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THE LEO A. DEEGAN AMERICAN INN OF COURT

by Sophia Choi

The Leo A. Deegan American Inn of Court (“Deegan Inn”), is a professional organization comprised of attorneys and judicial officers and organized under the American Inns of Court. The Deegan Inn is comprised of Judicial Masters, Attorney Masters, Barristers, and Associates. Teams are formed with each team having a member (or members) from each categorical level.

In the 2019-2020 program year, the Deegan Inn Board of Directors¹ extended membership to several new applicants from various legal experience backgrounds. The orientation was held at the Canyon Crest Country Club in Riverside on September 25, 2019, with a presentation by Emeritus Member Peter Mort on the history of the Deegan Inn. Additionally, Honorable Jackson Lucky, judge of the Riverside County Superior Court, was recognized as an Honorable Douglas E. Weathers Honorary Member for this program year, a recognition given to a member of the bench or bar for distinguished service, furtherance of Inn of Court objectives, or other noteworthy achievements. After the main orientation, there was also a separate new member orientation, at which time the new members were welcomed and introduced to the various programs hosted by the Deegan Inn, including “chamber chats.”

“Chamber chats” is a benefit for Deegan Inn members, which is a special mentoring component designed to provide a casual environment for primarily Associate and Barrister level members to ask questions of and “chamber chat” with their local judges. For the 2019-2020 program year, the Deegan Inn will offer four separate “chamber chats” with judicial officers presiding in the Fourth District Court of Appeal (Division Two), family, civil, and criminal assignments.

The Deegan Inn will also host themed dinners, such as government lawyer leaders’ night and a few others. The government lawyer leaders’ night will be held during the Deegan Inn’s December 2019 dinner, with dignitaries from the various local governmental agencies.

Each year, the Deegan Inn Board of Directors selects a theme for the program year, so that each team can col-

laborate with its members to present on a topic within that theme. This year, the theme is “Supreme Court of the United States Cases from the Inland Empire.” The cases selected are: (1) *Stromberg v. People of the State of California* (1931) 283 U.S. 359, (2) *National Labor Relations Board v. Fleetwood Trailer Co.* (1967) 389 U.S. 375, (3) *California v. Superior Court of California, San Bernardino County* (1987) 482 U.S. 400, (4) *California v. Cabazon Band of Mission Indians* (1987) 480 U.S. 202, and (5) *County of Riverside v. McLaughlin* (1991) 500 U.S. 44. Additionally, there is also a Community Service Team that will present on its community service efforts at the last dinner of the program year. Each program year, there is a “Winning Team Presentation.” Last program year, this honor went to the Community Service Team led by Honorable Jennifer Gerard and Honorable Dorothy McLaughlin.

The Deegan Inn is proud to announce that it has achieved Platinum level status (highest level) in the Achieving Excellence Program by the American Inns of Court. The American Inns of Court recognizes individual Inns that achieve excellence and make significant contributions in the following five core competencies: Administration, Communications, Programs, Mentoring, and Outreach.

For more information, you can visit the Deegan Inn website at deeganinnofcourt.org.

Sophia Choi, a member of the Bar Publications Committee, is a deputy county counsel for the County of Riverside. She is the current president of the Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court and the president-elect of the Riverside County Bar Association.



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