

ANNUAL REPORT

of Sections and Committees
2019-2020 Bar Year





30 Bank Street
New Britain, CT 06051
(860)223-4400, Fax (860)223-4488
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Connecticut Bar Association Officers

2019-2020



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CBA Board of Governors of the House of Delegates

2019-2020

DISTRICT	NAME	CITY	TERM EXPIRES
1	Lorenzo E. Agnoloni	Greenwich	2021
2	Stephen J. Conover	Stamford	2020
3	Kara A.T. Murphy	Norwalk	2021
4	Rute A. Mendes Caetano	Danbury	2020
5	James O. Gaston	Bridgeport	2021
6	J. Paul Vance, Jr.	Torrington	2020
7	Sherwin M. Yoder	Waterbury	2021
8	Jonathan Weiner	West Hartford	2020
9	Maggie I. Castinado	New Haven	2021
10	William F. Dezinno	Meriden	2020
11	Patrick J. Cooney	Bristol	2021
12	James F. Sullivan	Hartford	2020
13	Sylvia K. Rutkowska	Middletown	2021
14	Mark D. Leighton	Rockville	2020
15	Howard B. Schiller	Willimantic	2021
16	Kimberly C. McGee	Mystic	2020
17	Matthew J. Cholewa	Wethersfield	2021

CBA House of Delegates

2019-2020

DISTRICT	NAME	CITY	TERM EXPIRES
1	Erin K. Flynn	Greenwich	2020
2	Diana M. Carlino	Stamford	2020
2	Stephen J. Conover*	Stamford	2020
2	Scott M. Harrington	Stamford	2022
3	Kara A.T. Murphy*	Norwalk	2020
3	Sarah E. Murray	Westport	2021
4	Patricia Cruz Fragoso	Danbury	2022
5	James O. Gaston*	Bridgeport	2020
5	Patrick R. Linsey	Bridgeport	2021
5	Johnpatrick C. O'Brien	Bridgeport	2022
5	James T. Shearin	Bridgeport	2022
6	J. Paul Vance, Jr.*	Torrington	2020
7	Dana A. D'Angelo	Middlebury	2020
7	Connor P. McNamara	Waterbury	2021
8	Gerald L. Garlick	West Hartford	2021
8	Isis M. Irizarry	Hartford	2021
8	Jonathan Weiner*	West Hartford	2021
9	Maggie I. Castinado*	New Haven	2020
9	Jason M. Fragoso	West Haven	2022
9	Joshua R. Goodbaum	New Haven	2021
9	Jesse A. Langer	East Haven	2020
9	Vincent M. Marino	Orange	2022
9	Alyssa S. Torres	New Haven	2021
9	Leonard Rodriguez	Orange	2021

(Continued on the next page)

CBA House of Delegates *(Continued)*

2019-2020

DISTRICT	NAME	CITY	TERM EXPIRES
10	James O. Craven	Madison	2022
10	William F. Dezinno*	Meriden	2021
11	Patrick J. Cooney*	Bristol	2020
11	Kristen Mostowy	Bristol	2022
11	Jeffrey A. Zyjeski	New Britain	2022
12	Tamar Bakhbava	Hartford	2021
12	Jamey L. Bell	Hartford	2021
12	Jennifer S. Das	Hartford	2021
12	Melanie P. Dykas	Hartford	2021
12	Emily A. Gianquinto	Hartford	2021
12	Dana M. Hrelc	Hartford	2022
12	Kenneth B. Lerman	Hartford	2020
12	Houston Putnam Lowry	Hartford	2020
12	James F. Sullivan*	Hartford	2021
12	Jennifer E. Wheelock	Hartford	2020
13	Kirk W. Lowry	Middletown	2020
14	Christopher T. Bowen	Vernon	2020
15	Pamela S. Bacharach	Willimantic	2022
16	Daniel J. Horgan	Norwich	2022
16	Douglas J. Monaghan	Groton	2022
17	Matthew J. Cholewa*	Wethersfield	2020
17	Allenston M. Sheridan	Manchester	2022
17	Maria K. Tougas	Manchester	2022

*Also a member of the Board of Governors

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Annual Report of the President

Ndidi N. Moses

The theme for this bar year was **BALANCE FOR A BETTER LEGAL PROFESSION**. It was fittingly so, because in this historic year for the Connecticut Bar Association (CBA), expected historic moments were balanced with unexpected ones. For instance, this bar year straddled not only the centennial of the 19th Amendment, but also the 150th Anniversary of the 15th Amendment, and the 30th Anniversary of the ADA. It was also historic because of many unexpected events. In 2020, we witnessed two almost simultaneous events that could have divided and destroyed us as a nation, instead give us an opportunity to strengthen our sense of humanity: an international deadly pandemic, followed by international social protests against discrimination, police brutality and injustice.



This bar year, we also worked on programs to ensure our members achieve success through balance in everything we do. Balancing custom with innovation, work with play, tribalism with community, networking to advance our own goals and being unofficial ambassadors for others, individual freedom with collective responsibility, listening and speaking, and our desire for a social revolution with our fears of change.

To balance custom with innovation: We established a *State of the Legal Profession Taskforce* to begin a dialogue with the Connecticut legal community and make recommendations for how we can reduce legal costs, improve legal efficiency, and better manage legal dockets. The Taskforce held two major meetings with scholars from all over the world, who came to Connecticut to assist us with proposing reforms to help establish a more sustainable legal profession and also address the justice gap. We also adopted [American Bar Association's Resolution 115](#), which encourages regulatory innovation by bar associations to help adjust the justice gap. We established a Cyber Security and Technology Committee to provide guidance to our members on cyber security threats and ensure our members we able to leverage advances in technology. For the first time ever, we held virtual governance meetings, and at least one occurred before the onset of the pandemic.

To balance work with play, we planned a series of wellness events, including a Mindfulness Spa Retreat. We added day care discounts as a member benefit. We used our celebration of the 19th Amendment to encourage our members to participate in a statewide scavenger hunt. We worked with the affinity bars to publish a virtual second edition of the CBA cookbook: *From Court to Cuisine*. We helped members obtain continuing legal education (CLE) credits at

Annual Report of the President *(Continued)*

educational events they could attend with their families. We planned two CLE filled international trips, one to Scotland, and another to Morocco, which were postponed due to the pandemic.

To balance tribalism with community, our Diversity and Inclusion Committee held its annual Diversity Summit on issues plaguing the legal profession. We co-sponsored a CLE on lynching with the George W. Crawford Black Bar Association, and we held other cultural competency programming, some established along with our *19th Amendment Planning Committee*, to celebrate the 19th Amendment and the 15th Amendment. We sponsored and co-sponsored over 20 programs and CLEs on voting rights with various local organizations and the Secretary of State's Office, including a CLE on the 15th Amendment, and voter registration. We established a confidentiality policy for our leaders, to ensure our leaders are comfortable being candid during difficult debates. We ensured all of our Sections and Committees updated their bylaws to include a diversity and non-discrimination provision. Finally, we are finalizing a misconduct policy to ensure members act with civility during CBA events and programs.

To balance networking with being ambassadors, we appointed another class into our Presidential Fellows program, and established a Presidential Fellows Planning Committee to guide our fellows, and create meaningful programs to help them develop as leaders. We also worked with the *Governor's Committee on Women and Girls*, and appointed one of our fellows to serve as the liaison for the CBA. We co-sponsored an interdisciplinary leadership academy with several other professional associations in the state, appointing several young lawyers to the program. While our Law Camp Program was cancelled due to the pandemic, we still held a virtual Law Day Program with Secretary Merrill. Finally, we served as community ambassadors by holding our first ever CBA sponsored pro bono clinic in New Britain and Bridgeport.

To balance individual freedom with collective responsibility we established the *COVID-19 Taskforce* in the wake of the pandemic, to serve as a liaison between the Judicial Branch, the Governor's Office and the Bar. The Taskforce worked with law schools and the Bar Examining Committee to assist students graduating from law school with the changes to the bar exam caused by the pandemic. The Taskforce established a food drive and the CBA donated money to it on behalf of its Sections and Committees. The Taskforce established a small business pro bono program to help small businesses impacted by the pandemic. We also started *Pro Bono Connect*, an initiative which provides educational training to pro bono volunteers. The *COVID-19 Taskforce* also held town halls within at least two sections, and assisted our members suffering with financial issues with finding funding to keep afloat. For those who were technologically challenged, we assisted them with becoming virtual overnight. Our Sections and Committees held dozens of free CLEs to assist members of the legal community during the pandemic. The attendance at various webinars required the CBA to get licenses to accommodate up to 1000 people. We also began to document the heroic efforts of the members of the CBA by working on the creation of a documentary.

Annual Report of the President *(Continued)*

To balance listening and speaking we began working on developing member surveys and focus groups. We convened a feedback session with our House of Delegates, and a town hall with the members of the CBA to discuss discrimination and injustice. We also held periodic meetings with all Section and Committee leaders, to make sure we were addressing their concerns.

The last week of May 2020 required the CBA to speak out publicly and denounce the horrific death of an unarmed black man, George Floyd. It also required the CBA to push for social changes on behalf of the numerous other black and brown men and women, whose lives were cut too short because of injustice and inequality.

In this final balancing act, the CBA began **to balance our fear of a change, with our knowledge that social revolution must occur**, and we created a *Policing Taskforce*, composed of key players in the local community, law enforcement community, and legal community. The goal of the Taskforce is to address issues in policing. We are collaborating with the law enforcement community because they too want to eradicate their police departments of those who would encourage, condone, or turn a blind eye to injustice, hate, and discrimination, or stand silently by when others do. These people have no place in our justice system, because their imbalance makes them incapable of protecting the rule of law.

While we were holding a microscope over police departments, we began to reexamine ourselves as a profession and asked: *Has the Connecticut legal community clearly denounced injustice, hate, and discrimination in the practice of law?* Indeed, as we are protecting the rule of law from the imbalanced perceptions of others, we need to first make sure we are balanced in our own rules, pronouncements, and views.

The CBA historically has made sure it carried the torch on any issue that threatened the rule of law. As an Association, we have begun to have these difficult conversations, and make plans for the future. As I conclude my term, I have full faith that the incoming president, Amy Lin Meyerson, the incoming executive board, and other leaders of the CBA, will continue to carry the torch of liberty and justice. Afterall, the ask of the community is simple and intrinsic. To paraphrase the famous quote adopted by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, in speaking out against gender inequality: Those seeking out the rule of law's protection are not asking for any favors for their protected status. All they are asking is that the system *take its feet or knees off their necks so they can breathe*. When this request is made, the legal community must respond by eradicating injustice and equality to protect the rule of law.

I was honored and humbled to serve as president of this great organization, and work with the CBA's staff, and so many of you on protecting the rule of law and developing innovative and ground breaking initiatives. I look forward to working with you all in the future, and continuing the great work of the CBA.

SECTION REPORTS

Alternative Dispute Resolution Section

Co-Chairs: Bridget C. Gallagher and Lynda B. Munro

PURPOSE

This section aims to increase the awareness of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) within the bar and the general public; promote communication among lawyers and others involved in ADR, act as a resource to the courts and other entities, improve the quality of ADR services, and encourage members of the bar to serve as neutrals in various ADR settings.

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Section Activities

One goal of the section this year was to increase the participation of the younger generation of lawyers within the section. Upon the establishment and expansion of various committees, several younger members of the bar stepped up to actively promote the section and help pursue its goals.

The section also active in helping revive and stabilize the CBA's Legal Fees Dispute Resolution program. Section member Jennifer Shukla has been a tremendous asset for the section in chairing that committee and working closely with the CBA on that program.

The Executive Committee of the Section met on a regular basis. There was one full section meeting in September of 2019, unfortunately no other in person meetings have been possible in the past several months due to COVID-19. At its full section meeting last fall, the section voted to approve submission of Uniform Mediation Act to CBA policy committee. It is notable that Bill Chapman has been very helpful with that process and is a tremendous resource for the section and the CBA at large.

The section adopted new bylaws to conform to the CBA Board of Governors new bylaws template, which incorporate provisions regarding Diversity and Inclusion and YLS Representation

The section's secretary resigned and the section welcomed a new secretary, Christopher Kriesen.

Numerous members have taken on the initiative to create and organize various programs and those efforts are underway. One such program was planned for March 24, 2020 at CBA headquarters as a joint meeting with the Young Lawyers Section for a program entitled "Representing Parties at your First Mediation". Unfortunately it was postponed due to COVID-19 and a new date is yet to be determined. The section is also planning another full section meeting and program on September 2, 2020 at The Graduate Club in New Haven with a 1.0 credit program (NY and CT) regarding drafting arbitration provisions.

Antitrust and Trade Regulation Section

Chair: Robert M. Langer

PURPOSE

The Antitrust and Trade Regulation Law Section aims to familiarize CBA members with all aspects of state and federal antitrust and trade regulation law.

ANNUAL REPORT

Meetings and CLEs

September 26, 2019

The Section held a CLE program in New Haven, entitled *Consumer Protection — CUTPA and Beyond*. The Section was honored by the attendance of, and speeches by, the Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection Michelle Seagull, and the Deputy Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection, Arunan Arulampalam.

February 11, 2020

The Section held a meeting in New Haven, entitled *Antitrust and Unfair Competition Claims in Federal Court - A View from the Bench*. The Section was honored by the attendance of, and remarks by, United States District Court Judge Michael P. Shea. The Section was also honored by the presence of, and remarks by, Connecticut Superior Court Judge James Sicilian.

Planned Meetings and CLEs Cancelled Due to COVID-19 Pandemic

March 25, 2020

The Section was scheduled to hold a meeting in New Haven: *Recent Antitrust Enforcement Initiatives by the Connecticut Attorney General's Office*. The Section was to be honored by the presence of, and remarks by, Connecticut Assistant Attorneys General for Antitrust Michael Cole and Joseph Nielsen.

April 14, 2020

The Section was scheduled to co-sponsor a program with the University of Connecticut School of Law on the law school campus in West Hartford: *The Future of the United States Antitrust Enforcement System*. The program was to feature a speech by Former Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission and leading antitrust scholar, Professor William E. Kovacic of George Washington University.

June 8, 2020

The Section was scheduled to sponsor a CLE program at the Connecticut Legal Conference in Hartford concerning the Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act. This program has been rescheduled to September 14, 2020. The program is to feature presentations by Section Chair

Attorney Robert M. Langer of Wiggin and Dana LLP and Attorney Daniel P. Scholfield of Pullman & Comley LLC.

Section Officers

The Section Officers for the 2019-20 year were: Attorney Robert M. Langer of Wiggin and Dana LLP, Chair; Attorney Craig Raabe of IZARD Kindall & Raabe LLP, Treasurer; and Attorney Peter A. Barile of Scott+Scott LLP, Secretary. The Section Officers will continue to serve in their respective capacities during the 2020-2021 year.

Antitrust and Trade Regulation Section 2019-2020			
Contact ID	Last Name	Full Name	Position
27521484	Alexander	Atty. Mark D Alexander	
41213748	Barile III	Atty. Peter A. Barile III	Secretary
27527308	Bergenn	Atty. James W. Bergenn	
27540998	Cordima	Atty. Melissa A. Cordima	
35366027	DiCocco	Atty. Louise E. DiCocco	
52184222	Diessel	Atty. Benjamin Diessel	
27540806	Edwards	Atty. Danielle J.B. Edwards	
55868120	Fignon	JD. Candidate Ian Fignon	Student Member
27541365	Gaffney	Atty. Mark W. Gaffney	
28172261	Higgins	Todd A. Higgins Esq.	
27542164	Hillman	Atty. Allan P. Hillman	
27542929	Kurs	Atty. Michael A Kurs	Past-Chair
27543018	Langer	Atty. Robert M Langer	Chair
28171958	Lee	Honorable Charles T. Lee	
27543522	Marchesseault	Atty. Donald J. Marchesseault	
27544546	Orleans	Atty. Jonathan Orleans	
27544577	O'Toole	Atty. Jill O'Toole	
27545043	Raabe	Atty. Craig Raabe	Treasurer
27550406	Shearin	Atty. James T Shearin	
27550475	Sicilian	Honorable James Sicilian	
27551503	Wellman	Atty. Philip S. Wellman	
27551581	Wiechmann	Atty. Eric W Wiechmann	
27550981	Tanski	Atty. John M. Tanski	

Appellate Advocacy Section

Co-Chairs: Thomas J. Donlon and Jessie Opinion

PURPOSE

The Appellate Advocacy Section aims to improve appellate practice through meetings and CLE courses; determine the nature, scope, and interest in an appellate certification program; identify the resources and procedures required to maintain such a program; and identify other means to improve the appellate law practice in Connecticut.

ANNUAL REPORT

Notwithstanding the disruption from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Appellate Section had a productive 2019-2020 bar year. We held three in-person meetings and one Zoom meeting. Unfortunately, three other scheduled meetings had to be delayed until next year due to the COVID-19 shut down. Likewise, our CLE program for the 2020 CLC has been postponed to September. The Section was also heavily involved in the CBA's response to the pandemic and the appellate courts' reopening.

Our meetings during the bar year typically involve having an appellate judge from the Appellate Court, Supreme Court, or Second Circuit join us to foster a dialogue between the bench and the bar. This year, we were able to accomplish that at the following three in-person meetings:

October 2, 2019: The Section's year kicked off with a meeting with Justice Richard Palmer. Justice Palmer favored us with his memories of years on the Supreme Court, his observations of the changes that had occurred and his thoughts on the challenges to come.

October 30, 2019: The Section was joined by Judge Susan Carney of the Second Circuit. Judge Carney discussed the particulars of federal appellate practice and how the Second Circuit differs from Connecticut Appellate courts.

February 4, 2020: The Section's guests were Justice Maria Kahn of the Connecticut Supreme Court and Judge Robert Devlin of the Appellate Court. Justice Kahn and Judge Devlin had a lively discussion about appellate decision making and effective oral argument. Justice Kahn and Judge Devlin also shared stories from their long personal and professional relationship. In keeping with the Section's evolving policy of having video connection to remote locations, the meeting was held in New Britain and available by video link in Stamford.

June 2, 2020: The Section held its first ever totally virtual Zoom meeting. As the term of one of our Co-Chairs, Jay Sexton, was expiring, an election was held. Jessie Opinion was elected Co-Chair and Danielle Edwards was elected to fill the Secretary-Treasurer position that Jessie had held.

The Section had scheduled meetings for March, May and June. These three had to be initially delayed and then, as the prohibition on in-person meetings extended, rescheduled for next year.

In September, the Section will present a CLE program, *Oral Argument From The Inside Out*, at CLC. The program will feature a mock oral argument to a panel of present and former Connecticut appellate judges. It is uncertain now if the CLC will be held in-person. If not, the Section has confirmed with all the participants that the program can be presented virtually.

On September 29, 2020, the Section plans to hold its first (hopefully, in-person) meeting of the year where former Chief Justice Chase Rogers and former Second Circuit Judge Christopher Droney will lead a discussion of the differences and similarities in practice before their respective former courts. If in-person meetings are still restricted, this meeting will be held via Zoom. Even if the restrictions are lifted, the Section plans to incorporate remote participation in recognition that some members will be unable or unwilling to travel to in-person meetings. Then, in early November, the Section will be joined by Judge Christine Keller for a meeting that was twice postponed due to COVID-19.

The Section also made important contributions to the CBA's COVID-19 Task Force. Co-Chair Jay Sexton served on the Technology Subcommittee, while Co-Chair Tom Donlon served on the Judicial Branch Subcommittee. The Section was also instrumental in assisting the Supreme and Appellate Courts transition to remote oral arguments. In addition to contributing to the planning and development, Jay helped develop and present two CLE training sessions for members of the bar on how to conduct a remote oral argument under the new system. Jay, Tom and the Section's Legislative Liaison Danielle Edwards all participated as volunteers in the Court's "rehearsal" program, presenting oral arguments to panel of court justices and judges to test the new system and provide practice for the panelists.

The Section continues its outreach to the bar, particularly those attorneys who regularly practice in appellate courts. The Section developed from a committee made up of such attorneys and, after conversion to a section, maintains a purposefully large Executive Committee. This insures the broadest input from appellate practitioners, who are a relatively small but important part of the bar. Further, maintaining regular informal meetings with members of the appellate judiciary allows a wholesome and fruitful dialogue where the bench and bar can work together to identify potential problems and propose solutions. The Section has previously developed suggested changes to the Rules of Appellate Procedure arising out of these discussions that were subsequently adopted. The Section looks forward to continuing this informal dialogue in an effort to improve the practice of appellate law.

The officers of the Section serve three-year terms, and the recently elected slate of officers that will serve for the 2020-2021 bar year. Specifically, Attorney Tom Donlon will serve his third and final year as a Co-Chair, Attorney Jessie Opinion will serve her first of three years as a Co-Chair, and Attorney Danielle Edwards will serve the first of her three years as Secretary-Treasurer. Additionally, Attorney Danielle Edwards will continue to serve as our Legislative Liaison.

Commercial Finance Section

Chair: Jane E. Ballerini

PURPOSE

The Commercial Finance Section was formed to promote the educational and professional objectives of the Connecticut Bar Association within the practice area of commercial finance law. The Commercial Finance Section is comprised of attorneys and title insurance agents who actively engage in commercial finance transactions. The Section focuses on educating its members and the broader CBA members on issues relating to commercial credit transactions including, without limitation, asset based and cash-flow lending under Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code, commercial real estate finance law and associated topics of contract law, insurance and administrative law.

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Officers

The Section's officers for the 2019 – 2020 year have been:

Chair, Jane E. Ballerini of Neubert Pepe & Monteith PC Vice-chair, Catherine A. Cuggino of Murtha Cullina LLP Secretary, Taylor A. Shea of Robinson & Cole LLP Treasurer, Bridget M. D'Angelo of Murtha Cullina LLP

Meetings

The current executive committee was installed in the fall of 2018, and this leadership has met in person and telephonically throughout the year to discuss relevant issues in the commercial law arena, to coordinate meetings with other section groups and to arrange for speakers at Section dinner meetings which also provide continuing legal education.

The section hosted a joint meeting with the Real Property Section in October, 2019 addressing the ethics and potential liability of providing legal opinion letters. The speaker was a Hartford based attorney who had litigated on the enforceability of opinion letters in state court and the meeting was well-attended. The joint meeting that was being planned for Spring, 2020 was postponed due to the COVID pandemic.

Legislative Efforts

The Section monitored the bills introduced into the General Assembly session this year, however the Commercial Finance Section did not take a position on proposed legislation for the latest term.

We continue to screen for legislation that was introduced in past sessions but not passed (including the Uniform Protected Series Act and the Uniform Trust Code Act). The Section will continue to work with other CBA sections to support future activities and legislation that could affect commercial finance practice in Connecticut.

Commercial Law & Bankruptcy Section

Chair: Thomas J. Sansone

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Commercial Law & Bankruptcy Section is “to promote objectives of the State Bar Association of Connecticut within the field of commercial law and bankruptcy.” (Section 2, Bylaws of Commercial Law & Bankruptcy Section of the Connecticut Bar Association) This section achieves this purpose by encouraging the free exchange of ideas and scholarship among its members and by providing a forum to educate and update its members in matters of interest in the area of creditor/debtor relations in commercial transactions. To further these goals, each monthly section meeting is open to the entire section, and attendance is encouraged.

ANNUAL REPORT

I. Section Accomplishments

The Section began its bar year with a dinner meeting at the Quinnipiack Club on Tuesday, September 17, 2019, which was immediately preceded by the Section’s first Executive Committee meeting of the year, at which the various standing committees provided updates on their respective activities, and the officers discussed programming for the upcoming year. This included a discussion by Matt Beatman, Chairman of the Section’s Standing Committee on Pro Bono Services, who reported on the adoption of a measure by the Association’s Board of Governors, approving the disbursement of all net proceeds from the Section’s annual Connecticut Bankruptcy Court Conference to the Honorable Robert L. Krechevsky Memorial Fund, maintained with the Connecticut Bar Institute. That fund is the repository of moneys allocated for use in reimbursing pro bono attorneys’ out-of-pocket expenses incurred in representing indigent clients.

Consistent with the tradition established during the past two years, the meeting featured a panel presentation, “What I Did Over my Summer Vacation,” at which Section members Ken Lenz, Kevin McEleney and Jon Newton discussed the interesting cases in which they had been involved during the past few months, involving issues such as the dischargeability of student loans in bankruptcy, security interests in life insurance proceeds, as well as an update from Mr. Newton on a Chapter 11 case in which he had been appointed as Trustee of a skilled nursing facility. Julie Manning, Chief Judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Connecticut, was also on hand to introduce the newly-appointed Chief Clerk of the Court, Pietro Cicolini, who delivered some brief remarks to the attendees.

On Thursday, October 2, 2019, the Section presented its second annual Connecticut Bankruptcy Court Conference, an all-day event at St. Clement’s Castle in Portland, Connecticut. At this event, 185 attendees earned 6.5 hours of continuing legal education credit, as they participated

in plenary and breakout sessions, including a full hour of ethics CLE credit. In addition to several Section members who served as presenters, all three of the state's bankruptcy judges (Manning, CJ and Nevins and Tancredi, JJ) also attended and served as presenters. Moreover, several non-section members, including two national speakers, the United States Trustee for Region 2 and a bankruptcy judge from the Eastern District of New York, gave presentations. Following the event, attendees enjoyed a cocktail reception on the lawn of the resort. Section member and former Section Chair, Bob Kaelin, reprised his role as chairman of the planning committee that organized the event, working closely with Association staff members, Tom Genung, Phanny Cahill and Shirley Perrin.

The Section's November Executive Committee meeting and dinner program were held on Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at the Graduate Club in New Haven. The program featured a panel discussion moderated by United States Bankruptcy Judge Ann Nevins on the topic of student loans in bankruptcy. The presenters included Section members, Irve Goldman, Jeff Hellman and Ken Lenz, along with Assistant United States Attorney Lauren Nash. Attendees earned 1.5 hours of CLE.

On Monday, December 9, 2019, the Section held its annual joint holiday party with the Connecticut Chapter of the Turnaround Management Association at the Quinnipiack Club in New Haven. This was one of the last events to be held at this Club, which sadly, closed its doors on December 31st.

On Wednesday, February 5, 2020, the Section conducted its third Executive Committee meeting and, in addition to receiving reports on the Section's finances and standing committees, members also voted to approve a measure introduced by former Section Chair, Evan Goldstein, to pay the cost of an LSAT preparation course for a minority college student, in conjunction with an Association initiative to provide greater access to legal education to underrepresented populations. Following the Executive Committee meeting, members attended a dinner presentation at which they learned of the implementation of the Small Business Reorganization Act in a panel discussion, moderated by John Cesaroni, with Section members, Jeff Sklarz and Kara Rescia and special guest, William Harrington, United States Trustee for Region 2, as panelists. Attendees were awarded 1.5 hours of CLE credit.

On Tuesday, March 10, 2020, the Section held a joint program with the Family Law Section on the topic of the intersection of bankruptcy law and family law. Chair Tom Sansone moderated a distinguished panel, which included Superior Court (Family Division) Judge, Robert Nastri, United States Bankruptcy Judge James Tancredi, Section member, Scott Charmoy, and his wife, Family Law Section member, Sheila Charmoy. There were approximately 75 attendees, who received 1.5 hours of CLE credit.

Unfortunately, the Coronavirus Pandemic prevented the Section from holding in-person programs in April and May. Nevertheless, the Section stepped up with two very well-attended webinars, one on Friday, April 17, 2020, on the topic, "Covid-19 and the Contract Issues that Arise," presented by Section members, Patrick Birney, Jeff Hellman and Bob Kaelin, and the second on Monday, April 20, 2020, titled "Dealing with Debtor/Creditor Issues: Options for

Businesses in the Age of Covid-19,” a panel discussion moderated by Tom Sansone, and featuring presentations by all three of the District’s bankruptcy judges (Manning, CJ, and Nevins and Tancredi, JJ), as well as Section members, Irve Goldman and Jeff Sklarz. There were several hundred attendees at each webinar, who earned one and 1.5 CLE credit hours at the two sessions, respectively.

Aside from the above-described programming initiatives, the Section’s Standing Pro Bono Committee worked very hard to develop a proposed model rule to the Local Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure to provide a more comprehensive pro bono program for indigent bankruptcy debtors in both Chapter 7 cases and Adversary Proceedings. This committee, chaired by Matt Beatman, submitted its draft proposed rule to the three bankruptcy judges in the District in March, and is awaiting their feedback and input. The legislative committee, led by Chris Bowen and Joanna Kornafel, has been monitoring bills and other proposed legislation impacting the Section’s members’ practices, and reported on the General Assembly’s activity in the current legislative sessions, at Executive Committee meetings.

Other notable accomplishments include the Section’s successful submission of an amicus brief to the Connecticut Supreme Court on behalf of the Association, in a case that resulted in a reversal of a longstanding Supreme Court decision. As a result of this reversal, attorneys appointed as committees to administer public auctions of foreclosed property no longer need to ask the Bankruptcy Court for relief from the automatic stay, prior to requesting an award of their committee fees and expenses from the Superior Court, in situations in which the property owner has filed for bankruptcy protection. Section members, Bob White, Irve Goldman, Charlie Maglieri and Tom Sansone took on the duties of researching and writing the brief, with assistance from Murtha Cullina lawyer, Proloy Das. We are also pleased to report that several individuals, including one student from the University of Connecticut School of Law, accepted the Association’s invitation to “test-drive” our Section, and have decided to join.

Finally, on April 10, the recipients of the fifth annual “CLABBY Awards” were announced: Career Achievement (Charles Maglieri), (b) Service to the Profession (Matthew Beatman) and (c) Rising Star (John Cesaroni). The awardees were prominently featured in an article in the May 4th edition of The Connecticut Law Tribune. Unfortunately, because of the pandemic, the Section will be unable to recognize the awardees publicly during the current bar year.

II. Projects that Will Extend into Next Year

Because the pandemic has resulted in the postponement of the Connecticut Legal Conference to September 14th, the Section’s annual update on commercial law and bankruptcy will necessarily take place in the 2020 – 2021 bar year. Section members, Jim Heffernan, Joanna Kornafel and Nick Vegliante, will be the presenters, and current Section Vice Chair, Roberta Napolitano, will serve as moderator of their panel.

Aside from the ongoing work of the Section’s standing and ad hoc committees, the continued success of last October’s Connecticut Bankruptcy Court Conference has made the decision to hold another one in 2020 an easy one. Bob Kaelin has graciously agreed to reprise his role as

planning committee chairman, and has already convened several meetings of that committee. The date for that event will be Thursday, October 1, 2020, again at St. Clement's Castle in Portland, subject to the lifting of any social distancing protocols that would otherwise make the event impracticable.

III. Miscellaneous

This Section's officers serve two-year terms, and elections are held in even-numbered years. Thus, there will be an election in June of 2020, for the position of Secretary/Treasurer. In accordance with the Section's bylaws, Roberta Napolitano will move up from the position of Vice Chair to Chair on July 1, 2020, while current Secretary/Treasurer, Kristin Mayhew, will ascend to her new role as Vice Chair. Because of the Association's moratorium on all in-person meetings, the election will necessarily take place in a virtual format.

The Section's finances are in excellent condition, and attendance at events has been robust and enthusiastic.

Construction Law Section

Chair: Donald W. Doeg

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Construction Law Section is to bring together those CBA members practicing in the fields of construction and design law to discuss the current issues affecting this practice area, to educate that membership on the legal issues affecting those rapidly developing topics, and to foster collegial relationships between those practicing attorneys and the members of the construction industry.

ANNUAL REPORT

Section Officers and Liaisons

Under the section's bylaws, each officer serves a two-year term. The current slate of officers was elected at the section's March 15, 2019 meeting, their terms to be effective as of July 1, 2019 and run to June 2021. The current section officers are:

Donald Doeg	Chair
Michael Donnelly	Vice-Chair
Laurann Asklof	Secretary
Martin Onorato	Treasurer

In accordance with the leadership succession plan set forth in the section's bylaws, my term as chair expires in June 2021. The bylaws further provide that each remaining officer shall succeed to the next highest officer position upon the completion of their terms, and that the rising chair shall select a member of the Executive Committee to fill the vacant treasurer's position. That selection shall be made during the coming year. The current section liaisons are:

Legislation	Frederick Hedberg
Website	Steven Lapp

Meetings and Programming

The section had three educational programs. A fourth program was scheduled for April, but postponed until the coming fall due to COVID-19 issues. We also held five Executive Committee meetings.

On August 22, 2019, an Executive Committee Meeting was held telephonically.

The first combination educational program, section meeting, and Executive Committee meeting was held on October 3, 2019. This was a presentation on the recent [Girolametti Decision](#). The guest speakers were Brian Donnell, Kevin Godbout, Fred Hedberg and Anita DiGioia.

On October 29, 2018, we had the section's annual construction law program at CCSU, where we had a program discussing various aspects of project safety. The presenters, and their respective topics, were: (1) *David Bondanza, The Lane Construction Corporation, Dealing with Cannabis on Jobsites in Legalized States*; (2) *Chris Ciancanelli and J.R. Glascock, The Lane Construction Corporation, Current Trends in Contractor Safety Practices and Accident Investigations. What Not to Do*; and, (3) *Chris Demas, Aon, Managing Safety Risks with OCIPs and CCIPs*. On December 10, 2018, an Executive Committee Meeting was held.

The third combination educational program and section meeting as well as an Executive Committee meeting was held on March 3, 2020. Christopher L. Brigham, Updike Kelly & Spellacy PC, presented a discussion on Top 10 Wage and Hour Mistakes

Publications

Carrying on a longstanding and valuable annual project, the section once again produced its annual Construction Case Law Summary, detailing important court decisions and legislative developments that affected the construction industry in Connecticut during 2019. This extensive analysis and compilation of materials—amassed and edited by about 20 section members—will be made available online as a resource for all section members. The section's annual presentation of this material will be made on September 8, 2020 at the CBA Legal Conference

Disability Law Section

Chair: Russell D. Zimmerlin

PURPOSE

The Disability Law Section (DLS) examines the law as it pertains to the physically and mentally impaired, promotes change where indicated (through the CBA and section action), and assures the safeguarding of the rights of the disabled. It is the further purpose of this section to support the mission of the association by promoting best practices in legal research and advocacy as they apply to the preceding purposes. The Section shall achieve these purposes by providing relevant Continuing Legal Education to its members, providing relevant updates to its members of important developments concerning the practice area, fostering discussion of current issues affecting the practice area, and engaging in legislative advocacy on issues relating to the practice area, in accordance with procedures established by the Connecticut Bar Association.

ANNUAL REPORT

DLS concentrated on scheduling bi-monthly section meetings at the CBA. This year was to focus on a robust July 2020-June 2021 schedule.

- Election of four new Section Executive Committee members
- Adoption of section by-laws
- Update on Social Security hearings amidst COVID-19 and a preclusion of in person hearings during the pandemic.
- A joint section meeting the Veterans' and Military section with Dr. Brim was canceled due to COVID-19.
- A CLE regarding an SSR update was canceled due to COVID-19.

Continuing Legal Education

DLS's planned CLEs have been postponed until the COVID-19 epidemic and resulting social distancing restrictions have been removed.

Legislative Efforts

This section monitored all legislation affecting disabled persons but declined to take any position this legislative cycle.

Elder Law Section

Chair: Paula Boa Sousa

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Elder Law Section is to discuss and consider issues in elder law, promote the continuing education of CBA members and the general community, monitor and develop positions with respect to proposed legislation and regulatory action involving the elderly, and to foster relationships between attorneys and private, public, and governmental organizations dealing with the elderly.

ANNUAL REPORT

Paula Boa Sousa, Chairperson
James Young, Vice Chairperson
Carmine Perri, Treasurer
Kathleen Tetreault, Secretary

This year the Elder Law Section of the CBA continued its policy of open meetings for all section members. (All meetings were, however, noticed as Executive Committee meetings for voting purposes under the Section's bylaws.) Attendance at the meetings continued to be strong with an average of 40 to 50 members at each meeting. New members were welcomed each meeting with a public request that they introduce themselves. All members are continuously encouraged to join committees and have a more integral role in the Section.

Our Section continues to remain fiscally sound. We continue to promote the sponsorship of our meetings in an effort to offset the cost of our outside lobbyist, and underwrite the cost of law students to attend our meetings.

Most notable this year is how the Covid-19 pandemic changed everything. While the fiscal year began with a steady slate of monthly meetings and preparation for legislative efforts going into the 2020 session, in March 2020 we were suddenly met with the challenge of how to continue our important work in a completely new climate. The capitol building in Hartford was closed. Soon our legislative efforts turned to monitoring Executive Orders coming out on an almost daily basis. Navigating the new process required agility and flexibility. The changed circumstances also meant cancellation of our March 2020 and April 2020 meetings. A disappointing consequence in that our April 2020 meeting was scheduled to be our annual collaboration with UConn Law to bring together law students, probate judges, and attorneys around a timely elder law topic. Historically, there are approximately 100 attendees at this meeting. Nonetheless, in May 2020 our meetings resumed via Zoom remote conferencing. It was extraordinarily successful in that it brought together over 100 participants from across the state and sparked the possibility of conducting more meetings remotely (even when the

pandemic passes) to encourage involvement in the Section by members in the furthest corners of our state.

Continuing Legal Education (CLE)

Co-Chaired by Tanya Spurlin and Claudia Englisby

The 2019/2020 continuing education efforts continued under the strong leadership of Tanya Spurlin, as Co-Chair in charge of monthly meetings, and Claudia Englisby as Co-Chair in charge of day programs. Both of these individuals have worked tirelessly to brainstorm concepts, engage speakers, and prepare reports which will result in CLE credits for our members. Many logistical components were added this year. In January, Probate Court Administration came to our monthly meeting to demonstrate and field questions on the new e-filing system. It was anticipated that many would attend (in fact, 77 members were in attendance), and it was imperative that everyone be able to see the screens exhibiting the various screens of the new e-filing system. All ran smoothly and the presentation was noted to be very useful for practitioners. After needing to abruptly cancel the March 2020 meeting, and being unable to coordinate the April 2020 meeting as a remote meeting, we embarked on our first remote meeting in May 2020. Again, all progressed seamlessly from the business portion to the speakers to the question and answer period. It is in times of crisis that great (or poor) leadership comes into focus, and these Co-Chairs have proven themselves to be exceptional.

Programs for the 2019/2020 years included:

1. Crossing Borders: Long Term Care Planning for Multi-State Clients (9/17/19) – Presented by Gina M. Barry, Ann L. Fowler-Cruz, and Matthew L. Mercer
2. Medicare Essentials, Tricks and Tips (10/22/2019) – Presented by Michael Leone and Judy Stein
3. Hoarding Disorder: Case Handling and Applicable CT Health and Safety Laws (11/13/19) – Presented by Judith Rothschild Dicine
4. Hot Topics in Probate (11/19/19) – A Joint Presentation by the Elder Law Section, the Estates and Probate Section, and the Probate Assembly focused on the new Connecticut Uniform Trust Code, Conservatorship Standards, and Probate E-filing; Presented by **Hon. Domenick N. Calabrese, Hon. Frank J. Forgione, Hon. Jeannine M. Lewis, Mary M. Ackerly, Heather L. Dostaler, John R. Ivimey, Hon. Paul J. Knierim (Ret.), Kelley Galica Peck, Sandra Sherlock-White, Deborah J. Tedford and Suzanne Brown Walsh**
5. Connecticut Probate Court eFiling Standards and Frequently Asked Questions (1/21/20) – Presented by Helen B. Bennet
6. Helping Attorneys Help Themselves (2/18/20) – Presented by Cindy M. Cieslak, Bonny E. Slim, and Beth E. Griffin
7. Access Agencies and The Connecticut Home Care Program (5/19/20) – Presented by Gayle P. Kataja and Marie Allen

Legislative Workgroup

Chaired by James Young

Our legislative efforts continued this year under Jim Young. The legislative session began as it usually does with testimony from various members. We continued our efforts with many of the same initiatives we have worked on in the past, including increasing the Community Spouse Protected Amount, increasing the Personal Needs Allowance, and retroactive eligibility for the Connecticut Homecare Program for Elders. In addition, the efforts of the Supported Decision Making workgroup continued throughout the year, as well as our efforts in drafting legislation regarding the Unauthorized Practice of Law.

Once the capitol building closed, it became apparent that this year's legislative efforts would take a different course. Our lobbyists kept us abreast of issues important to our section that were being contemplated as part of soon to be released Executive Orders. We worked on issues of remote notarization as well as advocating for the elderly who were now confined to their nursing homes and assisted living facilities. While understanding the current climate, we continued to advocate for visitation outdoors, and requiring facilities to make remote communication with family members available to all. It is with great hope that many of the legislative initiatives that could not be addressed this year, will be moved forward in the 2021 session.

The 2019/2020 fiscal year, was most definitely a year of transition. The pandemic forced us to approach things differently and prepared us for new possibilities of tomorrow. I am confident that with the continued strength of our leadership and the support of our members we will continue to be in a position to navigate the challenges of tomorrow.

Environmental Law Section

Chair: Amy Calvo MacNamara

PURPOSE

The Environmental Law Section aims to safeguard and enhance conservation and environmental quality; promote the practice of environmental law; foster relationships among attorneys with an interest in conservation and environmental law; aid in the drafting, review, and interpretation of environmental legislation and regulations; and to assist in educating the general public, the news media, law students, and others about conservation and environmental law.

ANNUAL REPORT

The Environmental Section began its program year with a discussion of anticipated hot topics in environmental law that group members anticipated taking place during the year. The meeting took place on September 17th at the Baci restaurant in Cromwell.



One of the chief topics of conversation was a perennial favorite—the Connecticut Transfer Act, which requires parties to a transaction to allocate the costs of investigation and remediation for certain properties as the parties close a transaction. The Transfer Act requires one of the parties to the transaction to certify to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection as to the environmental condition of the property and agree to investigate the property within two years of the transaction and to complete remediation within eight years of the transactions' close.

From l-r: Past Section Chairs Nancy K. Mendel, M. Anne Peters and current Section Secretary Emilee Mooney Scott discuss current events.

While the food was great, it was the networking and exchange of ideas that really made the event a memorable one. Our section hopes to be able to schedule such events in the future as events warrant. Due to the COVID-19 premature closing of the Legislature, nothing noteworthy happened on the Transfer Act this year. However, we are certain to see legislation on this statute coming again in future sessions.

The Environmental Section next had a “fireside chat” with Katie Dykes, the Commissioner of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, on November 4th at Chuck’s Steak House in Rocky Hill. As can be seen in the picture to the right, Commissioner Dykes unveiled her Department’s “20 by 20” program at that meeting. The DEEP’s 20 by 20 program consists of twenty targets that DEEP believes it can attain by the end of 2020, including increasing agency transparency, shortening permit wait times, and increasing the efficiency of the agency. DEEP has



committed to sharing its success on these endeavors by publishing a “scorecard” on its progress each quarter. More information on the program and the scorecard methodology can be found at: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/About/20-by-20/20-by-20#:~:text=20%20BY%2020,before%20the%20end%20of%202020>.

At the start of the new year, the Environmental Section next met at the University of Connecticut’s School of Law to undertake a joint event with the school’s environmental program. This event, which took place on February 13th, began with a networking hour where UConn environmental law students could talk with members of the Environmental Section about their work, how they began in the practice of environmental law, and what interesting issues they saw coming on the horizon.



From l-r: Environment Committee Chair Mike Demicco, CT DEEP Deputy Commissioner (Energy) Victoria Hackett and CT DEEP Deputy Commissioner (EQ) Betsey Wingfield

The meat of the session then began as leadership from the General Assembly and the CT DEEP Deputy Commissioners responsible for energy and environmental quality all spoke to the group about the issues they foresaw being part of the legislative agenda for the 2020 session. Obviously, none of those issues came to pass during the regular session, but the evening was entertaining and informative for lawyers and law students alike.

Finally, our section's program year was scheduled to end as it always does, with a joint meeting of the section, the Environmental Professionals of Connecticut, the Society of Women Environmental Professionals and the Connecticut Environmental Forum. Each year, these four organizations put on a large program with a guest speaker of national renown. This year, Dr. James Hansen, the Director of Climate Science, Awareness & Solutions of the Columbia University Earth Institute, was scheduled to present to the group at the New England Air Museum on April 30th. The event has been postponed, but the section is anxious for the event to go forward when it is safe to do so.

Family Law Section

Chair: Amy Calvo MacNamara

PURPOSE

The formal stated purpose of the Family Law Section is set forth in paragraph 1.2 of the Bylaws of the Family Law Section of the Connecticut Bar Association. Generally speaking, the purpose of the Family Law Section is to elevate the practice of family law for our membership. To that end, the Family Law Section continues to study, analyze, and propose legislation; evaluate and advocate for/against certain legislation that affects the practice of family law; provide an active and ongoing forum for its members to discuss and debate various aspects of the family law practice; and promote and provide educational programs.

ANNUAL REPORT

This year is unlike any other year in the history of the Family Law Section (“the Section”). Like almost all other aspects of life, the 2019-2020 bar year has been dominated by the crisis created by emergence of COVID-19. In response, the Section has effectively marshaled its resources, facilitated communication and collaboration, and risen to the momentous challenges presented by this unprecedented pandemic.

Both pre-and-post COVID-19, the focus of the 2019-2020 bar year has been communication, outreach, and inclusion. To date, the Section has held five “live” Section meetings, three Executive Committee meetings, and a series of weekly virtual Town Halls, as more particularly described below.

Highlights of the pre-COVID bar year include:

- The creation of a Bylaws Committee, which successfully brought our Bylaws into compliance with the diversity and inclusion directives set forth by the CBA;
- The creation of a Continuing Legal Education Committee, which focuses on the production of meaningful, informative, and intellectually stimulating CLE presentations;
- The creation of a Legislative Sub-Committee on the Connecticut Parentage Act, which worked in collaboration with other Sections and agencies to create a uniform document to be presented to the Legislature;
- The discussion and analysis of potential Practice Book revisions;
- Monthly legislative updates; and

- Bimonthly case law updates.

In addition, the Section presented standalone CLEs at all regular Section meetings, as follows:

- October 16, 2019: Mark Sherman of The Law Offices of Mark Sherman presented “Divorce by 911: The Intersection of Family Law and Criminal Law.” The seminar focused on the crossover of criminal law and divorce law and included strategies and practice tips for clients facing arrest or family violence.
- November 12, 2019: David Griffin of Rutkin, Oldham and Griffin, LLC, presented “How a Family Lawyer Can Understand A Valuation Expert’s Exercise of Judgement in Valuations of Early Stage Companies.” The seminar focused on strategies for valuing new businesses, as well as a primer on basic valuation approaches and reports in the context of a dissolution action.
- February 11, 2020: Hon. Lynda Munro, Ret., of Pullman & Comley LLC presented “Trial Practices: Everything We Forgot Since Law School.” The seminar focused on trial practice tips for family lawyers.
- March 10, 2020: In a joint meeting with the Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section, a panel of two current Superior Court judges, two bankruptcy practitioners, and one family law practitioner presented “The Intersection of Bankruptcy and Family Law.” The seminar provided a primer on bankruptcy as it applies to family law, as well as strategies for coping with divorcing families who are facing bankruptcy.
- May 19, 2020: David P. Atkins, Esq. of Pullman & Comley, LLC presented “Malpractice and Grievance Risk Management for Family Lawyers.” The presentation focused on common professional liability pitfalls that beset family law practitioners and tips to minimize the risks of the practice.

At the time of drafting, a final Treasurer’s Report was not available. Generally speaking, the increase in Section dues has alleviated, but not entirely remedied, the deficit that the Family Law Section has carried for a number of years. Further consideration of the Section’s budget will be a focus of the 2020-2021 year.

In early March, it became evident that the spread of COVID-19 would result in a seismic shift to the practice of law, including the operations of the Judicial Branch. On March 19, 2020, the Chair of the Family Law Section created the Family Law Section COVID-19 Response Committee. The immediate function of the Committee is to identify issues, analyze trends, develop solutions, and transmit data regarding critical family law issues to both the Judicial Subcommittee of the CBA COVID-19 Taskforce, and the Family Law Section at large. The long-term purpose of this Committee is to assist the Family Section as it navigates the challenges created by COVID-19.

In the months following the COVID-19 outbreak, the Chair instituted a series of weekly Town Hall meetings. The stated purpose of the Town Halls is to create additional opportunities for education, discussion and community amongst Section members and non-CBA members alike. Week to week, the Town Halls have included relevant CLEs, updates on the ever-changing policies instituted by the Judicial Branch, regional bar updates, and open forums on issues which directly impact the field of family law. Attendance rates at the Town Halls have ranged from roughly 150 to 500 people, the higher end of which represents approximately 85% of the Section's membership.

On May 8, 2020, for the first time in recent memory, the Executive Committee of the Family Law Section voted to approve the current slate of officers for a second term. All members of the current officer slate look forward to continuing to serve the family law community.

Further to the stated objectives for the 2019-2020 bar year, an examination of the Executive Committee roster was undertaken by the Chair. In order to expand the outreach of the Family Law Section and more fully represent various areas of the state, new members were added to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee also voted to amend the Section Bylaws to increase the number of Executive Committee positions to 38.

The 2019-2020 bar year has been a challenging experience for all members of the Bar, and the Family Law Section is no exception. However, in the opinion of the Chair, this year has been emblematic of the passion, dedication and grit which exemplifies the practice of family law in the State of Connecticut. The Section continues to demonstrate its' commitment to the zealous advocacy of clients, the advancement of professionalism, and the continued success of the legal profession.

Federal Practice Section

Co-Chairs: Robert M. Frost, Jr. and Kristen L. Zaehring

PURPOSE

The Federal Practice Section provides lawyers who practice in Connecticut's federal courts with opportunities for social interaction and education. Working with the district and magistrate judges, who are ex officio members of the Executive Committee, and with the invaluable assistance of Clerk of Court Robin Tabora and Chief Deputy Clerk Dinah Milton Kinney, the section seeks to create a forum for consultation and dialogue between members of the bar and the bench on issues of mutual interest, including rules and practice in the federal courts, relevant legislation, content for general meetings, presentations, and topics for the section's biennial bench-bar conference. As a whole, or through its committees, the section takes an active role in shaping and commenting on legal and procedural developments affecting federal practice in the District of Connecticut.

ANNUAL REPORT

The Executive Committee held various meetings throughout the year to discuss finances, presentation planning, section goals, revisions to our by-laws, challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, and issues of concern to the section and the Court.

This was certainly an unprecedented year as the Section was confronted with unique challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nonetheless, the Section revised its bylaws and successfully held, or co-sponsored, the following events throughout the year:

- On October 15, 2019, the Section hosted a retirement celebration for the Honorable Donna F. Martinez at the New Haven Law Club. More than 100 federal and state judges, government and private attorneys, law clerks, and section members celebrated Judge Martinez's dedication to public service and her nearly 40-year distinguished career as both an Assistant United States Attorney and a United States Magistrate Judge.
- On November 13, 2019, the Section held an educational program, entitled "Second Circuit and Supreme Court Criminal Law Update." Judge Dooley moderated a panel discussion on recent and pending criminal cases and the impact that these decisions may have on criminal law practitioners. Jim Glasser, John Cerreta, and Marc Silverman served as panelists.
- Beginning March 24, 2020, Section Co-Chair Kristen Zaehring advocated for Section members by joining the Judicial Subcommittee of the CBA's COVID-19 Task Force, a group of lawyers from varying practice areas led by Monte Frank who discussed the unprecedented challenges to practicing law in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic and

made multiple proposals to Connecticut's state and federal courts concerning how to facilitate the access to justice in this new environment while balancing public safety.

- On May 7, 2020, the Section conducted its first virtual meeting and held a continuing legal education program on "Using Zoom in the Federal Courts." Kristen Zaehring moderated this program on remote advocacy as Judge Meyer, Judge Spector, Judge Droney, Bill Paetzold, and Steve Rasile discussed the District of Connecticut's roll-out of Zoom and the Second Circuit's implementation of the telephonic arguments while they provided practitioners with practical tips on how to effectively represent clients in this new environment. The virtual meeting was attended by more than 100 members.
- On May 15, 2020, the Section voted electronically to adopt multiple revisions to our by-laws.

Upcoming events include the following:

- Due to COVID-19-related restrictions concerning "in-person" events, the Annual **Pine Orchard Social Gathering has been postponed from June until October 21, 2020.**
- **The Bi-Annual** Bench-Bar Conference is presently scheduled for Friday, November 20th at St. Clements Castle. We are cautiously optimistic that this will be "in person" event, with appropriate distancing measures.

Franchise, Distribution & Dealer Law Section

Chair: Michael A. King

PURPOSE

The Franchise, Distribution & Dealer Law Section seeks to promote the educational and professional objectives of the CBA within the practice area of franchise, distribution & dealer law, which include discussing and providing updates regarding current issues and events affecting this practice area and industry, educating the section membership about relevant legal issues affecting the practice area and industry, and fostering positive relationships among those practicing attorneys and other members of the section.

ANNUAL REPORT

The section officers for the 2019-20 year were:
Michael A. King of Shipman & Goodwin LLP, Chair
Jaime Paoletti of Garcia & Milas, P.C., Vice-Chair
Doug Thomas of Atlas and Hudon, LLP, Treasurer
James T. Dowling-Healey, Legislative Liaison

Bylaw Revisions

The section updated its bylaws to comply with the latest CBA section bylaw template. Importantly, the bylaws now include a provision memorializing the section's commitment to diversity and inclusion.

Meetings and CLEs

September 24, 2019

The section started the year with a great meeting in New Haven where we introduced the topics for our section year meetings and shared friendly discussion among members about developments in the industry as well as in each other's personal and professional lives.

December 10, 2019

The section co-sponsored with the Business Law Section a live CLE program in New Haven, entitled "Business Contracting for Distribution for Franchise, Dealership, Licenses and Other Relationships" by John Lawrence, Jr. of Shipman and Goodwin, and Allan Hillman of Garcia and Milas. John and Allan discussed the business advantages and disadvantages and legal concerns related to attorneys' advice and their client's decision in choosing an appropriate model for contracting with others for distribution of products and services (with a particular focus on franchises, business opportunities, dealerships, licenses, partnerships, joint ventures, and commission agency).

March 13, 2020

The section sponsored a live CLE program in New Haven, entitled “What In-House Counsel Wants from Outside Counsel” by Robert Huelin, Vice President of Legal and Compliance at Wireless Zone LLC. Rob presented about his process for selecting outside counsel, negotiating fees, conducting RFPs, and reviewing outside counsel’s performance. Rob gave advice on how to present one’s firm and expertise to get a general counsel's attention and how to manage work to keep their trust.

June 10, 2020

After rescheduling a previously scheduled live CLE due to COVID-19 concerns, the section is sponsoring its first ever virtual CLE program, entitled “The Latest on Joint Employer Rules.” Caroline Park and Josh Wyatt of Wiggin and Dana’s Labor, Employment, & Benefits Department will lead a presentation and discussion on the current state of joint employer rules issued by three agencies: the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the National Labor Relations Board, and the Department of Labor, and the impacts of each standard on franchise and distribution relationships. The presentation also will include some commentary on relevant COVID-19 concerns and how they might intersect with joint employment issues. Members of the Labor & Employment Section have also been invited to join.

Legislative Activities

The section supported a proposed amendment to the Practice Book extending the filing deadline from 5pm to midnight.

Health Law Section

Co-Chairs: Kristin Connors and Rebecca Matthews

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Section is to provide a forum for Association members with an interest in law pertaining to health care, particularly—but not limited—to those areas and issues concerning provision of health care services; the regulation and licensure of health care providers and their services; medical malpractice and medical jurisprudence; medical disabilities and proposal of statutes and amendments to statutes concerned with these or related fields; and any other matters of relevance. The Section will encourage and participate in joint meetings and other activities with other Sections and Committees for discussion of matters of mutual interest. In addition, the Section will provide a forum in which interprofessional cooperation can be advanced.

ANNUAL REPORT

On May 21, 2020, the section held a virtual webinar entitled “Telehealth: Understanding the Basics and Recent COVID-19 Related Changes.” The presenters, Jody Erdfarb of Wiggin and Dana LLP and Nicholas Mercadante of PursueCare, described the benefits of telehealth and the legal issues that need to be considered by attorneys advising telehealth providers as there is no shortage of legal and practical obstacles for telehealth providers, including corporate formation, privacy, licensure, and reimbursement issues. Attendees learned how telehealth providers overcome those challenges and flourish in a tough regulatory environment. This webinar also reviewed the rule changes and waivers that have recently been made by government agencies to expand the accessibility of telehealth services due to COVID-19 outbreak.

The section also liaised between a pro bono attorney and a physician who was utilizing several 3D printers to produce face masks at no cost to medical workers and others who needed the same.

The section is represented on the CBA COVID-19 Pandemic Task Force and the Rules Committee of the Superior Court working group for standard discovery in medical malpractice actions by Co-Chair Kristin Connors.

Kristin Connors of Stockman O’Connor Connors, PLLP and Rebecca Matthews of Wiggin and Dana LLP are the Co-Chairs of the Health Law Section. If you have any questions or suggestions regarding topics for future meetings or program, please contact Kristin at 203.577.5116 or kconnors@stockmanconnor.com and Rebecca at 203.498.4502 or RMatthews@wiggin.com

Insurance Law Section

Chair: Elizabeth F. Ahlstrand

PURPOSE

The Insurance Law Section (the “Section” or “ILS”), includes approximately 200 members who represent the interests of insurance policyholders, insurance companies, and industry representatives in legal matters. The purpose of the Section is to promote the educational and professional objectives of the Connecticut Bar Association within the general field of insurance law, regulation, and practice.

ANNUAL REPORT

Much was accomplished this year by many members of the ILS working together, despite the difficulties posed by the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Chair communicated with all Section members on a regular basis through email and the CBA’s Sidebar, keeping them informed of ILS activities and encouraging members to be active participants in Section meetings and events.

Programs

We are pleased to report that during FY 2020, the ILS conducted and/or Co-Sponsored five CLE programs. Unfortunately, additional programs scheduled for the spring, including a program at the University of Connecticut School of Law, a visit from the Insurance Commissioner and the Section’s presentation at the Connecticut Legal Conference have been deferred to the fall due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Legislative Efforts

Legislative review and communication efforts were well-coordinated and timely. Our Legislative Liaisons provided detailed regular reports at meetings and via email.

YLS/UConn Law School Involvement

For a number of years now, we have had very direct involvement and participation in the Section by the Young Lawyer’s Section (“YLS”) contingent. As a Section, we are effectively utilizing the resources available to both Sections and are bridging the relationship to younger constituents in order to solidify our base for the future. This year, the ILS partnered with the YLS to put on a CLE program titled Construction Coverage from the Ground Up. We also were pleased that Peter Kochenburger, Associate Clinical Professor of Law and Executive Director of the Insurance LLM Program and Deputy Director of the Insurance Law Center, continues serve on the ILS’ Executive Committee (“EC”).

Membership

Our membership stayed at approximately the same level as in FY 2019.

2019-2020 MEETINGS AND EVENTS

The meetings and events held to date are as follows:

- **October 7, 2019 Section Meeting and Happy Hour**: The first full meeting of the Section was held at Agave in Hartford. While mostly a social event to kick-off the year and welcome new members to the Section a meeting was held. The Chair welcomed attendees and presented the brief agenda. Tyler Butts (Co-Education Liaison) presented the schedule of programs for the upcoming year. He invited all ILS members to provide any additional program ideas they might have and/or to volunteer to help with the topics already confirmed.
- **October 28, 2019 Section Meeting and CLE Program**: This combined Meeting and CLE Program - *Use of Vocational Experts in Insurance Litigation* - was held at Gusto Trattoria in Milford. The Chair welcomed attendees, presented the agenda, and welcomed feedback from the Section regarding the anticipated programming for the remainder of the CBA year. The meeting was followed by the CLE program which was presented by Kerry Skilling and Erin Bailey of CRC Services. The meeting and program were well attended and very information.
- **January 1, 2020 Telephonic Executive Committee Meeting (1:00-1:30 pm)**: An initial meeting of Executive Committee ("EC") was held via Telephone Conference. Program planning for the remainder of the year was discussed. A discussion was also held, and a consensus reached as to whether the Section should move forward with implementing a lend-a-hand fee structure for ILS Meetings and Programs. A potential collaboration with the American College of Coverage Counsel was raised by Peter Kochenburger and discussed.
- **January 17, 2019 Section Meeting and CLE Program**: This combined Meeting and CLE Program - *Crumbling Concrete: The past, present and future following the Supreme Court's decisions in Jemiola, Vera and Karas* – was held at Carbone's Restaurant in Hartford. The Chair welcomed attendees, presented the agenda, and welcomed feedback from the Section regarding the programming and meetings to date and anticipated programming for the remainder of the CBA year. Melissa Cordima (Treasurer and Co-Education Liaison) presented the Treasurer's Report and details regarding the upcoming CLE programs. John Pitblado (Secretary) provided an update on the status of the Section's Minutes. Hugh Hughes was nominated to continue as the Section's Legislative Liaison. The Section discussed and agreed to proceed with incorporating a reduced rate option for Section meetings and programs for members who are facing financial hardship. The meeting was followed by the CLE program which was presented by Peter Meggers and Jessica Hamilton from Robinson + Cole, LLP. The meeting and program were well attended and very information.
- **February 3, 2020 CLE Program**: This CLE Program – *Construction Coverage from the Ground Up* – was held at the CBA Law Center in New Britain. It was co-sponsored by the ILS and YLS. The program was presented by Theresa A. Guertin (Saxe Doernberger & Vita), Frank C.

White, Jr. (In-House Insurance Counsel), Justin J. Garcia (Garcia & Milas, P.C.), and Jaime Paoletti (Garcia & Milas, P.C.). The program was well-attended and very informative.

- **February 20, 2020 Section Meeting and CLE Program:** This combined Meeting and CLE Program - *2019 Developments in Insurance Law: Year-in-Review* - was held at Gusto Trattoria in Milford. Joh Pitblado (Secretary) on behalf of the Chair welcomed attendees, presented the agenda, and welcomed feedback from the Section regarding the anticipated programming for the remainder of the CBA year. The Section meeting minutes for 2019 were approved by unanimous vote. The meeting was followed by the CLE program which was presented by Shrina Faldu (Gfeller Laurie, LLP) and Elizabeth Hoff (Litchfield Cavo, LLP). The meeting and program were well attended and very information.

PLANS FOR THE REST OF THE BAR YEAR

- **June 2019 Section Meeting:** The Section will discuss potential topics of interest for the upcoming year, as well as Member preference as to format in light of continuing COVID-19 concerns.
- **June 2019 Executive Committee Meeting:** The EC meeting will address (1) appointment of officers for the coming year, (2) membership on the Executive Committee, and 3) program planning for the coming year.

PLANS FOR THE COMING BAR YEAR

- **September 14, 2020 Connecticut Legal Conference:** At the Conference, the ILS will present a CLE program: *Coverage for An American Epidemic: Insurance Coverage Issue Stemming from Opioid Litigation*. The program will be presented by Kevin Dean (Marsh USA Inc.), Brian Clifford (Saxe Doernberger & Vita) and Daniel Bryer (Robinson + Cole LLP).
- The ILS is in the process of planning CLEs for FY 2020. There have been many excellent suggestions for programs such as insurance for marijuana, gaps in insurance, mediation/ADR for insurance disputes, ethics in the context of coverage disputes, anti-concurrent causation clauses, practical skills for the insurance coverage attorney (investigations, jury selection, use of social media etc.), new installment in the insurance history series (how insurers have responded to political and/or social movements such as apartheid, climate change, or NRA lawsuits), banking / mortgage implications in the context of property losses, Big Data, the Archdiocese litigation, the Vanderbilt litigation, expansion of the application of the intentional acts exclusion, and autonomous vehicles. These and other CLE programs will be discussed further at the June 2020 Section and EC meetings.
- The ILS will continue to look for ways to increase the diversity of its membership by planning programs and networking events with other sections, affinity bar groups, the Insurance Law Center at UConn Law School, and industry organizations. The Section is currently exploring partnering with the American College of Coverage Counsel and UConn

Law School to put on a full-day program on insurance issues stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The ILS hopes to continue to increase interest and participation by more members in upcoming year. Consistent with the CBA's goals, ILS expects that its efforts to provide a wide array of educational and networking programs, to address issues of import to our members, and to coordinate these activities with other interested sections will encourage a more diverse membership to participate in ILS activities.

Litigation Section

Chair: Andrew Nevas

PURPOSE

Article I, Section 2 of the bylaws of the Litigation Section of the Connecticut Bar Association, amended by the Board of Governors on September 16, 1996, provides that “the purpose of this section shall be to promote the objectives of the Connecticut Bar Association within the field of civil justice and litigation.” The Litigation Section views that directive as requiring regular Executive Committee/Section meetings between September and June designed to promote legal education, monitor and present positions with respect to legislative matters that have the potential to affect the administration or process of an effective and efficient civil justice system, enhance relationships between the bar and the Judiciary, and promote civility and professionalism in the practice of litigation.

ANNUAL REPORT

I. MEETINGS

Our first meeting took place on September 26 at the Q Club in New Haven, and featured a presentation by Attorney Antonio Ponvert III on trial advocacy. Our second meeting took place on November 14 at Lorenzo’s in West Haven, and featured a presentation by Cecil Thomas on advancing diversity, equity and inclusion. Our next meeting was on January 16, 2020 at Baci Grill in Cromwell, and was our annual appellate review for litigators, featuring attorneys Kenneth Bartschi, Karen Dowd and Linda Morken. The meeting which was scheduled for March 19 was cancelled due to the COVID crisis. Our fourth meeting took place by ZOOM on May 21, and featured a presentation by former CBA President Monte Frank regarding the CBA COVID Task Force.

II. CLE

We will be presenting a CLE program for the Connecticut Legal Conference in September 2020 entitled “Working With 21st Century Clients”. the program will focus on the fact that clients today have much different expectations than clients did a generation or two ago. Attendees will learn from industry leaders in law and technology how to meet and exceed those expectations. Attendees will learn how to anticipate, meet and exceed the evolving expectations that clients have of lawyers in the 21st century - from alternate fee arrangements, to 24/7 availability to cutting edge technology, and everything in between.

III. LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS

- A. The Executive Committee held a telephonic meeting on October 30 to discuss a request from Kim Rinehart, Chair of the Committee on Professional Ethics, to comment on whether it is a violation of Rule 5.6 of the Rules of Professional Conduct to have a settlement agreement restrict a lawyer’s ability to disclose information contained in a public record. We determined

that it was not a violation, because it was not a restriction on the right to practice, but that any such limitations were nonetheless improper.

- B. At our January meeting, we adopted a proposal to amend Practice Book § 7-17 to extend the filing deadline in Superior Court from 5:00 p.m. to midnight. The proposal was subsequently approved by the Legislative Policy and Review Committee, and is currently pending before the Superior Court's Advisory Committee on E-Filing.

- C. The Executive Committee held a telephonic meeting on February 20 to discuss three proposals:
 - 1. Hybrid representation: At its meeting on February 10, 2020, the Rules Committee of the Superior Court considered a proposed new rule, Section 25-6A, regarding hybrid (dual) appearances in family matters. The Committee also considered the related concept of clarifying Section 4-2 (a) (attached) to provide that a pleading or other paper filed on behalf of a party who is represented by an attorney must be signed by the attorney or it will be deemed rejected. We were asked to comments concerning the proposed new rule and the possible amendment to Section 4-2. The EC voted to to oppose the implementation of the proposed Practice Book section 25-6A in the civil context, and in favor of the proposal to provide in section 4-2(a) that a pleading or paper filed on behalf of a party who is represented by an attorney must be signed by the attorney or it will be deemed rejected.
 - 2. Tax appeals: There was proposed legislation which would bar contingent fees in certain property tax appeals, specifically appeals involving commercial property valued at over \$1.5 million. Our Section has opposed this in the past, but as the Section's position has since expired, we voted to re-adopt it.
 - 3. Administrative suspensions: The Rules Committee of the Superior Court had a proposal before it a proposal regarding both annual attorney registration and MCLE, specifically regarding those attorneys who do not fill out their annual registration which is due between January and early March and those who may not complete the "check off" that they have completed the prior year's MCLE requirements. We voted to oppose this proposal.

IV. DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION PLANS

At our September 26 meeting, the Section bylaws were amended to add sections reiterating the CBA's commitment to diversity, and committing to appoint members of the Young Lawyers Section to the Executive Committee. The Section worked throughout the year to implement these new provisions. Additionally, as noted above, at our November meeting, we had a presentation entitled "Everyday Bias, Everyday Solutions: Advancing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Your World." In addition to amending our bylaws to ensure that members of the YLS are on our Executive Committee, we have redoubled our efforts have YLS members attend and participate in our meetings, and will create a YLS subcommittee for our section. This will enable us to lay the groundwork for the next generation of members and leaders.

Media and the Law Section

Chair: Greg Kanaan

PURPOSE

The Media and the Law Section aims to provide a forum for CBA members to discuss and take action on legal issues related to the media, journalism, social media, and entertainment industries. The section will explore a wide variety of topics, including First Amendment and FOIA issues, privacy protection for individuals, the rights and protection of journalists, and the intersection of digital and social media in our culture.

ANNUAL REPORT

Programs and Events

In the 2019-2020 bar year, the Media and the Law Section planned a CLE which was scheduled to occur on April 20th. The CLE was designed to train lawyers on media management, focusing on how to communicate with reporters and the practical and ethical considerations therein. The panelists would have included Denis O'Malley, associate at Robinson Cole, criminal attorney Robert Gulash, principal at Gulash Law, Patricia King, Corporation Counsel for the City of New Haven and ethics professor at Quinnipiac School of Law, and Dan Haar, reporter at Hearst Media.

The event was postponed due to all in-person events being postponed due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The panelists all elected to postpone the event until it could be held in person. However, as of this writing, the section is moving ahead to plan a virtual (Zoom) version of the CLE for late June. The current panelists may or may not be part of the training, depending on their decision to participate or not.

The Section is currently working with the Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission to schedule several virtual events over the summer and at the start of the 2020-2021 bar year, including a FOIA bootcamp. A webinar entitled Access in the Pandemic Age covering FOI issues and data privacy is in the works to happen this June.

On behalf of the Section, I have issued an invitation to New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand to deliver a talk on her proposed Data Protection Act and Data Protection Agency.

There have been other events or talks based on proposals from the members, though all are early planning stages due to inference from the pandemic. With no confirmation that in-person events will resume this summer or fall, my intention is to plan upwards of five virtual events between now and next summer.

Section Communications and Meetings

As Chair of the Section, I communicate with my section via Sidebar, email, over the phone, and in-person during meetings. I also communicate with the section via two newly created social media handles: CTBarMediaLaw on Twitter and Facebook and post articles, news items, and events relevant to the section's topics.

This year we have held three Executive Committee meetings (November 21st, January 13th, and March 16th). A fourth Executive Committee meeting is anticipated to be held in mid-June.

This year we have also held three Section meetings (December 10th, February 13th, and May 14th). The third meeting was held via Zoom video conference. A fourth meeting is anticipated to be held in conjunction with the rescheduled media training CLE in late June.

Executive Committee and Section meeting minutes have all been submitted to the CBA.

Other Items

The Section has not issued any publications or engaged in any legislative efforts this year. This was very much a rebuilding year for the section and getting things moving back in the fall when I was first appointed was difficult. I planned my first meeting for October 2019, though no members registered to attend, forcing the meeting to be cancelled.

Attendance at meetings has been sparse and there was pushback from previous section leadership, which has thankfully been addressed. The Section has made diversity a cornerstone of its new direction, placing women in positions of authority on the Executive Committee and increasing the female membership of the section. One of our goals in the 2020-2021 year is to work with the CBA to increase the diversity of the section by including more attorneys of minority background.

Additionally, the other big goals for the 2020-2021 bar years are to plan additional trainings that section members enjoy and find useful, and to entice new members to join the section who can bring energy and creativity to the section. The media training was, in fact, suggested by a new young member of the section. I hope that will be a taste of things to come. The last goal is to build a new leadership team for the 2021-2022 year when I step down as Chair.

Paralegals Section

Co-Chairs: Regina Graziani and Vanessa Laro

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Paralegals Section is to disseminate information to attorneys regarding the paralegal profession, to publicize issues of importance regarding this profession, to encourage attorneys to practice with qualified paralegals in order to lower costs, and to improve the quality of service to clients.

ANNUAL REPORT

The Paralegals Section's priority for this bar year was to continue and build upon our action plan from last year – continued provision of high-quality, cost-effective CLE programs for our members, continued development of a voluntary regulation plan for qualified paralegals in this state, as well as a plan for limited licensing of legal professional in response to the access to justice gap, outreach to ABA-approved paralegal education programs, recruitment and development of a diverse group of leaders to represent the section, improved access to our educational programs, business meetings and networking opportunities to paralegals throughout the state, and promoting pro bono initiatives.

We have achieved success on all fronts:

- We have continued to work with the Education Director at the CBA to accommodate educational programs designed for paralegals within the new MCLE rules for attorneys.
- We designed 4 educational programs for paralegals and attorneys; three of which were delivered by attorneys:

*10/16/19 The CT Uniform Trust Code: Big Changes in Connecticut's Trust Laws by Attorney Jeff Rivard for 1 CE hour

*11/20/19 Regulatory Compliance: What's all the Buzz?

by Attorney Sharron D. Dillon for 1 CE hour

*1/15/20 OneNote for Legal Professions by Bevin Rainwater for 1 CE hour

*2/19/20 Getting Into eDiscovery; What, Why, and How
by Attorney Marc Wm. Vallen for 1 CE hour

- We have continued work on our voluntary paralegal regulation and limited licensing proposals, including educating paralegals, attorneys and stakeholders on our proposals

and related efforts nationwide, and strengthening our coordination efforts regarding the proposals with the other paralegal organization in the state. This year these efforts included reaching out to legislators, the LRPC and Rules Committee to establish a path forward on these proposals.

- Two of our Section members are participating in the Future of the Legal Professional Task Force. The Task Force is charged with looking at new models for providing legal services, including potential expansion of the roles of paraprofessionals.
- We have continued our outreach efforts to Connecticut's ABA approved paralegal degree and certificate programs. Paralegal Section Co-Chair Laro visited Manchester Community College in September to provide information about the CBA Paralegals Section and encourage enrollment to the MCC paralegal students.
- We have continued to offer conference call-in for our meetings and zoom conferencing for select meetings involving speakers.
- Two of our Executive Committee members are serving as members on the Pro Bono Committee, allowing us to offer our voice as to how paralegals can be utilized for pro bono activities. One of these members has led a Committee initiative in planning a two-day pro bono event that was held during Pro Bono Week this Fall. Multiple Section members participated in this initiative by conducting client intakes in advance of the pro bono clients meeting with the volunteer attorneys at the two-day event. We are also working on additional pro bono efforts involving utilization of paralegal members. This is a cause the Section plans to continue to promote into the next bar year.
- One of our members is assisting with the COVID small business clinic that will be launching this week. Robinson & Cole is taking the lead on getting this up and running. The clinic will be for small businesses with less than 25 employees. They will get a 45-minute consult with an attorney to help them with the CARES act, etc.
- We've continued to work to be inclusive of the full diversity of our section and to create opportunities for different members to contribute through activities ranging from suggesting and introducing our speakers, to reaching out to educational programs in the state, working on the aforementioned regulation and licensing proposals, and working on ad-hoc committees.
- With the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic this Spring, speakers and meetings from April to the end of the Bar year had to be suspended and will be rescheduled for next year. One of these is a CLE on networking we will be offering along with another Section. The Section will be corresponding through conference calls and e-mail to plan for the next Bar year.

Solo and Small Firm Section

Co-Chair: Shari-Lynn Cuomo Shore and Kristen Wolf

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Solo and Small Firm Section shall be to provide a forum for solo and small firm practitioners to develop relationships, exchange ideas, offer guidance, and learn about current technologies, office management practices, business development strategies, and the business of the practice of law, all of which are critical to the practice of law in a solo and small firm setting, utilizing publications, meetings, seminars, committees and other suitable media for this end, thereby promoting the objectives and goals of the Connecticut Bar Association.

ANNUAL REPORT

Attorney Shari-Lynn Cuomo Shore and Attorney Kristen Wolf stepped in as the co-chairs of the Solo & Small Firm Section during the COVID-19 health crisis in the Spring of 2020. The Co-chairs have worked closely with CBA leadership to conduct, and participate in, weekly virtual meetings to allow members of the Section a forum in which to voice their concerns about the present health crisis, as well as other questions and concerns pertaining to practice in solo and small firms.

This Section enjoys the camaraderie of other solo and small firm owners/partners and continues to exude collegiality, even in the most trying of times. The Section is hopeful to have a great start to the 2020-2021 bar year and participate in forums, host CLEs, volunteer opportunities, and exciting networking events, as the Section has done in years past.

Veterans & Military Affairs Section

Chair: Cinthia Johnson

PURPOSE

The Veterans and Military Affairs Section (VMAS) is to be available to (1) coordinate CBA legal assistance to military personnel residing in the state of Connecticut, CBA legal assistance to Connecticut residents serving as military personnel stationed outside the state, and CBA legal assistance to the military legal assistance staffs which serve them; and (2) assist in resolving legal problems facing any of (a) Connecticut's veterans, and (b) active-duty, reserve, national guard, and state statute-established militia, military personnel. It is the further purpose of this section to support the mission of the association by promoting best practices in legal research and advocacy as they apply to the preceding listed purposes.

ANNUAL REPORT

The VMAS held bi-monthly dinner meetings at the CBA. The focus this year was on increasing attendance and providing CLE opportunities. Additionally, the section is exploring food options in the New Britain area and expanded our dinner options to include BBQ and Polish food. Speakers that presented out our meetings were:

- Colonel Timothy Tomcho from CT National Guard provided an overview of the CT National Guard
- Chuck Berry and Mary Ann Bergeron from Soldiers, Sailors, and Marine Fund presented on the use of the Fund and how it is managed.
- State Senator James Maroney, member of the Veterans Committee, presented on legislation affecting veterans

CLE

The VMAS hosted Info VA Benefit training on October 21, 2019. The training was held at the CBA and Connecticut Veterans Legal Center provided the instruction.

Legislative Efforts

The Section monitored all legislation affecting veterans but declined to take any positions this legislative cycle.

Sub-Committees

The Executive Committee met three times to plan future Section activities. A Veteran Treatment Court subcommittee was formed and it also met three times. An article from sub-committee member Joshua Grubaugh was published in CT Lawyer.

Volunteer Activities

The VMAS continued its support the veteran community but working for find volunteer attorneys to help on requests for legal services that come to the Section. The section continued to spread the word through contact and participation in activities such as the Veterans Stand-down.

COVID 19

Due to COVID, our planned March meeting, scheduled to be a combined meeting with the Disability Section with speaker Dr. Brim Director of the Center for Deployment Psychology was cancelled. The speaker, Sara Spodick, planned for our May meeting was also cancelled. Both speakers will be rescheduled next year. Additionally, an intermediate level of VA Benefit training scheduled to be held in March was also cancelled and will be rescheduled.

Women in the Law Section

Chair: Jennifer E. Wheelock

PURPOSE

This section aims to monitor the progress and enhance the status and opportunities available to women in the legal profession; to provide women attorneys in Connecticut with an opportunity to share concerns, communicate, and network with one another in a supportive forum; and to promote the participation of the Bar Association in substantive areas of law and legislation that present issues of particular concern to women in the profession, and to those who seek legal services.

ANNUAL REPORT

Executive Board

Chair: Jennifer Wheelock

Vice Chair: Sara Sharp

Treasurer: Frances Slusarz

Secretary: Haley Schaefer

Legislative Liaison: Alexa Millinger

Membership Liaison: Mirella Giambalvo

Diversity Liaison: Alex Simonetti

Publicity Liaison: Michelle Napoli

Website Liaison:

Education Liaison: Ashley E. Palma

Executive Committee and Section Meetings

September 17, 2019: The Executive Committee and Section members met at the CBA headquarters in New Britain to discuss community outreach projects, programming, and long term planning. We decided upon an agenda for the year and began planning for the subsequent meeting.

November 12, 2019: The Executive Committee and Section members met at the CBA headquarters in New Britain to discuss community outreach projects, programming, and long term planning. We identified a quorum of voters to vote on legislative matters. We amended the WILS bylaws to incorporate provisions regarding diversity and inclusion. We discussed the WILS' involvement on Secretary of State's Denise Merrill's Centennial Commission.

January 21, 2020: The Executive Committee and Section members met at the CBA headquarters in New Britain to discuss community outreach projects, CLE programming, and long term planning. Upcoming projects included "Lunch & Learn" programs at UCONN Law School and Quinnipiac Law School, the Annual Pathways to Leadership Dinner, co-sponsorship

of a Mindful/Wellness Spa Retreat in Old Saybrook, hosting a CLE entitled *Female Managing Partners: A Different Perspective on Law Firm Life* and putting together and hosting a CLE on in-house counsel life. All projects were ultimately postponed or cancelled due to the outbreak of COVID-19.

March 10, 2020: The Executive Committee and Section members held a meeting via teleconference due to concerns over COVID-19. The postponement or cancellation of the above listed programs was discussed.

May 7, 2020: The Executive Committee and Section members held a meeting via teleconference due to concerns over COVID-19. We discussed the WILS leadership roster for the 2020-2021 Bar year.

Section Activities

Secretary of State, Denise Merrill, formed a Centennial Commission to plan a 2020 celebration to commemorate the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage. The Women in the Law Section of the CBA was invited participate as a member of this important group along with a diverse spectrum of groups who are working collaboratively to facilitate a statewide dialogue about the lasting legacy of women's suffrage, and how it continues to shape our democracy today. Programming possibilities ranging from arts and humanities, school curriculum, media events, and, of course voter registration, are being considered. Thus far, I have attended numerous commission meetings on behalf of the WILS and communicated with Ndidi Moses to help facilitate ways in which the CBA could coordinate its own centennial commemorative events with those of the Secretary of State's.

Seminars/CLE

All planned WILS events, as detailed above, were postponed or cancelled due to the outbreak of COVID-19.

Proposed Section Leadership Roster for the 2020/2021 Bar Year

Chair: Garlinck Dumont

Vice Chair:

Treasurer:

Secretary: Haley Schaefer

Legislative Liaison: Alexa Millinger

Membership Liaison:

Diversity Liaison:

Publicity Liaison: Michelle Napoli

Website Liaison:

Education Liaison:

Workers' Compensation Section

Chair: Colette Griffin

PURPOSE

This section aims to organize the members of the CBA who are workers' compensation practitioners and to educate all members of the bar from all sides at all levels of expertise as to workers' compensation law. Furthermore, the section attempts to provide services to organizations other than the CBA when those organizations are involved in the Connecticut Workers' Compensation system. The section works with all levels of government in an effort to improve the system. The Executive Committee will take positions on pending legislation where appropriate. It will work through committees on various issues that arise in the practice such as amicus briefs, creating new and exciting continuing legal education, and producing our publication *Compensation Quarterly*. The committee works with the commission giving feedback on issues affecting day-to-day practice of the parties that appear before the commission as they arise. The section consists of members who represent injured workers, employers and insurers as well as the State of Connecticut and the Second Injury Fund.

ANNUAL REPORT

June 10, 2019

CT Legal Conference.

Annual Section Meeting – Current Issues in the WC System

We began by honoring Diane Duhamel as the recipient of the Pomeranz-O'Brien Award in recognition of her contributions and exemplary service to the workers' compensation system and community. Jack Clarkson presented his annual CRB and appellate case review with commentary, and Lucas Strunk provided a legislative update.

3rd Annual Joint Seminar with YLS

Young lawyer George O'Donnell and Alessandra Carullo teamed up with WC Executive Committee member Christine Conley to present the "Essentials of Navigating a Workers' Compensation Claim." We had an overflow crowd for this event.

September 12, 2019

Belkin-Verilli Charity Golf Tournament and Section Meeting Dinner at Shuttle Meadow Country Club in Kensington. Over 100 hundred golfers participated in this event. Registration fees covered expenses, but hole sponsorship, contests, and raffles raised over \$11,000.00 for Food Share and Food Bank. Several current and former commissioners attended the section meeting dinner.

September 25, 2019

Workers' Compensation Executive Committee Meeting at Drescher's in Waterbury. All committee reports were made.

November 1, 2019

"Games of Bones (The Science and Strategy of Orthopedic Claims)" CLE. The physicians at Orthopedic Associates of Hartford, P.C. teamed up with lawyers and commissioners to host a full-day CLE program at The Hartford Club in Hartford. The day was full of modules on wrist, hand, elbow, spine, shoulder and knee, including anatomy and injuries. The lunch hour was also a learning event with a lively ethics discussion led by Colin Mahon.

November 20, 2019

Executive Committee Meeting, The Farms Country Club, Wallingford. In addition to our usual committee reports and discussion, the committee discussed the success of the November 1, 2019 conference and upcoming events.

January 22, 2020

Workers' Compensation Executive Committee Meeting at the Inn at Middletown in Middletown. In addition to our usual committee reports and discussion there was a discussion regarding the undue delay task force and upcoming legislation.

March 26, 2020

The Workers' Compensation Section hosted a webinar on COVID 19 and the workers' compensation practice. Attorneys Jason Dodge and Jonathan Dodd presented on the issues related to COVID 19 and some of the changes the Workers' Compensation Commission implemented in response.

April 17, 2020 (POSTPONED DUE TO COVID 19)

A half day CLE at the CBA to include a primer on employment law: Federal and State Statutes: role of CHRO basics of wage and hours claims, litigating 290a claims and a panel discussion.

April 20, 2020

Attorney Luke Strunk and Lawrence Morizio moderated a webinar on telemedicine. Dr. Gerald Kaplan, Dr. Andrew Caputo, Dr. David Cohen and Brian Hayes covered the highlights of telemedicine in the workers' compensation arena. Chairman Stephen Morelli opened with comments on the state of the Workers' Compensation Commission and its use of telemedicine.

April 22, 2020 (HELD VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE DUE TO COVID 19)

Workers' Compensation Executive Committee Meeting at Brazi's in New Haven.

May 2, 2020 through May 4, 2020 (POSTPONED DUE TO COVID 19)

May 2, 2020 a cocktail reception to meet and greet practitioners and speakers.

May 3, 2020 will include a point/counterpoint discussion between Attorney Meghan Woods and Attorney Christopher Buccini on the status of undocumented workers. John Green of Ametros will present on the administration of MSA funds. Our own Commissioner Peter

Mlynarczyk will address the address the legal and practical considerations of medical marijuana in the Connecticut workers' compensation system. Attorney Jeremy Brown will begin a multi-day discussion on Robotics and AI in the workplace. May 4, 2020 will include Rebecca Rathbun of F-Secure Corporation and Attorney Jeremy Brown addressing data security in the digital age. Natacha Gacia of Rosomoff Center will present. Finally, Attorney Jeremy Brown will complete our discussion on Robotics and AI.

Future Planned Events

June 8, 2020 (POSTPONED TENTATIVELY TO SEPTEMBER 14, 2020)

Connecticut Legal Conference.

Annual Section Meeting

The agenda includes a State of the Commission address by Chairman Stephen Morelli, Jack Clarkson's annual CRB and appellate case review with commentary, and Lucas Strunk's legislative update. Dr. William S. Shaw, Ph.D. will present on RETAIN CT.

September 17, 2020

Belkin-Verilli Charity Golf Tournament and Section Meeting Dinner at Shuttle Meadow Country Club in Kensington.

Date To Be Determined (October/November)

Fall full day medical/legal seminar

Subcommittee Activity

Charitable Committee

The section donated over \$11,000 to Food Share and Food Bank from proceeds of the golf tournament. This committee also oversees the funding and awarding of scholarships from the Mathew Shafner Injured Worker Scholarship Fund. The committee expanded the definition of students who would qualify for this scholarship and renewed efforts to publicly advertise this opportunity.

CLE Committee

This committee is chaired by Donna Civitello, the vice-chair of the section. Under her direction, our CLE programs were hugely successful again this year. (See "Events" above.) Our section will organize five CLE programs: (1) our annual section meeting at the CT Legal Conference; (2) a joint program with the YLS immediately before or after the annual meeting; (3) a full-day Fall program, usually with a medical-legal focus; (4) a 3-day Workers' Comp Retreat; and (5) a half-day Spring seminar, usually with a practice focus.

Compensation Quarterly

Since December 1990, CQ has been the crown jewel of the WC Section. Frank Costello is its editor-in-chief. It is frequently at the center of conversation among lawyers at the district offices before and between hearings. Every issue contains legislative updates, case summaries, tech tips, interviews, point-counterpoint, a chair's column, as well as topical articles

Legislative Liaison

Lucas Strunk continued as our legislative liaison. He monitors and reports on developments at the Capitol. This year he was kept busy with undue delay legislation and an undue delay task force. More recently, a number of WC bills continue to progress through the legislative process, SB351 that contains proposals from both the WC section and the WC commission.

Legislative Initiative

Last year, the chair created a committee of pre-eminent WC attorneys to address necessary changes in the Act. The section has moved forward with a legislative agenda contained in SB351 that proposes the repeal of three obsolete statutes. As of this submission, SB351 had passed the House and Senate last session. There was hope of passage this legislative session.

Medical/Legal Cooperative

Colette Griffin, Mike Kerin and Lawrence Morizio co-chair this committee, which meets with doctor groups to educate them as to medical-legal issues in WC and to gain feedback from the doctors as issues that they have with the WC bar, the commission, or the system. Recently, the committee met with mental health professionals, as we anticipate that the need for these professionals will increase as the reliance on opioid therapy has dramatically decreased.

Membership Committee

The committee continues to find ways to build our membership. This year it asked the CBA to identify attorneys who had attended our events in the past three years, but who were not section members.

Examining Committee/Standing Committee

The committee hopes to have six candidates who qualify to sit for the exam, so the examining committee may administer an exam this year.

Pomeranz-O'Brien Award Committee

This committee is chaired by Bud Drapeau who is ready to accept nominations for this achievement award.

Verrilli-Belkin Tournament Committee

Rick Aiken again organized this incredibly successful event, which saw over 100 golfers participate at Shuttle Meadow Country Club in Kensington. Registration fees covered expenses, but hole sponsorship, contests, and raffles raised about \$11,000 for Food Share and Food Bank. Several current and former commissioners attended the section meeting dinner afterward, which addressed current financial issues impacting the commission. This 2020 tournament will also be held at Shuttle Meadow on September 17th.

Website/Technology Committee

Scott Carta, Maribeth McGloin, and Tushar Shah completed a monumental project of collecting all issues of Compensation Quarterly, from December 1990 to the present, and working with

the CBA to put them all on to the section web page in a searchable OCR format which eventually only current section members can access. The next project is producing short video discussions of recent state Supreme Court decisions.

Workers' Compensation Retreat

Jeremy Brown organizes an annual retreat alternating between remote locations in the even years and more local (driving distance) locations in the odd years. 2019's retreat was a huge success with 72 practitioners traveling to Chatham Bars Inn on Cape Cod for a three-day event in May which included CLE and comradery. The 2020 event will be in May at Walt Disney World at the Dolphin Resort in Orlando, FL.

Bylaw Committee

Bob Bystrowski headed up the bylaw committee bringing the Workers' Compensation Section bylaws into compliance with the diversity and inclusion policies of the CBA. The bylaws were voted on and adopted with the changes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Awards Committee

Co-Chairs: Nike Agman and Cherie Phoenix-Sharpe

PURPOSE

The 2019-2020 Awards Committee (“Committee”) was appointed by the CBA during the summer of 2019. Consistent with CBA goals of inclusiveness and diversity, the Committee roster included 18 members from throughout the state, each of whom participated in the work of the Committee. A list of the Committee members is included at the end of this report.

ANNUAL REPORT

Last year’s committee requested that the Call for Nominations go out a month earlier this year, in order to provide the Committee sufficient time to meet and deliberate before presenting its slate of candidates to the CBA Executive Committee and the Board of Governors. On July 30, 2019, August 20, 2019 and September 10, 2019, the CBA membership received generic marketing emails that included, embedded among notifications about upcoming CLEs and conferences, a notice that nominations were open for CBA “signature awards,” with links to nomination forms. The official stand-alone Call for Nominations which listed the actual award titles and included the previous year’s recipients was sent to the CBA membership on September 15, 2019 with a submission deadline of September 20, 2019. As there were only five days between the stand-alone call and the submission deadline, the deadline was extended to September 30, 2019 to encourage additional nominations from the general membership. The stand-alone Call for Nominations urged CBA members to submit nominations for each of the awards within the Committee’s jurisdiction:

- Citizen for the Law Award
- Citizen of the Law Award
- Charles J. Parker Legal Services Award
- Distinguished Public Service Award
- Henry J. Naruk Judiciary Award
- John Eldred Shields Distinguished Professional Service Award
- Tapping Reeve Legal Educator Award

During the nominations period, the Committee communicated via email. Once the nominations had officially closed, the Committee met multiple times via teleconference to (1) review the criteria for each award; (2) review the newly received nominations; (3) review the lists of nominations from prior years; (4) appoint individual “category leads” to lead Committee discussions as to each award; and (5) address other issues. All nominations and related documentation provided to the Committee, from whatever source, were shared confidentially with each member of the Committee. An impressive group of potential recipients was compiled

for each award. The Committee received numerous nominations from the CBA membership at large. Consistent with past practices, the Committee itself also recommended nominees for consideration.

The Committee ultimately met in person to reach agreement on its final slate of proposed award recipients, which slate was submitted to the CBA Executive Committee on or about December 5, 2019. That slate was thereafter recommended by the Executive Committee to the Board of Governors, and approved by the Board on December 16, 2019. While the Committee had decided upon a Distinguished Public Service Award recipient, that recipient was unable to attend the event in person due to a scheduling conflict, and was not included in the slate submitted to the Board for approval.

On April 29, 2020, the following distinguished recipients were to be presented their awards by President Ndidi Moses and President-elect Amy Lin Meyerson at the CBA's "Celebrate with the Stars" reception at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville, Connecticut:

- Citizen for the Law Award – Judith Altman, Holocaust Survivor and Educator
- Citizen of the Law Award – Audrey Blondin, Blondin Law Office LLC
- Charles J. Parker Legal Services Award – Erin Kemple, Connecticut Fair Housing Center
- Distinguished Public Service Award – NOT AWARDED
- Henry J. Naruk Judiciary Award – Judge Alvin Thompson, US District of Connecticut
- John Eldred Shields Distinguished Professional Service Award – John Rose
- Tapping Reeve Legal Educator Award – Dean Jennifer Brown, Quinnipiac University

As a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic and the State of Connecticut's response, this year's ceremony has been postponed, and, as of the date of the submission of this report, a new date for the ceremony has not been decided upon. The Committee, through its co-chairs, has been in constant email contact with the CBA leadership as well as the CBA event planning Committee as to when and how the ceremony will be rescheduled, including the possibility of presenting the Distinguished Public Service Award, in the event there is no longer a scheduling conflict and the Committee's proposed recipient is subsequently approved by the Board of Governors.

2019-2020 CBA AWARDS COMMITTEE ROSTER

- Nike V. Agman – Law Office of Nike V. Agman
- Maggie Castinado – Office of the Public Defender
- Eric Daniels – Robinson & Cole LLP
- Karem Friedman – Boehringer Ingelheim
- Nancy Hronek – Greater Hartford Legal Aid
- John R. Logan – Logan & Mencuccini UC
- Kirk Lowry – Connecticut Legal Rights Project Inc.
- Kristi Mallett – Connecticut Appellate Court
- Ernest J. Mattei – Day Pitney LLP
- Moy N, Ogilvie – McCarter & English LLP
- Suphi A. Philip – Philip Law, LLC
- Cherie G. Phoenix-Sharpe – The Office of Lt. Governor, Susan Bysiewicz

- William H. Prout, Jr.– Wiggin and Dana LLP
- Ann H. Rubin – Carmody Torrance Sandak & Hennessey LLP
- Namita T. Shah – Day Pitney LLP
- Alix Simonetti – Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities
- Alexis H. Smith – New Haven Legal Assistance Association
- Elizabeth J. Stewart – Connecticut Superior Court Judge

Civics Education Committee

Co-Chairs: Karen DeMeola and Jonathan Weiner

PURPOSE

The Civics Education Committee is charged with the advancement of citizen knowledge and understanding of government, with an emphasis on educating young students and teachers.

ANNUAL REPORT

The major project of the Civics Education Committee for this bar year was to organize the CBA's annual Law Day observance. This year's program originally would have continued the committee's custom of working with local high school or middle school students on an interactive activity, such as a debate or essay and art contest, to be presented in the Appellate Court in Hartford and followed by a luncheon and State Capitol tour hosted by Secretary of State Denise Merrill, a longtime friend of the CBA and civics education. We had planned to celebrate this year's Law Day theme, "Your Vote, Your Voice, Our Democracy: The 19th Amendment at 100," by working with students from Mercy High School in Middletown, to research and portray prominent figures in the history of women's suffrage and the struggle to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment.

Because of the COVID-19 restrictions on in-person gatherings and school activities, we quickly reorganized the program as a lunchtime virtual seminar featuring Secretary of State Merrill, which was held on May 8, titled: "Your Vote, Your Voice, Our Democracy: Celebrating the Centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment in the Age of COVID-19." Secretary Merrill graciously served as our keynote speaker, and presented a fascinating discussion, including a lengthy question and answer period, about her office's efforts to protect the right to vote during the extended public health emergency, including expanded access to absentee balloting. The program was co-sponsored by affinity and regional bar associations from around the state. The response was overwhelming, as the program was attended by more than 120 lawyers, judges, and public school students, making it our best-ever attended Law Day event. Given the success of this virtual program, our committee has started preparing a series of similar seminars for the coming bar year to expand access to civics education across Connecticut, especially in light of anticipated post-COVID-19 restrictions on school activities such as field trips.

In addition to the Law Day program, members of the Civics Education Committee actively continued their other efforts to promote education about law and government in schools around Connecticut. Our members continue to work with the CBA's Diversity and Inclusion Committee to support the work of the CBA's Law Camp, as well as to serve as coaches, organizers, and judges for the Civics First mock trial and debate programs. Our members also continue to visit schools, both actively and online, with particular recognition due to Lawrence Morizio, who conducted a live program at North Haven Middle School, and a virtual program at

Roton Middle School in Norwalk, both focusing on the centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment.

Finally, the Civics Education committee gratefully acknowledges the many years of contributions of Kathy Calibey, who is retiring from the committee this year. Kathy took a leading role in every one of our programs, and was instrumental in facilitating the relationship between the CBA and the Appellate Court that led to our Law Day tradition. We will miss Kathy's efforts, insights, and friendship, and wish her a wonderful retirement.

Committee on Human Trafficking

Co-Chairs: Sheila Hayre, Lauren Filiberto Hopwood, and Cynthia Mahon

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Committee on Human Trafficking is to deal with issues through legislation, panels, and workshops and by assisting attorneys to deal with human trafficking defined as “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person for the purpose of exploitation.” The Committee will give special emphasis to the trafficking of children (those under 18 years of age).

ANNUAL REPORT

Overview

Starting in October of 2019 and continuing throughout the summer months of 2020, the Committee conducted full committee meetings featuring guest speakers from various backgrounds. The Committee also expanded its membership to individuals outside the legal profession and to law students to encourage collaboration in combatting trafficking in Connecticut. The Committee consists of four working groups, each with its own chair, which focus on four different substantive areas: 1) legislation; 2) pro bono services, awareness, and prevention; 3) corporate social responsibility; 4) labor trafficking.

This year, the Committee as a whole focused much of its attention on passing anti-human trafficking legislation—more below. Additionally, the Committee collaborated with Quinnipiac School of Law’s Human Trafficking Prevention Project to provide support for its annual Human Trafficking Awareness Week and its broader training endeavors around the state. During the next year, the Committee plans to pay special attention to the fight against labor trafficking and explore additional ways to provide legal support for victims of trafficking in the state.

Legislative Efforts

This year, the Committee supported three legislative proposals: an affirmative defense for minor victims accused of crimes, a change in the definition of trafficking, and a vacatur proposal. The legislative working group had several meetings and reported back at each Committee meeting. The Committee members actively participated in these legislative efforts, providing advice in the drafting of the vacatur proposal and actively lobbying legislators and preparing testimony for a possible public hearing. All these proposals formed part of an omnibus anti-trafficking bill scheduled for a public hearing in mid-March; unfortunately, the public hearing had to be cancelled due to the COVID pandemic. The Committee plans to push again for these proposals to become legislation in the upcoming legislative session.

Trainings & Awareness

Committee members helped to plan Human Trafficking Awareness Week at Quinnipiac Law School and Committee members—including Wesleigh Anderson, Michelle Naggar Reichenbach, and Sheila Hayre—assisted with a training during Awareness Week and another subsequent training attended by public school nurses in the state. Also in partnership with Quinnipiac Law, Committee members—including Tammy Snead—planned and co-hosted a “train-the-trainers” session attended by almost 100 people, including a number of Committee members. Finally, various Committee members—including Joette Katz, Cynthia Lill, and Sheila Hayre—helped organize and deliver a training to public defenders at the Bridgeport GA.

Committee Meetings

October 15, 2019

The Committee discussed approaches for training hotels and other organizations with the Human Trafficking Prevention Project. The Committee also discussed, and some members participated in, the Training of Trainers with the Human Trafficking Prevention Project.

November 11, 2019

Guest Speaker Linda Cimino, Director of Office of Victim Services (OVS) discussed services for victims of trafficking. The discussion included compensation and financial assistance for victims of trafficking.

January 14, 2020

Committee discussed legislative proposals and created a plan to advocate for the proposals. The Committee also participated in Human Trafficking Awareness Week with Quinnipiac School of Law that featured four events. These events included showing the documentary “Trafficked in America: The Hidden Reality of Labor Trafficking in the U.S.,” a debate “Should Prostitution Be Legalized? Other Debates in the Fight Against Trafficking,” the story of a male survivor of sex trafficking, and a training on human trafficking. The debate and training were both offered for CLE credit.

February 28, 2020

The Committee hosted two guests speaking at this meeting, Representative Jillian Gilchrest and AnnMarie Boulay. Jillian Gilchrest addressed the legislative efforts of the Committee. AnnMarie Boulay, cofounder of the Underground, describes her organization’s efforts to combat human trafficking.

No March Meeting Due to COVID-19

April 21, 2020

Guest speakers Susan White and Elizabeth Boolbo from the Partnership to End Human Trafficking described their organization’s efforts to combat trafficking by starting a shelter and offering more services to victims. The group also discussed their mission as a committee and discussed ways civil attorneys can help combat trafficking.

May 19, 2020

Martina Vandenberg, founder of the Human Trafficking Legal Center, spoke during this meeting addressing civil litigation as a tool to combat trafficking. The group further discussed their mission and plans to bring greater awareness to labor trafficking.

Connecticut Bar Journal Board of Editors

Chair: Sarah E. Murray

PURPOSE

The Board of Editors is charged with the responsibility of producing, editing, and publishing the *Connecticut Bar Journal*, the official publication of the Connecticut Bar Association. The bylaws of the CBA mandate publication of Formal Opinions of the Committee on Professional Ethics and the Committee on Unauthorized Practice of Law in the *Connecticut Bar Journal*. The *Connecticut Bar Journal* also publishes scholarly articles of interest to the Bar.

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The *Connecticut Bar Journal* originated after a resolution passed on April 26, 1926, at the Connecticut Bar Association Annual Meeting. The resolution stated that “...the President of the State Bar Association appoint a Special Committee of five members to consider the advisability of publishing with power to publish if they deem it wise to do so, a quarterly bulletin or journal of the State Bar Association.” President Terrence F. Carmody appointed the five-member panel in June 1926. The first issue of the *Connecticut Bar Journal* was published in January 1927 and has been published quarterly since that date.

The Board is committed to serving the interests of CBA members and remaining relevant in the quickly changing legal landscape of the times. The following is a summary of the steps the *Journal* has taken to further these goals in recent years:

The *Connecticut Bar Journal* continues to publish scholarly articles relevant to Connecticut attorneys. In the 2019-2020 Bar year, published articles of the *Journal* have included surveys of recent developments in business litigation and torts, as well as a multi-year survey of developments in landlord-tenant law, which was a welcome addition after not having had a survey in this area of the law for years. The *Journal* also published an article on post-judgment interest in civil actions in Connecticut and a book review written by Connecticut Superior Court Judge Cohn.

Since the 2012-2013 Bar year, the *Connecticut Bar Journal* has been offered to members as a digital publication sent to CBA members and subscribers via e-mail. Volume 86, Number 1 was the first digital issue. Since then, digital publication has been well received by the CBA members. CBA members have the option to receive a print copy, but the majority of the membership receives digital copies. The digital *Journal* has much faster delivery, as members receive it in their inbox sooner without the delay of printing and mailing. In addition, the digital version has a positive effect on the environment because it saves in the use of paper to print and recycle. The digital version is also more convenient because members can load it into their laptops, tablets, or smartphones and then read it anywhere and anytime.

In the 2013-2014 Bar year, building upon the success of the digital version of the publication, the Board discussed and agreed to implement a new way of delivering the *Journal* to members. As articles are completed, they are posted to the *Journal* page and are published in the Connecticut Bar Association's Weekly Docket with a link to the article on the *Journal* page. When enough articles are received and edited, a full traditional issue is assembled. The objective of the proposal was to deliver articles in the *Journal* to members more quickly without sacrificing the scholarly quality for which the *Journal* is known. The Board implemented this new delivery in 2014 and it has continued into 2020. The articles have been edited as all other articles, so quality has not been negatively impacted. There has been no extra cost to the CBA.

This past Bar year, 2019-2020, we added four new board members. The Board held one meeting in October 2019. Typically, we would have had a second meeting in Spring 2020, but we have been unable to do so as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope to have an in-person meeting in the Fall, or via Zoom if we are unable to meet in person. The Board has a goal of adding members who contribute to the diversity of the Board and has a goal of publishing articles from diverse viewpoints that will enrich our Bar. The Board looks forward to continuing to serve the interests of CBA members.

Connecticut Council of Bar Presidents

Chair: Amy Lin Meyerson

PURPOSE

Established in 1975, the Connecticut Council of Bar Presidents provides a collaborative forum for the exchange of ideas, activities, and information between the CBA and local, county, and specialty bar associations. Other objectives of the Council are to enhance the relationship between the legal profession, the general public, the news media, and the members of the General Assembly; to advance the leadership of the organized bar in matters of public importance in the state; to promote the standing of the legal profession and its practitioners in local communities; and to improve the practice of law and the administration of justice in Connecticut.

ANNUAL REPORT

Committee Members

Amy Lin Meyerson, Chair, Law Office of Amy Lin Meyerson
Judge Anne Dranginis, Chair/President, Community Partners in Action
Dan Brody, President, CT Asian Pacific American Bar Association
Amanda Schreiber, Chair, CBA Young Lawyers Section
Ms. Lisa Cerverizzo, Executive Director, CT Criminal Defense Lawyers Association
Vicki Hutchinson, President, CT Criminal Defense Lawyers Association
Jim Noonan, President, CT Defense Lawyers Association
Jackie Walker, Executive Director, CT Defense Lawyers Association
Sandra San Emeterio, President, CT Hispanic Bar Association
Cristina Salamone, President, CT Italian American Bar Association
Joan D. Maloney, Executive Director, CT Trial Lawyers Association
Paul A. Slager, President, CT Trial Lawyers Association
Joseph Cherico, President, Fairfield County Bar Association
Jeanne Urso, Executive Director, Fairfield County Bar Association
Aigne Goldsby, President, G.W. Crawford Black Bar Association
Matthew Reale, President, Greater Bridgeport Bar Association
Paul T. Edwards, President, Greater Danbury Bar Association
Richard H. Pentore, President, Greater New Britain Bar Association
Mark Schnitzler, President, Greenwich Bar Association
Janice Ambruso, Executive Director, Hartford County Bar Association
Patrick Tomasiewicz, President, Hartford County Bar Association
Regina Wexler, President, Litchfield County Bar Association
Ryan Barry, Representative, Manchester Bar Association
Edward W. Gasser, President, Mashantucket Pequot Bar Association

Judge Robert Holzberg, President, Middlesex County Bar Association
Christopher Goulden, President, Milford County Bar Association
Peter Soulsby, President, New Britain Bar Association
Gillian Fattal, Executive Director, New Haven County Bar Association
Gio Spennato, President, New Haven County Bar Association
Jonathan T. Lane, President, New London County Bar Association
Rosa Rebimbas, Interim President, Portuguese Bar Association
Namita Shah, President, South Asian Bar Association
Meghan E. Smith, President, Tolland Bar Association
Erica Pilicy-Ryan, President, Waterbury Bar Association
Lindsey Rinehart, President, Westport Bar Association
Lawrence Bates Jr., President, Windham County Bar Association

Committee Meetings

The Connecticut Council of Bar Presidents hosted monthly Committee meetings by telephone or Zoom video conference or in-person. At our first in-person meeting in November 2019, Judge Armata gave remarks on the Connecticut Judges Association's interest in strengthening the bench/bar relationship and promoting the Rule of Law and civility in the legal profession. He welcomed attendees to contact him and Judges Connors (President, CJA) and Diana (Vice President, CJA) directly to facilitate future collaboration between the bar associations and the Judicial Branch. Additional comments by Judge Connors and Judge Diana and discussion followed.

Programs and Activities

Member organizations of the Council directly entered their programs and events throughout the year on a Master Google calendar to avoid competing events and to promote events and activities among their members. Information and updates on bar activities by Council members also were provided at our meetings.

The Council discussed issues of mutual interest including the proposed rule change that would result in an attorney's administrative suspension for failure to meet and file MCLE requirements.

Because planned in-person Law Day programs and activities by the member organizations were canceled due to COVID-19, working with the CBA Civics Education Committee, Council member organizations joined together to present a virtual Law Day program "Your Vote, Your Voice, Our Democracy: Celebrating the Centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment in the Age of COVID-19" with CT Secretary of the State Denise Merrill who discussed women's suffrage history and the voting challenges today, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. A robust question and answer session with participating students and legal practitioners followed the discussion.

This webinar was co-sponsored by the CBA and numerous state and local bar associations, including the Connecticut Asian Pacific American Bar Association, Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association, Fairfield County Bar Association, Hartford County Bar Association, Greater

Bridgeport Bar Association, Greater New Britain Bar Association, Litchfield County Bar Association, Middlesex County Bar Association, New Haven County Bar Association, Tolland County Bar Association, and the Waterbury Bar Association.

Response to COVID-19

Council members joined together to launch Project Feed Connecticut.

Project Feed Connecticut is a joint effort by the Connecticut Bar Association, Hartford County Bar Association, CFA Society Hartford, Connecticut Chapter of the American College of Surgeons Professional Association, Connecticut Asian Pacific American Bar Association, Portuguese American Bar Association, George W. Crawford Black Bar Association, New Haven County Bar Association, Middlesex County Bar Association, Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants, the Connecticut Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, Pullman & Comley's ADR Group, the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association, the South Asian Bar Association of Connecticut, the Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association, and the Connecticut Italian American Bar Association to provide financial support to Food Share and Connecticut Food Bank.

Cybersecurity and Technology Committee

Co-Chairs: Christine Jean-Louis and Steve Reynolds

PURPOSE

The mission of the Cybersecurity and Technology Committee is to educate CBA members on the ever-growing risks that lawyers and law firms face from cybercrime, phishing, data breaches, fraudulent wire transfers and other common types of cyber-wrongdoing and cyber-incidents. The committee analyzes how such issues can impact solo practitioners as well as lawyers practicing at small, medium, and large law firms, including the ethical canons governing lawyers as they relate to cybersecurity and how lawyers can meet existing and emerging legal obligations and client expectations in this area. The committee also explores ways for the Connecticut Bar Association and its members to utilize virtual platforms to increase access to justice and improve business and development, while also ensuring appropriate cybersecurity and data privacy.

ANNUAL REPORT

Committee Leadership

Co-Chairs:

Christine Jean-Louis and Steve Reynolds

Vice Chairs:

Dena Castricone and Rochelle Duyan

Committee Meetings

The committee held four general membership meetings during the bar year. Two of those meetings were scheduled as in-person, and the remaining two were scheduled as conference calls. The meetings were:

October 30, 2019

Insofar as the Cybersecurity and Technology Committee was a new / re-envisioned committee, this inaugural meeting was held in-person and included a discussion of the committee's mission and goals, its composition and membership, and the cadence with which members preferred to meet. The meeting also included a discussion of the committee's agenda for 2019-2020, including:

- Proposed topics and speakers
- A proposed session at the annual CT Legal Conference
- Ideas for 1 or 2 CLE programs
- The annual CT Cyber Conference

December 4, 2019

Held by telephone, during this meeting, the committee settled on its 2020 Programs/Agenda, discussed the status of its submission and proposed session for the Annual CT Legal Conference, discussed additional CLE programs, discussed the status of and an update regarding the Annual CT Cyber Conference, and discussed the benefits of preparing a vendor due diligence form/checklist from the Cybersecurity and Technology Committee for CBA members.

February 19, 2020

At this in-person meeting, the committee discussed the status of its approved session for the Annual CT Legal Conference, discussed additional CLE programs, discussed the agenda, planning for and the status of the Annual CT Cyber Conference, and reviewed a vendor due diligence form/checklist drafted by Cybersecurity and Technology Committee members.

April 22, 2020

At this meeting, which was held by telephone as planned and worked out in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the committee discussed the status of its approved session for the Annual CT Legal Conference (which has been rescheduled from June 2020 to Fall 2020), it discussed the agenda, planning for and the status of the Annual CT Cyber Conference (which has also been rescheduled from May 2020 to September 17, 2020), and discussed the issuance of the vendor due diligence form/checklist finalized by Cybersecurity and Technology Committee members. The committee also discussed how its March 27 CLE “Cyber Safe While Working from Home” was received, and heard an update on the Connecticut Bar Association’s COVID-19 Taskforce, on which Cybersecurity and Technology Committee members were serving as committee representatives.

CLE Programs

The section helped organize four CLE programs:

Webinar: Cyber Safe at Home: How to Avoid Threats & Ensure Cybersecurity While Working from Home (ECS200327) (March 27, 2020)

This program helped lawyers understand certain cyber threats posed when working from home, including specific COVID-19-themed risks, how to mitigate the risk of falling victim to a cyber-attack, and what to do in the event that a cyber-attack occurs.

Speakers

Dena M. Castricone, DMC Law LLC, North Haven

Jonathan E. Davis, The Law Office of Jonathan E. Davis LLC, Brooklyn, NY

Joseph V. DeMarco, DeVore & DeMarco LLP, New York, NY

Vanessa Richards, United States Attorney’s Office District of Connecticut, Bridgeport

Webinar: Using Microsoft Teams to Advocate for Clients in Connecticut Judicial Proceedings (May 21, 2020)

This program was presented by the 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic Task Force Technology Subcommittee in conjunction with the Cyber Security and Technology Committee. The program was developed because the Superior Court had begun holding pre-trial and status conferences virtually using Microsoft Teams, and it was expected that the courts would begin using Microsoft Teams for arguable matters in the coming months as well. The webinar presented a demonstration of the Teams video platform that the courts will be using to host those arguments as well as the procedures for participating in those video proceedings. In addition, the speakers provided tips to maximize the effectiveness of presentations and arguments using this new platform and answered attendee's questions.

Speakers

James P. Sexton, Sexton & Company LLC

Aidan R. Welsh, Schoonmaker, George, Colin, Blomberg, Bryniczka & Welsh PC

"Cybersecurity for Lawyers and Law Firms" to be presented at the Annual Connecticut Legal Conference (Originally scheduled for June 2020, now scheduled for Fall 2020)

At the 2020 Connecticut Legal Conference the Cybersecurity and Technology Committee will present a program that will address the ever-growing risks that lawyers and law firms face from cybercrime, phishing, data breaches, fraudulent wire transfers and other common types of cyber-wrongdoing and cyber-incidents. It will analyze how such events can impact criminal and civil solo practitioners as well as lawyers practicing at small, medium, and large law firms. Particular focus will be given to the ethical canons governing lawyers as it relates to cybersecurity and how lawyers can meet existing and emerging legal obligations and client expectations in this area. Panelists will provide practical, real-world advice and they will also address how cyber-insurance can play a role in litigating some of these risks. Attendees will learn how to (1) protect their and their clients' funds and data from cyber-risks, and (2) effectively and efficiently comply with legal and ethical obligations to prevent, detect, and respond to cyber-security incidents. Presenters will be Vanessa Richards, Dena Castricone, Jed Davis and Joe DeMarco.

Annual Connecticut Cyber Symposium (originally scheduled for May 7 2020, now scheduled for September 17, 2020)

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Connecticut, the Westchester and Hartford Chapters of the Institute for Internal Auditors and the Connecticut Bar Association's Cybersecurity and Technology Committee are sponsoring this 5th annual Connecticut Cybersecurity Symposium at the Grace Farms Foundation in New Canaan, Connecticut on September 17, 2020. This day long program will include:

- A keynote address by Theresa “Terry” Grafenstine, Global Audit Leader for Cyber, Resiliency, & Third Parties at Citi, discussing the challenges facing companies in the digital age and how best to mitigate cyber risks;
- A presentation on “High Tech Crimes of Tomorrow” during which cybersecurity legal analysts, academics and hackers explore the cyber threats on the horizon;
- A presentation entitled “Privacy Pitfalls: The Changing Landscape of Privacy Regulations” during which a panel of legal and privacy professionals will discuss the shifting landscape of privacy laws and regulations, including practical advice about spotting and avoiding issues in privacy compliance programs;
- A presentation on “Dark Money,” discussing how bad actors “cash out” gains from malicious cyber activity through exchanges of data, cryptocurrency, etc.;
- A presentation on Cybersecurity Frameworks discussing the NIST, COSO and AICPA cybersecurity frameworks and best practices;
- A presentation on “Data Breach Lessons Learned.”

Other Initiatives

Vendor Due Diligence Guidance. As noted above, the Committee prepared and published a list of considerations that lawyers and law firms can use as guidance when selecting a vendor, including cyber and technology related vendors. Although all firms should create a vendor due diligence questionnaire tailored to meet the firm’s specific needs, this guidance provided a sample of some basic, broadly applicable vendor due diligence questions.

COVID-19 Taskforce. Representatives from the Cybersecurity and Technology Committee served on the CBA’s COVID-19 Taskforce. Among other things, those representatives and other Cybersecurity and Technology Committee members provided guidance and a CLE webinar on cyber security risks, they provided guidance on technology and risks associated with working from home, they provided, and continue to provide guidance on virtual platforms for depositions, court hearings, etc. and they provided a number of resources to practitioners as well as contributions to the CBA’s COVID-19 resource page.

Diversity and Inclusion Committee

Co-Chairs: Neeta Vatti and Kean Zimmerman

PURPOSE

The Diversity and Inclusion Committee is responsible for implementing the Diversity and Inclusion Policy of the Connecticut Bar Association (CBA).

The CBA House of Delegates adopted its Diversity and Inclusion Policy in 2015:

The Connecticut Bar Association is committed to diversity in its membership, officers, staff, House of Delegates, Board of Governors, executive committee, sections and committees, and their respective leaders. Diversity is an inclusive concept encompassing gender, gender identity, race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, age, and disability.

We are a richer and more effective association because of diversity, as it increases our association's strengths, capabilities, and adaptability. Through increased diversity, our organization can more effectively address member and societal needs with the varied perspectives, experiences, knowledge, information, and understanding inherent in a diverse relationship.

The committee's purpose is to adopt, monitor, and promote a diversity and inclusion plan to achieve a genuine, sustainable diverse and inclusive environment within the CBA and throughout its membership.

In addition to the CBA's internal diversity and inclusion focus, the CBA Diversity and Inclusion Committee continues to work to foster and promote a more diverse and inclusive environment within the Connecticut legal community at large. The committee continues to facilitate the work of the Connecticut Legal Community's Diversity and Inclusion Pledge and Plan; the Annual Diversity and Inclusion Summit; and our Assessment, Education, and Pipeline Initiatives. These efforts are described in more detail below.

ANNUAL REPORT

I. CBA Director of Diversity, Amani Edwards

The Diversity and Inclusion Committee is pleased to have worked closely with the Director of Diversity and Human Resources, Amani Edwards, as she completed her first year with the CBA.

Amani has been instrumental in leading and supporting several new diversity and inclusion initiatives including the Social Media D&I Heritage Campaign, the LSAT Scholarship Initiative, and efforts to update the D&I Committee webpage. Amani has provided significant support to

the 2020 Diversity and Inclusion Summit Committee, which is actively planning for the 2020 Summit. Amani provides the monthly financial reports at committee meetings and has facilitated the implementation of the diversity and inclusion assessment. Amani has actively worked to find synergies between the multiple CBA committees and sections in an effort to promote diversity and inclusion across the bar. Amani has been a fabulous addition to the CBA and we look forward to her continued involvement and leadership in diversity and inclusion initiatives.

II. Social Media D&I Heritage Campaign

For the 2019-2020 bar year, the CBA has made it a point to focus on effective use of social media tools in promoting diversity and inclusion within the profession. With that in mind, Amani Edwards has taken an active role in the social media D&I heritage campaign. The campaign promotes various heritage months throughout the year by highlighting the cultural significance, accomplishments of diverse attorneys who share that identity, and programming opportunities,.

III. Addition of Law School Student Representatives to D&I Committee

The Diversity and Inclusion Committee was pleased to begin a new initiative for the 2019/2020 year to invite a student representative from each area law school to join as a committee member. The Committee places a high value on varied perspectives and was eager to increase involvement from area law schools to further diversity and inclusion initiatives. The Committee was benefited by the participation of UCONN Law student Mallori Thompson as a committee member. The Committee will continue this initiative seeking representation from each area law school and will hope to have increased participation from law students in years to come.

IV. Assessment

In prior years, the Diversity and Inclusion Committee used a series of diversity and inclusion assessment tools to obtain diversity and inclusion data from within the Connecticut Bar Association. The metrics for these tools have been honed over the years to obtain targeted diversity and inclusion data from the CBA's membership, both inclusive and exclusive of leadership roles.

The committee launched its first internal assessment of the state of the CBA's diversity and inclusion during the 2016-2017 bar year. The second assessment was done in May of 2018, and the third in February of 2019. The survey is designed to assess the demographic composition of the CBA's leadership, as a benchmark of the CBA's inclusivity. The anonymous survey was sent to the Executive Committee, Board of Governors, House of Delegates, and the section and committee chairs/Executive Committees. In 2019, 202 CBA leaders completed the survey. Participation rates remain low within the larger bodies of leadership. These participation rates have increased, however, with each iteration of the survey. While the CBA's Executive Committee has become increasingly diverse since 2015, there is still progress to be made in many of the other leadership categories of the CBA.

This year, the assessment was merged with a membership-wide survey looking at strategic planning, membership dues structure, and diversity and inclusion within the CBA. Results will be evaluated by the Committee and considered in the upcoming bar year.

The Diversity and Inclusion Committee has maintained a model diversity and inclusion plan that may be modified and adopted by CBA sections. Some CBA sections have used the model to adopt their own diversity and inclusion strategic plans. The committee encourages more sections to do so in the coming years, to ensure the existence of the necessary policies, infrastructure, and resources to support successful diversity and inclusion initiatives.

V. Education

In June 2019, the Diversity and Inclusion Committee sponsored two programs at the CT Legal Conference: 1) The Power and Pitfalls of Personal Narratives in Advancing Diversity and Inclusion with panelists CT Supreme Court Chief Justice Richard Robinson, Karen DeMeola and Cecil J. Thomas, moderated by Michelle Querijero, and 2) Diversity and Inclusion for Solo and Small Firms, with panelists Jennifer Wilcox, Yale New Haven Health; Ron Houde, Kalon Law; and Brian Dalton, Above the Law; moderated by Neeta Vatti.

For the calendar year 2019/2020, the D&I Education Initiative Subcommittee was co-led by Michelle Querijero and Christine Jean-Louis, with special assistance and additional programming by Cecil Thomas and Amy-Lin Meyerson.

The 2019/2020 Education programming was/will be as follows:

March 5, 2020: Unfulfilled Promise of The 15th & 19th Amendments/CLE:

As we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment and the 150th anniversary of the 15th amendment, we took some time to understand and recognize the struggles of those who were excluded from those protections and conferral of rights. Professor Gloria J. Browne-Marshall, constitutional law professor, playwright, and renowned scholar, examined the full legacy of the 15th and 19th amendments to the United States Constitution.

June 9, 2020: Alternative Facts: The Lies of Executive Order/Webinar/Co-sponsored by the Executive Committee:

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a violent upsurge of discriminatory, racist, and xenophobic attacks, both physical and verbal, against Asian Americans. Racial scapegoating is not a new phenomenon. Chinese Americans were blamed for the bubonic plague, Japanese Americans were incarcerated by labeling them an “enemy race”, and more recently Mexicans have been characterized as “rapists” and Muslims as “terrorists.” This use of race as a tool to divide and divert attention from shortcomings, together with the disregard of facts and science, has threatened our democracy, and now threatens our safety.

Participants will view a screening of *Alternative Facts: The Lies of Executive Order 9066*. This documentary uncovers the untold story of false information and political influence, which led to the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans and the Supreme Court case of

Korematsu. The documentary also examines the parallels to the targeting of minority groups today and similar attempts to abuse the powers of government.

Following the screening, a panel discussion will examine our nation's history of racial scapegoating; the consequences when alternative facts are substituted for evidence and scientifically supported data; the role of the media; and how we, as a country, can stand together to simultaneously defeat COVID-19 and preserve democracy.

Late June 2020: Asian American Experiences under COVID-19: Looking Back to Move Forward/Panel Webinar.

The September 2020 CT Legal Conference will feature a full Diversity and Inclusion track and several programs organized or co-sponsored by this committee, including: 1) Women and the Legal Profession over the Decades (co-sponsored by the Women & Law Section), 2) Introduction to Disability Awareness and Etiquette for Businesses and Individuals; 3) The Business Case for Lawyer Well-Being; 4) Strategies for Teaching Implicit Bias to Legal Professionals; and 5) Then They Came for Us: The Perils of Silence.

VI. Pipeline

The committee has continued to focus on its pipeline initiatives, designed to introduce the profession to students in high school. Karen DeMeola, Past President of the CBA, has been instrumental in launching and developing the CBA's pipeline initiatives including throughout the 2019-2020 bar year. Amani Edwards and Carol DeJohn continue to be integral to those efforts

Previously the pipeline initiative transitioned Judge Angela Robinson's L.A.W. (Love to Learn, Apply Yourself, Work for Justice) Camp to the CBA. L.A.W. Camp allows high school students to attend a one-week camp, featuring mock trial exercises, coaching, and presentations by Connecticut lawyers and judges, and an in-depth introduction to the law as a potential career opportunity.

In 2019, L.A.W. Camp was expanded to include sessions in New Haven, New Britain, and Hartford. The students were introduced to attorneys from a variety of practice areas including private practice, nonprofit, in-house, and government attorneys. The students were divided into teams and paired with a "coach" that assisted them with learning a legal case problem, as well as preparing the different parts of a trial. Each session concluded with a mock trial presented in front of sitting judges who provided exemplary feedback to the students.

In the summer of 2020, L.A.W. Camp was slated to include two new locations (for a total of five), with camps being held in Danbury and Bridgeport, however this was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are currently evaluating additional pipeline efforts that can be enacted virtually.

VII. The Connecticut Legal Community's Diversity and Inclusion Pledge and Plan

The CBA Diversity and Inclusion Committee facilitates the efforts of the signatories to the Diversity and Inclusion Pledge and Plan. The Committee has made continuous efforts to grow this initiative since its launch in 2016, and there are currently 38 organizational signatories ("Pledge Signatories") that have pledged a commitment to strategic, ongoing, and accountable diversity and inclusion efforts within their organizations through a multiyear process. Christine Jean-Louis and Cecil J. Thomas have facilitated the work of the signatories in the 2019-2020 bar year.

Each year of the multiyear process has a particular diversity and inclusion focus; Year One on Infrastructure and Policy Development, Year Two on Education and Training, Year Three on Hiring and Pipeline Initiatives; Year Four on Retention, Year Five on Leadership and Advancement. The October 2019 Summit marked the launch of Year Four of the Pledge and Plan. The Annual Summit continues to feature strong attendance and high levels of engagement from the leaders of the Connecticut legal profession.

The next Diversity and Inclusion Summit is scheduled for October 21, 2020 at Quinnipiac Law School. The Summit speakers will be Paolo Gaudiano, President, Aleria Research Corporation and Sharon E. Jones, Board of Director, The Institute for Inclusion in the Legal Profession, Chicago, IL.

Signatory LSAT Preparation Course Scholarship Program

This year, the Pledge Signatories launched a new initiative, the LSAT Preparation Course Scholarship Program (LSAT Initiative), under the leadership of Evan Goldstein of Updike, Kelly & Spellacy, P.C.. A committee of Signatory representatives, including Gideon Asemnor, Richard M. Dighello, Jr., Janice DuFrend, Christine Jean-Louis, Alexis Smith, and Cecil J. Thomas, working closely with CBA Director of Diversity Amani Edwards, has facilitated this new project.

The purpose of the LSAT Initiative is to create an opportunity for diverse candidates to qualify for a full scholarship to enroll in an LSAT prep course. The scholarship is available to qualified applicants who are representative of a diverse demographic.

The partnership originated as a result of efforts to address the lack of representation in the legal field and to increase the pipeline of diverse talent that enters the legal profession in Connecticut. Ultimately, funding from various law-related organizations will go towards scholarships to alleviate the cost of law school exam prep courses that students might otherwise be unable to afford.

This year, the committee developed the application materials and selection process, and worked to spread word of this new opportunity to Connecticut-area colleges. Applicants are selected each year on a rolling basis. In its inaugural year, the LSAT Initiative had funding available for 10 scholarships. One application has been approved, and additional applications have been received and are under review.

The Fourth Annual Diversity and Inclusion Summit: The Collaborative Blueprint: Forging a Path
The Fourth Annual Diversity and Inclusion Summit: The Collaborative Blueprint: Forging a Path was held in October 2019 at Quinnipiac Law School and was attended by hundreds of leaders of the Connecticut legal community, towards the goal of making the Connecticut bar more diverse and inclusive.

During the morning session, Chris Armstrong and Vince Brantley of Veritas Culture from Washington, DC held an interactive workshop addressing retention and advancement issues specific to diversity and inclusion in the legal workplace. The attendees were asked to participate in a dialogue with the facilitators and each other to address challenges and come up with solutions to retain diverse talent.

Following an attendee lunch and networking opportunity, the afternoon session was led by a keynote presentation titled “The Employer’s Role with Diverse Hires” by E. Macey Russell of Choate Hall & Stewart LLP, Boston, MA.

The keynote was followed by a panel discussion titled “Hear Our Narratives” moderated by An-Ping Hsieh, and included David R. Jimenez of Jackson Lewis PC, Hartford, Felice Gray-Kemp of Planet Alpha Corp, Cambridge, MA, James A. Merklinger of the Association of Corporate Counsel, Washington, DC and Meghana D. Shah of Eversheds Sutherland, New York, NY.

Prior to closing remarks by Jonathan M. Shapiro, Immediate Past President, Connecticut Bar Association, a Signatory Data Collection Overview was presented by Cecil J. Thomas, Vice President of the Connecticut Bar Association. During this final presentation by Mr. Thomas, attendees were reintroduced to the goals of the collaborative pledge/plan, shown results from data collection among the signatories, and received a summary of the path to successful training initiatives discussed during signatory meetings.

The 2019 D&I Summit Committee was led by Christine Jean-Louis and included Cecil J. Thomas, Ndidi Moses, Jonathan Shapiro, Karen DeMeola, Michelle Duprey, Ronald Houde, Alix Simonetti, Keith Soressi, Neeta M. Vatti, and Leanna Zwiebel.

VIII. Looking Forward

Cognitive Bias Symposium

The committee is currently planning a symposium, in partnership with the Connecticut Bar Foundation, that will take an in-depth look at the cognitive biases that affect the legal profession. A committee has been formed to undertake the planning and implementation of this event. Planning began in early 2020, but has been put on hold as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Committee will resume planning in the 2020-2021 bar year.

Conclusion

The CBA has made significant progress in its diversity and inclusion efforts in the last several years. Even with the ongoing pandemic, the D&I Committee has made efforts to continue to promote programming which advances diversity and inclusion in the bar. Special thanks goes to all of the CBA staff, and in particular Keith Soressi, Amani Edwards, and Ashleigh Morelli for their efforts in supporting the work of the committee this past year. There is still more work to be done and we look forward to the future accomplishments of this committee as it continues its crucial efforts.

Fair and Impartial Courts Committee

Chair: James T. Shearin

PURPOSE AND REPORT

The Fair and Impartial Courts Committee was established by the Connecticut Bar Association to assist our state and federal judges when confronted by systemic attacks on their proper functions and from unfair and inappropriate criticism or assault, whether from individuals, organizations, the press or other sources, which are political and/or private in nature and which undermine the independence and fairness of the judicial system. We also investigate any issues that may arise concerning judges who may be questioned because of actions arising while performing their judicial role, particularly when these issues arise during re-appointment or the appointment process (for our sitting judges nominated to the Appellate or Supreme Court).

The Committee conferred with the Court and reviewed legislation and other political actions by the Governor and General Assembly to determine whether action was necessary by the Committee to support the Judicial Branch. No such action was deemed necessary.

Federal Judiciary Committee

Co-Chairs: James T. Shearin and Monte Frank

PURPOSE AND REPORT

The Federal Judiciary Committee reviews and reports on nominations proposed by Connecticut's United States Senators for judicial appointments, primarily to the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut.

According to the Rules, our recommendations are reported to the President of the Connecticut Bar Association, where she forwards the findings to the proposed nominee; the Office of the President of the United States; the two U.S. Senators from Connecticut; the Attorney General of the United States; and the Chair of the Committee of the Judiciary of the United States Senate.

During the past year we considered and recommended as qualified the nominations of William Nardini to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and Superior Court Judge Barbara Jongbloed to the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut.

Legislative Policy and Review Committee

Chair: Jonathan M. Shapiro

PURPOSE

The Legislative Policy and Review Committee (LPRC) deliberates proposals brought by CBA sections or committees concerning legislation, rules of the CT Superior Court, and state agency or federal regulations. The LPRC conducts a thorough analysis of the requested authorization, the essential legislative or regulatory issue, and the impact on the bar and on Connecticut law. Considered is whether this requested authorization is inconsistent with any other legislative, regulatory, or rule-making position approved through the association. After thorough discussion, the LPRC makes its recommendation to the governing bodies of the association whether such proposals or positions should be authorized.

The Legislative Policy and Review Committee is appointed annually by the president to staggered three-year terms and consists of at least nine members of the association, two-thirds of whom are to be members of the House of Delegates or Board of Governors or have previously served in that capacity.

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Though not as active as in prior years, the LPRC met 15 times this year to discuss issues requiring its attention. The LPRC consists of at least ten members of which 2/3 must be present or previous members of the House of Delegates (HOD), Board of Governors (BOG) or Executive Committee with five members constituting a quorum.

The LPRC provides recommendations for CBA authorization of the Executive Committee, HOD and the BOG from the CBA sections and committees. The HOD authorizes a three-year position. These issues matter concerning state legislation, rules of the Superior Court and federal courts, federal legislation, both federal and state regulations and agency rules of procedure. All authorized positions of the CBA are in the Legislative Agenda which is listed on the CBA website as is its legislative policies.

Sections and committees request approval to propose, support or oppose the issues above. Positions proposed are brought to the LPRC by January 1 so that they may be brought to the legislative committee of cognizance at the General Assembly. It is in February that bills start to be introduced and the sections and committees wish to take positions in support of opposition of these bills. Public Hearings commence in mid-February. By March 10, 2020 the last public hearing was held and the LOB and the Capitol were shut down, as it still continues on this date. It was at that same time that the Rules Committee completed its hearings for the year.

The LPRC will continue its work in July 2020. We thank the members of the committee: Jonathan Shapiro*, chair, Tim Shearin*, Kara Murphy*, Kim McGee*, Maggie Castinado*, Howard Schiller, Vincent Pace, Jim Craven, Jason Fragoso, Melanie Dykas, Erick Russell, Kim Smith, Meghan Freed. (* term is completed in 2020)

Membership Committee

Co-Chairs: Sarah Gruber and C. Scott Schwefel

PURPOSE

The Membership Committee shall have between five and seven members who shall be appointed by the President to staggered three-year terms, and shall include a member of the House of Delegates and a member of the Young Lawyers Section. The Executive Director shall be an ex-officio member. The Committee's duties shall include the promotion and reaffirmation of membership in the Association by, among other approaches, affirmatively reaching out to the diverse lawyer population of Members and potential members. Consistent with the purpose of the Association, the Committee should advocate the highest level of professionalism, emphasize the common interests of the members of the profession, and foster inclusion within the Association of a broadly diverse membership.

ANNUAL REPORT

The Membership Committee had a productive bar year, making progress on several longstanding projects and initiated several new ones. Unfortunately, the pandemic and shutdown prevented completion of many, if not all, of the committee's initiatives. Nevertheless, the committee looks forward to continuing these undertakings in the next bar year.

The 2019-2020 Membership Committee consisted of the following members: Co-Chair Sarah Gruber, Co-Chair C. Scott Schwefel, Jonathan Weiner, Jonathan Shapiro, Leland Moore, Garlink Dumont, and Sara Dickson. Executive Director Keith Soressi, CBA President Ndidi Moses and President-elect Amy Lin Meyerson served as members ex-officio of the committee. Staff advisors included Carol DeJohn, and Corrine King. The Membership Committee met four times throughout the bar year to review proposals and develop projects to serve the current members and ensure the association provided as much value as possible so as to both retain current members and obtain new members.

The first initiative, carried over from the previous bar year, was a proposal for an association-wide dues restructuring. The initiative was prompted by the committee's review of membership demographics and concern that the CBA had a disproportionate number of older members that would soon be retiring and, in all likelihood, would no longer remain with the association; thus, creating a void in membership numbers. The committee identified two demographics currently underrepresented in the CBA: new and younger attorneys, and public service/government attorneys. The initial proposed dues restructuring would lower annual fees for both demographics, and would only impose a nominal increase on dues for longstanding members of the bar. The committee looks forward to continuing to develop this initiative and anticipates submitting a proposed restructure to the House of Delegates in the next bar year.

Additionally, the committee deliberated proposals to provide unlimited continuing legal education programs for an additional fee.

The second initiative was to create a membership survey. The purpose of the survey is to determine what CBA members want from their association membership, and how well members perceive the Association's delivery on the benefits and programs they value. The committee discussed proposed survey questions, primarily designed to assist CBA staff in determining what members want, and satisfying those wants and needs. Ultimately, the survey responses will assist this committee and the CBA staff in maintaining successful programs and benefits and developing new ones to ensure members will renew their membership and also recommend the CBA to other nonmember attorneys and legal professionals. The committee looks forward to submitting the survey to its members next bar year.

The Membership Committee reviewed and evaluated existing benefit programs for association members, and made recommendations to the CBA staff on changes and additions to current benefits. The committee reviewed more than eight proposals from potential member benefit providers and voted to approve several new member benefits. Among the new member benefits added were Educational Playcare, Hertz/Dollar/Thrifty Car Rental, LegalPro System, Inc., Smith.ai, and United Parcel Service. Additionally, the committee voted to renew several existing benefit providers, including ABA Retirement Programs, ABC Language Services, Bank of America Merchant Services, Citizens Bank, CosmoLex, Hotel Engine, Janco Business Systems, MyCase, Paychex, Ruby Receptionist and The Idea Company. Additionally, the Committee discussed providing discounted health insurance as a future member benefit. The Committee encourages members to visit <https://www.ctbar.org/members/membership-benefits> to take advantage of the wide array of discounted services and products offered.

Lastly, the Committee organized the programs and activities for the annual Membership Appreciation Month to have been held in May. The programs and activities for this year included receptions for new members (in both Hartford and Fairfield counties), complimentary headshots (in both Hartford and Fairfield counties), "escape room" experiences (in five locations around the state), complimentary document shredding (in both Hartford and Fairfield counties), and a judges luncheon. All such programs were cancelled due to the Pandemic. The committee looks forward to organizing similar events for next year's Membership Appreciation Month.

The co-chairs would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee members for their ongoing contributions. Additionally, the committee is grateful to Keith Soressi, Carol DeJohn, and Corrine King for their tireless work with the committee.

Pro Bono Committee

Chair: Amy Lin Meyerson

PURPOSE

The CBA Pro Bono Committee strives to “promote the public interest through the advancement of justice and the protection of liberty,” and more specifically, “facilitate the delivery of competent legal services to the public particularly those in greatest need.” *Constitution of the CBA*, Art. II.

Rule 6.1 of the Connecticut Rules of Professional Conduct supports the principle that all attorneys should provide pro bono services:

“A lawyer should render public interest legal service. A lawyer may discharge this responsibility by providing professional services at no fee or a reduced fee to persons of limited means or to public service or charitable groups or organizations, by service in activities for improving the law, the legal system or the legal profession, and by financial support for organizations that provide legal services to persons of limited means.” The Pro Bono Committee identifies, implements and provides opportunities for members to engage in pro bono and other public interest legal services and promotes access to justice.

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Committee Members

Amy Lin Meyerson, Chair, Law Office of Amy Lin Meyerson

Cecil Thomas, Vice Chair, Greater Hartford Legal Aid, Inc.

Ashleigh Backman, CT Veterans Legal Ctr

Henry Baer Jr., Finn Dixon & Herling LLP

Catherine P. Bailey, CWELF

James Barrow

Jamey Bell, GHLA

Peter Benner, GHIAA

Karen Berris, Putnam Superior Court

Francis J. Brady

Adam J. Cohen. Pullman & Comley

Craig Coulombe, SSA

Ann-Marie DeGraffenreidt, CT Office of AG

Joseph DeMarco, DeVore & DeMarco LLP

Joshua Devine, United Health Group

Marc Finer, Murtha Cullina LLP

Vaughan Finn, Shipman & Goodwin LLP

Tanya Gaul, Chief State’s Attorney Office

Alexandra Gillett, CT Judicial Branch

Kyle LaBuff

Vanessa M. Laro, NE Remote Paralegal Asst

Kathleen Moore, Ferdinand IP Law Group (NY)

Priya Morganstern, Pro Bono Partnership

Andrew O’Toole, O’Toole & O’Toole PLLC

David A. Pels

Don Philips, SLS

William Shapiro, Kenny Brimmer & Mahoney

Alexis Smith, NHLA

Deborah Witkin, CLS

Jennifer Zakrzewski, CT Dept of Social Svcs

Committee Meetings

The Pro Bono Committee hosted monthly Committee meetings and Subcommittee meetings as needed by telephone conference or in-person.

The Honorable Anthony V. DeMayo Pro Bono Awards

The Honorable Anthony V. DeMayo Pro Bono Award is named in honor of The Honorable Anthony V. DeMayo, who tirelessly fought for fundamental fairness and championed the legal rights of the poor and accused. The award recognizes CBA members who are not salaried employees of a legal aid or similar nonprofit organization. The recipients are selected based on their demonstrated dedication to the provision of legal services without expectation of payment to those in need. This year's awardees are

Mark Healey, Mark A. Healy Attorney at Law, West Haven

Kristi Kelly, Suisman Shapiro, New London

Susan M. Williams, Susan M. Williams LLC, Enfield

Gayle Carr, Cohen & Thomas, Derby

Legal Clinics, Programs and Activities

More than 50 members served over 60 clients at the CBA's pro bono clinics held October 22 and 24, 2019 in New Britain and Bridgeport, respectively during the ABA's National Celebration of Pro Bono.

The clinics, organized by the Pro Bono Committee's Pro Bono Clinic Sub-Committee, provided free legal advice to members of the public in the areas of consumer law, immigration, family law, bankruptcy, small business, landlord/tenant, tax issues, and pardons. The preregistered clients were first screened, via telephone, by the volunteer paralegals and then they met with an attorney during half-hour appointments at the clinics.

The Committee continues to support CTLawHelp's Pro Bono Portal, Connecticut's one-stop resource for pro bono attorneys to provide free legal assistance to people with very low income, and CT Free Legal Answers, an ABA-supported website where financially qualifying Connecticut residents can post questions about their civil legal issue and receive responses from volunteer attorneys.

Building off the Emeritus Small Claims Volunteer Attorney Program and in collaboration with the CT Judicial Branch, we launched the new and expanded CBA Emeritus Pro Bono Attorneys program that gives retired and non-practicing lawyers the opportunity to engage in the provision of pro bono legal services.

The Pro Bono Committee will be co-sponsoring a program on Civil Gideon and Connecticut's Eviction Crisis on the Presidential Track at the upcoming Connecticut Legal Conference.

Planning for a Hartford Housing Pilot Program was temporarily suspended due to COVID-19 court and business closures, but will resume in the 2020-21 bar year.

Joining with the Standing Committee on Professional Ethics, the Pro Bono Committee is advocating for amendments to CT Practice Book Rule 5.5 to permit out-of-state licensed attorneys to engage in the provision of pro bono services in Connecticut. This proposed rule change is currently pending before the CT Judicial Branch's Rules Committee.

Response to Legal Aid Needs Due to COVID-19

The Legal Aid Subcommittee of the CBA COVID-19 Taskforce is coordinating with the legal aid organizations and attorneys serving Connecticut's most vulnerable populations to address issues such as evictions, benefits, and family law issues. Currently, the Legal Aid Subcommittee is focused on two initiatives: 1) developing a call for pro bono volunteers in the areas of civil legal needs (e.g., housing, family, consumer, special education) that are likely to be the most impacted by the COVID-19 crisis, together with a new webinar series to provide training support to pro bono attorneys; and 2) monitoring, with the assistance of the Connecticut Bar Foundation, the impact of COVID-19 on legal aid funding. The first of these new initiatives, CBA Pro Bono Connect launched in May 2020.

The Pro Bono Committee supports these efforts and those of the COVID-19 Small Business Virtual Legal Clinic. Volunteer attorneys are encouraged to do so, as well.

Professionalism Committee

Co-Chairs: Hon. Omar A. Williams and James T. Shearin

PURPOSE AND REPORT

The mission of the Connecticut Bar Association Professionalism Committee is to enhance the level of professionalism among lawyers and judges and to promote their commitment to the Lawyers' Principles of Professionalism (adopted by the Connecticut Bar Association House of Delegates on June 6, 1994) (Principles). The Committee is currently rewriting the Principles and, once done and approved by the CBA House of Delegates, will 1) encourage, recommend, and provide assistance to CBA Committees and Sections in the development and coordination of professionalism initiatives according to the Principles; 2) encourage and provide assistance to local bar associations, law schools, and the judiciary in their efforts to improve professionalism as articulated by the Principles; and 3) educate members of the legal profession and the public about Principles.

The primary initiatives of the Professionalism Committee are to organize the annual Professionalism Symposium, to manage the statewide mentoring program; identify and select the recipient of the Edward F. Hennessey Professionalism Award; stimulate interest in professionalism, ethics, and civility among other sections and committees; and produce its own continuing legal education programs stressing those principles.

The Committee recommended the Hon. Kenneth L. Shluger to receive the Edward F. Hennessey Professionalism Award for his service to the bar, including his service as a chair of this committee, the practice of law, and the education and mentoring of young lawyers and law students.

There continues to be a mentoring program centered in Hartford and New Haven in conjunction with those local bar associations. Newly admitted lawyers seeking a mentor are paired with a more senior member of the bar and they interact for a fully year. David Case in Hartford and Dean Brad Sexton in New Haven co-chair this program.

The second annual Professionalism Boot Camp took place in December 2019 at the CBA's office. This program was designed so that newly admitted lawyers could master the skills needed to practice more effectively and ethically. The programs included topics such as "Avoiding a Grievance" "Creating a Small 21st-Century Law Office," "Networking and Rainmaking," "Screening New Clients, Billing and Fee Agreements," Surviving Technology," and the "Ethical Do's and Don'ts of Social Media."

The Professionalism Symposium is the capstone event of the Professionalism Committee. Now in its 17th years, the 2019 program was a collaborative effort with the Greater Bridgeport Bar

Association. The half-day program, held at the Superior Courthouse in Bridgeport, included both plenary and breakout sessions which focused on specific practice areas while stressing the importance of professionalism, civility and ethics. This program always enjoys the full support of the bench and bar with the judicial branch permitting the use of its courthouse and suspending the normal dockets so that lawyers and judges can participate.

The committee meets four times per year by phone and person in New Britain.

Special Committee on Standards of Title

Chair: Ellen L. Sostman

PURPOSE

Special Committee on Standards of Title considers, formulates, and proposes new Standards of Title; reviews and updates present Standards of Title; and solicits suggestions from members of the Connecticut conveyancing bar with respect to title matters where the formulation of new Standards of Title would be helpful.

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Members: Ellen L. Sostman, Esq, Senior Title Counsel Emeritus, CATIC, Rocky Hill; Denis R. Caron, Esq, Immediate Past Chair (retired), Glastonbury; William C. Stokesbury, Esq, Partner, Stokesbury, Shipman & Fingold, LLC, Farmington; Edward M. Rosenblatt, Esq, V.P./Counsel, Fidelity National Title, East Hartford; Michael Caron, Esq., AVP/Senior Underwriter, First American Title, Hartford; Gregory P. Muccilli, Esq, Partner, Shipman & Goodwin, LLP, New Haven; Elliot G. Kaiman, Esq., Partner, Wiggin and Dana, New Haven; Nancy L. Walkley, Esq., CT State Counsel/AVP, Stewart Title, Fairfield; James Rice, Esq., Partner, Brody, Wilkinson, Southport; Michael W. Sheehan, Esq., Partner, Conway, Londregan, Sheehan & Monaco, P.C., New London.

Meetings:

The Standards of Title Committee met in September, October and November, 2019, and in February, 2020. No meeting was scheduled in December, 2019 and the January 2020 meeting was cancelled. The March meeting was cancelled due to Covid-19 and, pursuant to state and CBA guidelines, no further meetings have been scheduled.

Work of the Committee

New Standard 13.11. At the September 19 meeting, the Committee took up new Standard 13.11, which had been approved by the Committee in May, 2019 and published in the Connecticut Lawyer in the Summer of 2019, as required, to start the 60 day comment period. As of the September meeting, no comments had been received. The comment period expired just prior to the October 16 meeting, with no comments having been received. The Committee agreed to submit it the Board of Governors at their December meeting. Attorney Greg Muccilli presented the new Standard to the Board of Governors and received their approval on December 16, 2019.

Revision of Chapter 7. In response to the adoption of Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec. 47-36bb immediately validating deeds to a trust rather than its trustees, work on the revision to the Chapter 7 Standards, begun in 2018-2019, continued in 2019-2020. All of the individual

Standards in this chapter, other than Standard 7.4, required some revision to reflect the adoption of the new statute. The Committee also determined that a new Standard 7.6 was needed to address the new issue of a chain of title in which some deeds could be to a trustee and from the trust, and vice versa. Changes to Standards 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, and 7.5 made in the last meetings of the 2018-2019 year were finalized and approved at the September, 2019 meeting, but the Committee decided not to submit the revisions until Standard 7.6 was finalized and the entire chapter could be submitted. Work on new Standard 7.6 was begun in September and continued through 2019. It was finalized at the meeting held on February 20, 2020. As a new Standard, it requires publication in the Connecticut Lawyer to start the 60 day comment period, and then submitted to the Board of Governors for approval. That process has been interrupted by the pandemic shutdown and the uncertainty of the process under the circumstances. An article will be prepared for publication and submitted to the CBA, for publication at the first opportunity.

Proposed Standard 9.3. The adoption of the Connecticut Uniform Power of Attorney Act, effective October 1, 2016, prompted the Standards Committee to revise certain Standards in Chapter 6, which revisions were completed in 2018. The revision to Standard 6.4, in particular, noted that a UPOA executed by in a grantor's conscious presence at the grantor's direction by a third party not the grantor, although permitted by the CTUPOA, could not be used to execute a deed because of the express requirements of Conn. Gen. Sta. Sec. 47-5. In the 2019 legislative session, H.B. 7108 was introduced to amend Sec. 47-5 to address this problem. The Committee determined that, if H.B. 7108 became law, not only would further revision of Standard 6.5 would be required, but also a revision to Standard 9.3 would be required to address the acknowledgment issues such a UPOA would raise. Work that began on Standard 9.3 in early 2019 was finalized in May, 2019, the last meeting of 2018-2019. At the September 2019 meeting, it was noted that H.B. 7108 had not become law. The revisions to Standard 9.3 were nevertheless finalized and the decision was made to hold the revision in abeyance while the Committee tracks proposed legislation going forward for changes to Sec. 47-5.

Standing Committee on Professional Ethics

Chair: Kim Rinehart

PURPOSE

The Standing Committee on Professional Ethics provides members of the Bar with opinions on matters of professional ethics, interpreting and applying the Connecticut Rules of Professional Conduct.

Written requests for opinions are referred to a drafting committee of one or two Committee members for preparation of a draft opinion, which is then debated and considered for adoption, revision or rejection at the Committee's monthly meeting. Some opinions are referred to subcommittees for further research, reconsideration, and revision. All of the Committee members are, therefore, given an opportunity to participate in the activities of the Committee. The Committee issues Formal and Informal Opinions. Formal Opinions are published in the Connecticut Bar Journal and Formal and Informal Opinions are shared with the ABA/BNA Lawyers Manual on Professional Conduct. The CBA formerly published the Professional Responsibility Reference Guide, which included Formal and Informal Opinions rendered by the Committee since adoption of the Rules of Professional Conduct in Connecticut, October 1, 1986, with an index of opinions organized by reference to the Rules of Professional Conduct. The Reference Guide has not been updated since 2009. All of the Committee's Formal and Informal Opinions are available through Casemaker, which CBA members may access by logging in on the CBA website.

ANNUAL REPORT

It has been a productive year for the Committee. The Committee meets monthly, unless there is not enough business to warrant a meeting. Among its accomplishments this year were: revising our Bylaws, adopting multiple opinions, and providing ongoing education to the Bar. Additional details about the Committee's activities are provided below.

I. Bylaw Revision

One major accomplishment of the Committee this year was the adoption of revised Bylaws, which required lengthy debate over the course of two meetings. The revised Bylaws were recently approved by the CBA Board of Governors.

II. Ethics Opinions

The Committee has adopted three new informal opinions thus far during the 2019-2020 year:

1. Informal Opinion 19-02: Rule 5.6 and Confidentiality Agreements

2. Informal Opinion 20-01: Limited Scope Representation and Fee Agreements in Marital Dissolution Matters
3. Informal Opinion 20-02: Fees for Referral to Attorney in Another Jurisdiction

Multiple other opinions are in the process of being drafted or revised and may still be voted on over the next couple of months. All of the opinions the Committee has adopted in recent years (since 2011) are posted on the CBA's website. These opinions are located through a link on the website page dedicated to the Standing Committee on Professional Ethics.

III. Rules Committee Participation

Marcy Stovall has served as the Committee's liaison to the Rules Committee this year. She has done an excellent job keeping the Committee abreast of proposed Rules changes and coordinating Committee feedback/recommendations where appropriate.

IV. Educational Programming

The following educational programs were either scheduled or in the process of being scheduled by the Committee when COVID 19 began:

Half-day Ethics Overview. 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

[This program is usually provided 1-2 times per year. It was planned for spring/summer 2020 but the date was not yet finalized at the time the Covid-shut down occurred—likely to be moved to fall in either video or in-person format]

Ethics and In House Counsel/ Technology and Ethics (2 hours)

Presenters: Richard Albrecht and Suzanne Sutton – In House

David Atkins – Technology and Ethics

[Scheduled for March 6, 2020, but cancelled due to shut-down. Likely to be rescheduled to October 2020, but date not yet set.]

Family Practice (2 hours).

Presenters: Steve Conover and Livia Barndollar

[Was in the process of being scheduled for a date in late March when the shut-down occurred. Likely to be rescheduled to November 2020, but date not yet set.]

Limited Scope Representation (1 hour).

Presenter: Steve Conover

[Was in the process of being scheduled for a date in April when the shut-down occurred. Likely to be rescheduled to October 2020, but date not yet set.]

May 6, 2020 Client Trust Accounts (2 hour). Presented virtually.

Presenters: Steve Conover and Debbie Schaefer

September 14, 2020 Ethics: An Annual Review (1 hour).

Presenters: Kim Rinehart, Deborah Sullivan, Brendon Levesque, Steve Conovor

In addition to providing formal training sessions and issuing opinions, the Committee also educates members of the bar by answering practitioners' phone calls and emails regarding ethical topics/concerns.

* * *

I commend the hard-working members of the Standing Committee on Professional Ethics for their time, dedication, and professionalism. The consistently high level of quality work product produced by these members – including the very spirited discussion and extensive revision that precedes the adoption of nearly every opinion – is not only a tribute to their legal acumen, but also to the serious nature of the task. I am also extremely grateful for the respectfulness shown by each member to every other. Our debates, while energetic, are always thoughtful.

I hope the members of the Bar find the work of the Committee helpful in their practice. Members of the Bar interested in serving on the Standing Committee on Professional Ethics should make such preference known to the CBA staff.

In addition, the Committee encourages Connecticut lawyers who have questions about their professional responsibilities in specific situations to request an opinion from the Committee.

Standing Committee on Workers' Compensation Certification

Chair: Brian L. Smith

PURPOSE

The Connecticut Bar Association Standing Committee on Certification (SCWCC) certifies and re-certifies lawyers as specialists in the field of workers' compensation. In addition, the SCWCC promulgates Rules and Procedures to implement the Standards.

ANNUAL REPORT

The SCWCC was chaired this year by the undersigned and the following Board Certified Workers' Compensation Specialists served on the SCWCC: Diane Duhamel (Chair Examining Committee), Mike Kerin, David J. Morrissey, Jeffrey Oliveira, Charlene Russo, Dominick Statile, and Elizabeth Zaccardi. The SCWCC was greatly assisted by Phanny Cahill of the Connecticut Bar Association.

This year was a busy year for our The Standing Committee and Examining Committee. We are about to recertified several specialists. We continue to add approved courses to the list of those that qualify for inclusion in the certification and re-certification process and we added 29 seminars at our January 9, 2020 meeting, which involved review of approximately 100 submissions from numerous seminars, presentations, articles, etc. We updated our official list of approved seminars.

Our certification exam was postponed due mainly to the Coronavirus pandemic.