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# CONNECTICUT BAR ASSOCIATION

# NEWS & EVENTS

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## Task Force Recommends Improving Access to Civil Legal Counsel

Through the leadership of former CBA President Bill Clendenen and UConn Law School Dean Timothy Fisher's, the Task Force to Improve Access to Legal Counsel in Civil Matters was created. The task force, which is made up of judges, lawyers, state politicians, educators, law enforcement officials, and those who work in support services departments, recommends a series of steps that can be taken immediately to help civil litigants most at risk of being denied adequate legal assistance. The focus on restraining orders, child custody, and evictions targets the state's most vulnerable citizens.

The task force responsibly addresses the added societal cost of offering these additional legal services with a series of funding recommendations and by laying out a multi-year strategy for wider implementation.

To see the task force's final report, you may visit our Access to Justice Resource Page at [ctbar.org/Justice](http://ctbar.org/Justice). **CL**

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## Updike Kelly & Spellacy PC Sponsors Lunch at Capitol Summit



High School, Inc. students who participated in the Capitol Summit.

Updike Kelly & Spellacy PC sponsored the lunch for High School, Inc. students at the Capitol Summit, Raising Capital for your Business. High School, Inc. is a college prep school for the Hartford Public School students in grades 9-12 and who are interested in insurance and financial services industry careers. The mission of High School, Inc. is to grant students the education and skills needed to pursue higher education in these industries.

At the Capitol Summit, the firm was able to learn about each students' family and where they wanted to attend college, law school, and medical

school. Hartford high school students were introduced to ways on how to fund a start-up or existing business and learned the tips to succeed. The sponsored lunch was held at Black Eyed Sally's where students learned more about being a lawyer and the legal steps necessary to help run a business. **CL**

## State Comptroller Kevin Lembo Visits a Tax Law Section Meeting



State Comptroller Kevin Lembo

State Comptroller Kevin Lembo attended a CBA Tax Law Section meeting, where he discussed the state budget process and the short-term and long-term outlook of the budget.

Comptroller Lembo stated, "To get to a stable and predictable government requires a commitment, to live within our means, to be true to our word, and to be good partners. Government has the potential to be a powerful player in the economy. The way that government functions best is by using available resources to improve the life and work of as many people as possible."

CBA secretary-treasurer of the Tax Law Section, Dan Smolnik, said of Comptroller Lembo's presentation, "He pulled back the curtain on the state budgeting process and inspired us all to become more engaged in government. Our members were delighted with his presentation."

You can also view an interview with Comptroller Lembo about this year's legislative session on the Capitol Update video series at [ctbar.org/legislative](http://ctbar.org/legislative).

If you are interested in joining a section, visit [ctbar.org/sections](http://ctbar.org/sections) today! **CL**

## Volunteers Needed for National High School Mock Trial Championship



Civics First CT will be the host of this year's National High School Mock Trial Championship, held May 11-13 in Hartford. High School students throughout the country will convene in Connecticut's capital to compete, and volunteers are needed to help at this special event.

Learn more about volunteer opportunities at [2017nationalmocktrial.org](http://2017nationalmocktrial.org) or e-mail [nationals@civicsfirstct.org](mailto:nationals@civicsfirstct.org). The deadline to submit your interest in volunteering is April 15.

The Connecticut Bar Association is the proud sponsor of Judges Reception, to be held on May 12. All volunteer judges of the National High School Mock Trial Championship are invited to attend this reception. **CL**

## Real Property Section Volunteers with Habitat for Humanity

The Real Property Section recently spent a day volunteering at Habitat for Humanity in New Haven. Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit organization that helps eliminate poverty housing through the creation of home ownership opportunities for low-income working families. Real Property Section Executive Committee member Jane E. Ballerini says the section commits to a day of volunteering with the organization on a yearly basis.

This year, the section volunteer attorneys worked on two homes. The volunteers completed the sub-floor of the kitchen and entry way of one house as well as installed scaffolding, put up shingles, assisted in moving hundreds of pounds of equipment, and drove a backhoe. It was a successful build and a wonderful opportunity for the section to give back to the community in which they practice! **CL**



(L to R) Alex Ricciardone, John Diakun, Dominick Neveux, Jane Ballerini, Adrienne Roach, and Dina Tornheim.



(L to R) Dominkick Neveux, Alex Ricciardone, and Jane Ballerini.

## ABA Approves Refugee Resolution Sought by Connecticut



CBA President Monte E. Frank Presenting Resolution 10B.

The American Bar Association's House of Delegates has "unanimously" adopted the Connecticut Bar Association's proposed resolution concerning refugees, asylum seekers, torture victims, and others deserving of humanitarian refuge.

Resolution 10B garnered broad support with the New York State Bar Association, the Section on International Law, the Section of Civil Rights and Social Justice, and the Center for Human Rights joining as co-sponsors. Other ABA entities and bar associations also supported.

### ABA APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 10B:

*RESOLVED* That the American Bar Association reaffirms its sup-

*port for the establishment of laws, policies, and practices that ensure access to legal protection for refugees, asylum seekers, torture victims, and others deserving of humanitarian refuge ("Protection Seekers").*

*FURTHER RESOLVED*, That the American Bar Association urges Congress to adopt additional legislation and to appropriate adequate funding for refugee applications and processing.

*FURTHER RESOLVED*, That the American Bar Association urges Congress to adopt legislation to mandate that refugees receive an appropriate individualized assessment in a timely fashion to determine their eligibility as such, and that neither national origin nor religion be the basis for barring an otherwise eligible individual in making such determination.

As an additional resource, visit [ctbar.org/Resolution10B](http://ctbar.org/Resolution10B) to view a video from the ABA of the CBA's presentation of Resolution 10B, which includes floor speeches from CBA President Monte Frank, Connecticut State Delegate to the ABA Daniel Schwartz, and CBA Past President and ABA Board of Governors member Barry Hawkins. **CL**

# Peers & Cheers

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



Kenneth Baldwin

**Kenneth C. Baldwin** of **Robinson+Cole** has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the nonprofit organization The First Tee. This nonprofit is dedicated to teaching young individuals life skills through the game of golf.



Patrick Begos

**Robinson+Cole's** Business Litigation Group welcomes **Patrick W. Begos** as a partner in their Stamford office. Attorney Begos has nearly 30 years of commercial and insurance litigation, arbitration mediation, and negotiation experience.



Dan Brody



Timothy Larsen



Kathryn Mullin



Diana Neeves

Attorneys **Dan A. Brody, Timothy P. Larsen, Kathryn N. Mullin, and Diana E. Neeves** have been welcomed into **Robinson+Cole** as new

associates. These new associates focus on business litigation, insurance, environmental, and real estate practices.

**Robinson+Cole** attorneys **Christine E. Bromberg, Alaine C. Doolan, and Jonathan H. Schaefer** volunteered at Junior Achievement Day at Parkville Community School in Hartford to teach approximately 75 students in kindergarten through second grade a curriculum focusing on financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and workforce readiness.



Dana Bucin

**Murtha Cullina LLP** has expanded its business services through its new Immigration Practice Group due to the addition of attorney **Dana R. Bucin**. Attorney Bucin represents clients with a wide range of employment-based and family-based immigration matters.



Dena Castricone



Joseph Schwartz

**Murtha Cullina LLP** has elected two new partners, **Dena M. Castricone** and **Joseph B. Schwartz**. Attorney Castricone assists skilled nursing centers, physician groups, and senior living communities with regulatory, compliance, and risk management issues. Attorney Schwartz represents businesses and individuals in all phases of local land use approval and complex real estate litigation.



Burt Cohen

**Murtha Cullina LLP** Partner **Burt Cohen** has been named president of the Lawyers Collaborative for Diversity. Their mission is to enhance diversity and inclusion in the Connecticut legal community for attorneys of color and women to practice law.



Eric Daniels

**Robinson+Cole** attorney **Eric D. Daniels** is chairing the 90th Anniversary Human Relations Award Banquet, hosted by the National Conference for Community and Justice. Attorney Daniels has previously led other major fundraising events for several Hartford-area nonprofits.



Stephen Goldman

**Stephen E. Goldman** of **Robinson+Cole** has been appointed to the Board of Directors of The Village for Families and Children. This nonprofit organization is one of the first in the country to provide homes for neglected children.



Julie Mahaney

**Locke Lord** has promoted **Julie Mahaney** to Partnership level. Attorney Mahaney practices insurance regulatory and general corporate law.



Madiha Malik

Litigation Associate **Madiha M. Malik** has joined **Murtha Cullina LLP**. Attorney Malik represents clients in a wide range of employment law and commercial litigation.



David Menard

**David A. Menard, Murtha Cullina LLP** partner, has been elected to the firm's executive committee. Attorney Menard is a member of the firm's Corporate Law Practice Group as well as chair of the firm's Entrepreneur Group.



John Parese

**Buckley & Wynne** has announced its new partner, **John M. Parese**. The firm is now named Buckley Wynne & Parese.



Sandy Roussas

Litigation attorney **Sandy T. Roussas** was invited to join the Claim and Litigation Management Alliance (CLM) of **Neubert Pepe & Monteith**. CLM consists of insurance companies, corporations, corporate counsel, litigation and risk managers, claims professionals, and attorneys.



Ryan Sullivan

**Holler Law Firm LLC** announced the promotion of **Ryan Sullivan** as managing attorney of closing operations. Attorney Sullivan will help coordinate closings for all of the firm's private purchases, sales and refinances, and all REO foreclosure purchases and sales.



Joshua Weinschank

**Cramer & Anderson LLP** has named **Joshua Weinschank** partner. Attorney Weinschank focuses his practice in the areas of trust and estate planning, elder law, and trust and probate administration.



Kristen Zaehring

**Kristen L. Zaehring** of **Murtha Cullina LLP** has been appointed to the Federal Grievance Committee by the Judges of the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut. Attorney Zaehring is part of the firm's Litigation Department as well as the Labor and Employment practice group.