

The “Golden Limine Award”

[A fake award presented at the Wake County Bar Association’s annual “Wake County Bar Awards” fundraiser event. The following is the “fake background” for the **2009 award**.]

The very prestigious GOLDEN LIMINE awards will be presented at this year's ceremony. The Golden Limine is named for Lord Ethelbert Athelstan Rumpel Budweiser Vortigern Luxury Gofraid Fruitbat Hypotenuse Limine (1543-1839), the much celebrated English Barrister.

As recounted by Blackstone in his seminal work Commentaries on the Law of England, Limine's litigation practices were renowned throughout the British Isles. His signature maneuver was first revealed in a case in which he was defending a man charged with second degree (unpremeditated) shearing of a neighbor's sheep. Limine arranged to have a horse placed in the audience for the closing arguments, and when the jury returned a verdict of guilty, Limine's client jumped on the horse and rode out of the courtroom, and indeed the county, before the judge could impose a sentence. This gambit was successful on several occasions, and as word began to spread of Limine's equine strategizing, opposing counsel began making motions to have horses, and later other passenger-friendly animals, excluded from the courtroom during trial proceedings. This procedure evolved over time into what we now know as the "**motion in limine**" to have certain matters excluded from a trial.



And as those Anglophiles who follow British history know, Lord Limine later became King Limine IX of England, when a dispute in the electoral college led to a compromise vote in which Limine was crowned King of England and Charles I was traded to Germany for two draft picks, cash, and a monarch to be named later. The actual award itself is a replica of King Limine upon his ascension to the throne, and appropriately recognizes both his royalty and his prominence in our legal traditions.