relevant to their programs and allow adequate time for discussion by members of points demonstrated in programs.

## **CLE CREDIT HOURS**

CLE credits for programs are arranged by the Program Chair. As many as six hours of CLE may be earned for yearly attendance at the Inn programs.

**BENEFITS AND SERVICES OF  
THE AMERICAN INNS OF COURT FOUNDATION**

The American Inns of Court Foundation is governed by a board of elected officers who are aided by a professional staff and volunteer members of committees. The Foundation publishes *The Bench* on a bi-monthly basis, provides programming services and annually furnishes members a national handbook. A national conference is held annually. Each year the Foundation also confers awards at a national Leadership Meeting.

Members are encouraged to take advantage of the Foundation's reciprocal visitation agreement with the four English Inns of Court in London. Members interested in visiting an English Inn should request a letter of introduction from the web: [www.innsofcourt.org](http://www.innsofcourt.org)

American Inns of Court Foundation

1229 King Street, Second Floor

Alexandria, Virginia 22314

**JUDGE JOHN M. SCHEB  
PROFESSIONALISM AWARD**

The American Inns of Court movement has recognized outstanding lawyers from around the country through its national and circuit professionalism awards. In 2004, our Inn of Court established a Professionalism Award. The award, by its very title, recognizes the outstanding professionalism of our founder, Judge John M. Scheb, during his career as a lawyer and appellate judge. This new award recognizes a lawyer each year from Sarasota County who exemplifies professionalism in his or her day-to-day practice. Nominations are sought from Sarasota County community and the nominees can be Inn members or non-members. The Counselor of the Inn chairs the Nomination Committee made up of Masters. The Nomination Committee receives nominations and reviews the backgrounds of the nominees with an eye toward their reputations for professionalism. Nominations are submitted to the Executive Committee of the Inn, and the recipient is then selected by secret ballot by the Masters of the Inn. Nominations are sought in the Spring and the award is presented at the Social/Orientation meeting in September of each year.

**HONORED RECIPIENTS**

2004	Richard R. Garland
2005	Roy E. Dean
2006	Charles H. Livingston
2007	Marjorie Schmoyer
2008	Lamar Matthews
2009	James R. Dirmann
2010	Art Hardy
2011	Andrew Clayton

These outstanding lawyers have been role models for the Sarasota legal community. The Inn is indeed fortunate to have such outstanding lawyers contributing their time and talents to the overall cause of enhancing professionalism within our legal community. We hope this award will further enhance the professionalism of all lawyers in Sarasota County, whether those lawyers be Inn members or non-members.

**JUDGE JOHN M. SCHEB  
MEMBERSHIP**

The current list of all active members may be found at [innsofcourt.org](http://innsofcourt.org) Past members and alumnae may also be found at the [innsofcourt.org](http://innsofcourt.org) website.