

## **Community Outreach & Special Projects**

For many members, Inns can serve as an extension of their desire to make an impact, not only on the practice of law, but also on their communities. One of the ways many Inns are making a positive impact and giving back to their local communities is through Community Outreach programs.

Community outreach activities extend the mission of the American Inns of Court by providing exposure to the broader community and offering opportunities for Inn members to represent the ideals of the American Inns of Court in their community. A special project is a substantive activity or enterprise created and developed by the Inn that may not be just for Inn members but also reaches the local legal community or community at large.

### **Inn Outreach Efforts**

- Presentations at local bar meetings, co-sponsored events with other professional organizations, presentations at law schools, etc.
- Special programs put on for the general public, presentations for elementary/middle/high school students, building public awareness, legal aid, pro bono work, etc.
- Mentor the Organizing Committee of a new Inn
- Provide Inn to Inn support for new or troubled Inns
- Engage in coaching opportunities with other Inn leaders

### **Special Project Criteria**

- Promotes or incorporates elements of the American Inns of Court mission
- Reaches out to the legal community
- Presents interesting or challenging subjects
- Contains complete research to support the project

## Samples of Special and Community Service Projects

P11991      **Wills For Heroes**      *Temple AIC, Philadelphia, PA*

This special project featured the Wills for Heroes public service project. Wills for Heroes is a 501c3 foundation that assists organizations in providing free wills, living wills and powers of attorney to first responders. The submission included a video that was created by the American Bar Association.

P11924      **The Ethics and Practicalities of Pro Bono**      *Richard Linn AIC, Chicago, IL*

This project divided members into their pupillage teams and each group was assigned a potential service project. Each team representative gave a representation to the other members of the Inn and the Inn

P11906      **Talking Tour of the Juvenile Detention Facility**      *Eldon B. Mahon AIC, Ft. Worth, TX*

The Inn membership was divided into two groups for this project. Each group was led on a tour of the Juvenile Detention Facility by a judge of the Juvenile Court. The judge provided an overview of the Texas Juvenile System and basic concepts of juvenile law and pointed out intake areas, assessment centers, classrooms and living areas in the detention facility.

P11894      **Habitat for Humanity Home Building Project**      *Pensacola AIC, Pensacola, FL*

The special project featured the Inn's efforts to participate in the local Habitat for Humanity home building process. The project was initiated by a desire to connect the local legal community with those in need of a home, but the project also brought Inn members closer together in the shared experience of helping others.

P11893      **Bankruptcy Trial Skills Program**      *Hon. John C. Ford AIC, Dallas, TX*

The Inn, in conjunction with the DFW Association of Young Bankruptcy Lawyers, formed a committee to design a program that would provide substantive as well as practical litigation skills training for bankruptcy lawyers. The project was divided into two parts: a series of five 90 minute classroom sessions; and a 5 hour mock trial. The faculty was made up of attorneys whose practice is limited litigation in federal and state courts who had also tried several significant contested matters or adversary proceedings in the bankruptcy court. The mock trial was a scripted motion to lift an automatic stay.

P11891      **The Inns of Court: From the UK to the USA**      *Judge John M. Manos Inn, Cleveland, OH*

This special project reviewed and explored the connections between the four historic Inns of Court in the United Kingdom and the American Inns of Court. The interactive discussion addressed the development of the Inns of Court in the United Kingdom and the promotion of professionalism and civility among attorneys and judges. An important component of the presentations discussed the emergence and continuing growth of the ideals nurtured in the United Kingdom as translated into practice by American lawyers and judges through the American Inns of Court movement.

**P11869      Volunteering in America: A Call to Citizen Lawyers      *Temple AIC, Philadelphia, PA***

This program sought to encourage Inn members to continue to serve their local communities as 'citizen lawyers'. The program also tried to educate the Inn membership on the importance of citizen volunteerism and to establish a permanent responsibility of the membership of the Inn to participate in a volunteer program each year on Law Day.

**P11970      Temple Inn Ambassadors of the American Inns of Court and the U.S. Legal Profession      *Temple AIC, Philadelphia, PA***

This special project involved 26 Inn members as ambassadors from the American Inns of Court and the U.S. legal profession on a visit to Italy. The Inn members met with members of the local Italian bar, visited the Supreme Court of Italy and attended teaching sessions at Rome's largest university. The trip was planned as an exchange with Italian lawyers and to share the American Inns of Court philosophy abroad.

**P12744      Howard Middle School Law Awareness Mock Trial      *George C. Young AIC, Orlando, FL***

This special project built on an established relationship between the Inn and a local middle school. After several years of coaching and using scripted mock trials, the Inn developed this special project to feature an original mock trial based on a real case. To give students a better appreciation of how the law might affect them, the scenario involved a minor who had committed a series of burglaries. Students acted as jurors, trial clerks, bailiffs, judges and attorneys. The school's audiovisual class filmed the mock trial and is creating a documentary based on the experience.

**P12824      Counsel on Call      *AIC of Acadiana, Lafayette, LA***

This pro bono special project was offered by the Lafayette Volunteer Lawyers in conjunction with the American Inns of Court. Members committed to staffing Counsel on Call, which gives self-represented litigants an opportunity to discuss legal matters with volunteer attorneys privately. Volunteer attorneys provide participants with limited legal guidance, assist participants with locating research material, and refer participants to referral attorneys.

**P13044      Welcome to the Courthouse      *Harry V. Booth-Judge Henry A. Politz AIC, Shreveport, LA***

This program is a ninety minute introduction for 76 high school civics students to the United States Courthouse and its diverse court family and functions. Included in the program were a mock sentencing, a historical overview of American and English Inns of Court, and a look at the various functions within a courtroom and the many aspects of a day in court.

**P13124      Bankruptcy Program for the 52nd Academy and International Law      *Hon. John C. Ford AIC, Dallas, TX***

This program is a look at a portion of an annual event that the Center for American and International Law in Plano, TX hosts. It is a six week residential, legal education program for non-US attorneys. This

presentation is a one-day "hands on" seminar on bankruptcy and international insolvency. There were 47 attorneys from 22 countries represented.

**P13502          Bankruptcy Program for the 53rd Academy of the Center for American and International Law          *John C. Ford Bankruptcy AIC, Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX***

Each summer for the past 53 years, the Center for American and International Law located in Plano, Texas has hosted a 6-week residential, legal education program for non-US attorneys. On June 10, 2016, the John C. Ford Bankruptcy Inn of Dallas/Fort Worth presented a one-day, "hands-on" seminar on bankruptcy and international insolvency to this year's students. There were 47 attorneys from 24 different countries in attendance.

**P13518          The Justice Games          *Tampa, FL***

The Justice Games is a one-of-a-kind Inns of Court event involving ALL eight Tampa Inns. It is an annual competition started in 2012/2013. Each year all eight Tampa Inns convene for cocktails and dinner and an evening of legal competition, collegiality, and fellowship to showcase their legal knowledge, spirit and creativity. Each year one Inn is the host of the event. The Justice Games brings together all areas of law and all members of the legal community: civil law, criminal law, litigation, appellate law, family law, elder law, federal judges, state judges, magistrates, hearing officers, attorneys, and law students. During the cocktail hour attendees are encouraged to visit the booths in the room that are hosted by local, legal non-profit organizations, such as Bay Area Legal Services, to help support those organizations in the future with their time and talents.

**P13598          Oliver Hill Essay Contest          *Ted Dalton AIC, Salem, VA***

The Ted Dalton Inn of Court collaborated on a community outreach project with Washington & Lee University School of Law's Black Law Student Association Chapter and Bog Brother, Big Sister of Southwest Virginia to sponsor an essay contest for students in 3rd through 5th grade who attended Roanoke City Public Schools. The selected topic was "What does Oliver Hill mean to You in 2016?", and students were encouraged to research Oliver Hill to educate themselves on his historical significance in Roanoke, Virginia.



Project Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date Presented \_\_\_\_\_ Inn Year \_\_\_\_\_

Presenting Inn(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Inn Number \_\_\_\_\_

Inn City \_\_\_\_\_ Inn State \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please consider this project for the Special Project Award    Yes    No

**Project Description:**

*Be detailed in summarizing the content, structure, and legal focus of your project. Please attach additional sheets if necessary.*

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**Project Materials:**

*The following materials checklist is intended to insure that all the materials that are required to duplicate this special project are included in the materials submitted to the national office. **Please include a copy of any of the above existing materials with your project submission.***

Script	Articles	Citations of Law	Legal Documents	Fact Pattern	List of Questions	Handouts
PowerPoint Presentation	CD	DVD	Other Media (Please specify) _____			

**Special Equipment or Special Arrangements:**

*i.e., DVD and TV, black board with chalk, easel for diagrams, etc.*

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# Special Project Submission Form

### Project Timeline:

List the segments of the project and the approximate time each item took. Please try to indicate the amount of planning that is involved and if any special arrangements are required beforehand.

Item	Time

### Comments:

Clarify the procedure, suggest additional ways of performing the same demonstration, or comment on the response from the Inn members regarding the demonstration.

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**Special Project Award:** *Please complete this section only if the project is being submitted for award consideration.*

**Describe how your project fits the Special Project Award criteria:**

**Mission:** How did the project promote or incorporate the elements of the mission of the American Inns of Court? *(To foster excellence in professionalism, ethics, civility, and legal skills.)*

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**Community:** How did the project reach the legal community or community-at-large?

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### Questions:

Please contact program library staff at (703) 684-3590 or [programlibrary@innsofcourt.org](mailto:programlibrary@innsofcourt.org).