

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF TRIAL LAWYERS

INDUCTION CHARGE



THE BELOW TEXT WAS ADDED BY PAST PRESIDENT OZZIE AYSCUE AT THE SPRING 2011 MEETING BEFORE HE PRESENTED THE CHARGE. MR. AYSCUE SUGGESTS THAT THIS PREFATORY LANGUAGE BE PROVIDED AT FUTURE INDUCTION CEREMONIES:

The charge I am about to deliver to you has been used to welcome every person who has been made a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. It was composed by the late Emil Gumpert, whose vision led to the creation of the College, and he delivered it to each new group of inductees until his death in 1982.

This charge is couched in the rhetoric of another era. You will, for instance, hear a perhaps obscure reference to the hermit and the horse. This refers to advice given by the most learned lawyer of his day that the best mode of study and discipline for a young lawyer was to live like a hermit and work like a horse. In that respect, it may occur to some of you that not much has changed in the intervening two centuries since Lord Eldon made that observation and that the message of this charge is as relevant today as it was when it was delivered to that first group of inductees in 1951.

THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF TRIAL LAWYERS INDUCTION CHARGE

Tonight the portals of the **American College of Trial Lawyers** are again opened to receive into Fellowship a group of distinguished barristers. None who fails to justly merit that worthy title may enter here, for we recognize not only the distinction between the two branches of our profession, but the varying standards, as well, of the individuals within each.

You, whose names are freshly inscribed upon our rolls, have, by your mastery of the art of advocacy, by your high degree of personal integrity, your maturity in practice and your signal triumphs at the bar of justice, earned the honor about to be conferred upon you.

By your ability, learning and character you have added luster to the legal and judicial annals of your state or province, and have helped to strengthen and to preserve the mighty fabric of our law.

We are confident that in the days to come, the lofty objects and purposes of this organization will be further advanced by the application of those rare qualities and virtues which nature, fortune and laborious days have bestowed upon you.

We know that your attainment of the front ranks of the bar has not been without its costs, and we recognize that our specialty exacts much of those who win its favor. Truly, we are, in Lord Elden's words, the hermit and the horse.

And so, we like to look upon these gatherings, not only as regular meetings of the Fellows, striving to improve and to elevate the standards of trial practice, the administration of justice and the ethics of the trial branch of our profession, but also as meetings of regular fellows, where we may with utter freedom and equanimity, go from labor to repose.

Here, we seek, for the moment, to obliterate the recollection of our distractions, our controversies and our trials, and to transport ourselves from the rush and tumult and uproar of our daily lives into the quiet fellowship and congenial society of our fellow leaders in the bar. In this select circle, we find pleasure and charm in the illustrious company of our contemporaries and take the keenest delight in exalting our friendships.

You have all met all of our qualifications and have been duly elected to membership in the College, and so we welcome you into our Fellowship and, with pride, we now address you as **Fellows of the American College of Trial Lawyers** – as sages of our craft.

Long and happy may be our years together!

The Induction Charge, written by the late Emil Gumpert, Chancellor-Founder of the American College of Trial Lawyers.