

Federal Practice Section

District of Connecticut Bench-Bar Conference

Thursday, October 31, 2024 | 8:00 a.m.
Saint Clements Castle and Marina, 1931 Portland-Cobalt Rd, Portland, CT
3.5 CT CLE Credit (General)

The Federal Practice Section will sponsor the 12th biennial Bench-Bar Conference at Saint Clements Castle. All members of the bar are invited.

Agenda

- 8:00 a.m. **Breakfast and Registration**
- 9:00 a.m. **Welcome and Introduction**
Margaret Donovan and [Joshua Goodbaum](#), Federal Practice Section Co-Chairs
- State of the District**
[The Honorable Michael P. Shea](#), Chief Judge of the United States District Court, District of Connecticut
- 9:25 a.m. **Life after *Chevron***
After 40 years, one of the most foundational (and cited) cases in American law is no more. But what replaces it? Simple *Skidmore* deference? Statute-specific deference? Something else? And what's the process by which we will come to understand this new post-*Chevron* regime? Panelists from academia, government, and the private bar will tell us what comes next.
- Moderator**
[The Honorable Sarala V. Nagala](#), United States District Judge, District of Connecticut
- Speakers**
[John Cerreta](#), Day Pitney LLP, Hartford
[Sandy Glover](#), Appellate Chief, United States Attorneys' Office
[Cristina Rodriguez](#), Leighton Homer Surbeck Professor of Law, Yale Law School
- 10:30 a.m. **Break**
- 10:45 a.m. **G-Man and the Invention of Federal Law Enforcement**
Yale history professor Beverly Gage will present on her recent Pulitzer Prize-winning biography of J. Edgar Hoover. Drawing on newly-available archives, Professor Gage's monumental work places Hoover where he once stood: at the center of American political life. Her definitive portrait reveals that Hoover was more than a one-dimensional schemer; as FBI director from 1924 until his death in 1972, he was a confidant, counselor, and adversary to eight presidents. Professor Gage will explore some of her book's many themes, including the development of federal criminal law, the battle between social conservatism and civil rights, and the explosion of the federal bureaucracy.
- Speaker**
[Beverly Gage](#), John Lewis Gaddis Professor of History, Yale University
- 11:45 a.m. **Break**
- 12:00 p.m. **Lunch and Award Presentations**
- 1:30 p.m. **State of the Circuit**
[The Honorable Sarah A. L. Merriam](#), U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
- 1:45 p.m. **Bankruptcy and Civil Justice: Alex Jones, Purdue Pharma, and the Texas Two-Step**
Verdicts and settlements worth billions of dollars have a way of grabbing the headlines. But after the judgment or deal, does the money actually change hands? Bankruptcy experts and commercial litigators will tell three stories with common themes: the effort of the Sandy Hook

plaintiffs to collect from Alex Jones; the Supreme Court's rejection of the *Purdue Pharma* opioid settlement; and the attempts by alleged corporate tortfeasors to limit their liability by moving assets into shell companies and declaring them bankrupt.

Moderator

[The Honorable Ann M. Nevins](#), Chief Judge, United State Bankruptcy Court, District of Connecticut

Speakers

[Taruna Garg](#), Murtha Cullina LLP, Stamford

[Irve Goldman](#), Pullman & Comley LLC, Bridgeport

[Eric Henzy](#), Zeisler & Zeisler PC, Bridgeport

[Alinor Sterling](#), Koskoff Koskoff & Bieder PC, Bridgeport

2:45 p.m.

Reception (light appetizers and cash bar)