

First District Appellate American Inn of Court (Florida)

Pro Bono Appellate Attorneys Offer CLE Series for Legal Services Trial Attorneys

This spring, judges and attorneys from the First District Appellate American Inn of Court in Tallahassee, Florida, presented a two-part CLE series that provided a comprehensive overview of appellate practice to an audience of legal services trial attorneys. An esteemed panel of current and former judges and pro bono appellate lawyers came together to cover the basics of appellate advocacy. Effective advocacy includes anticipating outcomes and planning for the best possible results for clients at all stages of the case. Trial practice that includes consideration and planning for possible appeals helps ensure successful final outcomes. With this in mind and with input from Jacksonville Area Legal Aid attorneys, the Inn's planning team designed the course to assist trial attorneys who represent low-income and vulnerable clients.

The topics included thinking strategically at the trial level for a possible appeal, perfecting the record, and preserving error. Also included was an overview of new developments in appellate rules, including appellate mediation.

The series included an oral argument demonstration with a "behind the scenes" twist. Prior to the demonstration, two experienced appellate



Participants in the oral arguments session included, from left to right, Judge Stephanie W. Ray, Judge William A. Van Nortwick, Judge Ronald V. Swanson, all of Florida's First District Court of Appeals; and attorneys William Graessle, Esquire and Bryan Gowdy, Esquire.

attorneys discussed their strategies and goals with seminar attendees out of the presence of the panel. They then argued before a panel of First District Court of Appeal judges. After the arguments were presented, attendees had the opportunity to "listen in" as the judges had their conference to determine their ruling on the case.

More than 50 legal services staff and pro bono attorneys participated in the event. By assisting attorneys who serve the vulnerable and underserved, ultimately it is the clients who benefit. ♦

Thompson G. Marsh American Inn of Court (Colorado)

Throughout the 2012–2013 Inn year, the Thompson G. Marsh American Inn of Court in Denver, Colorado, participated in a monthly community outreach program by volunteering at Denver Legal Night. The Denver Legal Night program is sponsored by the Colorado Lawyers Committee and the Young Lawyers Division of the Denver Bar Association. The program provides an opportunity for members of the community, who cannot afford legal services, to receive free legal and referral information in the areas of law including immigration, credit, housing, landlord/tenant relations, employment, and family law. The group holds the open house-

style events twice a month at two different locations in Denver.

Each of the Marsh Inn's pupillage groups selected a month between October and May to volunteer at Denver Legal Night. Volunteering provided Inn members with an opportunity to network and socialize with one another outside of the typical context of monthly Inn meetings and allowed the Inn to contribute in a meaningful way to the local community. The Inn will continue its community outreach efforts next year through monthly participation in a different community organization of the Inn president's choice. ♦