

Federal Bar Council
American Inn of Court

HON. KIYO MATSUMOTO
President

HAROLD GORDON
President-Elect



September 2021

I am honored to serve as President of the Federal Bar Council American Inn of Court for the Inn year 2021-2022. Founded in 2000, the FBC Inn is a diverse and collegial group of federal judges and practicing lawyers who gather regularly to visit and present stimulating and instructive programs on a wide array of legal subjects. The FBC Inn is one of approximately 350 American Inns of Court currently active throughout the country.

Through our exceptional programs and the informal interactions among our members, the FBC Inn embodies the ideals of both the Federal Bar Council and the American Inns of Court by promoting professionalism, mentoring, ethics, and legal skills. The Inn's members are divided into three general categories – Master, Barrister, and Associate – based on years of professional experience. Our members also reflect a diversity of practice areas and personal and professional backgrounds, ranging from large and small law firms, government service, and legal organizations.

The active members of the FBC Inn are divided into eight teams, each led by a judge, with each team responsible for devising, preparing, and presenting a program to the rest of the Inn. All team members actively participate in the Inn's programs, which reflect a wide variety of topics and formats, including reenactments of historical events and trials, mock arguments and legislative hearings, vignettes of all sorts, and multimedia presentations.

The theme for this Inn year is "Playing Your Part: the crucial role of attorneys in providing equal access to justice." More information about the theme can be found at the end of this letter.

Beyond the Inn's monthly program meetings and our annual celebratory dinner each June, Inn members gather informally in a variety of settings to plan and prepare for their presentations. Our Inn, like all organizations, has had to pivot during the pandemic. Though we miss interacting in person, we have remained in close contact and highly connected with each other through virtual meetings. As aptly put in our Mission Statement, the FBC Inn "endeavors to create a community of lawyers and jurists who care about the legal profession and each other, in the hope that members of the Inn will guide, mentor, and befriend each other at formal meetings and in their spare time." Thanks to the tireless efforts of the Inn staff and members of the Inn, I believe that we have been successful in creating such a community and am privileged to be a part of it.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the FBC Inn or have questions about the Inn, please contact one of our Co-Chairs of Membership, Sammi Malek (sammimalekesq@gmail.com) or Christos Papapetrou (cpapapetrou@levinelee.com).

Hon. Kiyo Matsumoto

Federal Bar Council Inn of Court

THEME for 2021-2022

Inspired by the May 2021 Federal Bar Council Rule of Law Symposium, the theme of the 2021-2022 Inn of Court season will focus on equal access to justice, and the crucial role of attorneys in vindicating the rights of those who would not otherwise have access to our justice system.

Representing a broad spectrum of political, social and religious views, attorneys have been at the forefront of representing individuals and groups who may feel marginalized and without voice and recourse.

The efforts and accomplishments of attorneys in legal services and advocacy organizations, law school clinics, and through pro bono work at law firms have greatly contributed to enhancing the public's confidence in the rule of law.

Attorneys have represented an array of individuals with diverse experiences and views, in cases involving immigration, civil rights, voting rights, environmental justice, education rights, religious freedom, Second Amendment rights, reproductive rights, and the list goes on.

We hope the presentations will represent a range of political and social views, and will explore counsel's strategic processes in determining which cases and issues to pursue, the legal strategies and challenges, ethical issues, and the litigation before the court.