



# We the People

A CONSTITUTIONAL EXPLORATION

2009 - 2010 PROGRAMS  
BALL/HUNT INN OF COURT

# Foreword

Lawyers are effective agents to keep the “We” in *We the People*.

The best are those known for the excellence of their words, the civility of their public discourse, and their scrupulous respect for the Rule of Law.

The American Inn of Court movement exists to inspire lawyers, especially those starting out, to be civil in their conduct, professional in their work product, and irreproachable in their ethics.

These values are not presented as *options* for the virtuous minded, but fundamental prerequisites to the preservation of justice, domestic tranquility, and a more perfect union — national objectives that too often fall victim to unethical lawyering, vengeful litigation, and unprofessional behavior at the Bar.

The entire 2009-2010 term of the Joseph A. Ball/Clarence S. Hunt Inn of Court was given over to the United States Constitution. Our aim was to reacquaint lawyers, whatever their level of experience, with the nation’s founding document in the hope of rekindling a sense of noble calling — one that renders conformity to the highest standards of the profession the most reasonable and appropriate course of action for such a global cause.

If all lawyers embraced their proper role as keepers of this flame, both in their practices and their civic involvement, the promise of the Constitution as a blueprint for a society where rights and liberties flourish would not fade into the realm of idealistic unreality.

What follow are essays, elegantly written by Angela Villegas, encapsulating each of the nine presentations this Term. While each topic and dramatic presentation was the brainchild of its Team, Angela’s summaries and analyses afford a unity to what in effect is only a small sampling of the wide range of issues presented by the Constitution. May this compendium, a beautiful keepsake for a memorable term, stimulate your thinking about the Constitution and the vital role you play in upholding its promise.

— Marc D. Allmeroth, President  
Ball/Hunt Inn of Court



Marc D. Allmeroth  
President