

THE HONORABLE  
CHARLES A. PANNELL, JR.  
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY  
AMERICAN INN OF COURT

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BYLAWS  
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ARTICLE I. GENERAL.

Section 1. Name.

This Inn shall be known as “The Honorable Charles A. Pannell, Jr. Intellectual Property American Inn of Court.”

Section 2. Principal Location.

This Inn shall be located in the city of Atlanta, state of Georgia.

Section 3. Objectives.

The objectives of this Inn are as follows:

1. To promote the highest standards of ethics, skill and courtesy in the practice of law, and such other purposes as are set forth in its Organizational Charter issued by the American Inns of Court Foundation;
2. To establish a society of judges, lawyers, legal educators, law students and others, to promote excellence in legal advocacy in accordance with the Professional Creed of the American Inns of Court;
3. To foster greater understanding of and appreciation for the adversary system of dispute resolution in American law, with particular emphasis on ethics, civility, professionalism and legal skills;
4. To provide significant educational experiences that will improve and enhance the abilities of lawyers as counselors and advocates and of judges as adjudicators and judicial administrators;

5. To promote interaction and collegiality among all legal professionals in order to minimize misapprehensions, misconceptions and failures of communication that obstruct the effective practice of law;
6. To facilitate the development of law students, recent law school graduates, and less experienced lawyers as skilled participants in the American court system;
7. To preserve and transmit ethical values from one generation of legal professionals to the next; and
8. To build upon the genius and strengths of the common law and the English Inns of Court and to renew and inspire joy and zest in legal advocacy as a service worthy of constant effort and learning.

#### Section 4. Program Year.

As used herein and by the Inn, a “Program Year” is effective September 1 through May 31 each year (“Program Year”).

## ARTICLE II. ORGANIZATION.

### Section 1. Nature of Organization.

The Inn shall be and remain chartered and affiliated with the American Inns of Court Foundation and shall be an unincorporated association composed of judges, practicing lawyers, law school educators, recent law school graduates, and law students who accept an invitation to membership, as hereinafter described.

### Section 2. The Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers, the Immediate Past President, the chairs of any committees appointed by the President or provided for in these Bylaws.

### Section 3. Vacancies.

Vacancies on the Executive Committee caused by the resignation, removal, expiration of term, or for any other cause, of an officer, standing committee chair or at large member shall be filled by the officers for the remainder of the unexpired term; however, the term of such vacant position shall not count against the new officer, chair and/or at large member for self-succession purposes.

### Section 4. Duties of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee, acting by majority vote of its members, shall:

Take such action as may be necessary to carry out or assist the officers in carrying out the responsibilities imposed by these Bylaws or by the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Policies and Directives of the American Inns of Court Foundation;

Determine the size of each membership category in the Inn;

Establish, collect and remit local and national membership dues assessments as described herein;

Decide the significant policy decisions of the Inn, including program selection, event planning, and obtaining speakers and guests;

Confer and terminate memberships in the Inn;

Perform such other duties as may facilitate proper operation of the organization.

#### Section 5. Officers.

The officers shall include the President, the Vice President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer. The officers shall be elected to hold office for a term of one year effective June 1 through May 31. The President shall be succeeded by the Vice President, who shall then become President. The Secretary and the Treasurer may succeed themselves without limitation.

#### Section 6. Duties of the Officers.

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Inn and the Executive Committee, shall appoint committees and committee chairs as appropriate, shall conduct the business of the Inn, and shall act as the chief executive officer of the Inn. The Vice President shall fulfill any and all duties of the President in the President's absence. The Secretary shall maintain the records of the Inn, including the minutes of meetings of the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall collect dues and other moneys on behalf of the Inn, maintain the financial records of the Inn, and pay expenses on behalf of the Inn.

#### Section 7. Committees.

The President may establish standing and ad hoc committees from time to time from among the Active Members of the Inn, and from time to time may change or discontinue committees.

Initially, the following standing committees shall be established: Membership Committee and Program Committee. Among such other duties as may be assigned by the President, the duties of each committee shall be as follows:

Membership Committee – The Membership Committee shall solicit and review applications and make recommendations to the Executive Committee for membership in the Inn.

Program Committee – The Program Committee shall oversee and approve program topics and shall be responsible for submitting programs for Continuing Legal Education credit.

## Section 8. Terms of Committee Chairs.

Committee chairs shall be appointed for a one-year term effective June 1 through May 31, and shall be eligible to succeed themselves for an additional one-year term. Any committee chair whose term has expired shall continue in office notwithstanding such expiration until his or her successor shall have been duly elected.

## Section 9. Pupilage Groups.

All Active Members shall be assigned to a Pupilage Group by the Program Committee. Each Pupilage Group shall be chaired by one or more Active Members of the Inn appointed by the Program Committee. The chairs of each Pupilage Group may be reassigned annually.

## Section 10. Relationship with Courts.

The Inn shall be and remain outside the jurisdiction of the courts, but shall endeavor to work in close cooperation with the trial and appellate courts. Federal, state, and local trial and appellate judges will enjoy full participation in the organization.

# ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP.

## Section 1. Active Members.

Active members in the Inn shall consist of the following categories of members who fully participate in the Inn (“Active Members”):

1. Masters of the Bench (“Benchers”) – Benchers may be (1) bar-licensed attorneys or (2) judges and law professors. An attorney qualifies for Bencher status in the Program Year that is 20 years after the year the attorney graduated from law school, regardless of what month the attorney graduated. Judges and law professors qualify for Bencher status upon demonstration of superior character, ability, and competence as trial or appellate advocates, academicians, or jurists. All Benchers are required to demonstrate active participation, leadership, and contributions to the Inn experience.
2. Barristers – Barristers consist of bar-licensed attorneys. An attorney will reach Barrister status in the Program Year that is 10 years after

the year the attorney graduated from law school, regardless of what month the attorney graduated.

3. Associates – Associates consist of bar-licensed attorneys who are not yet eligible for Barrister status.
4. Pupils – Pupils consist of law students.

Membership in the Inn shall consist of sufficient numbers of Benchers, Barristers, Associates, and Pupils so that each Pupilage Group has approximately the same number of Active Members in each category as every other group.

## Section 2. National Membership.

Each person who is an Active Member of the Inn (excluding Pupils) is also a member of the American Inns of Court Foundation. An inactive or former member of the Inn, upon application and payment of dues, shall be granted national membership in the American Inns of Court Foundation.

## Section 3. Invitations to Membership.

Membership in the Inn shall be conferred upon those accepting invitations extended by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee's discretion in extending invitations to membership is absolute and non-reviewable. Invitations may be extended on the basis of recommendations made to the Executive Committee by the members in response to written application filed with the Membership Committee. Membership shall not be denied to any person on account of race, creed, religion, sex, age, disability, or national origin.

## Section 4. Emeritus and Honorary Members.

The Executive Committee may confer Emeritus and/or Honorary Master membership, and may grant a leave of absence upon application of an Active Member on terms approved by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may confer Honorary Master membership upon individuals, whether they are lawyers or not, on the basis of distinguished service to the bench or bar, furtherance of the objectives of the Inn, or other noteworthy achievements. Honorary Master members shall be under no obligation to pay dues, attend meetings or participate in other programs of the Inn but shall enjoy all privileges of Active Membership except the right to vote.

## Section 5. Alumni Members.

Benchers, Barristers, or Associates may petition the Executive Committee for Alumni status at any time after having been an Active Member for at least three consecutive years. This three-year requirement may be waived by vote of the Executive Committee in extraordinary circumstances. Upon approval by the Executive Committee, members having Alumni status may attend all general functions of the Inn as a guest upon payment of the guest fee. Alumni members may not hold office, vote, chair or be members of committees.

## Section 6. Maximum size of the Inn of Court.

The total number of Active Members (other than Pupils) shall be approximately one hundred and fifty (150), but shall not exceed one hundred and sixty (160). Members shall be given suitable notice of their membership in the Inn. Membership in any category may be terminated in the sole discretion of the Executive Committee.

## ARTICLE IV. MEETINGS AND ATTENDANCE.

### Section 1. Meetings.

Meetings shall be held at least six times per Program Year at such times as the Executive Committee may determine. The Inn shall endeavor to have at least one social event per Program Year wherein members may invite guests.

### Section 2. Attendance.

Active Members shall be required to attend at least four Program meetings per Program Year to remain in good standing. Active Members attending two or fewer meetings in a Program Year will be removed from membership and will forfeit all dues. Active Members attending three meetings in a Program Year will not be in good standing. Continuation of membership for members not in good standing shall be at the discretion of the Executive Committee. These requirements may be waived by vote of the Executive Committee in extraordinary circumstances.

## ARTICLE V. FINANCES.

### Section 1. General.

Financial matters for the Inn shall be managed and controlled in accordance with policies and directives established by the American Inns of Court Foundation and this Charter.

### Section 2. Assessments.

The Executive Committee is empowered to levy and collect assessments in the form of dues in amounts which it may deem appropriate in order to conduct its meetings and otherwise meet its operating needs. It shall also collect from each of its Active Members, such amount as is assessed by the American Inns of Court Foundation as national membership dues. Failure to pay assessments and dues within a reasonable time and after reasonable notice may be considered by the Executive Committee as a ground to terminate membership of the person in default.

### Section 3. National Dues.

The Executive Committee shall remit annually to the American Inns of Court Foundation that portion of dues which corresponds to the number of Active Members

(excluding Pupils) of the Inn.

#### Section 4. Fiscal Year.

The fiscal year of the Inn shall be the same as the fiscal year of the American Inns of Court Foundation.

### ARTICLE VI. ELECTIONS.

#### Section 1. Voting Members

With the exception of Emeritus and/or Honorary Master members, or any member on approved leave of absence, each Active Member shall be entitled to one vote on all matters submitted to them. A majority of voting members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Every act done or decision made by a majority in attendance at a meeting shall be regarded as the act of all the voting members. In addition to voting at a meeting, the voting members may make valid decisions by voting by mail, facsimile, electronic mail, or other means when deemed necessary or appropriate by the Executive Committee or the President.

#### Section 2. Votes of the Executive Committee.

Each member of the Executive Committee shall be entitled to one vote on all matters submitted to the Executive Committee. In the event of a tie, the President shall have an additional vote to break the tie and decide the issue. A majority of the members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Every act done or decision made by a majority of the members in attendance at the meeting called for that purpose shall be regarded as the act of the entire Executive Committee.

#### Section 3. Elections.

The officers shall nominate, and submit to the Executive Committee for approval, a slate of officers and at large Executive Committee members for consideration by the voting members. The nomination and election of the officers of the Inn shall occur prior to the end of the Program Year of the Inn in which the terms of those officers expire.

### ARTICLE VII. PUPILAGE GROUPS.

As an American adaptation of the pupilage system, which is basic to the English Inns of Court, each Active Member (excluding Judicial Members) will be assigned to work with a Pupilage Group, as designated each Program Year by the Program Committee. Each Pupilage Group is responsible for preparing and presenting a Program presentation during a Program Year.

## ARTICLE VIII. OTHER AMERICAN INNS OF COURT.

The Inn shall strive to cooperate with similar American Inns of Court in the same or different localities of the state or elsewhere to more widely achieve the objectives of the American Inns of Court Foundation.

## ARTICLE IX.

### Section 1. Adoption.

The Inn is authorized to adopt Bylaws which are consistent with the directives of the Board of Trustees of the American Inns of Court Foundation. Any such Bylaws should be submitted to and approved by the Board of Trustees of the American Inns of Court Foundation.

### Section 2. Amendments.

Any Active Member may propose amendments to these Bylaws by submitting such proposal to the Secretary. The Secretary shall furnish the proposed amendments to the Executive Committee. Upon approval by a majority vote of the Executive Committee, proposed amendments shall be submitted to a vote of the Active Members during the Fiscal Year in which they are submitted. Submitted amendments shall be approved by a majority of the Active Members casting votes.



## Revision History For the Bylaws of the Pannell Inn of Court

The membership of The Honorable Charles A. Pannell, Jr. Intellectual Property American Inn of Court (originally known as the Atlanta Intellectual Property Inn of Court) approved and adopted its bylaws on September 12, 2012. The table below identifies all amendments in accordance with Article IX, Section 2 since that time:

<b>Amendment Date</b>	<b>Amended Section</b>	<b>Amendment Description</b>
03/16/2016	Art. II	Changed terms of officers and committee chairs from two years to one year.
09/18/2019	Passim	Using capitalized defined terms “Active Member” (defined in Art. III; Sect. 1) and “Program Year” (defined in Art. I; Sect. 4).
09/18/2019	Art. I; Sect. 4	Defined Program Year as September 1 – May 31.
09/18/2019	Art. II; Sect. 5	Defined officer term as June 1 – May 31.
09/18/2019	Art. II; Sect. 9	Changing language to reflect that Pupilage Groups may be chaired by “a member” to “one or more Active Members[.]”
09/18/2019	Art. III; Sect. 1	Defining term “Active Members”; changing “pupilage team” to “Pupilage Group.”
09/18/2019	Art. III; Sect 1; Sub-Sects. 1-4	Edits to the definitions of the categories of Active Members; changing “experience” to date of admission to first state bar.
09/18/2019	Art. III; Sect. 2	Excluding Pupils from those Active Members granted national membership in the American Inns of Court Foundation.
09/18/2019	Art. III; Sect. 6	Change to exclude Pupils, Judicial, and Academic members from calculation of maximum size of Inn.

09/18/2019	Art. V; Sect. 3	Excluding Pupils from calculation of dues to be paid to the American Inns of Court Foundation.
09/18/2019	Art. VI; Sect. 3	Changing deadline for nomination and election of officers from "Fiscal Year" to "Program Year."
09/18/2019	Art. VII	Removing requirement that Pupil, Associate, and Barrister members be assigned to work with a Master member. All Active Members are to be assigned to a Pupilage Group, which will be responsible for preparing a Program during a Program Year.
09/18/2019	Art. IX; Sect. 2	Changing provision that only active Master members may propose amendments to Bylaws. Any Active Member may propose amendments.
05/10/2023	Art. I, Sect. 1	Changing Art. I, Sect. 1 from:  This Inn shall be known as "The Atlanta Intellectual Property Inn of Court."  to:  This Inn shall be known as "The Honorable Charles A. Pannell, Jr. Intellectual Property American Inn of Court."
09/20/2023	Art. III, Sect. 1	Creating "Bencher" shortened phrasing for "Masters of the Bench," changing membership tiers to ten-year tiers, changing tier triggering date to year of law school graduation, and providing for pupil membership for all law students, regardless of year.