



GENERAL COMMITTEES: MANDATES AND ACTIVITIES

Access to Justice and Legal Services

To encourage and facilitate the provision of pro bono legal services by individual College Fellows to persons who are unable to afford counsel to represent themselves effectively in litigation.

Adjunct Fellowship

(Appointed in accordance with the Bylaws, Article 3, Section 3.4(b)). To consider and make recommendations with respect to nominations of lawyers whose trial experience and trial activities are not known to the State or Province Committee of the particular state or province where the lawyer resides or maintains his or her office.

Current Activities: Reviews the policies and forms used by the College for the nomination and investigation of potential new Fellows. Submits recommendations to the Regents that will make procedures more uniform, consistent in application, and efficient among the states and provinces.

Time Commitment: One-hour virtual meetings 4-5 times per year with review and analysis of procedures between meetings and email exchanges on proposals.

Admission to Fellowship

To study and make recommendations with reference to the standards of the College for admission to Fellowship, to investigate and determine whether those standards are properly administered in each of the several states or provinces; to develop and suggest procedures to be followed by the State and Province Committees in proposing nominations.

Current Activities: Reviews the policies and forms used by the College for the nomination and investigation of potential new Fellows. Submits recommendations to the Regents that will make procedures more uniform, consistent in application, and efficient among the states and provinces.

Time Commitment: One-hour virtual meetings 4-5 times per year with review and analysis of procedures between meetings and email exchanges on proposals.

Advocacy in the 21st Century Committee

The Committee shall continue to develop the College's expertise and suggested approaches to the significant issues that will affect the administration of justice and the Rule of Law in the 21st century, including developments that will enhance the just, speedy and inexpensive resolution of disputes. These efforts will include (1) gathering information including, but not limited to, from sources in Canada and the United States, and identifying "best practices" and evolving court rules, such as those related to emerging technology

and the consequential modifications to the court systems of both nations, particularly those related to the discovery and trial aspects of criminal and civil cases, and written and oral argument in the appellate courts; and (2) preparing research papers, guidance documents, and continuing education programs, as appropriate, to assist Fellows in addressing the changes to the court systems, the evolving rules and emerging technologies.

Amicus Briefs

To consider requests for the College submit amicus curiae briefs and provide recommendations to the Executive Committee and Board of Regents as to whether the College should act.

Arbitration

To promote and encourage excellence in trial advocacy and high standards of ethics and professionalism among advocates in arbitration proceedings; identify best practices in arbitration and educate Fellows, clients and others about those best practices; and identify and propose for nomination to Fellowship the growing number of outstanding trial lawyers who try arbitration cases as a significant part of their practices.

Beverley McLachlin Access to Justice Award

The Award, named for The Honourable Beverley McLachlin, former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, is to be awarded to a judge or a member of the bar in the United States or Canada, whether or not a Fellow of the College, who has played an exceptional role in creating and promoting access to justice. The Award will recognize innovative measures or extraordinary personal commitment and professional dedication which have enhanced access to justice in the United States or Canada.

Current Activities: Searching for possible candidates to receive the award

Time Commitment: meetings at least quarterly; annual total 5-10 hours

Boot Camp Trial Training Programs

To create and execute one-day trial training programs for young lawyers, public service lawyers, public defenders, prosecutors, and other trial lawyers.

Current Activities: Several programs on the horizon; committee members typically are involved in organizing one in their local area.

Time Commitment: 1-hour meeting every other month; organizing an event requires an additional commitment that varies according to locale and number of other Fellows involved.

Canada - United States

To identify trial-related issues of common interest between Canada and the United States and, where appropriate, to plan for, monitor and prepare papers concerning these issues.

Current Activities: Currently working on a white paper on the cross-border discovery process.

Time Commitment: One-hour meeting at the Fall and Spring meeting of The College and approximately 5 hours or less of collaborative Committee calls and work over the course of the year between College meetings.

Communications

To serve as an editorial board for the College with respect to White Papers, special reports and other publications, on a wide variety of topics, with the exception of the Journal. The Communications Committee ensures that the publications it reviews are of the highest quality and consistent with the high standards of the College. The Committee contributes content to the eBulletin and makes editorial decisions.

Current Activities: Serves as the editorial board with respect to the publications of the College, with the exception of the Journal. Responsibilities include editing submissions to the monthly eBulletin for distribution to all Fellows, and reviewing and editing white papers for potential publication on behalf of the College. Committee meets virtually approximately every 3-6 months.

Time Commitment: 2-4 hours per month

Complex Litigation

To study and monitor procedures in complex and multi-district litigation and make proposals in connection therewith; to prepare and disseminate written materials relating thereto.

Current Activities: This is an active committee that studies and monitors procedures and developments in complex litigation. The Committee's activities include regular lunch and learn sessions with a wide variety of featured speakers, including practitioners and judges from the U.S. and Canada. For example, speakers have discussed trends in large civil damage awards, multi-district litigation, judicial insights on trial practice, and running a law school in a war zone by the head of the law school for the Catholic University of Ukraine. Ongoing projects include updating and publishing a booklet on electronic evidence in collaboration with the Federal Judicial Center and publishing a similar handbook for bankruptcy litigation.

Time Commitment: monthly meetings for a total of 1-2 hours per month plus additional time for those volunteering to work on specific projects.

Distinguished Pro Bono Fellows

The Access to Justice Distinguished Pro Bono Fellows Committee significantly advances in many ways a fundamental core mission of the College; namely, to ensure meaningful access to justice for all citizens throughout the United States and Canada. The Committee

also identifies and recommends to the Board of Regents for approval as Distinguished Pro Bono Fellows those Fellows in the College, who are providing at least 250 hours of pro bono access to justice related service on an annual basis through their partnerships with nonprofit organizations, courts, and other public service entities.

Emil Gumpert Award

To receive and investigate recommendations for the Award and recommend worthy candidates to the Board of Regents. The Award recognizes programs, whether public or private, whose principal purpose is to maintain and improve the administration of justice.

Current Activities: Reviews applications for this award and makes recommendation to Board of Regents. Responsibilities include reviewing applications and participating in weekly calls from October through January, with some members conducting virtual or in-person site visits. Committee is dormant from March through August.

Time Commitment: 2 hours per week, October-February.

Federal Civil Procedure

To monitor the operation of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and other federal civil procedural developments generally, to determine the adequacy of the operation of the rules and procedures in federal civil cases, to evaluate proposed changes, and to make recommendations with regard to these matters.

Current Activities: Monitors the Federal rules advisory committee for upcoming changes to the FRCP. The committee reviews, comments on and makes recommendations for language and text changes

Time Commitment: meetings every 2-3 months, often at national meetings of the College

Federal Criminal Procedure

To monitor the operation of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and other federal criminal procedural developments generally, to determine the adequacy of the operation of the rules and procedures in federal criminal cases, to evaluate proposed changes, and to make recommendations with regard to these matters.

Federal Rules of Evidence

To monitor the operation of the Federal Rules of Evidence, to determine their adequate operation and to study and make recommendations with regard to desirable changes.

Gale Cup

To monitor the operation of the Gale Cup Moot competition; to ensure that the competition continues to bear the stamp of excellence meriting the College's association with it; to ensure that, where fiscal support is provided by the College, appropriate budgetary mechanisms are in place so that the College can be confident that its money and resources

are being well spent; and to ensure that the Fellows of the College are engaged in these activities to an extent that is appropriate and useful and that the College has appropriate involvement and recognition in the competition as a significant sponsor, including recruiting Fellows to serve as judges and assessors, presentation of awards and having an officer speak at the closing banquets.

Griffin Bell Award for Courageous Advocacy

To receive and investigate recommendations for the Award and recommend worthy candidates to the Board of Regents. The Award is the highest honor conferred by the College upon an individual trial lawyer and recognizes lawyers who have persevered in pursuit of an important cause despite substantial personal danger, fear, unpopularity, opposition, or other difficulties.

Heritage

To maintain a permanent archival facility to include inter alia, a library of living history through videotaped interviews of senior Fellows; appropriately coordinated written records in the possession of Fellows of the College, particularly Past Presidents and members of the Board of Regents relating to College activities over the years, together with such other heritage initiatives as will ensure that there exists, in the future, a meaningful archival history of the College and its Fellows.

Current Activities: Activities include a regular spotlight feature on a Fellow in each issue of the Journal, a Did You Know segment in each issue of the E Bulletin focused on interesting facts related to the College's history, conducting video interviews of Fellows, creating a virtual museum on the College's soon to be new website, and assisting the College in preparing for its 75th Anniversary celebration next year.

International

The Committee identifies, assists in the planning of and promotes participation by Fellows in trial skills training for lawyers and other legal education initiatives consistent with the mandate of the College in appropriate countries outside of the United States and Canada.

Current Activities: Working with lawyers and judges in other countries, members of the International Committee plan and regularly conduct education and teaching abroad. In 2023, the Teaching Abroad Sub-Committee conducted a NITA type workshop in Warsaw, Poland. In the spring of 2024, 7 FACTLs conducted a Teaching Abroad workshop in Pretoria, Africa and an additional 7 FACTLs taught in Bucharest, Romania. In November FACTLs will present a criminal law workshop in Merida, Mexico in Spanish. Programs in the future are encouraged in countries where FACTLs have contacts with the in-country Bar. Although all international teaching trips are self-funded by each FACTL, the Brian O'Neill Fund awarded 3 grants this year to FACTLs who are public lawyers and judges to help support their trips. The Committee also maintains a link on the College website with materials used in the international programs which is available to all FACTLs.

Time Commitment: 1-hour quarterly meeting by Zoom. If a FACTL is leading a teaching group or is a member, the time will likely be one week for teaching plus significant time for preparation and planning with the attorneys/judges at the site of the teaching.

Investment

To review and monitor the work of the College's investment manager, as outlined in the College's investment policy.

Judicial Independence

To monitor developments related to the importance of an independent judiciary; to coordinate, publicize and track the College's timely response to threats to the judiciary or attacks on judges; to promote the College's support of fair and impartial courts at the state, province and federal level; and to recommend initiatives, as appropriate, to engage the College and Fellows in educating the public regarding the judiciary's role in protecting the rule of law.

Judiciary

To establish and maintain cooperative relationships with the appropriate agencies, organizations, and the courts; analyze and seek to ameliorate barriers to the attraction and retention of highly qualified judges; distribute appropriate College publications; and participate in other programs and projects to educate, train, and assist the judiciaries in the discharge of their duties.

Jury

To undertake such initiatives as may be required from time to time to preserve and enhance the jury as a fundamental feature of the administration of justice in Canada and the United States and, to this end, to maintain close observations upon developments affecting the institution which may occur from time to time and which could have an effect upon its strength, stability and effectiveness in the future.

Current Activities: Primary goal is get individual states to adopt Model Jury Instructions which have been approved by the ACTL

Time Commitment: Meets every 2-3 months, often at national meetings of the College

Legal Ethics and Professionalism

To advance, improve, and promote ethical standards, attorney-client relationships, and professionalism in the trial bar in all its aspects in both the United States and Canada.

Current Activities: Works on projects providing education and resources relating to legal ethics and professionalism, including updating a white paper on attorney-client privilege, training video vignettes, and a guide to ethical issues that arise at trial. Responsibilities

include participating in bi-monthly virtual calls, and providing collaborative assistance in committee projects (for example, updating a section of a white paper).

Time Commitment: One hourlong meeting every other month, plus an annual total of 5 hours of collaborative committee work between meetings.

Mentoring

To facilitate and promote mentoring by ACTL Fellows of young lawyers, with the goals of creating career opportunities and of imparting the core principles of the College, namely: 1) improving access to justice; 2) improving the standards of trial practice; and 3) maintaining the highest levels of professionalism and integrity. The Committee is tasked with implementing the recommendations of the College's Mentoring Task Force, which include advocating for the importance of trials in our justice system; encouraging judges, public sector attorneys, clients, and in-house counsel to provide opportunities for younger lawyers to have speaking roles in courtroom proceedings; inspiring young lawyers to take on pro bono matters; and overseeing the development and distribution of written material that will serve these ends.

Current Activities: Recruits Fellows to be mentors for approximately 100 federal judicial interns (1st generation law students) in partnership with Just The Beginning, a pipeline organization, provides training to mentors, and presents webinars to interns on career opportunities and professionalism.

Time Commitment: one-hour meetings from March-May as the program is organized, a round-up meeting in August, with short meetings in September, November, and January. Some Committee members provide additional assistance with mentor pairings and participation in May training and two webinars in June and July.

National Moot Court Competition

To represent the College as the co-sponsor of the National Moot Court Competition with the Young Lawyers Committee of the New York City Bar Association. Recruits Fellows to serve as judges at the regional and national levels of the competition. To present awards sponsored by the College at the regional competitions.

National Trial Competition

To assist the Texas Young Lawyers Association in the organization and administration of the National Trial Competition, including the recruitment of accredited law schools to participate; the recruitment of Fellows to participate as judges at the various regional competitions; participation as jurors at the national and regional finals of the Competition; and to promote the credibility of the Competition as a premier event and to promote the Competition as a quality educational experience for law students interested in trial advocacy. To select the winner at the final rounds of the competition.

Current Activities: Assists the Texas Young Lawyers Association in administering the National Mock Trial Competition for law students, including the recruitment of Fellows to

participate as judges at fifteen regional competitions; participating as presiding and scoring judges at the national and regional finals and drafting case files used in the Competition. Time Commitment: 10-40 Hours in January and February during Regional Competitions; four days in Texas each April for the national finals; periodic conference calls throughout the year.

Online Advisory

To monitor and recommend improvements to the College's website and to consider the effectiveness of the website as a tool to further the mission of the College.

Outreach

To develop, through appropriate communication initiatives, the external profile of the College so that it may serve more effectively and improve and elevate the standards of trial practice, the administration of justice, and the ethics of the trial profession. To monitor the Outreach section of the website and make recommendations for its improvement.

Current Activities: The Outreach Committee is focused on initiatives designed to elevate the external profile of the College, including our collaboration with the National Constitution Center on the Peer-to-Peer Scholar Exchange Program, various judicial engagement efforts, and promotion of the College's podcast, teaching and CLE materials.

Time Commitment: One hour-long meeting every other month, plus an annual total of 10 hours of collaborative committee work between meetings.

Podcast

To produce Trial Tested: A Podcast by the American College of Trial Lawyers, which presents enlightening discussions about life and law through interviews with prominent Fellows and significant figures in the world of trial law. The podcast seeks to elevate and inspire trial attorneys and law students through sharing the College's dedication to maintaining and improving the standards of trial practice, professionalism, ethics and the administration of justice.

Public Defenders

To represent the interests of the College in the training of public defenders. In performing its work, the Committee may assist the State and Province Committees in identifying public defenders who may be qualified for admission to Fellowship.

Samuel E. Gates Litigation Award

To receive and investigate recommendations for the Award and recommend worthy candidates to the Board of Regents. The Award honors a lawyer or judge, whether or not a Fellow of the College, who has made a significant, exceptional and lasting contribution to the improvement of the litigation process.

Current Activities: The Committee reviews nominations for this award and makes recommendation to Board of Regents. Responsibilities of committee members include (1) reviewing nominations, (2) vetting certain nominees selected by the Committee and (3) participating in conference calls to determine which nominees, if any, should be selected. Time Commitment: Vetting nominees and reporting to the Committee can take several hours. Total time on conference calls is roughly five hours.

Sandra Day O'Connor Jurist Award

To receive and investigate recommendations for the Award and recommend worthy candidates to the Board of Regents. The Award, named for Sandra Day O'Connor, is to be given from time to time to a judge in the United States or Canada, whether or not a Fellow of the College, who has demonstrated exemplary judicial independence in the performance of his or her duties, sometimes in especially difficult or even dangerous circumstances.

Current Activities: The Committee works to identify worthy candidates for an award honoring the legacy and accomplishments of Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. The Committee identifies candidates, assembles background information, and periodically honors worthy recipients.

Time Commitment: Varies, committee generally holds quarterly meetings and assigns investigative projects to committee members.

Sopinka Cup

To monitor the operation of the Sopinka Cup trial competition; to ensure that the competition continues to bear the stamp of excellence meriting the College's association with it; to ensure that, where fiscal support is provided by the College, appropriate budgetary mechanisms are in place so that the College can be confident that its money and resources are being well spent; and to ensure that the Fellows of the College are engaged in these activities to an extent that is appropriate and useful and that the College has appropriate involvement and recognition in the competition as a significant sponsor, including recruiting Fellows to serve as judges and assessors, presentation of awards and having an officer speak at the closing banquets.

Special Problems in the Administration of Justice (Canada)

To recommend improvements in the administration of justice in Canada and to suggest ways to maintain proper liaison with others to that end.

Special Problems in the Administration of Justice (U.S.)

To recommend improvements in the administration of justice in the United States and to suggest ways to maintain proper liaison with others to that end.

Teaching of Trial and Appellate Advocacy

To promote and encourage the teaching of trial and appellate advocacy and the participation of the College and its Fellows in the teaching process.

Current Activities and Time Commitment: The Committee puts on 3-day national trial advocacy programs twice a year, supports week-long trial advocacy courses in several law schools, and engages in other teaching initiatives. These programs receive rave reviews from the participating lawyers and from the national legal media. They require large time commitments from those who actively participate. Other committee members donate couple hours per year on committee meetings and communications.

Thurgood Marshall Equality and Justice Award

The Thurgood Marshall Equality and Justice Award, named for the revered lawyer, civil rights advocate and first Black Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, is to be given from time to time to an individual who has been a champion of justice and equality in all forms, including but not limited to race, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation or other form. The candidate must possess vision, courage, and fortitude, and must have stood steadfast in the passionate and effective pursuit of equal justice under the law.

Current Activities: Members suggest, solicit, and investigate potential award recipients whose life work reflects a steadfast adherence to equal justice under law. The award is intended to be granted only as worthy recipients have been identified and fully vetted, rather than on an annual or other periodic schedule.

Time Commitment: one-hour meetings at least quarterly plus individual time spent researching the qualifications of possible recipients.