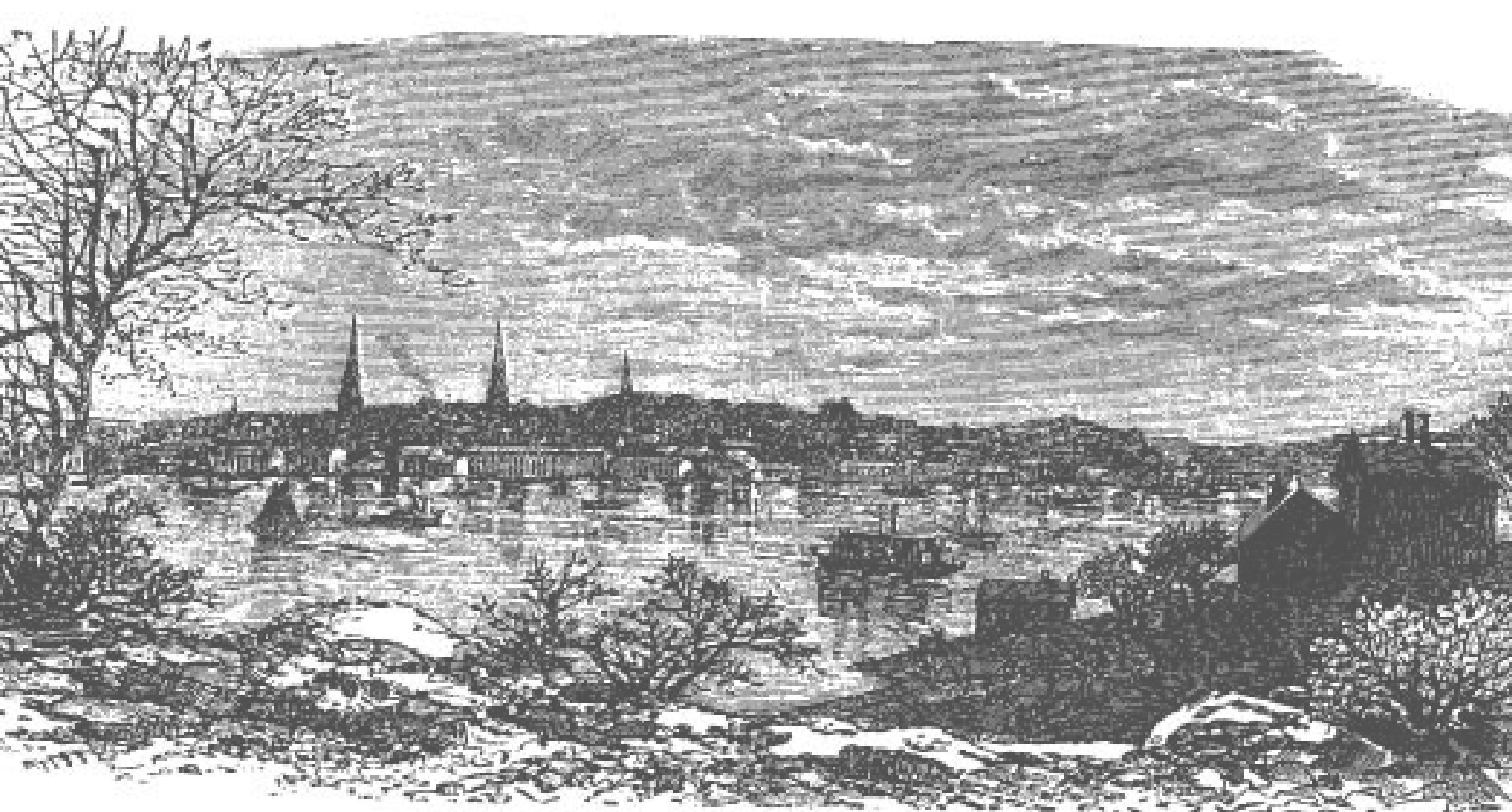




150 Years

of the Connecticut Bar Association

In celebration of 150 years of legal leadership, we invite you to take a journey through some of the pivotal moments that shaped the Connecticut Bar Association. As we mark this milestone of the association, we celebrate not only its history, but the generations of lawyers who shaped it—and the future members who will carry it forward.





150 YEARS OF THE CONNECTICUT BAR ASSOCIATION

1875-1884

- The Connecticut Bar Association was founded on June 2, 1875. As former President Cecil Thomas observed nearly 150 years later, “An organization that began with 58 members and four committees in 1875 is today a growing organization of over 9,000 members, with over 70 sections, committees, task forces, and working groups actively engaged in advancing our broad and vital organizational mission.”
- The first meeting of the “Connecticut State Bar Association” occurred June 3, 1875. Upon appointing Hon. John T. Waite as chairman, the inaugural meeting concluded “with much enthusiasm and gratification at the success of the meeting.”
- In January of 1878, CBA member Simeon Baldwin organized a meeting of American lawyers – this meeting resulted in the establishment of the American Bar Association in August of the same year.
- In 1881, the CBA promulgated the first rules for admission to the state bar.
- In 1887, Mary Hall became the first woman to be admitted to practice law in the Hartford County Bar.

“ The undersigned have reason to believe that there is a feeling throughout the State in favor of forming a State Bar Association, and have been requested to take some initiatory steps for that purpose. They therefore take the liberty to request your attendance at a meeting of a few members of the bar, to be held at Hartford, at the office of Wm. Hamersley, on Wednesday, June 2nd, at 7 ½ o’clock P.M. ”

William Hamersley, State’s Attorney for Hartford, May 27, 1875





150 YEARS OF THE CONNECTICUT BAR ASSOCIATION

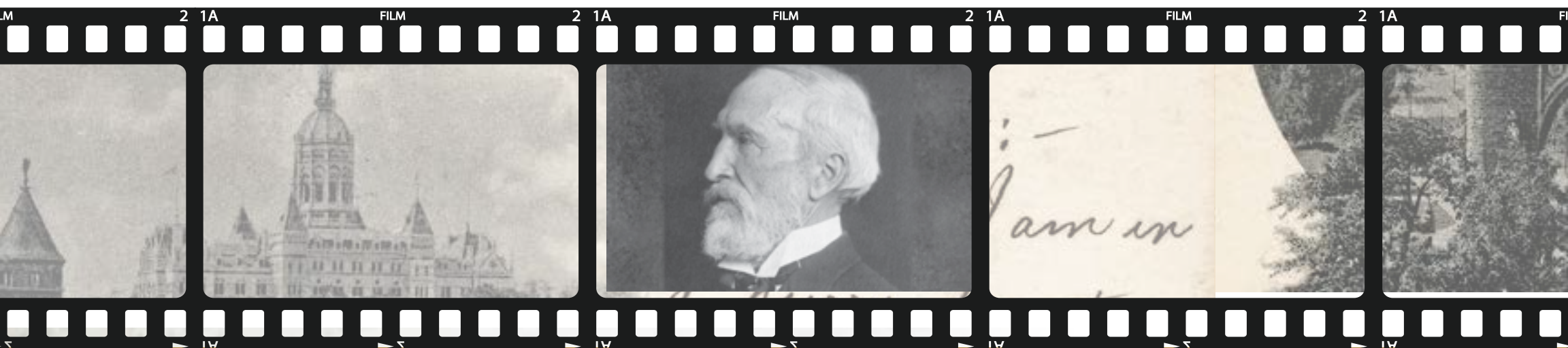
1895 - 1904

- During this decade, the CBA waned in power, becoming nearly defunct after founding members left the state, died, or merely moved on to the next point in their careers.
- Having achieved much of what it was designed to accomplish, the CBA lacked a clear organizational purpose.
- The American Bar Association, too, struggled to maintain its membership during this period.

“ [The CBA] is an organization which has done, and is capable of doing, much good, if the members will only take sufficient interest in it ... but each member is apt to be busy, and thinks that probably there will be plenty of others there. ”

Charles Perkins, CBA President

Letter urging attendance at the 1889 annual CBA meeting



Charles E. Perkins

1885-1908

ansac
It should
judicature, to so
highest, that the
possible number of judges
It is evident to anyone who has given
attention, that the present organization of the
defective; and that an intelligent individual
defects and the practical consequences
devising any scheme for the
of exempting the judges
it duty, is entitled to
opinion as to the
your com



150 YEARS OF THE CONNECTICUT BAR ASSOCIATION

1905-1914

- Following a period of decline, the CBA was comprised of only 61 active members in 1907 when it met for the first time in more than a decade.
- In July of 1908, a new constitution was adopted for the CBA, limiting presidential terms. Only three presidents in CBA history have served a term lasting more than two years: Origin Seymour (1875-1882), Richard Hubbard (1882-1885), and Charles Perkins (1885-1908).
- In 1910, the Supreme Court of Errors first adopted a code of ethics to govern attorney conduct. New initiates to the bar were required to demonstrate their knowledge of the new code of ethics during the annual bar exam.

“ Among no class of men are friendships and intimate personal acquaintance more desirable than among lawyers.

Among men of worth, a closer acquaintance almost invariably brings about mutual friendship and respect. Reserve and mistrust melt away, and first impressions of disfavours almost always prove unfounded. Coarse, brutal bickerings at the bar disappear when friends are pitted against one another—and their clients do not suffer. ”

*George D. Watrous, President of the CBA
1909 address at the first annual CBA meeting*





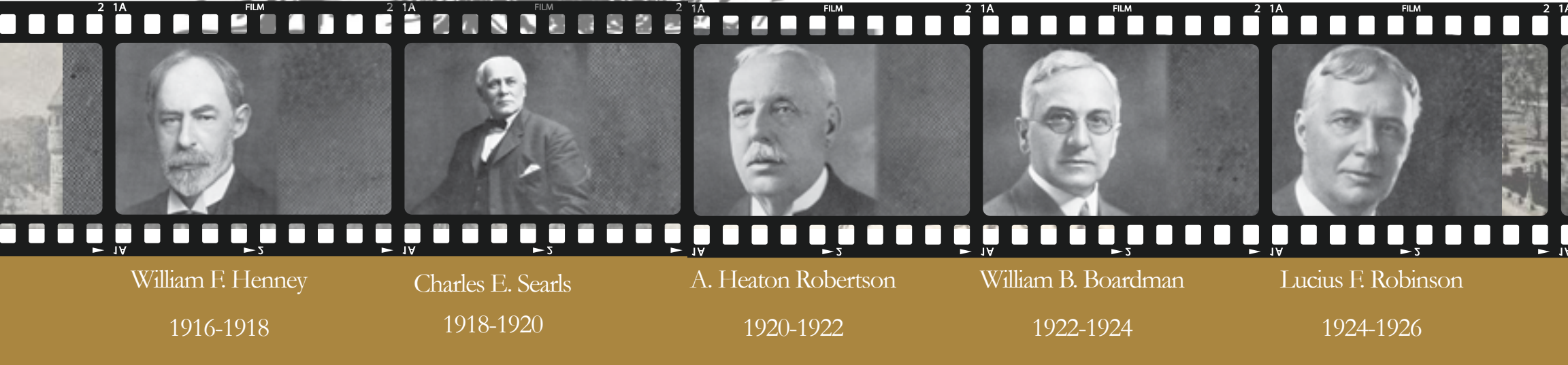
150 YEARS OF THE CONNECTICUT BAR ASSOCIATION

1915-1924

- The CBA struggled to exert influence over the legislature as they sought to promote court reform measures. Principally, the CBA sought to ensure procedural consistency among the various state and municipal courts. It also sought to impose standards for judicial selection and compensation. Commenting on the CBA’s interactions with the General Assembly at the time, CBA president A. Heaton Robertson observed, “as an Association, we have less weight than the Bartenders’ Union”
- In 1920, the CBA responded to remarks made by President, and former Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, William Taft, concerning the high financial cost of litigation and the limited access to the law by the indigent. The CBA organized a special committee, headed by Simeon Baldwin, which led, ultimately, to the formation of the first public defender service in the United States.

“ Our association, in its social aspects, is most delightful, but its serious effort must be along other lines if we are to accomplish anything worthwhile. We must do some work between meals. ”

*William F. Henney, President of the CBA
Address at the 1917 annual CBA meeting*



William F. Henney
1916-1918

Charles E. Searls
1918-1920

A. Heaton Robertson
1920-1922

William B. Boardman
1922-1924

Lucius F. Robinson
1924-1926



150 YEARS OF THE CONNECTICUT BAR ASSOCIATION

1925-1934

- Founded in 1927, the *Connecticut Bar Journal* was the first of its kind in the country, serving as a forum for lawyers to discuss emerging issues, recent decisions, and topics of debate.
- In 1925, J. Agnes Burns became the first female attorney to appear on a brief before the Connecticut Supreme Court of Errors. Burns was a graduate of the first graduating class of the Hartford College of Law which would later become the University of Connecticut School of Law.
- During this period, the CBA resolved to streamline the process for admission to the Connecticut Bar. In 1930, the CBA passed a resolution encouraging county bar examiners to meet and establish uniform bar examination practices.
- In 1932, the Connecticut Bar Association approved the admittance of the first three women to the Connecticut Bar Association: Ethel F. Donahue, Mary C. Manchester, and J. Agnes Burns.
- In 1930, the CBA established a Committee on Nominations for Judges.

“The [*Connecticut Bar Journal*] will act as a constant reminder of the existence and purposes of the Association, a means of communication between its members and others, will afford an opportunity to many attorneys of literary ability to present their ideas, and will indicate to other bar associations that our Association is wide awake.”

Terrance F. Carmody, President of the CBA, in the forward for the first volume of the Connecticut Bar Journal



Terrance F. Carmody
1926-1928

Arthur M. Brown
1928-1930

Harrison Hewitt
1930-1932

David S. Day
1932-1934

Hugh M. Alcorn
1934-1936



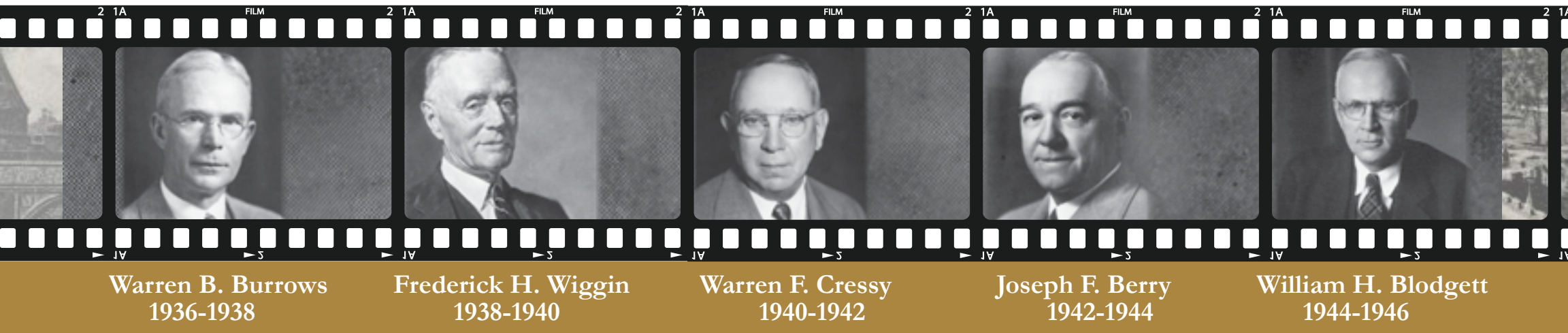
150 YEARS OF THE CONNECTICUT BAR ASSOCIATION

1935-1944

- In 1935, CBA President Warren Cressy proposed a reorganization of the Association. The proposals culminated in the establishment of a Board of Delegates, the primary decision-making board for the CBA; the creation of sections within the Association for discussion on particular topics of law; and the opening of membership to all 2,500 lawyers within the state.
- The following year, at the 1936 annual meeting, CBA members attended the first section meetings which proved “so interesting,” per the *Connecticut Bar Journal*, “that those who commenced attendance at any one section were unable to leave it.”
- In 1942, the CBA created the Association Committee on War Work, in light of the beginning of American involvement in World War II. The committee quickly resolved to provide free legal services to members of the military living in Connecticut. The committee ensured that the Bar Journal was mailed, free of charge, to the 11 percent of members who were in active military service, and arranged seminars for lawyers returning from military service to update them on changes in the law.
- During this period, the CBA continued its focus on integrating the various state and municipal courts, with the goal of ensuring the uniform practice of law throughout the state. In 1943, the General Assembly appointed a commission to study the court integration.

“ Not only are we to a greater extent than ever before drawn into a current of world affairs upon which we must look from a national viewpoint, but our major internal problems are national, not local. ”

Walter P. Armstrong, President of the ABA
Address at the 1941 annual CBA meeting



Warren B. Burrows
1936-1938

Frederick H. Wiggin
1938-1940

Warren F. Cressy
1940-1942

Joseph F. Berry
1942-1944

William H. Blodgett
1944-1946



150 YEARS OF THE CONNECTICUT BAR ASSOCIATION

1945-1954

- At the close of World War II, Connecticut experienced a surge in laymen engaging in the unauthorized practice of law, from drafting wills, deeds, and contracts to giving legal advice. In 1947, the CBA sued two banks that were engaged in such practices, resulting in a decision by Chief Justice Edward J. Daly which established the boundaries of the practice of law, a decision that was heralded by the *Connecticut Bar Journal* as “a legal shot heard round the world.”
- The Junior Bar Section of the CBA was established in 1947. The chairman of the committee responsible for its creation observed, “a brief look around here will indicate that the interest of the younger lawyers in the present State Bar Association is not particularly active or great ... it could be remedied if a junior bar section were created which would ... give [younger lawyers] some authority and action in this body.”
- In 1948, the CBA designated a headquarters building in Hartford, and established the position of executive secretary.

“ As to the Junior Bar, I would be derelict if I did not again pay tribute to that enthusiastic and efficient organization of younger lawyers. Frankly, they do far more than do we, and it is they who will take over where we leave off....Based on the record which they have made, the future of this Association is a bright one. ”

Walter P. Armstrong, President of the ABA
Address at the 1941 annual CBA meeting





150 YEARS OF THE CONNECTICUT BAR ASSOCIATION

1955-1964

- At the height of the red scare, the Connecticut Communist Party implored the CBA to provide legal counsel for four men arrested in violation of the Smith Act; there were no volunteers. The district court appointed Connecticut lawyers to represent the men. In 1955, CBA member James Cooper proposed a public service fund to compensate the lawyers who were designated as defense counsel, which was approved. Cooper suggested that the CBA support the establishment of a federal public defender system, which was implemented in 1964.
- In 1959, the Court Reorganization Act was enacted into law, effectively replacing the municipal courts by a state-wide circuit court. The three-level system of state, county, and municipal courts was dissolved in favor of a completely state-maintained judicial system.
- In 1960, the CBA created the Client Security Fund to reimburse clients deprived of money or property through the defalcation of their attorneys.
- In 1963, prompted by a desire for simplification and harmonization with other state bar associations, the Connecticut State Bar Association was renamed to the Connecticut Bar Association.

“ All lawyers, I think, have
a natural pride of profession

....With that professional pride necessarily goes a sense of deep responsibility, and a sense of shame when the law is not what it should be. And so we must start with the basic proposition that court reorganization is the real concern—and the duty—of all lawyers. ”

*David H. Jacobs, CBA President
Address at the 1956 annual CBA meeting*





150 YEARS OF THE CONNECTICUT BAR ASSOCIATION

1965-1974

- In 1965, the Circuit Court Public Defender Bill passed, making Connecticut one of the first states to have a public defender system in all of its criminal courts.
- In 1971, more than 80 years after Mary Hall became the first female admitted to the practice of law in Connecticut, the CBA, in an initiative led by Shirley Bysiewicz, created the Committee on the Status of Woman to confront the problems faced by female attorneys and to analyze discriminatory statutes. At the time, only 141 of the 5,000 attorneys admitted in the state were women.
- In 1974, Katherine Hutchinson became the first woman to sit on the CBA board of governors.
- Also, in 1974, the Junior Bar Association was renamed to the Young Lawyers Section and the Statewide Grievance Committee was formed to replace the practice of handling grievances at the county-level.
- In 1965, the Supreme Court of Errors was renamed to the Connecticut Supreme Court

“ I come here today, not as a member of Women’s Liberation, because I don’t belong to any of these proliferated branches, but I am here today as a member of this Association. But I am also here as a woman, and we women, we do have specialized problems. The Woman’s Liberation Movement is part of the general cultural movement in which women are moving out, if not to a place in the sun, at least to a place in the dappled shade. ”

*Virginia Boyd, CBA Member
Address at the 1971 mid-year meeting of the Committee on the Status of Woman*

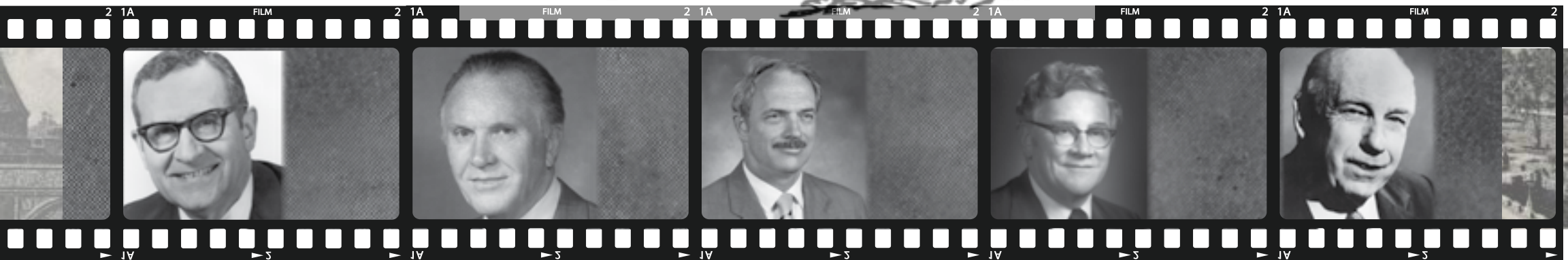




150 YEARS OF THE CONNECTICUT BAR ASSOCIATION

1975-1984

- In 1975, the CBA celebrated its centennial, attended by 800 patrons. Chief Justice Warren Burger delivered the keynote address to commemorate the occasion.
- Court reform continued during this decade, beginning with the merging of the Circuit Court and the Court of Common Pleas in 1974. In 1978, the Court of Common Pleas merged with the Juvenile Court, forming the Connecticut Superior Court which became the sole trial court of general jurisdiction in the State. Finally, in 1982, the Connecticut Appellate Court was established to alleviate the burden on the Supreme Court.
- In 1973, the office of the president-elect was established to facilitate the transition from one CBA president to the next.
- In 1978, the CBA created the Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers Committee to aid and assist chemically



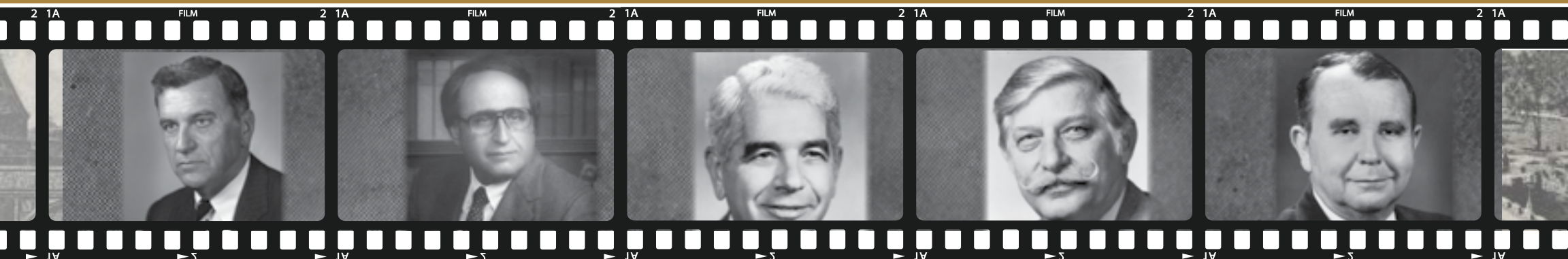
Carmine R. Lavieri
1975-1976

George F. Lowman
1976-1977

Hon. Peter C. Dorsey
1977-1978

Frederick U. Conard,
Jr.
1978-1979

John Eldred Shields
1979-1980



Robert M. McAnerney
1980-1981

Hon. Maxwell Hei-
man
1981-1982

Jack H. Evans
1982-1983

Henry J. Naruk
1983-1984

Raymond W. Beck-
with
1984-1985



150 YEARS OF THE CONNECTICUT BAR ASSOCIATION

1985-1994

- In 1989, Justice Ellen Ash Peters, Connecticut’s first female Supreme Court justice, established and organized the Task Force on Alternative Dispute Resolution to increase the use of ADR programs offered through the court and to institute the use of court-based mediation.
- The Lawyer-to-Lawyer Dispute Resolution Program was created in 1991. The program offers confidential dispute resolutions for matters such as law firm dissolutions, departures of one or more attorneys from a firm, and the allocation of fees between lawyers in different firms.
- In 1992, only 25 percent of the 11,000 members of the bar were women. As a result, the CBA Committee on Gender Bias in the Profession was created to study the extent to which gender bias adversely affects women in the practice of law outside of the courtroom and develop a campaign to educate the Bar.
- Following advocacy and suggestion from the CBA, in 1992 the Rules of Professional Conduct were revised to require all engagement letters to include the basis or rate of their fees and for the scope of the matter to be undertaken to be communicated to clients in writing. Prior to this change, it was merely a



Ralph Gregory Elliot
1985-1986

Paul B. Altermatt
1986-1987

Lawrence M. Liebman
1987-1988

James F. Stapleton
1988-1989

Marilyn P. Seichter
1989-1990

Carolyn P. Kelly
1990-1991

Susan W. Wolfson
1991-1992

Hon. Frank H.D’Andrea,
Jr.

John M. Bailey
1993-1994

Rosemary E. Giuliano
1994-1995



150 YEARS OF THE CONNECTICUT BAR ASSOCIATION

1995-2004

- In 1996, at the second annual Legal Tech Expo, the CBA launched ctbar.org. At the time, only 15 percent of lawyers practicing in Connecticut had access to the internet.
- In the late 1990s, the Client Security Fund was removed from the purview of the CBA and fell under the Judicial Branch for administration and disbursement of funds. Just prior to this shift, a new rule was promulgated by the judiciary to require all attorneys in Connecticut to pay into the fund, not just those who are members of the bar association. The fund had been strained by the payout of almost \$2 million following the embezzlement of nearly \$4 million by a former Danbury probate judge, discovered only after his death.
- In 2000, the House of Delegates voted to move the CBA headquarters to 30 Bank Street, New Britain where it remained until 2024 when it moved to Meriden.
- Following a years-long effort spearheaded primarily by Probate Judge William Leary, the General Assembly passed a law that provided state funding for Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers. Previously, all funding came solely from lawyers. Former CBA President Lou Pepe stated in 2005, that, “Any effort that will significantly reduce three stigmas of our profession—defalcations, ethical violations, and malpractice—is to be greatly applauded and generously supported.”



Brian T. Mahon
1995-1996

Edward M. Sheehy
1996-1997

Peter L. Costas
1997-1998

Frank H. Finch, Jr.
1998-1999

William F. Gallagher
1999-2000

Donat C. Marchand
2000-2001

Barbara J. Collins
2001-2002

Deborah J. Tedford
2002-2003

John W. Hogan, Jr.
2003-2004

Frederic S. Ury
2004-2005



150 YEARS OF THE CONNECTICUT BAR ASSOCIATION

2005-2014

- The CBA’s lobbying arm had a constant presence in the General Assembly, advocating on behalf of the legal profession and the judiciary. In 2006, the CBA successfully lobbied against a proposed bill that would have stripped the Judicial Branch’s rule-making authority and provide that all court practices and procedures can only be established by statute. The General Assembly attempted to pass this legislation numerous times, which the CBA continued to successfully lobby against.
- In 2009, the General Assembly passed a law transferring the Client Security Fund for the purpose of balancing the state’s budget. The CBA, following an emergency meeting of the House of Delegates, sued to overturn the statute and protect the funds that are dedicated to victims of legal malpractice. Lead counsel was Steven Ecker, Ernest Teitell, and Ralph Monaco. Once suit was filed, the General Assembly repealed the law.
- In 2012, the CBA House of Delegates voted to approve additional delegates to serve on behalf of the affinity bar groups.
- In 2015, the CBA created the Presidential Fellows Program. The inaugural class included Garlinck Dumont,

“ As lawyers, we occupy a unique and at times dangerous place in society. We act not only on behalf of the state, creating and enforcing its laws, but we also, from time to time, must stand against it, protecting the people from the excesses and errors that are a natural and inevitable aspect of our organized system of government. ”

*President Keith Bradoc (Brad) Gallant
Address to 2011 Annual Meeting*





150 YEARS OF THE CONNECTICUT BAR ASSOCIATION

2015-2025

- On March 3, 2015, the CBA House of Delegates unanimously approved the association’s Diversity and Inclusion Policy. That same year, the association held its first annual Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Summit: The Collaborative Blueprint, which is now in its tenth year.
- In 2016, nine years after the initial proposal to bring mandatory CLE to Connecticut and after years of divisive debate amongst the bar, the judges of the Superior Court elected to require mandatory CLE hours for all Connecticut attorneys. Prior to the judges’ decision, the CBA House of Delegates twice voted in favor of recommending MCLE to the rules committee.
- In 2016, the CBA played a role in a “Civil Gideon” task force to examine the needs to narrow the access to justice gap in the state. The task force recommended that the General Assembly establish a statutory right to a civil attorney in three primary areas: (1) restraining orders under § 46b-15; (2) child custody and deportation proceedings; and (3) the defense of residential evictions. After a year-long pilot program, the General Assembly then established a right to counsel program for eviction or housing cases for those who qualify, which began in 2022.
- In 2019, the CBA championed legislation that requires real estate closings be performed by an attorney, codifying a long-standing practice. The CBA Real Property Section authored a white paper in connection with the bill’s passage.

“ The interrelationship that exists among us means that we are much stronger together than we could ever be apart, and that if we learn to harness our resources, energy, voice, skills, and creativity, we can change the world. ”

*President Ndidi Moses
May/June 2020 CT Lawyer president’s column*

