



Raising the Bar: A Bench-Bar Symposium on Professionalism

Windham County Bar Association 



Friday, November 21, 2025
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Presented by the Connecticut Bar Association in collaboration with the Tolland County Bar Association, Windham County Bar Association and the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch

8:30 a.m. - **Registration and Breakfast**
9:00 a.m. *Jury Assembly Room*

9:00 a.m. - **Welcome Remarks**
9:30 a.m. *Jury Assembly Room*

Speakers: Justice Joan K. Alexander, Supreme Court of Connecticut, Hartford
Hon. Ernest Green, Jr., Connecticut Superior Court, Danielson
Hon. Jennifer Macierowski, Connecticut Superior Court, Rockville
Edwin C. Higgins, III, President, Windham County Bar Association, Bachand Longo & Higgins, Putnam
Kerry A. Socha, President, Tolland County Bar Association, Law Offices of Kerry A. Socha LLC, Vernon
J. Paul Vance, Jr., President Elect, Connecticut Bar Association, Logan Vance Sullivan & Kores LLP, Torrington

9:30 a.m. - **Plenary Session | Professionalism in the Judicial Branch**
10:15 a.m. *Jury Assembly Room*
Speaker: Justice William H. Bright, Supreme Court of Connecticut, Hartford

10:15 a.m. - **Break**
10:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m. - **Panel Discussion – Practice Areas A Professionalism Discussion (Crim, Civil, Clerk)**
11:30 a.m. *Jury Assembly Room*
Panel: (W) **Judge Nicole Anker** [Juvenile]: Connecticut Juvenile Court, Willimantic (Nicole.anker@jud.ct.gov)
(T) **Judge Tejas Bhatt** [Criminal]: Connecticut Superior Court, Rockville (tejas.bhatt@jud.ct.gov)
(T) **Judge Cecil J. Thomas** [Civil]: Connecticut Superior Court, Rockville (cecilthomas@gmail.com)
(W) **Attorney Christian Sarantopoulos** [Criminal/Civil]: Sarantopoulos & Sarantopoulos LLC, Danielson (cgs@saralaw.net)
(T) **Attorney Kerry Socha** [Civil]: Law Office of Kerry a. Socha LLC, Vernon (kerry@kerrysochalaw.com)
(W) **Deputy Chief Clerk – John Sullivan III** [Civil]: Connecticut Superior Court, Windham Judicial District, Putnam (john.sullivan@jud.ct.gov)

Moderator:

Panel Discussion – Practice Areas B Professionalism Discussion (Family, Probate, Clerk)

Courtroom D (Second Floor)

Panel: (T) **Judge Karyl L. Carrasquilla** [Family]: Connecticut Superior Court, Rockville (Karyl.Carrasquilla@jud.ct.gov)
(W) **Judge Karen DeMeola** [Family]: Connecticut Superior Court, Putnam (karendemeola@gmail.com)
(W) **Judge George A. Baker** [Probate]: Windham – Colchester Probate Court PD-28, Willimantic (gbaker@bpslawyers.com)
(W) **Judge Sophia H. Shaikh** [Probate]: Tolland – Mansfield Probate Court, Tolland (sophia.shaikh@ctprobate.gov)
(W) **Attorney Tracie L. Molinaro** [Family]: St. Onge & Brouillard, Putnam (tlm@bsblaw.net)
(T) **Attorney Allenston M. Sheridan, Jr.** [Family]: Diana Conti Tunila Sheridan & McCann LLP, Manchester (asheridan@dctlaw.com)
(T) **Chief Clerk – Alexandra Wilson**: Connecticut Superior Court, District of Tolland, Rockville (Alexandra.Wilson@jud.ct.gov)

Moderator:

11:30 a.m. - **Break**
11:45 p.m.

11:45 p.m. - **Closing Plenary | Professionalism in the Executive and Legislative Branches**
12:30 p.m. *Jury Assembly Room*

Speakers: **Steven Stafstrom**, State Rep., 129th Assembly District (Bridgeport) & House Chair, Judiciary Committee
Natalie Braswell, General Counsel, State of Connecticut, Office of the Governor

12:30 p.m. **Closing Comments and Adjourn**
Jury Assembly Room

Speaker: **Danielle Edwards**, Professionalism Co-chair, Connecticut Bar Association; 1818 Law PLLC, Stamford

Program Co-chairs:

James W. Bergenn, Professionalism Committee Co-chair, Connecticut Bar Association; Shipman & Goodwin LLP, Hartford

Danielle Edwards, Professionalism Co-chair, Connecticut Bar Association; 1818 Law PLLC, Stamford

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