

## PHI DELTA PHI PRE-LAW SOCIETY CEREMONY OF INITIATION

### **Setting:**

*The tender of candidates for membership in the Phi Delta Phi Pre-Law Society by formal ceremony shall be at a time selected by the Student Hall. It is suggested the ceremony be held as soon as possible after all consents of candidates to become members have been received.*

*Active and Barrister Members of The International Legal Honor Society of Phi Delta Phi in area law schools, bench and bar should be invited to attend the ceremony. Often, the recitation of the history of Phi Delta Phi by a Barrister Member elevates the ceremony by accentuating the mission and purpose of Phi Delta Phi.*

*The Officers of the Student Chapter who participate in the Ceremony are as follows: the Magister, the First Preceptor, The Second Preceptor and the Pledge Esquire.*

*Black robes or appropriate formal dress are recommended for the Officers.*

### **Procedure:**

*Prior to formal induction, an Officer of the Student Hall or a visiting Phi Delta Phi dignitary shall read the History of Phi Delta Phi to the candidates for membership. Upon conclusion of the reading, the Pledge Esquire leads the candidates before the seated Magister and Preceptors. He turns and facing the Magister says:*

“Your honor, I bring before you the following duly enrolled students in [name of college or university] who have manifested the intent to enter the study of law upon graduation and who have pledged to support and defend the principles of Phi Delta Phi throughout their student careers and thereafter.”

[Pledge Esquire reads the names of the candidates]

“The members of the Phi Delta Phi Pre-Law Hall at [name of college or university] have designated these students as worthy of membership in the Society.”

*The Magister addresses the candidates:*

“Are you willing to accept membership in the Phi Delta Phi Pre-Law Society and support the academic, ethical and professional principles that have been guided Phi Delta Phi since 1869?”

*The candidates answer in unison:*

“We are!”

*The Magister then address the candidates:*

“A need for the promotion of scholarship, professional ethics and culture in the law schools impelled a group of law students to establish Phi Delta Phi in 1869. They believed that these aims and ideals should be fostered by a unity of those who hold them to be good.

“To guide you during your membership as a pre-law student, give heed to the words of the First Preceptor.”

*The First Preceptor speaks:*

“Scholarship is the lamp that lights the way to Justice. Without it the road is dark. The student who faithfully trims his lamp will never lose the way.”

“We hold good scholarship to be a sine qua non for membership in the Phi Delta Phi Pre-Law Society. Strive therefore to acquire full knowledge from the books which which are opened for you.”

“But legal learning is not alone in books. Search well for the many lessons in human experience and seek often the values which the fires of controversy distill in companionable minds.”

“If you would be one among us, make these things your constant purpose.”

*The Magister addresses the candidates:*

“That you may become an exemplar of our ideals, hear now the words of the Second Preceptor.”

*The Second Preceptor speaks:*

“There is an ethical culture which distinguishes us. Personal integrity is its solid foundation. Only those of noble purpose are fitted for our order.”

“In your search for learning give high place to intellectual honesty and honorable achievement.”

“We would remind you that Phi Delta Phi from its founding has furnished leadership of the bench, the bar, and indeed the nations. This high heritage passes only to the worthy.”

“Therefore, prepare yourself by honest endeavor and manifest industry to become an inheritor of the privileges of our order.”

*The Magister then says:*

“In these the early days of preparation for your legal career and now as members of the Phi Delta Phi Pre-Law Society, consider well the words of the Preceptors. Take them as your guide.”

*The Magister then steps down and followed by the Preceptors greets the new members.*