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Anthony Giaccio



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Administrator

Michael Isaacs
(201) 634-1870
admin@connerinn.org

Honorable William C. Conner Inn of Court
an American Inn of Court in New York City

Mission

The mission of the Hon. William C. Conner Inn of Court is to promote excellence in professionalism, ethics, civility, and legal skills for judges, lawyers, academicians, and students of law and to advance the education of the members of the Inn, the members of the bench and bar, and the public in the fields of intellectual property law.

Membership

The membership of our intellectual property focused American Inn of Court is divided into pupillage groups. Each pupillage group consists of a few members from each category of membership, namely Benchers, Masters, Barristers, Associates, Government Employees/Academics and Law Students/Law Clerks. Each pupillage group works together during the course of an Inn year to conduct one program during an Inn meeting. The pupillage group members are encouraged to get together informally outside of the scheduled meetings.

Our intellectual property Inn of Court is open to participation by any member of the Federal Judiciary, including judges of the Eastern and Southern Districts of New York and the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals. Currently, the Benchers of the Inn include Hon. Loretta A. Preska (Chief Judge), Hon. Richard M. Berman, Hon. Vincent L. Briccetti, Hon. Colleen McMahon, and Hon. J. Paul Oetken of the Southern District of New York; the Hon. Roslynn R. Mauskopf of the Eastern District of New York; Hon. Faith S. Hochberg (ret.) and Hon. John C. Lifland (ret.) of the District of New Jersey; and Hon. Timothy B. Dyk, Hon. Richard Linn, Hon. Pauline Newman, Hon. Jimmie V. Reyna, and Hon. Paul R. Michel (ret. Chief Judge) of the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

In addition to judges, our attorney members comprise senior and junior outside counsel and in-house counsel from law firms and companies the Greater New York City area, as well as academicians and other professionals, with varying levels of experience across a diverse range of law and practice specialties within the field of intellectual property.

Mentorship

The Hon. William C. Conner Inn of Court welcomes law students into our mentorship program that features a "Fireside Chat" program every February when Student and Associate members meet with Benchers in a casual yet informative open Q&A program. Student and Associate members are also

directly mentored by senior attorneys in their pupillage group while working together to put on a substantive program. Our intellectual-property-focused Inn of Court is open to participation by professors and students interested in intellectual property law and practice. Our Inn has had student members from (in alphabetical order) Benjamin Cardozo School of Law, Brooklyn Law School, Fordham University Law School, New York Law School, New York University Law School, Rutgers Law School and Quinnipiac Law School. In order to be considered for one of the limited number of student memberships in the Inn, all interested students must submit the attached application to join.

Goal

The goal of the Conner Inn is to promote interaction between judges, lawyers, academicians, and law students and to advance the education of the members of the Inn in the field of intellectual property law.

Meetings and Location

Meetings of the Hon. William C. Conner Inn of Court typically are held at the Southern District of New York 500 Pearl Street Courthouse in the evenings (usually between 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.), unless otherwise arranged, and oftentimes include light food and beverages during a reception following the Inn's regular meetings (usually between 7:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.). Each meeting generally includes an educational and social / networking component.

In order to maintain your membership in the Inn, attendance at the meetings is expected. Each member must notify the Administrator of his or her intentions regarding attending or not attending an Inn program at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled date. Each member of the Inn is responsible for returning the courtroom to its proper condition.

Schedule

The next mentoring program for Student and Associate members with our Benchers will take place on February 11, 2016. For our 2015-2016 membership year, substantive programs have been scheduled as follows: October 28, 2015, November 12, 2015, February 24, 2016, March 15, 2016, April 19, 2016, and May 10, 2016.

Application

Applications for membership in this Inn must be submitted for consideration to the Executive Committee, which considers all applications for membership in accordance with the principles of this Inn and factors into each decision the particular person's number of years of experience and type of law practice. The Executive Committee promptly reviews the applications and assigns the membership category (Bencher, Master, Barrister, Associate, Government Employee/Academic and Law Student/Law Clerk). The Executive Committee promptly notifies all applicants of the decision on admission and, if admitted to the Inn, of the category of each applicant. The applications are available at www.connerinn.org. Please submit your application by e-mail to admin@connerinn.org.

Diversity

The Hon. William C. Conner Inn of Court values diversity in our profession and is inclusive of all persons from all disciplines, practice types, public and private sector, economic strata, race, ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, gender, religion, age, personal style, appearance, and physical abilities, as well as people of diverse opinions, perspectives, lifestyles, ideas, and thinking.