



Richard Batchelder, Jr., Esq., CStJ, is a Retired Partner at the global law firm Ropes & Gray LLP, where he has practiced for over 30 years. He served as Hiring Partner of the firm from 2011 to 2016, is a member of the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States, and is listed in The Best Lawyers in America. Since retiring from Ropes & Gray, he has devoted more time to his interest in theatre. He formed his own production company, Cousin Ben Productions LLC (named after his first cousin Benjamin Franklin), and has to date won two Tony Awards, and received five Tony nominations. He has co-produced over 15 shows on Broadway and in the West End of London.

Richard is very involved in several not-for-profit organizations and serves on the Board of Governors of the Folger Shakespeare Library in DC, the Board of Trustees of the USS Constitution Museum, Advisory Council of the Massachusetts Historical Society, Council of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, and Advisory Board of Honors Carolina. He is a former member of the Board of Visitors of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is also President of the Somerset Club in Boston, and Proprietor of the Boston Athenaeum.

Richard and his wife Peggy have two sons (ages 27 and 25). He is a member of the Society of the Cincinnati, the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, the Society of Colonial Wars in Massachusetts, and other several other hereditary organizations.

Richard is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Cornell Law School. He was appointed to the Order in 2012, and was promoted in 2019. He is currently co-chair of the New England Region, Legal Counsel for the Priory, member of the Governance Committee, and member of Chapter. He was co-chair of the Host Committee of the 2021 Investiture in Boston. Richard's roots in the Order go back to his 27th great-uncle, Robert Fitz Richard, who was Prior of the Knights Hospitaller in the late 12th century.