

The Oliver Ellsworth American Inn Of Court

Program Structure

2025-2026

The following is a summary of the Program Structure of The Oliver Ellsworth American Inn Of Court (the “Inn”) as of the 2025-2026 Inn Year.

Structure Of Presenting Groups

Inn Members are generally divided into seven (7) groups. Each group is typically led by one or two Judges who act as Group Leaders. Each group also contains approximately four (4) to six (6) Benchers and four (4) to six (6) Barristers. The Executive Board assigns Members to groups. It aims where possible to create groups comprised of individuals who specialize in different areas of law and work at different firms and/or organizations to maximize the number of new connections made. Similarly, the Executive Board attempts to assign Members to work with Members they have not worked with in the past to maximize the number of new connections made.

Schedule Of Meetings And Presentations

The Inn customarily holds nine (9) meetings as follows: A Reception in September. A Speaker Presentation from a prominent member of the legal community (often a Connecticut Supreme Court Justice, federal Judge, or other leading figure) in October. Groups then begin their monthly presentations, with Group 1 presenting in November, Group 2 in December, and so on, with the exception of May, when no meeting is held. The final meeting is in June. Meetings are customarily held on the third Thursday of each month, but may be held on other dates to avoid holidays, school vacation weeks, competing events, etc. The 2025-2026 Schedule is as follows:

- Reception: September 18, 2025
- Speaker Presentation: October 23, 2025
- November 20, 2025: Group 1 Presentation
- December 18, 2025: Group 2 Presentation
- January 15, 2026: Group 3 Presentation
- February 19, 2026: Group 4 Presentation
- March 19, 2026: Group 5 Presentation
- April 16, 2026: Group 6 Presentation
- June 18, 2026: Group 7 Presentation

Topic Selection

Groups typically select their own topics. The Inn encourages groups to select timely topics that add practical value to the skills of the Inn's Members. Topics are very often litigation focused and may involve a deep dive into a particular area of the law (*e.g.*, punitive damages in Connecticut) or emerging issues (*e.g.*, generative artificial intelligence or a new statutory scheme or major precedential decision). Groups are generally expected to avoid selecting topics that have been covered by a different group in the last few years. Groups usually submit their topics to the Executive Board, which ensures that all topics are sufficiently distinct and do not overlap.

Format Of Programs

Groups typically select the format for their presentation. Skits (*e.g.*, mock trials, depositions, hearings, etc.) are very common. Groups have also made more traditional presentations (for example, using PowerPoints and a lecture format). The final Meeting (in June) is traditionally legal jeopardy. The Group that presents at the final Meeting (Group 7) identifies legal topics of interest for jeopardy questions that teams of Members answer to earn points.

Content Of Programs

The content of programs varies by the topic selected and format of the program, but all Groups must prepare written materials for dissemination to the Inn as part of their presentations. These written materials have included, for example, summaries of key cases on the topic, a "cheat sheet" for the statutorily mandated process that governs prejudgment remedies, etc. Programs often utilize scripts for skits, PowerPoints, graphics, and in some cases costumes.

Continuing Legal Education Credits

Continuing Legal Education credits are provided for all Presentations (*i.e.*, the Speaker Presentation and Group Presentations). Members should sign the sign-in sheets to ensure they obtain credit, though they may still be able to obtain credit as long as they are present.