



VILLANOVA
UNIVERSITY

Charles Widger School of Law

J. WILLARD O'BRIEN AMERICAN INN OF COURT

**Established in 2000
20th Anniversary Celebration**

**Tuesday, May 10, 2022
5:30 p.m.**

**Villanova University
Charles Widger School of Law
John F. Scarpa Hall
Arthur M. Goldberg '66 Commons**

**Cocktail Reception with opening remarks from
Mark C. Alexander, the Arthur J. Kania Dean**

Welcome

April M. Byrd '95, President

Presentation of the J. Clayton Undercofler III, Esq. '66

Distinguished Service Award

April M. Byrd '95, President

Guest Speaker

The Honorable Marjorie Rendell '73

Senior Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals

Recognition of 2020–22 Leadership Team and Closing

April M. Byrd '95, President



**AMERICAN
INNS of COURT®**

FAST FACTS:

J. Willard O’Brien American Inn of Court

- Charter Number: 325 (15th of 25 Chartered Inns in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania)
- Total members: 478
- Graduating classes with at least one Inn member from 1963–2021: ALL (except 1964 and 1965)
 - Graduating class with the most Inn members (24): Class of 2008
 - Inn members who have been appointed to judgeships: 22
- Achieving Excellence Award Recognition every year from 2010–2021
- Inn submissions to the National Program Library: 40+
- Recipients of the J. Clayton Undercofler III, Esq. ’66 Distinguished Service Award: 8
- Total number of presentations and CLE credits offered over the past 20 years: 100+
- Current 2022 members who were also members of the inaugural Inn year 2000: 16
- Average Pupil Membership 2000–2020: 14
- Members who hold Partner/Shareholder roles at their respective firms: 63
- Inn membership Bar Composition:
 - Solo Practitioners
 - Small Firms
 - Big Firms
 - In-House
 - Federal And State Government
 - Professors
 - Prosecutors
 - Criminal Defense
 - Personal Injury
 - Commercial
 - Labor
 - Plaintiff’s Side
 - Defense Side

- Years in which the J. Willard O’Brien American Inn of Court achieved National Recognition: 4

Year	Program Title	Recognition
2003	From In-House to the Big House (P11158)	OUTSTANDING RECOGNITION
2009	Attorneys Say the Darndest Things (P11732)	FIRST PLACE AWARD
2009	The Difficult Client (P11731)	THIRD PLACE AWARD
2015	How Prepared Are You to Face a Judicial Shark Tank? (P12973)	OUTSTANDING RECOGNITION

- Feature articles authored by Inn members in *The Bench*er magazine: 4

Issue	Article Title	Author(s)
November/December 2021	‘You’re on Mute!’ and Other Pandemic Practice Lessons	Kathleen D. Wilkinson, Esq. and Thomas G. Wilkinson Jr., Esq.
July/August 2021	The New Normal: Technology, Law, and Ethics in an Increasingly Connected but Remote World	Andrew J. Throckmorton, Esq.
March/April 2019	Client Advocacy Isn’t Personal: A Lesson from the National Trial Advocacy Program	Edward S. Robson, Esq.
May/June 2010	10 Secrets to Creating an Award-Winning Program	Dale Larrimore, Esq.





INN AWARD RECOGNITION HISTORY

YEAR	PROGRAM	STATUS ACHIEVED
2010–2011	Achieving Excellence	Bronze
2011–2012	Achieving Excellence	Silver
2012–2013	Achieving Excellence	Bronze
2013–2014	Achieving Excellence	Gold
2014–2015	Achieving Excellence	Gold
2015–2016	Achieving Excellence	Platinum
2016–2017	Achieving Excellence	Gold
2017–2018	Achieving Excellence	Platinum
2018–2019	Achieving Excellence	Platinum
2019–2020	Achieving Excellence	Platinum
2020–2021	Achieving Excellence	Platinum

Excerpted from Villanova Law's *The Verdict*: Volume I, Issue I, Spring 2000

Villanova Law Establishes Inn of Court

On March 14, Villanova University School of Law held the first meeting of the J. Willard O'Brien American Inn of Court in the Ceremonial Courtroom of the United States Courthouse in Philadelphia.

An unincorporated association chartered by the American Inns of Court Foundation, the Villanova Inn, named after J. Willard O'Brien who served as Dean from 1972 to 1983, will provide law students, lawyers and judges with an opportunity to meet monthly for social and educational programs to improve the skills, professionalism and ethics of the bench and bar.

"The Villanova Inn is a dynamic network of alumni, third-year students and judges," says Professor Anne Poulin, a member of the Inn and faculty liaison. "Our members will work side-by-side with the most experienced judges and attorneys in their community to discuss litigation and related ethical issues."



Dean Emeritus J. Willard O'Brien is recognized at the inaugural meeting of the Inn named in his honor.

The first American Inn of Court was established in 1980 as a way to help lawyers and judges rise to higher levels of excellence, professionalism and ethical awareness. The structure of the Inn is derived from the traditional English model of legal apprenticeship and modified to fit the particular needs of the American legal system.

Today Inns are chartered in every state and the District of Columbia and actively involve 20,000 state, federal and administrative law judges, attorneys, legal scholars and third-year law students.

The maximum number of active members in an Inn is 80, and membership is composed of the following categories: Masters of the Bench—judges, experienced lawyers, and law profes-

sors (five-year term); Barristers—lawyers with some experience who do not meet the minimum requirements for Masters (three-year term); Associates—lawyers who do not meet the minimum requirements for Barristers (two-year term); and Pupils—third-year law students.

"Term limits will allow the membership to evolve, enabling as many practitioners as possible to participate," says Professor Poulin. "And the membership structure allows less-experienced attorneys to become more effective advocates and counselors by working with and learning from more experienced attorneys and judges."

For more information about the American Inns of Court Foundation, contact the Office of Alumni Affairs. ■



VLS Inn of Court Members (left to right) U.S. Attorney Michael R. Stiles '71, The Honorable Marjorie O. Rendell '73, and the Honorable James J. Fitzgerald '66 listen intently to the ethical issues presented at the first meeting.

OFFICERS, 2000-2001

Alan J. Hoffman, Esq. '73 - President
Honorable Stephen Raslavich '80 - Counselor
Sol H. Weiss, Esq. '72 - Treasurer
Martin Trichon, Esq. '73 - Membership Chair
C. Alexa Abowitz '95 - Program Chair
Professor Abraham J. Gafni - Law School Liaison
Professor Anne B. Poulin - Law School Liaison