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# CONNECTICUT BAR ASSOCIATION

# NEWS & EVENTS

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## Author and Moth Speaker Presents at Litigation Section Meeting

At a recent Litigation Section meeting, attendees learned how litigators can better tell their stories and capture the attention of a judge and jury from four time best-selling author **Matthew Dicks**. Matthew's talk was informed by not only authoring four novels, but also by his experience speaking on the nationally syndicated *Moth Radio Hour*, and personally wading into the legal system. He has previously lectured on storytelling at UConn Law, Yale, and Purdue. **CL**



Best-selling author and professional storyteller Matthew Dicks with Litigation Section Chair William J. O' Sullivan.

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## Washington, DC Expert on the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act Speaks at Section Meeting

**Seth Hanlon**, senior fellow at the Center for American Progress in Washington, DC and expert on the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, spoke at a joint Tax and Business Law Section meeting on the recent federal tax changes. His presentation provided attendees with an update regarding the 2017 Federal Tax Reform Legislation, including changes to corporate and business taxes, income tax and deduction changes, payroll and withholding changes, and more.

Seth is a former special assistant to the president for economic policy at the White House National Economic Council, where he coordinated the Obama administration's tax policy. He has also served as senior tax counsel under Representative Chris Van Hollen, tax counsel for Senator Debbie Stabenow, and his work has been cited in *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. **CL**



Seth Hanlon, senior fellow at the Center for American Progress in Washington, DC, with Tax Section Chair Luke Tashjian.

## Day Pitney LLP Partner Helps Raise over \$1,000,000 for Charity

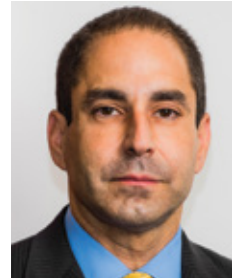
**Joshua W. Cohen**, partner in Day Pitney LLP's New Haven office, ran seven marathons in seven days on seven continents as part of the World Marathon Challenge. Attorney Cohen and his team, Team Hold the Plane, raised over \$1,000,000 for 11 organizations, including the ALS Association, Stand Up to Cancer, the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, and the Michael J. Fox Foundation.



The World Marathon Challenge began in Antarctica and ended in Miami, FL. The 55 athletes who participated in the challenge ran marathons in Antarctica, Africa, Australia, Asia, Europe, South America, and North America. **CL**

## Governor Malloy Nominates CBA Member for Commissioner of DVA

Governor Malloy announced that he is nominating **Thomas J. Saadi** to serve as the commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA). The mission of the DVA is to provide care for the approximately 200,000 veterans living in Connecticut and their dependents.



Prior to joining the DVA in 2015 as its general counsel and eventually becoming chief of staff, Attorney Saadi served as an assistant attorney general and special prosecutor, in which he litigated numerous cases and supervised investigations to stop false and deceptive practices recover funds for the State of Connecticut. Attorney Saadi is also a Major in the US Army Reserve, serving with the 411th Civil Affairs Battalion. **CL**

## In Memoriam

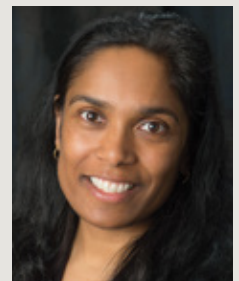
**Shelagh Heffernan O'Neill** passed away at the age of 87 this January. Following years of civic engagement and political involvement, Attorney O'Neill graduated from UConn School of Law in 1976. Shortly after graduating law school she co-founded Leete O'Neill & Kosto, the first all-female law firm in Connecticut. Her prior CBA involvement included membership in the real property and the estates and probate sections.



On January 30, 2018, **Patrick H. Bowen** passed away at the age of 78. Prior to opening his solo practice, the Law Office of Patrick H. Bowen, he served several roles with Kennecott Copper and was general counsel for Allied Stores. Attorney Bowen received his BA from Marietta College, his JD from Duke University School of Law, and his MBA from Columbia University Business School. **CL**

## Sudha Setty Named Next Dean of Law School

Western New England University School of Law Professor **Sudha Setty** has been named the next dean of the law school. She joined the faculty in 2006 and currently serves as professor of law and associate dean for the faculty development and intellectual life.



Professor Setty has received numerous awards for her work, including the 2017 Connecticut Bar Association Tapping Reeve Legal Educator Award, and two Western New England University School of Law Professor of the Year honors. Prior to entering academia, she served as a litigator with a focus on antitrust and securities regulation matters. She earned her JD from Columbia Law School and her AB from Stanford University. **CL**

# CBA Selects New Executive Director



The Connecticut Bar Association is pleased to announce its addition of Attorney Keith J. Soressi as the new executive director of the association on February 26, 2018.

“Keith’s extensive bar association experience and innovative approach to the future of the profession makes him a great fit for the CBA. I look forward to working with him,” stated CBA President Karen DeMeola.

Attorney Soressi comes to us from one of the largest suburban bar associations in the country, the Nassau County Bar Association,

where he served as executive director since 2012. Prior to his time there, he was the associate executive director of the New York State Bar Association.

In these positions, he directed bar operations and implemented policies, objectives, and programs, as well as oversaw the operations of finance, membership, CLE, and more. He received his BA in political science from University of California, Berkeley, his JD from the University of San Francisco, and has held positions at the District of Columbia Bar and the State Bar of California.

“I look forward to leading an organization that has made the advancement of diversity and inclusion and adjusting to the changing methods of delivering legal services and client expectations an integral part of its mission,” said Soressi. **CL**

## CBA Hosts Member Appreciation Week with Events across the State



Judges Kevin C. Doyle, Kimberly A. Knox, Gerald L. Harmon, and Barry Armata shared their path to the bench at a luncheon at the CBA Law Center.

During the week of March 5, the Membership Committee celebrated Member Appreciation Week by hosting free events across the state to thank members for their continued support and membership.

On Monday, members from the eastern Connecticut area enjoyed breakfast at the Lake of Isles in North Stonington. That evening, attorneys with more than 20 years of practice gathered in Bridgeport for a reception. During a luncheon at the CBA Law Center on Wednesday, Judges Barry Armata, Kevin C. Doyle, Gerald L. Har-

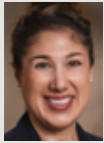
mon, and Kimberly A. Knox shared their stories of their path to the bench. Thursday evening, new members met and networked with CBA leadership at a reception at BAR in New Haven. On Friday, members shredded their old files, enjoyed ice cream from Ben & Jerry’s, and had the opportunity to meet the new executive director, Keith J. Soressi, at the CBA Law Center. Throughout the week, members who stopped into the CBA Law Center enjoyed some practical and sweet treats.



New members and CBA leaders at the New Member Reception at BAR.

“It is clear that the success of the Connecticut Bar Association lies within our membership. For that reason, we were pleased to provide a week-long appreciation to those collective individuals dedicated to our legal community,” said Garlinck Dumont, chair of the Membership Committee. “In its first year revived, we believe the Member Appreciation Week to have been a great success that will only get better with time! We look forward to seeing you next year!” **CL**

## Attorney Announcements



Jane E. Ballerini

**Jane E. Ballerini** of **Neubert Pepe & Monteith PC** has been named partner of the firm. Attorney Ballerini practices in the areas of commercial real estate law, commercial finance, and general commercial and business law.



Livia DeFilippis Barndollar

**Pullman & Comley LLC** welcomes past CBA president (2008-2009) **Livia DeFilippis Barndollar** to their firm. Attorney Barndollar focuses her practice on family law litigation matters involving dissolution of marriage, and post judgement and appellate proceedings.



Patricia L. Boye-Williams

**Patricia L. Boye-Williams** of **Murtha Cullina LLP** was elected to the Town Council of Farmington, representing the 2nd District. She is a member of the firm's environmental and renewable energy practice groups, and is a former assistant attorney general.

**Nicholas Caiafa** recently joined **McCarter & English LLP's** Stamford office as an associate in the intellectual property/information technology practice group.



Britt-Marie K. Cole-Johnson

**Robinson+Cole** attorney **Britt-Marie K. Cole-Johnson** was appointed to the advisory board of Teach for America-Connecticut, a national corps of leaders committed to teaching low-income schools and confronting educational inequity.



Catherine A. Cuggino

**Murtha Cullina LLP** welcomes **Catherine A. Cuggino** as an associate in the firm's business and finance department. She is also a member of the real estate practice group.



Peter Knight

**Peter Knight** of **Robinson+Cole** was appointed to Connecticut Legal Services' (CLS) board of directors. CLS is dedicated to helping low-income families and individuals meet their basic needs and to be assured equal access to opportunities and justice.



Lorey R. Leddy

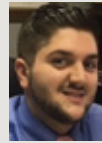
**Murtha Cullina LLP** welcomed **Lorey R. Leddy** as counsel in their litigation department. Attorney Leddy has extensive trial and appellate experience in corporate and individual client matters pending before both the state and federal courts.

**Jeffery Matrullo**, associate in the Hartford office of **McCarter & English LLP**, was re-elected to the Board of Education in Cromwell.



Thomas D. Colin

Retired superior court judge, **Thomas D. Colin**, has re-joined **Schoonmaker George & Blomberg PC**. The firm, now known as Schoonmaker George Colin & Blomberg PC, provides legal representation in matrimonial and family law matters.



Steven D. Morelli

**Steven D. Morelli** has joined **The Law Offices of Mark E. Salomone & Morelli**. Prior to joining the firm, Attorney Morelli completed a one-year appointment as a law clerk for the judges of the Hartford Superior Court.



Tracy A. Saxe

**Basam Nabulsi**, partner in the Stamford office of **McCarter & English LLP**, was elected to the Planning and Zoning Commission in Wilton.

Managing partner of **Saxe Doernberger & Vita PC's** Trumbull office, **Tracy A. Saxe**, was awarded with the Words of Wisdom Award at the 37th IRMI Construction Risk Conference. This award recognizes one speaker who has made an outstanding contribution to the construction risk management community.

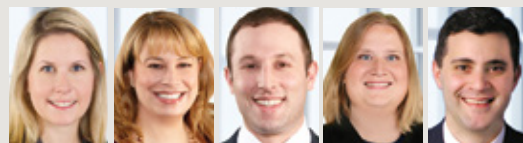
## Firm/Organization Announcements



**Halloran & Sage LLP** attorneys and staff gave back in a firm-wide donation drive to the New Haven Community Soup Kitchen, Family & Children's Agency of Norwalk, and Hands On Hartford, donating Halloween candy and fruit, toiletries, and winter accessories and basic necessities.



People's United Bank and **Pullman & Comley LLC** hosted the fifth annual Celebrating Diversity in the Greater Bridgeport Business Community event reception. The event highlighted the work of local women and minority-owned businesses.



Kathleen E. Dion Lisa C. Riccio Evan J. Seeman Lauren M. Sigg Jonathan E. Small

**Robinson + Cole** promoted the following associates to counsel in their Hartford office: **Kathleen E.**

**Dion, Lisa C. Riccio, Evan J. Seeman, Lauren M. Sigg, Jonathan E. Small, and Sorell E. Negro**, who works primarily in the firm's Miami office.

**Seiger Gfeller Laurie LLP** has opened an additional office in Boston, MA. The firm now has a total of four offices throughout the north-east region, including Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey. **CL**