

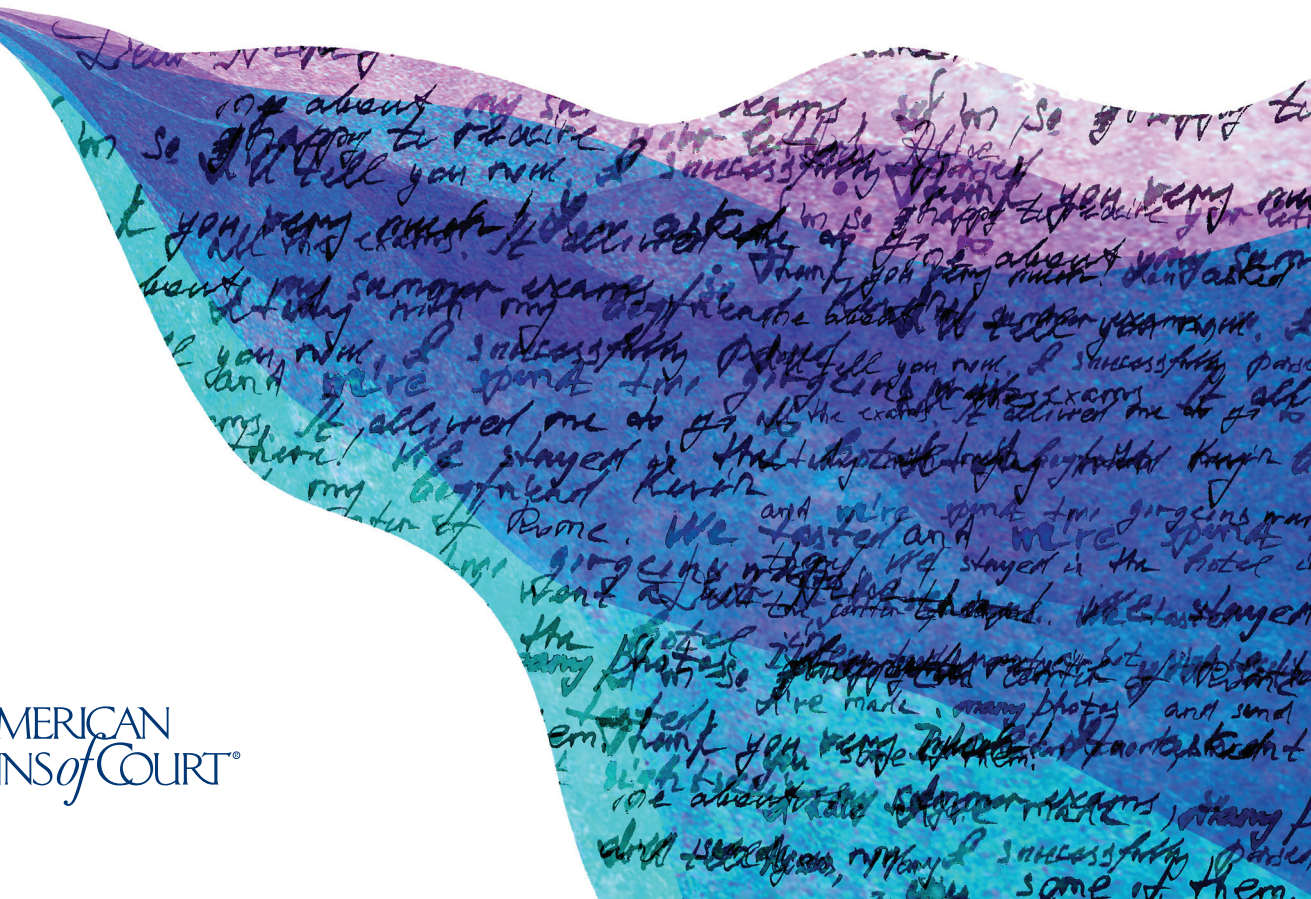
# The Bencher®

THE MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN INNS OF COURT®



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# THE AMERICAN INNS OF COURT EXPERIENCE

## Growing within the American Inns of Court

I have gained so much over the past 15 years of membership in the American Inns of Court. It all started in 2009 after I joined the Oliver Seth American Inn of Court in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and saw an advertisement in *The Bench* about the Pegasus Scholarship exchange program between young attorneys from the United States and the United Kingdom. I had graduated from Korea University before enrolling in law school at the University of Wyoming College of Law and decided to apply for a Pegasus Scholarship hoping it would open a new chapter in my life.

While I was not selected for the scholarship, a member of the American Inns of Court Board of Trustees encouraged me to become a Barrister board member. During the selection process, I was uncertain about whether I was qualified to be a trustee due to my lack of legal experience and being a foreign-born and foreign-educated attorney. However, I was assured that those attributes were partially why I was being encouraged to become a trustee. I accepted the offer and was elected to become the Barrister member of board with fewer than two years of actual legal experience.

After beginning my term in July 2010, I was shy and nervous at board meetings. I was overwhelmed by

the prestige of the trustees, and I could not imagine how I could perform my duties. However, these prestigious trustees became some of the best mentors I have had. The entire board welcomed me with the utmost professionalism and was eager to include me.



Y. Jun Roh, Esq.

In 2011, I participated in the American Inns of Court Amity Visit to the Honorable Society of the Middle Temple in London, England. Afterward, I was asked to serve on the Pegasus Scholarship Selection Committee, upon which I served for more than a decade. I have been involved in other ways as well, and these experiences have shaped my practice in a positive way, including increasing my confidence with counsel, clients, and the court. Additionally, my involvement has taught me about maintaining and fostering professionalism and ethics. I have learned that being professional does not compromise your opinion or legal position.

My experience with the American Inns of Court has also taught me the importance of getting involved in pro bono work. I serve on a local pro bono committee and frequently provide assistance to various ethnic minority groups.

Looking back, I can see how my Inn membership has changed my work ethic and attitude and elevated my level of professionalism. I mentor younger attorneys and encourage them to join the American Inns of Court, and I maintain my pro bono hours. It is possible to practice law as a young attorney while actively pursuing the American Inns of Court mission and become a successful attorney. After all, we practice law to foster professionalism and achieve equal justice for all. ♦

—By Y. Jun Roh, Esquire

Y. Jun Roh, Esquire, is a partner at Rimon, P.C. in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He is a member of the Oliver Seth American Inn of Court. He served on the American Inns of Court Board of Trustees from 2010 to 2014 and received the Sandra Day O'Connor Award for Professional Service in 2015.



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Y. Jun Roh, Esq., left, receives the 2015 Sandra Day O'Connor Award for Professional Service from Lisa M. Sharp, Esq.

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