



Celebrate with the

STARS!

a night of honor and inspiration





Celebrating 50 Years

The Honorable Jonathan Kaplan



The Honorable Joseph Egan



Barbara B. Brown



One of my most memorable experiences occurred at the very start of my career when I clerked in Hartford and New York for Judge J. Joseph Smith on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. We sat in Hartford three weeks of the month and then went to New York for oral arguments the other week. That was a treat because we got to see all the other clerks and enjoy the back and forth that we didn't have in our small enclave in Hartford!

Thomas A. Covill



I was engaged in the private practice of law for 18 years before I joined the corporate world of title insurance, in 1989, which I continued until 2020.

One memorable experience was the task of the UConn expansion project. The university acquired different parcels of land from private parties and other state agencies. Identifying each parcel and the complicated title issues affecting each of them was like assembling a jigsaw puzzle. It was challenging and the results were gratifying.

Robert M. Elliott



In the early 1990s, I was legal representation for two hearing-impaired teenage girls seeking financial permission from the Wethersfield School System to attend the Gengras Center in Hartford, a private school for hearing-impaired and other special needs children, founded in 1965. It turned out to be a big battle, but after lengthy negotiations, permission was granted. Several months later, the Gengras Center printed a brochure with these girls on the cover, indicating they were doing very well. This was particularly satisfying to me because I was able to achieve a worthwhile result for these clients which helped them improve their education, and ultimately, the quality of their lives.

Richard S. Fisher



I was admitted to the Pennsylvania Bar in 1965. After a tour of duty with the IRS in Washington and a corporate job in New York, I was hired by Hirschberg Pettengill & Strong in Greenwich. However, not being a litigator, I had to take the Connecticut Bar exam, which was given in New Haven on December 30 and 31! After taking the exam, my wife, new baby, and I drove in a snowstorm to visit our family in Philadelphia. Thankfully, we made it and I passed the bar.

Carolyn P. Gould



What I liked most about
practicing law was winning on
summary judgment!

Carolyn P. Kelly



I have always enjoyed the intellectual stimulation of practicing law. I have also been fortunate to have had the comradery of partners at both O'Brien Shaffner and Suisman Shapiro. I also had the privilege of serving as president of the CBA in 1990-91 and state delegate to the ABA, which led to serving on the Board of Governors for three years and developing friendships with lawyers throughout the country.

Paul E. King



A highlight of my career is when I joined Murtha Cullina in 2002. This is a firm where people are respectful of each other, collegial, and dedicated to fairness and ethical conduct.

Edward M. Kveskin



A memorable experience I had practicing law was representing pro bono for hundreds of legal hours spread over more than two years on behalf of Connecticut Legal Services for a woman originally from Algeria who wanted to divorce in Connecticut her Egyptian husband who now also was living in CT. I was recognized by the CBA, with The Honorable Anthony V. DeMayo Pro Bono Award, and by CLS for this service. More importantly, the client was very appreciative and she still sends me holiday greetings.

Frederick P. Leaf



Upon graduation from Boston College School of Law in 1971, I entered active duty as a captain in the US Army Judge Advocate General Corps. I was assigned to Fort Dix, NJ where I would process Court Martials of AWOLs or "Conscientious Objectors." I didn't want to do that so I went to the Pentagon to file petition for reassignment. They offered Korea or Thailand. I chose Korea. I was then assigned to 8th Army HQ in Seoul as the legal assistance officer, and later assigned to the 2nd Infantry Division handling court martial work. While serving in Seoul, I met my wife, the love of my life, Kimmy, and we were married in 1973. Petitioning to get reassigned and selecting Korea as my first assignment was the best decision I've ever made and forever changed my life. My wife has been by my side for 48 of the 50 years I've practiced law.

Robert R. Moran, Jr.



The day I was sworn in as an attorney with Judge Santaniello presiding over the ceremony, he spoke to us and announced that we were about to learn our first lesson as attorneys—never be late for an appointment. He then informed us that the people who had not appeared to be sworn in would have to wait six months to be sworn in with the next group of admittees. Since then, I have always tried my best to be at my appointments at least 15 minutes early.

William S. Nathanson



My most memorable experience cannot be measured by events. I am simply grateful that I continue to enjoy what I do and see on the horizon no reason to stop.

John D. Paul



Over the years I was called upon as counsel in many countries all over the world. My practice consisted mostly of close corporate and matrimonial matters. A gentleman who was then-CEO of a major international wholesale tourist corporation was referred to me for assistance with his divorce. I was flattered that he then asked me to attend and chair his annual corporate meeting—in Quito, Ecuador! Along with the invitation was a suggested list of clothing to bring for a post-meeting celebration and cruise to the Galapagos Islands. While there, I was thrilled and privileged to spend ten days birding with the noted ornithologist, Roger Tory Peterson. One never knows what can happen in the practice of the law!

Richard C. Robinson



Steven R. Rolnick



One memorable experience that might be familiar to other 50 year lawyers is my going to the "dormant case list" call my first week as an associate, having the case dismissed and deciding whether to wait to be fired or just get in the car and drive home.

Helen F. Ryan



Perhaps the most impressive moment was when I was sworn in before the United States Supreme Court. When court was convened, the justices appeared as if by magic from behind a black curtain and took their assigned positions. Chief Justice Warren Burger welcomed us. Associate Justice William Rehnquist, sporting a 1970's style haircut, looked more like a rock star than a justice of the Supreme Court. Associate Justice Byron "Whizzer" White, a Kennedy appointee, looked every inch the former college athlete as well as a distinguished jurist. We rose as a group to be sworn-in and were duly admitted to practice before the highest court of the land. Later we received our giant-sized Certificates of Admission, suitable for ostentatious framing.

Jay H. Sandak



I was fortunate to be selected to be a member of the Plaintiff's Legal Representation Committee in the omnibus L'Ambiance Plaza litigation involving the collapse of the L'Ambiance Plaza in April 1987. I bore personal witness to the extraordinary work of federal Judge Robert Zampano who served as primary mediator. This experience launched my interest and desire to serve as a private mediator, gaining the trust of counsel and parties to help facilitate a non-litigation resolution to civil disputes. I have practiced what I learned during the L'Ambiance experience in the hundreds of mediations that I have conducted over the years.

Thomas J. Shea



James H. Shulman



As I look back, I think I most enjoyed the opportunity to work with sophisticated clients to “birth” companies and real estate projects from start to successful finished project. It is always a great feeling of creativity and accomplishment to see the end result.

Averum J. Sprecher



Dominick J. Thomas, Jr.



I spent the spring and summer of 1976 as one of the lead defense counsels for the cadets in the 1976 cheating scandal at the United States Military Academy at West Point. Those months with my fellow counsel made me proud to be an attorney and impressed even further the responsibility we have as members of the bar. We worked to defend and we worked to change the system in the USMA community. As lawyers, we owe more than just to our clients—we owe to our community by service, leadership, and support.

John L. Vecchiola



During the years that I have been practicing law, I have made a commitment to my community to make it a better place. I served 13 years on the Greenwich Board of Education, President of the Greenwich Kiwanis Club and the Greenwich Bar Association. I also served 10 years on the CBA House of Delegates, a term on the Board of Governors, and on the board of directors for the Greenwich chapter of the American Red Cross. In 2004, I was chosen as a volunteer of the year by the Greenwich Time. There is nothing more important as an administrator of the law than giving back to the community.

Walter D. Wagoner



I'll never forget as an idealistic young lawyer starting out with New Haven Legal Assistance, a prospective client asked me, "Where is a good place to slip and fall?"

Steven H. Winkler





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J. Michael Cantore, Jr.

Thomas A. Covill

James F. Early

Robert M. Elliott

Steven M. Fast

Lawrence Roy Fish

Richard S. Fisher

Dana Eric Friedman

Martin P. Gold

Carolyn P. Gould

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Steven R. Rolnick

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