

The American Inns of Court

The American Inns of Court is designed to improve the skills, professionalism and ethic of the bench and bar. An American Inn of Court is an amalgam of judges, lawyers, and, in some cases, law professors and law students. The Inn meets approximately once a month both to “break bread” and to conduct programs and discussions on matters of ethics, skills and professionalism.

Seeking a new way to help lawyers and judges rise to higher levels of excellence, professionalism and ethical awareness, the American Inns of Court adopted the traditional English model of legal apprenticeship and modified it to fit the particular needs of the American legal system. American Inns of Court help lawyers to become effective advocates and counselors with a keener ethical awareness. Members learn side by side with the most experienced judges and attorneys in the community.

The membership is divided into masters, barristers and pupils depending on the member’s level of expertise.

2020-2021 PROGRAMS

Due to COVID-19, the Inn of Court will meet virtually via Zoom on the 4th Wednesday of each month from 6 pm to 8 pm on the dates indicated below. Please note that dues have been adjusted for this program year only given the change to a virtual format.

September 23, 2020
Use of Force

October 28, 2020
Voting Rights

November 21, 2020
The Constitution

January 27, 2021
Judicial and Prosecutorial Independence

March 24, 2021
Ethics and Fee Arbitration

May 26, 2021
Domestic Violence

The Honorable Marie White Bell American Inn of Court



The Hon. Marie White Bell American Inn of Court

In 2007, Joan M. Burke, then President of the Association of Black Women Lawyers of New Jersey appointed a committee to explore the possibility of creating a new chapter of the American Inns of Court. Her vision was to create a learning environment for fellow attorneys to improve their legal acumen while developing a strong sense of ethics and fostering collegiality. To that end, the Anne E. Thompson American Inn of Court was formed. The Inn's Executive Committee determined that the name of the Inn should be changed every ten years in order to honor jurists who have made significant contributions to the legal profession and community at large, and in 2018, it was renamed the Marie White Bell American Inn of Court.

The Honorable Marie White Bell was the first African American to serve on the Town Council and as mayor of the Township of Willingboro, New Jersey. In 1981, Judge Bell was appointed to the township's Municipal Court, a position that she held for 16 years.

She also served as the first female judge in Camden County as a result of her appointment as a municipal court judge for the City of Camden and Chesilhurst Borough. In 1997, Judge Bell became the second woman and the first African American to be sworn in as a Superior Court Judge in Burlington County. She retired from the bench in 2006 but continued to serve on recall until 2016. Judge Bell received her bachelor's degree from Lycoming College, completed her post graduate work at the University of Pennsylvania and received her law degree from Seton Hall University School of Law.

2020-2021 Fees

	Private Practice, In-House Counsel	Government Attorney
Pupil 5 years or less	\$125	\$125
Barrister 5 to 9 years	\$200	\$175
Master 10 years or more	\$250	\$175
Retirees	\$125	\$125
Students	Free	Free

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Full Name:

Mailing Address:

Office Address:

Preferred Phone #:

Email Address:

Alternate Email Address:

Years of Professional Experience:

Mail Application by 9/15/20 to:

The Honorable Marie White Bell
American Inn of Court
C/O Carolyn V. Chang, Esq., Treasurer
133 High Street
Mount Holly, New Jersey 08060