

## Temple American Inn of Court Celebrates Twenty Years

In June, the Temple Inn of Philadelphia, PA, hosted a gala event to celebrate its 20th anniversary. The Inn has received many national accolades over the years including Best Program Awards, Circle of Excellence Award, Outstanding Program Awards, and attaining platinum status in the Achieving Excellence program. Monthly meetings are timely, sometimes provocative, and often presented with a flair for the dramatic. Prominent speakers have included former Pennsylvania First Lady Judge Marjorie O. Rendell and former U.S. Senator Arlen Specter. Of particular note is the variety of Philadelphia area venues used for meetings, such as the Eastern State Penitentiary, the National Constitution Center, Independence Hall, and the Italian Supreme Court in Rome, Italy to mention a few. The Inn is also involved in many pro-bono and charitable activities, which include support for the George Fund, Philadelphia Reads, Breastcancer.org, and the “Wills for Heroes” project, which provides pro bono estate planning for first responders, firefighters, police, and paramedics. The Inn also awards an annual scholarship to a Temple University law student based on an essay contest on themes of ethics and civility in the legal profession.

In conjunction with its anniversary, 26 Inn members and guests traveled to Italy in March to share the mission of the American Inns of Court and honor the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of Italy. The aim of the trip was to facilitate an intimate

exchange with Italian judges, lawyers, and students, to absorb the history, government, legal structure of Italy, to discuss the U.S. legal system, and to promote ethics, civility, and professionalism.

### Highlights of the week in Italy included:

- A day-long visit to Sapienza University to discuss the U.S. legal system with Italian law students, lawyers, professors, and judges. Inn members also presented seminars on various subjects of American jurisprudence.
- Discussions with justices of the Italian Supreme Court about each country’s legal system, as well as case administration, American common law, and alternative dispute resolution.
- Opportunity to observe a criminal trial at the Tribunale Penale, Rome’s Criminal Court
- A tour of the Italian Parliament and exchange of ideas with members of Parliament on the Italian political system and the American legal system.
- Audience with Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican, including the Temple Inn being publicly acknowledged by the Pope.

The Temple Inn is looking forward to not only its next 20 years of promoting the mission of the American Inns of Court, but working with the Italians to spread the mission abroad. ♦



*In attendance at the 20th anniversary gala of the Temple AIC of Philadelphia, PA are, from right to left, Judge Annette M. Rizzo, 2010–2011 president; Dean Joanne Epps; Malinda E. Dunn, American Inns of Court executive director; Judge Pamela P. Dembe, vice president; Judge Lowell A. Reed, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of PA, founding member and first president of the Inn; Judge Cynthia M. Rufe, 2008–2009 president; Paul Weiner, Esquire, 2011–2012 president; and Jennifer Platzker-Snyder, Esquire, 2011–2012 treasurer.*



*Members and friends of the Temple AIC of Philadelphia, PA on the steps of the Italian Parliament in Rome, Italy, from left to right, are Diane Sher, Esq., Hon. John Rufe, Hon. Cynthia M. Rufe, Professor Raphael Porata-Doria, Hon. Annette M. Rizzo, Paul Weiner, Esq., Tara Gill Nalencz, Esq., Hon. Cavaliere Amato Berardi of the Italian Parliament, Tamara L. Wible, Esq., Scott P. Sigman, Esq., David Wible, and Alexander Nalencz.*