
CONNECTICUT BAR ASSOCIATION NEWS & EVENTS

The Honorable Maria A. Kahn Receives 2017 Ladder Award



(L to R) Cindy M. Cieslak, YLS Women in the Law Committee chair; Judge Maria A. Kahn; and Daniel J.B. Edwards, Cacace Tusch & Santagata.

The Women in the Law Committee of the Connecticut Bar Association (CBA) in association with the Young Lawyers Section (YLS) honored Judge Maria A. Kahn of the Superior Court as the 2017 recipient of the Ladder Award. She was presented with the award at the Women in the

Law Committee program “Pathways to Leadership for Women Lawyers,” held on March 23 at the Inn at Middletown.

The Ladder Award was created by the YLS Women in the Law Committee in 2007 to honor a woman attorney who has “left the ladder down” for those women who follow in her footsteps. The award is aimed at recognizing the efforts of women in the profession who have recognized the importance of mentoring and supporting more junior lawyers in their own journeys to success in the profession. The Honorable Maria A. Kahn has joined a distinguished group of female attorneys including: Tanya A. Bovée, Diane W. Whitney, Nada K. Sizemore, Maureen Danehy Cox, Hon. Anne C. Dranginis, Rosemary Giuliano, Kathleen Brandt, Margaret Deluca, and Elizabeth J. Stewart.

CBA Women in the Law Section Chair Jennifer E. Wheelock welcomed attendees to the inspiring event, before introducing keynote speaker Susan Schmeiser, professor of law at UConn

School of law. Professor Schmeiser revealed that a cover of TIME Magazine inspired her speech on gender ambiguity noting that “questions of leadership and gender are of the utmost urgency.” She concluded with the curiosity of where leadership will come from in a post-binary world sharing, “leadership may come from those who come after rather than who come before, from the young people featured in TIME Magazine.”

Attorney Danielle J.B. Edwards of Cacace Tusch & Santagata introduced Judge Maria A. Kahn.

After asking the audience for a moment of silence to recognize those who have helped them in their careers, the Honorable Maria A. Kahn shared her experiences as a child immigrant from Angola, Africa, who 11 years later became a citizen of the United States in 1986 in the Federal Court in Hartford in front of Judge Peter C. Dorsey, who two years later hired her as his law clerk. Judge Kahn noted, “I share my story not to focus on my own accomplishments but, rather, because my story is one of many that illustrates the greatness of this country.”

As the first female judge of Portuguese descent in Connecticut, Judge Kahn greatly reflected on the importance of mentors and role models sharing, “As leaders in our profession we all must play a part in ensuring that the benefits and opportunities available to us will be there for others to come.” She expressed that mentoring others is not optional for her, but that it is a responsibility she has to give back, concluding, “I truly believe that each one of us has an obligation to give back to our community. I guarantee that it will be one of the most rewarding aspects of your professional experiences.” **CL**

GLAD Honors State Comptroller Kevin Lembo for LGBTQ Advocacy



GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD) honored Connecticut State Comptroller Kevin Lembo for his decades of advocacy on behalf of LGBTQ people, children, and families at the “Justice for All” event, held at the Studio at Billings Forge in Hartford.

After advocating public health during the HIV/AIDS pandemic, Comptroller Lembo was appointed as the state’s first Health Care Advocate in 2004, helping thousands of Connecticut residents receive healthcare access.

Currently serving his second term as state comptroller, GLAD reports that he is the first openly gay statewide official in Connecticut, and has continued to be a strong advocate for fairness and equality for all in the state. **CL**

CBA Celebrates 2017 Law Day



CREC Public Safety Academy students with CBA President-elect Karen DeMeola, CBA Civics Education Committee Chair Ralph Monaco, and committee member Kathy Calibey.

The Connecticut Bar Association's Civics Education Committee held its annual Law Day Celebration on Friday, May 5, 2017 at the Connecticut Appellate Court in Hartford. Students from CREC Public Safety Academy in Enfield were joined by CBA President-elect Karen DeMeola, Secretary of the State Denise Merrill, Civics Education Committee Chair Ralph Monaco, and committee members Jon Weiner and Kathy Calibey.

Law Day is a national effort to inform citizens about the importance of the law and the role it plays in our everyday lives. This year's theme, declared by the American Bar Association, was "The 14th Amendment: Transforming American Democracy."

Students constructed essays based a fact pattern presented to them about a 15 year old boy named Carlos Sanchez who, although he was born in the United States, his mother's visa has expired. Carlos wants to try out for his high school's soccer team, however, at the request of parents within the school district, in order to participate in any high school athletic team program, students must establish his or her parents' residency.

CREC Public Safety Academy students were asked whether or not they believed that this ordinance is constitutional under Section



CREC Public Safety Academy essay winners with CBA President-elect Karen DeMeola and Chief Judge Alexandra D. DiPentima.

One of the Fourteenth Amendment. The top three essay winners presented their essays to the Appellate Court judges. After their essay presentations, the students ate lunch at the Connecticut State Capitol where they each received citations from Secretary of the State Denise Merrill. **CL**

Gregory D'Auria Appointed as a Supreme Court Associate Justice



Gregory D'Auria was sworn in as an associate justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court after a nomination by Governor Malloy. Justice D'Auria is filling the spot on the bench formerly held by Associate Justice Peter T. Zarella who retired in December. Justice D'Auria is the third state Supreme Court justice to sit on the bench without prior judgeship experience.

Justice D'Auria, a Hebron resident, has worked for the Office of the Attorney General for 23 years, where he served as an assistant attorney general, associate attorney general for litigation, and head of the special litigation and charities unit. Attorney General George Jepsen appointed him the state's first solicitor general in 2011. **CL**

Governor Malloy Appoints CBA Members for Judgeship

Governor Dannel Malloy announced his 13 appointments to fill vacancies for judgeships on the Connecticut Superior Court. Of the 13 appointments, eight are CBA members. All have been approved by the General Assembly and have taken their seats in courts throughout the state.

CBA member nominations include:

1. Barry F. Armata, Brown Pandiris & Scott LLP
2. John L. Cordani, Carmody Torrance Sandak & Hennessey LLP
3. Matthew D. Gordon, Past CBA treasurer; House of Delegates member
4. Kimberly A. Knox, Past CBA president; Horton Dowd Bartschi & Levesque PC
5. Margaret M. Murphy, CBA Elder Law Section Treasurer
6. W. Glen Pierson, Loughlin Fitzgerald PC
7. Elizabeth J. Stewart, Murtha Cullina LLP
8. Thomas J. Welch, Teodosio Stanek & Blake LLC **CL**

Pathways to Legal Careers Program Launches



On test Wednesday, May 31, CBA President-elect Karen DeMeola kicked-off the Pathways to Legal Careers: An Access and Opportunity Pipeline Program at the University of Connecticut School of Law. More than 125 students from Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School in New London, Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy, Hartford Public High School, and New London High School heard from judges and attorneys about what they do in their current positions, why they pursued a legal career, and what steps students should take towards acceptance into law school.

The mission of Pathways to Legal Careers is to connect high school students with legal professionals to develop interest in a legal career and establish mentor relationships that will help advance the careers of future young lawyers. The event was the official launch of the program that held events earlier this year.

Justice Richard A. Robinson, Judge Sheila M. Prats, and Judge Kenneth L. Shluger spoke about the different types of laws on a panel moderated by Christine Jean-Louis, chair of the CBA Diversity & Inclusion Summit Committee. Attorneys Margaret I. Castinado, Sheila S. Charmoy, Proloy K. Das, and Denise V. Zamore served on a panel of first-generation citizens, moderated by Garlinck Dumont, chair of the CBA Membership Committee; panelists shared their path to their respective legal careers and the numerous choices of areas of practice. Roberta Frick, Director of Financial Aid, UConn School of Law; Kathy A. Kuhar, Associate Dean of Students, Quinnipiac University School of Law; and Diane Whitney, Pre-law Advisor, UConn School of Law, shared the steps students should take to get into and pay for law school, on a panel moderated by Karen DeMeola, Assistant Dean for Enrollment and Students, UConn School of Law.

Throughout the event, students were reminded of the importance of strong foundational skills such as the ability to read, write, and speak in public, and the need for diversity in the future of the legal profession. Keynote speaker Rebecca Kelly Golfman reminded students, "the law is all around us. The law impacts almost every aspect of our lives. Because of that we need to make sure the people writing our laws, the people modeling our laws, and people shaping our laws represent all of us." **CL**



(L to R) Karen DeMeola, Assistant Dean for Enrollment and Students, UConn School of Law; Diane Whitney, Pre-law Advisor, UConn School of Law; Kathy A. Kuhar, Associate Dean of Students, Quinnipiac University School of Law; and Roberta Frick, Director of Financial Aid, UConn School of Law.



CBA President-elect Karen DeMeola welcomes students from Hartford and New London.



Keynote speaker Rebecca Kelly Golfman.



Justice Richard A. Robinson, Judge Kenneth L. Shluger, and Judge Sheila M. Prats served on the "What is the Law?" panel, moderated by Christine Jean-Louis, and shared the various aspects of state and federal laws.

MEMBERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

CT Attorneys Form First Collaborative Business Dispute Resolution Group in State

Fifteen Connecticut attorneys have come together to offer collaborative divorce resolution to the business community. The newly formed group, Collaborative Business Dispute Resolution (CBDR), provides an alternative to litigation, arbitration, and mediation. It is the first of its kind in Connecticut.

With a goal to avoid litigation and save time and money, this collaborative method differs from mediation when one neutral professional works with the parties to resolve disputes. The mediator assists in understanding each other's points of view and developing settlement options. They cannot give legal advice or advocate for either party.

The 15 attorneys involved in creating this new type of business dispute resolution are:

- David M. Barry, Jr., Jacobs Walker Rice & Barry LLC
- Mark Block, Block Janney & Associates LLC
- Deborah L. Dorio, Pease & Dorio PC
- Bridget C. Gallagher, Brown Paindiris & Scott LLP
- Brian T. Henebry, Carmody Torrance Sandak & Hennessey LLP
- Paul N. Iannone, Rogin Nassau LLC
- John L. Laudati, Murphy Laudati Kiel Buttler Rattigan LLC
- Frank A. Leone, Leone Throwe Teller & Nagle
- David J. Markowitz, Markowitz & Mawhinney LLC
- Justin L. Murphy, Kahan Kerensky & Capassela
- Nicholas Paindiris, Brown Paindiris & Scott LLP
- Michael A. Pease, Pease & Dorio PC
- Margaret F. Rattigan, Murphy Laudati Kiel Buttler Rattigan LLC
- James M. Saya, Rogin Nassau LLC
- Jonathan M. Shapiro, Shapiro Law Offices LLC



(L to R) State Representative Stephanie Cummings, State Representative Christine Conley, CBA YLS Legislative Affairs Director David J. McGuire, CBA President-elect Karen DeMeola, and CBA Vice President Jonathan Shapiro.

YLS Holds Annual Legislative Breakfast

The CBA YLS held its annual legislative breakfast at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford on May 3. Section members met with Attorney General George Jepsen, State Comptroller Kevin Lembo, and State Representatives Christine Conley and Stephanie Cummings at the event.

Both guest speakers, State Representatives Christine Conley and Stephanie Cummings, are practicing attorneys, in the first year of their freshman term, and sit on the Joint Committee on the Judiciary. They spoke about how their training as a law-

yer has helped them focus on issues, look at unintended consequences and possibility liabilities, and utilize their negotiating skills to achieve agreement outcomes. Similar to their careers in the legal profession, they both emphasized the importance of following through on what you say you will do and sticking to your word.

All of the government officials in attendance encouraged the young lawyers to continue their social and political networking and run for a position in their local town or city government. **CL**

Attorneys



Catherine Bailey

The **Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF)** promoted **Catherine Bailey** to deputy director. Attorney Bailey oversees the organization's Legal Education Program and Public Policy Program.



Kenneth C. Baldwin



Gerald P. Dwyer Jr.



Linda L. Morkan

Robinson+Cole's Managing Committee has appointed new leaders to three of their practice groups. **Kenneth C. Baldwin** will co-chair the Environmental + Utilities Group, **Gerald P. Dwyer Jr.** will chair

the Insurance + Reinsurance Group, and **Linda L. Morkan**, will chair the Appellate Group.



Andrew P. Barsom

Andrew P. Barsom has joined **Seiger Gfeller Laurie LLP** as partner. Attorney Barsom focuses his practice within the areas of Banking and Financial Institution Litigation; Commercial Litigation; Landlord-Tenant matters; and Commercial and Personal Debt Collection.



Julia P. Boisvert

Murtha Cullina LLP welcomes **Julia P. Boisvert** as an associate in the Health Care Practice Group. Attorney Boisvert assists hospitals, physicians, physician practice groups, social service providers, and other health care providers with a variety of health care regulatory, corporate, and business issues.



Jonathan A. Kaplan

Pullman & Comley LLC has named attorneys **Jill D. Blinks** and **Jonathan A. Kaplan** as a members of the firm. Attorney Blinks practices in the area of family law and Attorney Kaplan practices in the area of complex commercial litigation and handles a wide range of business disputes.



Jennifer M. DelMonico

Managing Partner of **Murtha Cullina LLP**, **Jennifer M. DelMonico**, will receive the "Women in Business" award from the *Hartford Business Journal*. Each year, this award recognizes remarkable women throughout Central Connecticut who hold leadership roles and make a difference in their organization and community.



Nuala E. Droney

Nuala E. Droney of **Robinson+Cole** has been elected to the Board of Trustees of the Boys & Girls Clubs in Hartford. These clubs serve thousands of the region's most needy children and teens every year.



Gerald L. Garlick



Linda C. Hadley



Craig M. Lovely

Seiger Gfeller Laurie LLP welcomed **Gerald L. Garlick** and **Linda C. Hadley** as partners and **Craig M. Lovely** as a new associate. Attorney Garlick focuses his practice on litigation, Attorney Hadley represents national and

community banks, and Attorney Lovely practices in the areas of foreclosures and collections, creditor's rights, and real estate.



David M. Green

David M. Green has joined **CzepigaDalyPope LLC** as a litigation associate. Attorney Green defends and prosecutes will contests, nursing facility collection actions, conservatorships, fiduciary accountings and mismanagement, and elder financial exploitation.



Jessica Grossarth

Jessica Grossarth of **Pullman & Comley LLC** has been inducted into the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, which seeks to honor those who have contributed to the enhancement of women's basketball in Connecticut, either through participation, service, support, or achievement.

Firms/Organizations



The **Law Offices of Elizabeth Edwards** has moved their location to 426 Danbury Rd in Wilton. Their mailing address and phone number will remain the same. The firm will continue to offer their services of general practice.

The **Center for Children's Advocacy** is pleased to announce the creation of The Arnold Rutkin Scholars Fund, in honor of Attorney **Arnold Rutkin**. This fund will allow the Center for Children's Advocacy to give intensive, legal advocacy for two youth each year as they transition out of DCF care and into secondary education.

The **George W. Crawford Black Bar Association** honors Corporation Counsel for the City of New Haven, **John Rose**, with the Visionary Award and Shipman & Goodwin LLP Partner **Robert Simpson** with the Trailblazer Award, at the 40th Annual Awards and Scholarship Dinner.



Stephan E. Goldman

Robinson+Cole sponsored the Hartford Stage's production of *The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey* where managing partner **Stephen E. Goldman** presented a donation check to support the National Conference for Community and Justice. **CL**