

INSIDE

THE INNS



Lawrence Campitiello, Dawn Cauthen, Christine Mueller, David Bright, William Kamenjarin, Randolph Ortleib, Hon. Robert Dahlquist, Hon. Richard Cline (ret.), Hon. Ernest Gross

San Diego Lawyer continues its series about the local Inns of Court. This issue, we visit the Lopardo Inn of Court.

Photos by Barry Carlton

NORTH STARS

The Fiorenzo V. Lopardo American Inn of Court started life under another name but continues to serve North County

BY HON. ROBERT DAHLQUIST

THE LOPARDO INN OF COURT WAS founded in 1997 to provide North County attorneys with an opportunity to participate in an Inn of Court without having to commute long distances to other locations in the county. Its original name, the Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. Inn of Court, was chosen to inspire members by Justice Holmes' integrity, work ethic, scholarly opinions and passion for the rule of law. Accordingly, for many years, all Inn meetings opened with the reading of one of many quotations from Justice Holmes about the law, legal profession or life.

In 2007, a group of North County attorneys and judges suggested to the Inn's Executive Committee that they should

consider renaming the Inn for an individual with a connection to North County who epitomized the principles of the American Inns of Court. A number of candidates were considered. Eventually, Judge Fiorenzo V.

Lopardo was nominated and was chosen by a large majority of the Inn's active and alumni members to replace Justice Holmes as the Inn's namesake and role model.

Judge Lopardo was appointed to the San Diego Superior Court by Governor Ronald Reagan in 1971 and was one of the first full-time judges in North County. He was a strong advocate for the expansion of the North County branch of the court. He believed North County cases should be tried in North County

The meetings are still opened with quotations from prominent lawyers and judges about the importance of integrity, professionalism and civility in the work of lawyering and judging.

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Captain Robert Spangler,
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“I tried cases in front of Judge Lopardo. I participate in the Inn as a way to honor his memory as a judge and a Marine. In addition, I really enjoy interacting with the less experienced attorneys. I appreciate the quality of the speakers and educational programs.”

Hon. David Brown



“Many of the best lawyers in North County are members of the Lopardo Inn. I have learned a lot from them and from the judges who are Masters of the Lopardo Inn. The Inn helps to remind all of us that we are members of a noble profession, with obligations to each other and to our system of justice that extend beyond the outcome of any particular case.”

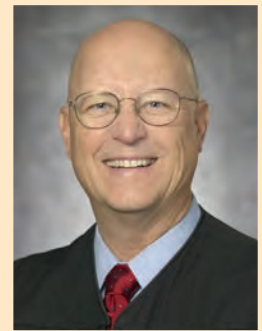
Hon. Robert Dahlquist



“The Lopardo Inn of Court gives you the unique perspective of North County community, bench and bar. I think the bonds made and shared are irreplaceable, and the respect members have for each other is like no other. I would strongly urge an attorney who practices out of the North County Regional Center to join this Inn.”

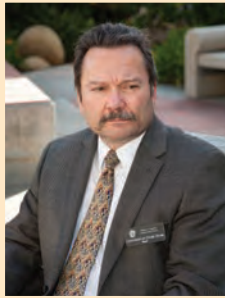
Kelly Rand

Deputy District Attorney



“The Lopardo Inn of Court provides a unique opportunity for North County lawyers to better their advocacy skills, network with their colleagues, commiserate with the local bench and hone their concepts of professionalism and civility. This Inn has benefited greatly from the dedication of many senior lawyers and judges.”

Hon. Michael Orfield (Ret.)



"The Fiorenzo V. Lopardo American Inn of Court has a small-town atmosphere with a big-city curriculum."

Hon. Ernest Gross



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and decided by North County juries. To help facilitate this, Judge Lopardo was a strong force to obtain a North County branch of the San Diego County Law Library, joining with the North County Bar Association to advocate for it. He sanctioned tardy lawyers by requiring them to contribute to the North County Law Library Branch.

When Judge Lopardo was first appointed to the Superior Court, he was appalled by what he perceived to be pervasive incompetence of many lawyers. He called upon several seasoned North County attorneys and created "Lopardo's Academy"—a forerunner to the current Inns of Court. He literally held night school at the courthouse, using experienced lawyers to instruct those who were less experienced. He mentored hundreds of attorneys in this way and by his demands on them in his courtroom. Judge Lopardo was probably more demanding, and less tolerant, of lawyers than most of today's judges are. He required, among other things, attorneys to be on time and to be prepared. Known for his punctuality and his preparation, Judge Lopardo demanded no less from others.

Judge Lopardo was born in New York, 10th of 14 children of Italian immigrants. To finance his undergraduate education, he worked as a waiter and at two cobbler stores. He graduated in May 1941 from the University of Notre Dame and then enrolled in Harvard Law School.

World War II interrupted Judge Lopardo's legal education. After completing his first year of law school, he became an officer in the United States Marine Corps. During the Battle of Iwo Jima, he served as a company commander in the 28th Marines, the regiment that raised the American flag on Mount Suribachi. He was decorated for leading his company of 360 men, only 11 of whom were not killed or wounded during the battle. He also served in Japan during the post-war occupation.

After the war, Judge Lopardo returned to Harvard Law School and graduated in 1948. He then practiced civil law with a small firm in Los Angeles. He traveled to San Diego periodically and happened to pass through a sleepy little town