

## Thompson G. Marsh American Inn of Court

Colorado Supreme Court Chief Justice Michael L. Bender formed the Chief Justice Commission on the Legal Profession in 2011 with the purpose of bringing together three major groups: the legal academy, the bar, and the judiciary. The Thompson G. Marsh American Inn of Court in Denver, Colorado, has been actively participating in this commission, which examines and fosters the relationships between the groups and develops policies and initiatives to improve these relationships. The commission is comprised of lawyers from various specialties, the deans of Colorado's two law schools, and judges from across the state. Several Denver-based Inns, including the Marsh Inn, have designated liaisons to serve on the commission and participate in the Chief Justice's Roundtable, one of the commission's several "working groups."

In May 2012, the president of the Colorado Bar Association and the Commission jointly proclaimed the month of October 2012 to be Legal Professionalism Month. Various legal organizations, including the American Inns of Court, have been asked to support Legal Professionalism Month. The Marsh Inn will participate by beginning a project that will extend through the year. Each month, a group from the Inn will staff a Legal Night and provide legal information and referrals for those who can't afford legal services.

The Marsh Inn looks forward to continuing to work with the commission to further develop and improve the relationship among Colorado's bench, bar, and legal institutions. ♦

## BOOK REVIEW: *Advocacy to Zealousness: Learning Lawyering Skills from Classic Films*

Lawyers—particularly those who teach—look for innovative ways to present points they want to convey. Kelly Lynn Anders' new book invites thinking about new approaches to examining legal skills, as well as introduces many fine movies that might otherwise escape attention.

*Advocacy to Zealousness* is not simply a compendium of legal theme movies. Indeed, half of the 26 movies have no courtroom scenes or legal issues per se. In some of the movies with legal scenes, the skill in question is not depicted through a lawyer.

Rather, Anders uses the films to illustrate skills she lists as important for one who aspires to be a lawyer: from advocacy to dependability to judgment to persuasion, and ultimately zealousness.

The skill of negotiation is examined through *12 Angry Men*. A classic "legal" movie—but one never sees a

lawyer negotiating; Henry Fonda and the other jurors exercise that skill.

One of the more interesting, and lesser known, films Anders chooses is *Pinky*—to discuss the skill of dependability. This 1949 movie was controversial in several respects, including its story line, which had a young black woman who has "passed" for white in the North.

Anders discusses the lead character's dependability—both as to her family and to a nursing job she did not want. When the elderly white woman she is caring for dies and leaves Pinky her estate, the woman's next of kin sues. The ensuing courtroom scenes are striking in their own right. *Pinky* is not often shown on television, but has been released on DVD.

The book summarizes each movie, discusses the skill, and provides discussion questions and exercises for teaching activities. Given the 26

skills/movies, Anders does not suggest they could all be viewed and considered in a single law school course.

Reading the book may prompt one to think of other movies and skills. Anders uses *Anatomy of a Murder* to illustrate advocacy. But it also contains a legal research scene—a rarity in any law-related film. When Jimmy Stewart and his partner analyze how they can defend the case we witness the skill of analysis—perhaps one of a lawyer's most important.

Anders is the Director of Communications & Diversity at Creighton University School of Law. *Advocacy to Zealousness* is published by Carolina Academic Press (2012).

—Raymond T. (Tom) Elligett, Jr.

