Giles Sutherland Rich Inn of Court

At the beginning of each school year, the IPLSA faculty advisors solicit applications from second, third, and fourth year students to be nominated as pupil members of the Giles S. Rich Inn of Court. Our law school may nominate up to four pupil members.

What is the Giles S. Rich Inn of Court? It is one of the American Inns of Court, a national organization "designed to improve the skills, professionalism and ethics of the bench and bar." As described on the Web site for the American Inns of Court, http://www.innsofcourt.org/inns/richinn/, "[a]n American Inn of Court is an amalgam of judges, lawyers, and in some cases, law professors and law students. Each Inn meets approximately once a month both to 'break bread' and to hold programs and discussions on matters of ethics, skills and professionalism.” Named for the late Judge Giles Sutherland Rich of the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, the Giles S. Rich American Inn of Court concentrates on intellectual property issues.

The Inn meets monthly (on Tuesday or Wednesday evenings) between September and May in the Howard T. Markey National Courts Building, home of the Federal Circuit and the Court of Federal Claims. Its membership is divided into small pupilage teams, with each team consisting of lawyers, judges, and law students. Each pupilage team presents one program for our chapter each year.

The Inn runs a formal Pupil Group mentoring program, under which pupil members from our law school are paired with two mentors: one recent law graduate and one experienced practitioner. Pupil members are expected to meet with the mentors at least four times over nine months outside of the regularly scheduled Inn meetings. As Professor Winston can attest from her own personal experience as a former Pupil Group member, the mentoring program is a fantastic way to advance a student's professional career in intellectual property by giving an unparalleled opportunity to network and obtain information.

Prospective nominees should be aware that attendance at both regularly scheduled meetings and pupil group mentoring meetings is essential to maximizing the benefits from the Inn. As a member, you will be required to attend at least five of the nine meetings scheduled during the 2009-2010 year. We appreciate, however, that students taking evening classes may not find it possible to attend some meetings; in that event, it will be your responsibility to identify another CUA law student who might attend in your place.

We first offer nominations to any IPLSA officers who are interested in participating in the Inn, and then we open up nominations to the rest of IPLSA if spaces remain. If you have any questions about the Inn of Court, please feel free to contact Professor Winston (winstone@law.edu) or Professor La Belle (labelle@law.edu).