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# CONNECTICUT BAR ASSOCIATION NEWS & EVENTS

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## William C. Brown Receives 2017 Pomeranz-O'Brien Award

Workers' Compensation Section member William "Bill" C. Brown received the 2017 Pomeranz-O'Brien Award for his contribution and exemplary service to the workers' compensation system and community. The Pomeranz-O'Brien Award is presented to a practitioner who has, over the course of their career, exhibited excellence in the practice of workers' compensation law, and/or made outstanding and extraordinary contributions to the practice.

Attorney Brown was a founding member of the Workers' Compensation Section and served on its executive committee. He worked tirelessly on the development and implementation of the Workers' Compensation Specialist Certification program and served as chair of the program's standing committee. Throughout his career, he authored articles for the section's newsletter, *Compensation Quarterly*, and lectured at CBA and Connecticut Trial Lawyer's Association seminars. Attorney Brown retired from his firm, McGann Bartlett & Brown LLC, in 2016 and is now mediating workers' compensation claims with the Law Office of Angelo Paul Sevarino. **CL**



CBA Workers' Compensation Section Chair Francis X. Drapeau with Pomeranz-O'Brien Award recipient William C. Brown.

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## Seventh Annual Federal Tax Institute of New England

On November 10, 2017, over 150 attorneys gathered at Saint Clements Castle in Portland, CT for the 2017 Federal Tax Institute of New England, founded by Frank S. Berall in 2011 and chaired by tax law veteran Deborah J. Tedford. Attendees spent the day receiving a comprehensive education from national speakers on cutting edge tax and estate planning issues that may have occurred within

the past year, as well as ideas to improve their practice and service to their clients. Seminar topics varied from how to achieve tax free compounding, important issues in special needs trusts, ethics of a tax practice, and a Washington update of tax changes ten months into the Trump administration.

This year's CBA faculty speakers included: Commissioner Kevin B. Sullivan, Marcel J. Bernier, K. Bradoc "Brad" Gallant, Rebecca A. Iannantuoni, Daniel G. Johnson, Peter S. Jongbloed, Katherine A. McAllister, Lisa E. Perkins, Daniel M. Smolnik, Michael P. Spiro, and Barbara Taylor. **CL**

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## Annual 100% Club Appreciation Breakfast

The 100% Club managing partners met on November 9, 2017 at the Quinnipiack Club in New Haven for their annual appreciation breakfast. Attendees were joined by President Karen DeMeola who discussed the future of the legal profession and access to legal justice issues. Additionally, featured guest, New Haven Mayor Toni N. Harp, discussed New Haven's response to Connecticut's opioid crisis. **CL**



100% Club managing partners learned managerial strategies from New Haven Mayor Toni N. Harp.



## Assistant State's Attorney Volunteers as Pitching Coach for Hartford Team

Assistant State's Attorney and Connecticut Lawyer Supreme Deliberations column co-author Matthew Weiner, gives city teens the opportunity to practice baseball and play six months out of the year by volunteering as pitching coach of Hartford's American Legion team.

American Legion baseball is a national institution that has taught hundreds of thousands of young Americans the importance of sportsmanship, good health, and promotes equality by making teammates out of young athletes regardless of their income levels. The Connecticut league finished its 90th season last July.

Attorney Weiner spends his days representing Connecticut in criminal appeals and trying cases in the state's highest courts. He has juggled his caseload with Hartford Legion baseball stating, "I couldn't really think of a better way to be able to put the work down, at least for a certain period of time, and do something that's fulfilling in a much different way." **CL**

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## Workers' Comp Section Donates More Than \$11,000 to CT Food Bank and Foodshare

The Workers' Compensation Section donated over \$11,000 to Connecticut Food Bank and Foodshare. The donated funds were proceeds from the 19th Annual Verrilli-Belkin Workers' Compensation Charity Golf Event held on September 14, 2017. Since the inception of the event in 1999, the section has raised over \$200,000 for the two food assistance organizations.

Connecticut Food Bank's Chief Executive Officer Bernard J. Beaudreau thanked the section, stating, "Thanks to you [the CBA Workers' Compensation Section] we are able to feed more people in our communities every day."

The Connecticut Food Bank and Foodshare partners with the food industry, food growers, donors, and volunteers to distribute food to people across Connecticut. **CL**



(L to R) Workers' Compensation Section Chair Francis X. Drapeau, Connecticut Food Bank Chief Executive Officer Bernard J. Beaudreau, Foodshare Corporate and Community Giving Manager Al Marino, and Charity Golf Committee Chair Richard L. Aiken, Jr.

## Young Lawyers Section Collects Donations for Two Local Charities

At their annual holiday party, the YLS collected gift cards and in-kind donations for My Sisters' Place and monetary donations for the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness' *be homeful* project. My Sisters' Place provides women with infants a warm place to stay, food, and services that are designed to get them back onto the road to independence. Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness works to prevent and end homelessness statewide.

For every \$25 raised through the *be homeful* project, a child in a local shelter will receive a Paddington bear or book. YLS Chair Aidan R. Welsh shared, "Participation by the Young Lawyers Section was tremendous and exceeded our fundraising goals for the event. We raised money for two wonderful causes, partnered with Faxon Law Group to sponsor the event, mixed and mingled with fellow lawyers in the state, and rung in the New Year." **CL**



YLS Real Estate and Property Law Committee Chair Patricia (Paty) Jimenez and YLS member Justin Durelli have collected donations for the two organizations.

## YLS Volunteers for Hartford Area Habitat for Humanity

The Young Lawyers Section spent a day volunteering with the Hartford Area Habitat for Humanity. Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit organization that helps eliminate poverty housing through creating home ownership opportunities for low income working families.

The section volunteer attorneys hung sheetrock and helped build a deck at a multiple duplex building site in Hartford. "Although none of us had any real construction experience, we all had a great time volunteering with Habitat for Humanity. It provided a wonderful opportunity to help build more affordable homes in the Hartford area and to give back to the community," said Joanna Kornafel, YLS public service director. "I'm looking forward to the next one!" The section plans to volunteer again in the spring for the Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County. **CL**



(L to R) CBA Co-interim Executive Director Carol DeJohn, YLS Public Service Director Joana M. Kornafel, YLS Treasurer Amanda Gordon Schreiber, YLS Chair Aidan R. Welsh, Tax Law YLS Committee Chair Lauren M. McNair, and YLS member Molly C. Sanford.

# Welcome New Admittees

Nearly 200 new attorneys were sworn-in to the Connecticut bar at the Connecticut Supreme Court. Justices in attendance included Justice Gregory T. D'Auria, Senior Justice Carman E. Espinosa, Justice Andrew J. McDonald, Justice Richard N. Palmer, Justice Richard A. Robinson, and then-Chief Justice Chase T. Rogers.

In her opening remarks, Chief Justice Chase T. Rogers urged the newly admitted attorneys to do as much pro bono work as they can, asking them not to forget those who cannot afford legal assistance. After the administration of oath given by Justice Richard N. Palmer, CBA President Karen DeMeola welcomed the attorneys into the bar,

telling them that there is much more to learn, and the learning will never stop. She continued by offering advice for their journey as lawyers, encouraging them to find mentors who can help build their professional identities. "The legal profession is one of privilege and power, and not many can do what you have all done. Never forget where you came from," President DeMeola stated.

After the ceremony, the newly admitted attorneys and their families were invited to attend a reception at the State Capitol, hosted by the Connecticut Bar Association Young Lawyers Section along with bar associations across Connecticut.

## The CBA would like to welcome the following newly-admitted attorneys to the bar association:

Kristen M. Ahern	Sara J. Dickson	Monica J. Lashos	Paschaline Nsiah-Asare	Elizabeth Tawa
Lori H. Aldrich	Martin J. Divitz II	Tiffany Leavy	Ashley Palma	Tiffany Tisler
Taylor Amato	Elizabeth Donoghue	Zachary Liebnick	Cara Passaro	Lhens Vilson
Chantelle D. Ankerman	Enre Duey	Melissa Anne Little	Caroline Patenaude	Michael Vincent
Jenna Bessette	Ben Dugle	Michael Longo, Jr.	Joshua Perldeiner	Micah Vitale
Samantha Bishop	Allison Ercolano	Shaun Loughlin	Sarah Piscatelli	Izick Vizel
Jeffrey Bouchard	Joseph W. Fazzino	Diaghilev Lubin-Farnell	Ronald J. Pogliese, Jr.	Alex Wang
Corina Brouder	Robert Fitzgerald	Kimberly Lund	Austin Provost	So Young Wang
Marlon Bryan	Katey Garrett	Margaret Mark	Caitlin Rauchle	Leigh Wellington
Nicholas Caiafa	Rio Josue Gonzalez	Brandon Massaro	Kyler Rowley	Molly Wilcox
Cara Cavallari	Alec Gulash	Dennis Mavtner	Sarah Elizabeth Ryan	Kaylee Wilson
Zachary Chase	Miriam Hasbin	Jennifer Maynard	Jordon Sala	Tristan Winkler
Mariely Clarkson	Taylor Henley	Andrew McLee	Christina M. Sanchez	Holly Wonneberger
Christopher Daiss	Jamison Jedziniak	Casey Miller	Benjamin Schimelmon	Lotaya Wright <b>CL</b>
Rebecca De Chellis	Melissa Jordon	Robert S. Murphy III	Dylan Shirely	
Patrick Deegan	Wonchi Ju	Sean Murphy III	Mathias Sportim	
Dorothy Diaz- Hennessey	Eric Larson	Lauren Nevreither	Melissa Stoll	



(L to R) Justice Gregory T. D'Auria, Justice Raheem Mullins, CBA President Karen DeMeola, Justice Maria Kahn, Justice Richard Robinson.



CBA President Karen DeMeola welcoming the new attorneys into the bar.

## Attorney Announcements

Judge Trial Referee **Arnold W. Aronson** is currently on the planning committee of the National Conference of State Tax Judges that schedules educational programs for judges who come from states throughout the country to hone their skills. This year's 37th annual conference was held in Massachusetts.



Alfred Casella

**Murtha Cullina LLP** partner **Alfred R. Casella** was elected as a fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, a prestigious association of highly-credentialed trust and estate lawyers.



Eric Daniels

**Robinson+Cole** attorney, **Eric D. Daniels**, has been elected to the board of directors of the MetroHartford Alliance, an organization that ensures Hartford competes aggressively and successfully for jobs, capital, and talent to remain a premier place for all people to live, play, work, and raise a family.



CBA Secretary and **Robinson+Cole** attorney, **Alaine C. Doolan**, led the effort to donate 35 backpacks filled with school supplies to the Truancy Intervention Project of Connecticut as part of the B.E.E. the Best program, of which she is founder. The B.E.E. the Best program supports children in grades K through 8 with backpacks containing necessary school supplies.



Robert Laplaca

**Verrill Dana LLP** recognized **Robert Laplaca** with the 2017 Roger A. Putnam Community Service Award for his charitable work and his role as firefighter for the Weston Volunteer Fire Department. This award was created in 2014 in honor of Roger Putnam, who gave more than 50 years of service to the community and the legal profession.



Dwight Merriam

**Dwight H. Merriam** of **Robinson+Cole** received the Jefferson B. Fordham Society's Lifetime Achievement Award during their luncheon at the American Bar Association's Annual Meeting. This award recognizes outstanding contributions to the practice of state and local government law by an individual over an entire career.



Nazish Nomani

**Kahan Kerensky & Capossela** welcomed **Nazish Nomani** as an associate in the estate planning and probate departments to their Vernon office. Attorney Nomani also has experience with civil litigation and immigration law.



Todd Regan



Peter Strniste Jr.

Attorneys **Todd R. Regan** and **Peter E. Strniste Jr.** of **Robinson+Cole** have accepted fellowships with the Construction Lawyers Society of America (CLSA). CLSA is an invitation-only construction lawyer honorary society with membership limited to 1,200 practicing fellows.



Norman Roos

**Norman H. Roos** of **Robinson+Cole** has been installed as treasurer of the American College of Mortgage Attorneys for the coming year. Attorney Roos focuses his practice on transactional and regulatory matters relating to real estate and financial services industries.



Arnold Rutkin

The **Center for Children's Advocacy** and **The Launders Charitable Trust** honored Attorney **Arnold Rutkin** with the establishment of the Arnold Rutkin Scholars Fund. The fund will support legal advocacy for youth who are aging out of state care and need assistance to find safe housing and enroll in post-secondary education programs.



Thomas Walsh

**Thomas J. Walsh** of **Brody Wilkinson PC** has been elected as a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation (ABF) for his leadership and achievement in the legal profession. The Fellows of the ABF is an honorary organization of attorneys, judges, law faculty, and legal scholars supporting the research program.

## Firm/Organization Announcements

**Berchem Moses & Devlin PC** announces their new name, **Berchem Moses PC**. In addition, seven senior level attorneys have joined the firm, including **Christopher M. Hodgson**, **Eileen Lavigne Flug**, **Christine Owens Morgan**, **Christine A. Sullivan**, **Paula N. Anthony**, **Desi Imetovski**, and **Alfred P. Bruno**.

The **Connecticut Bar Foundation** and the **Herbert and Nell Singer Foundation** have launched the Singer Connecticut Public Service Fellowship Program, established for the purpose of offering opportunities to recent law school graduates to gain practice experience working to Connecticut civil legal aid organizations.

**Robinson+Cole** presented the second annual George C. Hastings Community Service Award to the Greater Hartford Legal Aid Foundation during their alumni reunion. The award bears the name of the firm's former partner, George C. Hastings, who practiced with the firm for nearly 40 years.



**Robinson+Cole** attorneys and staff members volunteered at **MANNA Community Meals**, the **Hands On Hartford** soup kitchen, providing services for Hartford's homeless, working poor, and elderly populations. **CL**