
CONNECTICUT BAR ASSOCIATION NEWS & EVENTS

An Evening with Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer

In a rare public appearance on September 28, United States Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer sat down with Norah O'Donnell, of CBS, to discuss a myriad of topics ranging from the ever evolving nature of the Supreme Court to landmark decisions like *Bush v. Gore*. The Connecticut Bar Association was a proud sponsor of the CT Forum event and offered a special promotion code to members. CBA officers were given the opportunity to attend a pre-talk dinner. **CL**



Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States Stephen Breyer with the moderator for the evening, Norah O'Donnell, co-host of *CBS This Morning*, at a sold-out crowd at the Hartford Bushnell.



President Karen DeMeola and President-elect Jonathan Shapiro with their free copy of Supreme Court Justice Breyer's new book, *The Court and the World: American Law and the New Global Realities*.

Governor Malloy Nominates Judges Bright, Kahn, and Mullins

On November 1, Governor Malloy's nomination of Judges Maria Kahn and Raheem Mullins to the Connecticut Supreme Court and Judge William Bright to the appellate court, were affirmatively approved by the Judiciary Committee as interim justices and judge to their respective courts. The committee will meet again in January to discuss and approve them as permanent. If they are then approved by the General Assembly, their eight year terms will begin in February. **CL**



(L to R) Governor Dannel Malloy, Judge Maria Kahn, Judge Raheem Mullins, and Judge William Bright.

CBA Officer Nominations Requested

The CBA is currently looking to fill the positions of vice president, secretary, treasurer, and assistant secretary-treasurer for the 2018-2019 bar year.

CBA members are encouraged to submit their own names, or names of other members who may have an interest in serving as an officer of the association. Each nominated name should be accompanied by a biographical sketch or resume detailing participation in activities including CBA governance, such as membership

in the House of Delegates; Board of Governors; sections or committees; involvement with local, affinity, or specialty bar associations; and volunteer and community activities, particularly those related to the practice of law such as pro bono service, service on judicial panels and commissions, and services on standing committees.

Proposed names should be e-mailed to the Nominating Committee Chair Monte E. Frank, at mfrank@ctbar.org or sent in an envelope marked "CONFIDENTIAL" to the Connecticut Bar Association, 30 Bank Street, New Britain, CT 06051. Please submit names by December 31, 2017.

For more information, visit ctbar.org/OfficerNominations. **CL**

Presidential Fellows Begin New Bar Year



(L to R) Lucas Hernandez, Danielle Edwards, Daniel Cooper, Latisha Davis, Karolyn Ryan, David Austin, Suphi Philip, and Cody Guarneri.

On Wednesday, October 4, the Presidential Fellows convened at the CBA Law Center in New Britain for their first meeting of the 2017-2018 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.

CBA Co-interim Executive Directors Carol DeJohn and Suzanne Hard, along with Membership Committee Chair Garlinck Dumont, greeted the Fellows at their first meeting, where 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 respective sections.

The new Presidential Fellows for the 2017-2019 term are: David Austin, Daniel Cooper, and Suphi Philip. They join returning Fellows: Steven Allinson, Tamar Bakhbava, Latisha Davis, Danielle Edwards, Karolyn Ryan, and Andrew Walter. **CL**

CBA President Honored with Legal Achievement Award

On November 2, President Karen DeMeola was awarded with the Connecticut Italian-American Bar Association's (CIABA) Italian-American Achievement Award at their annual Honorable Richard M. Marano Heritage & Awards Dinner, with keynote speaker Chief Justice Chase T. Rogers.

"Attorney DeMeola, a proud Italian-American, has done the Italian-American community in Connecticut proud. CIABA's board of directors saw it eminently appropriate to recognize her at this year's banquet," stated CIABA president, Daniel P. Elliott.

The CIABA was formed in 1992 by the late Superior Court Judge Richard M. Marano. Each year, the organization holds an annual banquet celebrating the Italian heritage and honors the achievements of Italian-Americans in the legal community. **CL**



(L to R) CIABA President Daniel P. Elliott, CBA President Karen DeMeola, and one of the CIABA directors, Francesco Mioli.

Chief Justice to Retire from Supreme Court



On Thursday, November 2, Chief Justice Chase T. Rogers announced that she will be retiring on February 5, 2018, after nearly a decade as chief justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court.

Supreme Court Justice Richard N. Palmer stated, "Chase Rogers was appointed chief justice at a most challenging time for this state's judicial branch, but under her calm and thoughtful leadership, the branch is once again a national model for the way in which state judicial systems should operate."

Chief Justice Rogers became judge of the superior court in 1998, was sworn in as an appellate court judge in 2006, and nominated to be chief justice by Governor M. Jodi Rell in 2007. When she steps down, she will have reached 20 years on the bench. **CL**

Hollywood Comes to the CBA

New Britain was abuzz this August when it was selected as the main filming location for the Christmas movie *A Very Merry Toy Store*. Locations throughout the city were selected for filming, including City Hall, the beloved Amato's Toy and Hobby, and your very own Connecticut Bar Association Law Center.

The Hollywood cast includes Melissa Joan Hart, Mario Lopez, Billy Gardell, Beth Broderick, Diane Janssen, Mario Cantone, Dan Aykroyd, and Tara Strong. The characters, played by Melissa Joan Hart

and Mario Lopez, each run a family-owned toy store in Connecticut. They have been business rivals for years, until both of their livelihoods fall into jeopardy when the big box toy store "Roy's Toys" opens right before Christmas. Roy's Toys corporate office was filmed at the Connecticut Bar Association Law Center.

The film was directed by Paula Hart and produced by Hartbreak Films and local company Synthetic Cinema International. It premiered Sunday, November 26 on Lifetime. **CL**



Melissa Joan Hart coming out of a CBA office, decorated as Roy's Toys conference room.



The law center's first floor member lounge book shelf was decorated with toys for Roy's Toys corporate office.



The CBA's executive director office was decorated to be Roy's Toys conference room. Cameras and lighting were placed in the office ceiling.

CBA Hosts its Third Annual LegalTech Conference



Legal tech national speaker Barron Henley of Affinity Consulting Group LLC, providing attendees with Microsoft Word power tips.

On October 6, the CBA held its third annual LegalTech/Law Practice Management Conference at the CBA Law Center in New Britain. This full-day conference provided attendees with solutions to meet the challenges of legal technology, law firm management, and productivity.

Experienced practitioners and legal tech professionals presented interactive seminars on what lawyers need to know about the latest technology. In between seminars, attendees had the opportunity to meet with exhibitors, including Casemaker, CATICPro, Cosmolex, Tzedakah House LLC, and LEAP. The day's topics included power tips on using Microsoft Word, marketing and social media strategies, efficient billing and accounting for small firms, methods for drafting complex documents, instructions on how to effectively use Casemaker, and many more. Save the date for next year's conference on Friday, September 28! **CL**

CBA Volunteer Attorneys Give Back to Veterans



CBA Past President Barry Hawkins (2012-2013) and Major Michael Criscuolo assisting veterans at the Stand Down program.

On September 22, the Connecticut Bar Association was honored to once again join over 70 agencies and social service organizations helping Connecticut veterans at Stand Down 2017 at the Veterans Home in Rocky Hill. CBA attorney volunteers helped more than 50 Connecticut veterans with their legal needs, as well as directed them to where they may receive resolution.

Stand Down for homeless veterans was modeled after the Stand Down concept used during the Vietnam War to provide a safe retreat for units returning from combat operations. It provided battle-weary soldiers the opportunity to renew their spirit, health, and overall sense of well-being. **CL**

Attorney Announcements

Matthew Blumenthal, Emily Rock, and Sarah Steinfeld have joined **Koskoff Koskoff & Bieder** as new attorneys. Attorney Blumenthal and Attorney Rock graduated from Yale Law School and Attorney Steinfeld graduated from Columbia Law School.



Dan Brody

Dan A. Brody of **Robinson+Cole** was elected to the board of directors of the Children's Law Center, whose mission is to protect low income children in family court cases.



James Horwitz

James Horwitz of **Koskoff Koskoff & Bieder** has been named president of the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association, who are dedicated to creating and maintaining a more just society by preserving individual rights within the justice system.



Kathleen Nastri

Koskoff Koskoff & Bieder attorney **Kathleen L. Nastri** has been named president of the American Association of Justice, whose mission is to support the work of attorneys in their efforts to ensure that anyone injured by the misconduct or negligence of others can obtain justice in America's courtrooms.



Patricia Reilly

Patricia E. Reilly has joined **Murtha Cullina LLP**, as a partner. Attorney Reilly is a member of the litigation department and the labor and employment practice group.



Emily McDonough Souza

Neubert Pepe & Monteith PC welcomes **Emily McDonough Souza** as a new associate. Attorney Souza has joined the firm's medical malpractice and hospital liability defense, and professional malpractice and liability defense practice groups.

Rhonda J. Tobin of **Robinson+Cole** has been elected to the Hartford Stage Board of Directors. Hartford Stage is known for producing innovative revivals of classics and provocative new plays and musicals.



Steven Zelman

Murphy Laudati Kiel Buttler Rattigan LLC congratulates **Judge Steven Zelman** on retirement from the Tobacco Valley Probate Court. After 26 years on the bench he will continue to practice at their firm, where he has been of counsel focusing on probate, estate planning, estate administration, real estate, and commercial litigation since 2012.

Firm/Organization Announcements

Robinson+Cole was presented with the Pro Bono Partnership's inaugural Founders' Award for housing the Hartford program for 10 years. In addition to the firm donating office space, conference rooms, office services, and IT assistance, firm lawyers have volunteered their time to the pro bono projects. **CL**



In Memoriam

Retired CBA member **William R. Jones, Sr.** passed away on September 13, at the age of 97. After graduating from the University of Connecticut School of Law, he founded the firm now known as Jones Damia Kaufman & DePaul LLC in Danbury, where he practiced law for 65 years. During his career, he served as judge of the state traffic court, as a state trial referee in the Judicial District of Danbury, and was appointed to the CBA Ethics Committee.



Prior to attending law school, Attorney Jones enlisted in the U.S. Navy after earning his B.S. in Geology from St. Lawrence University, where he was commissioned a hydrographic survey officer. In two years at sea, he helped to chart island invasions as part of the Pacific campaign. **CL**

CBA member **Mark Stern** passed away on August 3, at the age of 63. After earning his JD from Loyola Marymount School of Law, he worked at several prestigious law firms before founding his international law practice, Mark Stern & Associates in 1986. Attorney Stern served as a fact finder and arbitrator for the Stamford Connecticut Superior Court and as a director for the Fairfield County Bar Association. He was involved in many CBA sections, including the Business Law Section, Federal Practice Section, Labor and Employment Law Section, Litigation Section, and Real Property Section. Attorney Stern volunteered his time with dozens of organizations focused on law enforcement, emergency management, law, commercial security, and more. **CL**

