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**J. CLIFFORD WALLACE INN OF COURT**  
**Application for Membership 2019-2020**  
**APPLICATION DEADLINE JULY 19, 2019**

Because the quality of the Inn depends greatly on the participation of its members, by applying for membership, you agree to attend every Inn event during your term of membership. The time commitment is approximately four hours per month, including two hours at the monthly dinner meetings. Spaces are limited, so please do not apply if you are not committing to participate.

Please insert responses into this document or typewritten on a separate sheet.

1. Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Firm Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

- Applying as:  Barrister (at least 5 years litigation experience)  
 Associate (0-5 years litigation experience)  
 Pupil (law student)

Please provide your current resume (if available). There is no need to complete any questions below that are otherwise covered by a resume you provide.

2. Provide your undergraduate and law school information, including the name of the school, degree(s) conferred and the year the degree was conferred. Also include any academic achievements, awards or honors.

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3. List two of your most significant cases on which you have worked (not necessarily trials.) Give a brief description of each case and why it is significant to you.

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4. Identify any professional and community activities or awards and achievements, including any participation in other Inns of Court.

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5. What are your personal interests, activities and hobbies?

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6. Provide two professional references, including your relationship to the individual identified.

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7. Please provide a brief explanation as to why you are applying to the program.

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8. Are you admitted to practice law in any other state, and if so, which one(s)?

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Please e-mail completed applications to:

Michael Conger, Esq.  
Law Offices of Michael A. Conger  
P.O. Box 9374  
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067  
[CongerMike@aol.com](mailto:CongerMike@aol.com)

**The J. Clifford Wallace Inn of Court actively encourages participation by all eligible members of the bar, and seeks diversity of practice, geography, culture and experience in order to actively promote excellence in the professionalism, civility, ethics and legal skills of all its members.**

**“The Mission of the American Inns of Court is to foster excellence in professionalism, ethics, civility, and legal skills.”**



## American Inns of Court J. Clifford Wallace Chapter

The Masters of the Wallace Inn Invite You To Apply:

The J. Clifford Wallace Chapter of the American Inns of Court is now accepting applications for Barristers, Associates, and Student Members for 2019-2020.

Barrister membership is open to attorneys who have been in practice five or more years. Associate Members are attorneys with less than five years experience. Student members are current law school students.

The Wallace Chapter meets for monthly dinner and educational programs in the conference facilities at the Carmel Valley offices of Morrison & Foerster. Our monthly programs include a stimulating educational program (MCLE Approved) followed by dinner with wine and beer. The Wallace Chapter provides a great opportunity to socialize and network with experienced lawyers and judges. The Masters of the Wallace Chapter are dedicated to providing high quality mentoring and education for lawyers in a supportive and informal setting.

The time commitment typically involves approximately 4 hours per month. Activities include our organizational cocktail party, monthly dinner meetings and a holiday function. Members are assigned to a small group which is responsible for presenting at one of the educational programs. Membership cost varies depending on practice type and date of bar admittance and includes all MCLE and dinners. Law student membership fees are waived by the Wallace Inn.

If interested, please fill out the attached application and e-mail no later than July 19, 2019 to:

Please e-mail completed applications to:

Michael Conger, Esq.  
Law Offices of Michael A. Conger  
P.O. Box 9374  
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067  
[CongerMike@aol.com](mailto:CongerMike@aol.com)

The Deadline for applications is July 19, 2019.

## **J. Clifford Wallace Chapter of the American Inns of Court**

by The Honorable Karen S. Crawford<sup>1</sup>

In 2004, a group of San Diego lawyers and judges assembled to discuss formation of an American Inn of Court Chapter in North County. Although several active Inn chapters existed in San Diego at the time, none were based in the Carmel Valley or Del Mar area. There was a perceived need for an additional Inn given the growing number of law firms in the area and the resulting need for legal education. Many questions were raised during our initial discussions, including whether the new Chapter should be a “specialty” Inn dedicated to intellectual property, what eligibility requirements were appropriate, and how to ensure a diverse membership.<sup>2</sup> With the assistance of the American Inn of Court Foundation and guidance from members of the legal community including Charles “Chuck” Dick, a Master in the Louis Welsh Inn Chapter, the decision was made to form the J. Clifford Wallace Chapter. On October 25, 2004, our Charter was issued; our first meeting was held on March 23, 2005.

The decision to name our Chapter in honor of J. Clifford Wallace came easily, as Judge Wallace played an invaluable role in the creation of the American Inns of Court. The concept of the “American” Inns of Court first arose in a conversation between the late U.S. Supreme Court Justice Warren Burger and Justice Wallace. As participants in the Anglo-American Legal Exchange in London in 1977, both were very impressed with the role the English Inns play in preparing advocates for practice, and by the models of integrity, civility, and collegiality afforded by the Inns. While on a bus outside their London hotel, they spoke about the possibility of adapting the British Inns teachings to American practice.<sup>3</sup> Judge Wallace’s insight and active participation at the inception of the American Inns movement were significant factors in shaping the American Inns of Court today.

The mission of the American Inn of Court is to unite a cross-section of the bench and bar in an educational forum to encourage excellence, professionalism, and ethics in advocacy, as

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<sup>1</sup> Judge Crawford currently serves as a Magistrate Judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of California. Judge Crawford is a Master and founding member of the J. Clifford Wallace Chapter of the American Inn of Court and serves on the Executive Board. She is also the President of the Louis M. Welsh Chapter of the American Inn of Court and member of the Executive Board, and a former member and secretary of the National American Inn of Court Foundation Board of Trustees.

<sup>2</sup> Membership in an American Inn of Court is open to and encouraged of all qualified persons, regardless of race, color, sex, age religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability.

<sup>3</sup> *The American Inns of Court: Reclaiming a Noble Profession*, by Paul B. Pixton, Matthew Bender & Co., Inc., 1977, at p. 18.

well as to promote fellowship of the bench and bar. The idea is simple: lawyers and judges with experience in litigation join together to impart their hard-earned lessons and varying viewpoints to their less-experienced litigators. In the process, of course, they also educate each other about questions concerning ethics and substantive law. By providing a forum whereby young lawyers can learn side-by-side with the most experienced judges and attorneys in their communities, the Inn aids lawyers to become more effective advocates and counselors, with keener ethical awareness.

The first American Inn of Court was organized in 1980 in Provo, Utah by District Court Judge A. Sherman Christensen. Today, the Inns of Court has evolved into a national movement, with over 31,000 active members participating in 379 Inn chapters in 46 states, Guam and Tokyo, 2,000 participating law students, and 120,000 alumni. The judiciary are involved in the Wallace Inn as well, and are among the 2,692 judges actively participating in Inns chapters. While most Inn chapters focus generally on substantive, procedural and ethical issues which arise in litigation, several Inn chapters specialize in areas such as criminal practice, tax law, administrative law, family law, white-collar crime, bankruptcy, intellectual property, and employment and labor law.

The Wallace Chapter has hallmark features which distinguishes it from typical continuing education programs. We are committed not only to improving advocacy skills, but also to heightening ethical standards in the legal profession. Our membership reflects the rich diversity of the San Diego bench and bar and includes plaintiff and defense counsel, public and private practitioners, state and federal lawyers, practitioners from large and small firms, corporate counsel, professors and judges. Our Chapter is comprised of approximately one hundred members from the legal community who are divided into four experience categories: Masters (defined as judges, or litigators with more than 15 years of litigation experience); Barristers (who have 15 years or less of litigation experience); Associates (who have 5 years or less of litigation experience); and, students drawn from each of the three San Diego law schools. The members of our Inn are grouped into “pupilage” teams. Each team consists of a mix of Masters, Barristers, Associates and student members. This arrangement fosters the development of mentoring relationships between judges and senior members of the bar with less experienced lawyers and students. Each pupilage team is responsible for presenting one program per year on a topic of interest. The purpose is to teach in a manner that shows rather than tells.

Under the leadership of our past Presidents, Justice Joan Irion, the Hon. Dana Sabraw, Robert Gerber, the Hon. Steve Denton, Ret., the Hon. Cathy Bencivengo, and our current president, the Hon. Randa Trapp, the Wallace Chapter has contributed to the legal education of many in the North County Coastal Region. As recognized by Judge Trapp, “The Wallace Inn of Court presents a unique mentoring opportunity where some of the finest attorneys and judges in San Diego serve to educate and socialize with younger lawyers in a supportive and collegial Carmel Valley area setting. The ‘Wallace Inn’ experience is truly different and special.”

We congregate one evening per month, usually at Morrison & Foerster, at which a presentation by a pupilage group is made, typically in a role-playing vignette format. The

issues raised in the presentations are intended to invoke discussion about ethical and substantive issues from the entire Inn. Indeed, the Inn is a participatory program, and our success relies on the rich exchanges between lawyers and judges raised at our meetings. The monthly program topics, which are selected by the pupillage groups at the beginning of our program year, reflect the creativity and diverse skills of our membership. Additionally, pupillage groups assemble informally between the monthly meetings, further fostering professional relationships and friendships. The active participation by members of the trial and appellate bench is invaluable and greatly enriches our monthly programs and informal pupillage group meetings.

Participation in an Inn is a wonderful way to obtain continuing education credits, but active participation provides so much more. We learn from one another, and develop mentoring relationships with members of the bench and bar in a forum that encourages and, in fact, relies on open and frank discourse. Learning in this way teaches us, by example, how to be better advocates and, in so doing, allows each of us to improve the level of civility and excellence in our legal community. Recognizing the important role that the Inns play in educating the bench and bar, on January 26, 2011, the Conference of Chief Justices commended the “American Inns of Court for [its] commitment and dedication to improving the professionalism, ethics, civility and legal skills of judge, lawyers, academicians, and students of the law . . .” and recommended that “members of the bench and bar become actively involved and promote the mission and goals of the American Inns of Court.”<sup>4</sup>

If you are interested in learning more about the Wallace Inn Chapter, or would like to receive an application, please contact our Membership Chair, Michael Conger at (858)759-0200 or e-mail him at [congermike@aol.com](mailto:congermike@aol.com).

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<sup>4</sup> Conference of Chief Justices, Professional and Competence of the Bar Committee, Midyear Meeting, January 26, 2011.