
CONNECTICUT BAR ASSOCIATION NEWS & EVENTS

Justice Zarella Retires at the End of 2016



Connecticut Supreme Court Justice Peter T. Zarella will retire at the end of December this year after nearly 16 years. In January, he will join the law firm McElroy Deutsch Mulvaney & Carpenter LLP. Below is a statement from Chief Justice Chase T. Rogers regarding Justice Zarella's time on the bench.

Statement of Chief Justice Chase T. Rogers on Justice Peter T. Zarella

I will miss Justice Peter T. Zarella as a colleague, a scholar and a judge wholly committed to the rule of law.

Whether it was in Rockville, where he served as a Superior Court judge, at the Appellate Court or on the Supreme Court, Justice

Zarella's judicial philosophy is simple: he follows the law of the state of Connecticut and the constitutions of the United States and Connecticut. A voracious learner, Justice Zarella's meticulous research skills are evident in all of his opinions. At the same time, he rightly views every case as different and of great importance to the parties involved.

Justice Zarella is especially instrumental in his current role as the Administrative Judge of the Appellate System, where he has led the successful effort to implement e-filing for the Supreme and Appellate Courts. He also is a very effective ambassador in educating people about the courts and specifically, the role of the appellate courts. He is active with the Judicial Branch's Speakers Bureau and also was the founder of the Supreme Court Historical Society. Moreover, he refashioned the Attorney Swearing-In ceremonies, so that they are more meaningful to new attorneys and their families. These are but a small sampling of the activities he has been involved with over his 20-year judicial career.

On a personal note, I consider Justice Zarella a true friend and will miss our spirited discussions regarding the law.

I wish Justice Zarella nothing but the best as he begins this new journey. **CL**

CBA Members Volunteered on Election Day

On Election Day 2016, 110 trained CBA members volunteered to be on call to assist the Secretary of the State in the event legal issues arised at the polls. Now in its fourth year, the CBA created the Secretary's Legal Assistance Program (SLAP) jointly with the Connecticut Secretary of the State's office to ensure that no voter is disenfranchised. SLAP is designed so that if a problem arises at a polling place, a CBA volunteer lawyer on call will be dispatched to determine what the issue is, report it to the Secretary, and then communicate her directives on site.

"It's a very valuable program for us," Secretary Merrill said. "It's a neutral, non-partisan program and now a model for the nation in ability to gather facts on the ground when issues occur."

CBA President Monte Frank stated that SLAP epitomizes the CBA's goal of advancing justice and defending the rule of law. "There is nothing more fundamental to our democracy than the right to vote," he said. "Through this program, we are able to expand the reach of the Secretary of the State on Election Day and provide another measure to make sure election rules are followed so that the people of Connecticut are able to vote without confusion, interference, or intimidation." **CL**



Peers & Cheers

E-mail editor@ctbar.org with submissions for the Peers & Cheers section.

Attorneys



Sara Bronin

Sara Bronin has been appointed as the **Thomas F. Gallivan Chair of Real Property Law** at the University of Connecticut School of Law. Attorney Bronin is the head of Hartford's Planning and Zoning Commission and a law professor at the university.

Withers Bergman LLP has promoted **Marissa Dungey** of the Wealth Planning and Tax team in Greenwich, as one of seven, to be a new partner across its Asian, European, and United States offices.



Anthony Famiglietti

Anthony C. Famiglietti has joined **Neubert Pepe & Monteith PC** as part of the firm's Bankruptcy & Creditor Rights, Commercial Litigation, and Employment & Labor Law Practice Groups. Attorney Famiglietti has previously worked as a law clerk for the Honorable Douglas S. Lavine at the Connecticut Appellate Court.



Brian Fischer

Brian W. Fischer has been welcomed into **Murtha Cullina LLP's** Hartford office. Attorney Fischer practices in the areas of mergers and acquisitions, private equity, emerging companies and venture capital investments, banking, and securities law.



John Houlihan

John J. Houlihan Jr., managing partner of **RisCassi & Davis**, has been named the state chair for Connecticut of the American College of Trial Lawyers. Attorney Houlihan is certified as a civil trial advocate by the National Board of Trial Advocacy.



Kristina Porter

Carroll Curseaden & Moore LLC has welcomed **Kristina Porter** to their property law practice in Milford. Attorney Porter focuses her practice in residential and commercial real estate, land use and zoning, landlord/tenant law and dispute resolution, and business and nonprofit formation.



Norman Roos

Robinson+Cole attorney, **Norman H. Roos**, has been elected by the American College of Mortgage Attorneys (ACMA) to serve as its secretary for the upcoming year. Attorney Roos is chair of Robinson+Cole Finance Group and concentrates his practice on transactional and regulatory matters related to real estate and financial services.



Elizabeth Stewart

Elizabeth J. Stewart of **Murtha Cullina LLP** was appointed by Chief Justice Rogers to the Connecticut Judicial Department Civil Commission for a three-year term. Attorney Stewart is the chair of Murtha Cullina's Complex Litigation Practice Group and member of the Insurance Recovery and Appellate Practice Groups.

Christine A. Sullivan recently joined the **Berchem Moses & Delvin PC** team of Milford as the senior counsel of the firm's Education Law Department, after working in private practice for over 26 years at the firm of Duffy & Fasano Attorneys at Law in Woodbury.

James J. Tancredi of **Day Pitney LLP** has been named a U.S. Bankruptcy Court judge. Attorney Tancredi was one of the founders of Day Pitney's Bankruptcy and Creditors' Rights Practice Group.



Andrew Ullman

Andrew M. Ullman has been welcomed by **Neubert Pepe & Monteith PC** as Of Counsel with the firm, joining the Taxation, Trusts and Estates, and Corporate and Business Transactions Practice Groups. His practice focuses in the areas of estate planning, probate, commercial real estate, and small business law.

After joining **Robinson+Cole's** Hartford office in 1966, **James A. Wade** has been recognized for accomplishing a 50-year milestone. Attorney Wade has represented many Fortune 500 companies on compliance issues, including grand jury investigation compliance, securities regulation, banking issues, and environmental concerns. He has mentored numerous attorneys at the firm while infiltrating "pride in the excellence of the firm's services and a feeling of loyalty to the organization."



Kristen Zaehringer

Kristen L. Zaehringer, a member of **Murtha Cullina LLP's** Litigation Department, has been reappointed to the Local Civil Rules Advisory Committee by the Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut. Attorney Zaehringer is a member of Murtha Cullina LLP's Litigation Department and Labor and Employment Practice Group.

Firms/Organizations

Berchem Moses & Devlin PC sponsored a pre-game event to support the Walter Camp foundation and the Yale-New Haven Hospital Auxiliary Toy Closets program. The firm donated hundreds of toys as well as generating a total of more than 2,500 gifts for children who are patients at Yale-New Haven Hospital.

George W. Crawford Black Bar Association congratulates their newly elected 2016-2017 executive board members, including President **Anthony Shannon**, Treasurer **Thamar Esperance**, and Secretary **Melika Forbes**. **Courtney Chaplin**, **Delania Barbee**, and **Brandon Miller** are among the incoming directors.

Judge **Alexandra D. DiPentima** and Attorneys **Leander A. Dolphin** and **Jessica L. Ritter** participated as "women at the top" panelists at **Shipman & Goodwin LLP's** diversity forum hosted by the firm's Committee on Diversity and Inclusion, which focused on shattering the glass ceiling. **CL**

CBA Nominating Committee Looking to Fill Open Officer Positions

Serving the legal profession by becoming a leader of the Connecticut Bar Association can be a highly rewarding experience and an opportunity to make a difference. CBA members are encouraged to submit to the Nominating Committee their own names or names of other CBA members who have an interest in serving as officers of the association. We are currently looking to fill the vice president, secretary, treasurer, secretary-treasurer positions for the 2017-2018 Bar year.

The vice president position must be filled by a nominee who is registered with the CBA from New Haven county in accordance with the CBA Constitution and its policy of geographically rotating the CBA president's track position. The secretary, treasurer and secretary-treasurer positions are not geographically restricted.

To learn more and nominate someone, visit ctbar.org/OfficerNominations. Please submit names by January 13, 2017. **CL**

New Power of Attorney Forms Now Available

CBA Past President Deborah Tedford along with CBA member Suzanne Walsh have helped to fashion the new 2016 Power of Attorney (POA) Forms based on the new legislation, which became effective October 1, 2016. This is the first change to the forms in over 40 years.

Changes to the Connecticut Uniform Power of Attorney Act are designed to make powers of attorney easier to use. One important provision requires banks and other financial institutions to honor a POA document, and grants new authority to the Probate Courts to compel these institutions to accept POAs. The act also better protects vulnerable individuals from POA abuses and financial exploitation by providing remedies through the Probate Courts. The new law applies retroactively, meaning its safeguards extend to existing valid POA documents. The new law also gives the Probate Courts additional authority to resolve problems that may develop in the course of following a POA document.

To view the forms and learn more about the changes to the Power of Attorney Act, visit ctbar.org/2016POA. **CL**

Presidential Fellows Kick Off New Bar



(L to R) Andrew Walter, Latisha Davis, Emily Gianquinto, Tamar Bakhbava, Jessie Opinion, Karolyn Ryan, Cody Guarnieri, Danielle Edwards, and Lucas Hernandez

On September 27, the Presidential Fellows convened at the CBA Law Center in New Britain for their first meeting of the 2016-2017 bar year. The association launched the Presidential Fellowship Program in 2015 to encourage the active involvement of young lawyers in the activities of the CBA sections and to increase section membership diversity. The program provides the Fellows with the opportunity to become involved in the substantive work of CBA sections, to help them develop into future leaders, and serves to promote

sections to other members of the YLS and the bar.

New Presidential Fellows (2016-2018 term): Steven Alinson, Tamar Bakhbava, Latisha Davis, Danielle Edwards, Karolyn Ryan, and Andrew Walter.

Returning Presidential Fellows (2015-2017 term): Emily Gianquinto, Cody Guarnieri, Lucas Hernandez, Susan Kirkeby, Jessie Opinion, Mark Riley, and Thamar Esperance-Smith.

CBA Executive Director Douglas S. Brown and Membership Committee Co-chairs Garlinck Dumont and Jonathan M. Shapiro greeted the Fellows at a welcome breakfast reception in which they discussed their expectations for the program. Each Fellow is affiliated with a senior bar section and selects a project intended to increase engagement in that section. The Fellows will have three more meetings this year, in which they will receive training and support for their work with their sections. **CL**