



Monte E. Frank is the 93rd president of the CBA. He is a principal in Cohen and Wolf's Litigation and Municipal Groups, representing business and municipal clients in the state and federal courts in Connecticut on a wide range of matters. He works from the firm's Danbury and Bridgeport offices.

In American politics, we often measure a president's agenda by what is accomplished in the first 100 days in office. In Connecticut Bar Association world, 100 days represents almost a third of the entire term. So, instead, I am reporting back on my first 60 days. The framers of the CBA Constitution were wise in having a new president take over on July 1st of each year, as it allows for time to plan for the year and put priorities in motion before the frenetic pace of the fall takes over. So, here's to my first 60 days!

Bill Signings

I had the privilege of joining the governor and CBA leaders at two bill signings over the summer. The first was the signing of the new LLC Act, which came about as a result of the tremendous work of the Business Law Section and the lobbying efforts led by Bill Chapman. The new act will help make Connecticut more business friendly. Along the same lines, I am working with the

The First 60 Days

By Monte E. Frank

Judicial Branch and the Business Law, Litigation, and Young Lawyers Sections on a business court. The sections have a joint meeting set up to discuss this in detail with members of the branch.

The second bill signing was Public Act 16-71, An Act Concerning Human Trafficking. The work of the Sex Trafficking Task Force underscores how lawyers can make a difference, and I am proud of the CBA's efforts to fight the scourge of human sex trafficking.

Diversity Summit

A subcommittee of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee met all summer and worked tirelessly to plan for the first Diversity Summit in Connecticut. It will bring together the leaders of our legal community to create a collaborative blueprint for improving diversity and inclusion. The Summit will be taking place at Quinnipiac Law School on October 26. It will be followed by the Young Lawyers Section Diversity Dinner at Amarante's Sea Cliff in New Haven. I am hoping that this one day will be looked back on as a turning point in our legal community. On a related note, the Diversity and Inclusion Committee approved a diversity and inclusion template for our sections to use in considering how best to increase diversity and inclusion on the section level.

Secretary's Legal Assistance Program ("SLAP")

Secretary of the State Denise Merrill and the CBA developed the Secretary's Legal Assistance Program to assist Secretary

Merrill on Election Day. I met with the secretary and held a conference call with other bar leaders to introduce them to the program and obtain their support. Under the program, trained volunteer attorneys will be on call throughout the state on Election Day to assist the secretary if a problem with voting arises at a polling place. We are working with the secretary's office to set up a training webinar at the end of October. Our great democracy relies on the ability of those who want to exercise their right to vote be able to do so. Through this program, our members and other bar association attorneys help guarantee this fundamental right. For more information, contact Bill Chapman at (860)707-3309 or at bchapman@ctbar.org.

Civil Gideon Task Force

Under the leadership of our Immediate Past President Bill Clendenen and University of Connecticut Law School Dean Timothy Fisher, the Civil Gideon Task Force met twice over the summer. I am a member of the task force and am in awe at the immense talent on it. However, in reviewing the list of members as designated by the General Assembly to serve on the task force, it was my opinion that veterans were underrepresented. Fortunately, I was able to rectify that with my two allotted recommendations for appointment: Jason Fragoso and Edward O'Hanlon. Prior to serving in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Attorney Fragoso was a member of the United States Marine Corps for eight years. He finished his uni-

formed service career as a sergeant, having served tours overseas, including Iraq. He also serves on the CBA's Legislative Policy Review Committee and Veterans and Military Affairs Section and is an officer within the Portuguese Bar Association. Edward O'Hanlan serves on the Board of the Connecticut Veterans Legal Center.

New England Bar Annual Meeting

We hosted the New England Bar Association Annual Meeting from October 13-15 at the Study at Yale Hotel. I moderated a panel on opiate addiction, and President-elect Karen DeMeola led a discussion on implicit bias. The Secretary of the State spotlighted the election program with us. There were other excellent programs presented, which were open to and attended by CBA members.

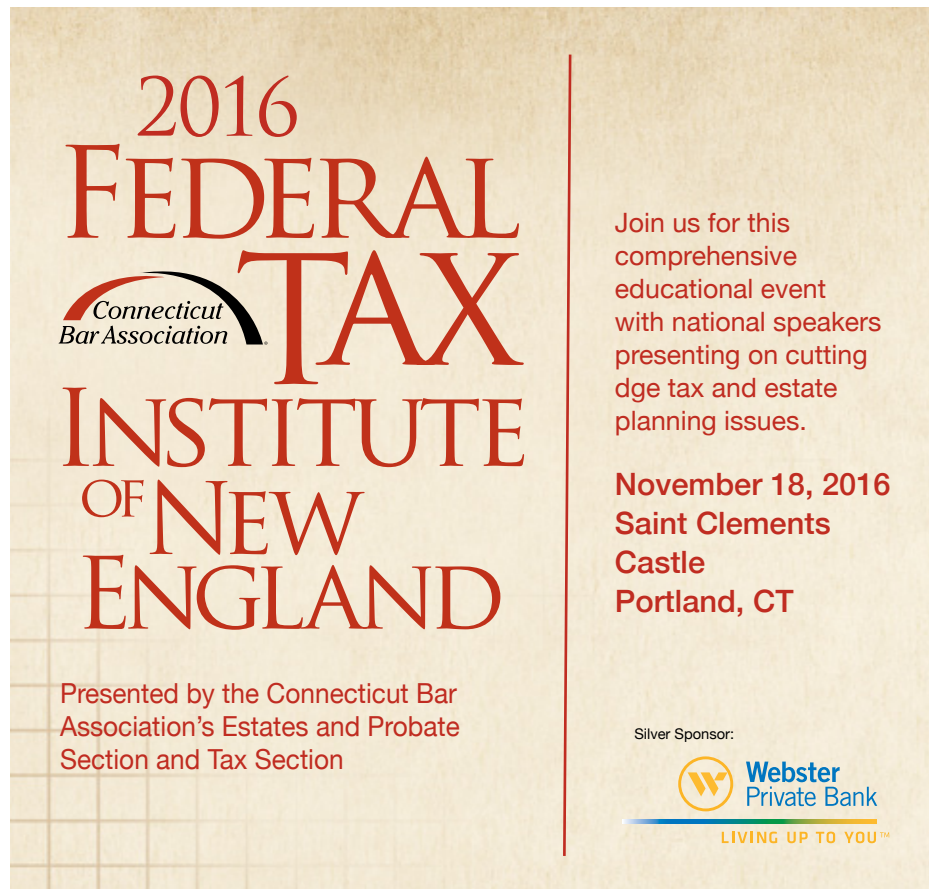
MCLE

The CBA is your go-to organization for complying with the new MCLE requirement. We have made it easy for you to comply by offering free, online self-study resources and continuing to provide discounts on our high-quality CLEs, both live and on-demand. We also provide a way for you to track your CLEs in your CBA member profile with our online Professional Development Journal. If anyone ever asks, your CLE history will be a few clicks away. This is just another way your association is working for you. You can learn more at CTMCLE.org.

Section and Committee Appointments

Our sections and committees are the nucleus of our association. Vibrant sections and committees are critical to keeping lawyers engaged, educated, and successful. I truly enjoyed approving all of the sections' and committees' leadership. I am impressed with the level of commitment and service to the bar. I am looking forward to working with the sections and committees in the upcoming year as we implement their plans, programs, CLEs, and diversity and inclusion templates.

These are just some of the highlights of my first 60 days. It has been a good honeymoon. I continue to be amazed by what can be accomplished when we all work together to improve the legal community, defend the Rule of Law, and advance justice for all. **CL**




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