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# CONNECTICUT BAR ASSOCIATION NEWS & EVENTS

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## SECTION SPOTLIGHT

### CBA Environmental Law Section and Other CT Environmental Organizations Host Gina McCarthy

Former US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator and Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) Commissioner Gina McCarthy addressed an audience of 200 environmental professionals at the Connecticut Science Center on Thursday, March 22. The Environmental Law Section of the Connecticut Bar Association (CBA), Connecticut Environmental Forum (CEF), Connecticut Society for Women Environmental Professionals (SWEP-CT), and Environmental Professionals' Organization of Connecticut (EPOC) hosted the sold-out event, "An Evening with Gina McCarthy."

During her lecture, McCarthy shared her views of the current and future state of environmental regulations at the local, regional, national, and international levels. "It is a difficult time but we must feel positive about the world and the future," stated McCarthy. "We have the rule of law on our side and that is what matters and that is what will prevent us from going backwards."



(L to R) SWEP-CT Co-chair Jane Kimball Warren, CBA Environmental Law Section Chair M. Anne Peters, EPOC Executive Director Seth Molofsky, Event Speaker Gina McCarthy, CEF President Todd Berman, and SWEP-CT Board Member Jordana Langford.

McCarthy served as the EPA administrator from 2013-2017 and CT DEEP commissioner from 2004-2009. She has been a leading advocate for common sense strategies to protect public health and the environment for more than 35 years. Currently, McCarthy serves as director of Harvard's Chan Center for Health and the Global Environment, and is a professor at the Harvard University Center for the Environment and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. **CL**

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### Labor and Employment Law Section Co-sponsors Three Views from the Bench Event

On Wednesday, April 4, the CBA Labor and Employment Law Section and the Connecticut Employment Lawyers Association co-sponsored, Three Views from the Bench: Questions & Answers with Harford's Federal Judges, at the Hartford Golf Club in West Hartford. Judges Alfred V. Covello, Donna F. Martinez, and Michael P. Shea shared insights and anecdotes from their many years of presiding over federal employment cases. In honor of Judge Covello's 25th year on the District Court in 2017, Judges Martinez and Shea joined this year's panel. **CL**



Judges Alfred V. Covello, Donna F. Martinez, and Michael P. Shea sharing their views from the bench.

## In Memoriam

**The Honorable Daniel F. Caruso**, 60, passed away on February 25. Judge Caruso was elected probate judge of Fairfield in 1995 and served as interim judge for the districts of New Canaan, Greenwich, Westport, and Stamford. Prior to becoming a probate judge, he served as assistant minority leader from 1991-1995 and served on the General Law, Judiciary, and Regulation Review, and Environment Committees of the Connecticut General Assembly. Judge Caruso was also a member of the CBA Estates and Probate Section.

**The Honorable Howard T. Owens, Jr.**, 83, passed away on April 3. Prior to becoming a judge of the Connecticut Superior Court in 1998, Judge Owens served in the US Army Reserve for six years, was an assistant US attorney for the District of Connecticut, and represented Bridgeport and Trumbull in the Connecticut State Senate from the old 22nd District, where he served for six terms. Judge Owens was a past CBA YLS chair (1967-1968) and member of the CBA Criminal Justice Section. He was involved in numerous professional and civic organizations such as the Bridgeport Legal Services Board of Directors, the City of Bridgeport Ethics Commission, and the Food Bank of Fairfield County.

**James F. Byrne**, 77, passed away on December 12, 2017. Attorney Byrne began his law career in commercial law as an associate at the New York based law firm, Cravath Swaine & Moore LLP, before founding Byrne & Storm PC in Hartford. He earned his JD from Fordham Law School, where he graduated at the top of his class, and earned his LLM degree in tax at NYU Law School.

**Lawrence A. Cavanaugh**, 80, passed away on March 23. Attorney Cavanaugh was a patent attorney and corporate attorney for United Technologies for more than 30 years. Upon retirement, he operated his own real estate management firm, Heights Realty and Management. Attorney Cavanaugh earned his JD from the UConn School of Law.

**Myron J. Poliner** passed away on March 25. After graduating from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1957, Attorney Poliner joined his father in the practice of law at the Poliner Building in Middletown, of which they were later joined by his brother in 1969. After retiring in 2017, Attorney Poliner was honored by the Middlesex County Bar Association and the State of Connecticut General Assembly for 60 years of dedication to the Connecticut Bar. Attorney Poliner was also a member of the CBA Estates and Probate Section.

**James A. Trowbridge**, 76, passed away on January 2. Attorney Trowbridge engaged in the general practice of law and was appointed as an associate professor at the University of Bridgeport Law School in 1979. He was a longtime member of the CBA, and served on the association's Committee on Professional Ethics for 45 years, four of which he served as committee chair. Attorney Trowbridge also served as a charter member of the James W. Cooper Fellows of the Connecticut Bar Foundation. **CL**

## Former US Attorney Deirdre M. Daly Receives 2018 Ladder Award

The CBA Women in the Law Section, in association with the CBA Young Lawyers Section (YLS) Women in the Law Committee, honored former US Attorney Deirdre M. Daly as the 2018 recipient of the Ladder Award at, "Pathways to Leadership for Women Lawyers," held on March 28 at the Sheraton Hartford South in Rocky Hill.

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 honoring the efforts of women in the legal profession who have recognized the importance of mentoring and supporting more junior lawyers in their own journeys to success in the profession. Attorney Daly has joined a distinguished group of female attorneys, including Justice Maria A. Kahn, Diane W. Whitney, Hon. Anne C. Dranginis, Rosemary Giuliano, and Hon. Elizabeth J. Stewart.

Women in the Law Section Chair Jennifer E. Wheelock welcomed attendees to the inspiring event before introducing keynote speaker Justice Maria A. Kahn, who discussed implicit and gender biases. Justice Kahn began by sharing current statistics of women and men in law schools, law firms, and their salaries as a percentage. She reminded the women in the audience that despite these statistics, as females, "you are not immune to implicit bias." She went on to note that, "we see gender and race, and that's okay. It's what you do with the information."

Before YLS Women in the Law Committee Co-chair Choity R. Khan introduced Attorney Daly, Vanessa Avery and Natalie Elicker of the United States Attorney's Office spoke of all that Attorney Daly had done as the 51st United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut. Attorney Elicker shared that her Ladder Award nomination was supported by 15 attorneys, including several men. Additionally, Avery shared that Daly "created opportunities for women in ways and areas that didn't exist... It wasn't about checking a box, it was about having a lasting impact."

Attorney Daly was welcomed to the podium by a standing ovation from attendees. She ended the night optimistically, stating, "This is a very interesting time for women. There are opportunities for leadership. There is an opportunity for female voices to be heard—we cannot squander these opportunities. This is your time." **CL**



(L to R) CBA Vice President Nddi N. Moses, Chief Judge Janet C. Hall, Justice Maria A. Kahn, CBA President Karen DeMeola, Ladder Award winner Deirdre M. Daly, Women in the Law Section Chair Jennifer E. Wheelock, and CBA President-elect Jonathan M. Shapiro.

## Attorney Announcements

**Saxe Doernberger & Vita PC** has announced the promotion of **Richard W. Brown** to partner at the firm. Attorney Brown is based in the Trumbull office.



James G. Clark

**James G. Clark**, founder of the **Victim's Rights Center of Connecticut (VRCCT)**, has retired. VRCCT provides free legal services to victims of physical or sexual assault.



James Dougherty

**James Dougherty** was appointed partner at **Withers Bergman LLP**. Attorney Dougherty advises on estate planning and administration, probate matters, and litigation arising from trust and estate succession issues.



Robert Fitzgerald



Colleen Masse



Jennifer Reale



Jeffrey Rivard

**Czepiga Daly Pope & Perri LLC** welcomed four new attorneys, **Robert Fitzgerald, Colleen Masse, Jennifer Reale, and Jeffrey Rivard**. Attorneys Reale and Fitzgerald joined the firm's litigation department, Attorney Rivard joined the estate planning team, and Attorney Masse joined the firm's special needs and disability planning department.



Michael Koskoff

**Michael Koskoff** of **Koskoff Koskoff & Bieder PC** received the Thurgood Marshall Award, which is given in honor of the first African American appointed to the US Supreme Court. Each year, the Black Law Students Association recognizes an outstanding person in law, education, or politics who exemplifies his dedication to improving society through the advancement of civil rights, civil liberties, and human rights.



Paul R. McCary

**Paul R. McCary**, partner at **Murtha Cullina LLP**, was honored with the Excellence in Energy Award by the Connecticut Power and Energy Society (CPES). Attorney McCary has practiced in the areas of energy and public utility since 1981.



Nicole S. Mulé

**Nicole S. Mulé** has joined **Robinson+Cole** as an associate in their Hartford office. Attorney Mulé represents both public and private sector employees in a variety of labor and employment matters.



Andrew Nevas

**Verrill Dana LLP** attorney **Andrew Nevas** was elected to become a James W. Cooper Fellow of the Connecticut Bar Foundation. Selection of Fellows is based on a demonstration of superior legal ability and devotion to the welfare of the community and advancement of the legal profession.



Keisha S. Palmer

**Keisha S. Palmer** was one of seven elected partners at **Robinson+Cole**. Attorney Palmer is a member of the firm's public finance group, and represents state, municipal, and Indian tribal governments in the issuance of tax-exempt and taxable general obligation bonds as well as other debt obligations.



Prerna Rao

Attorney **Prerna Rao** was elected to the Zoning Board of Appeals for the town of Newtown. She is the principal of **Rao Legal LLC**, which focuses on commercial and real estate transactions, and litigation.



Kevin J. Riexinger

**Kevin J. Riexinger** and **Olivia Tawa** have joined **Seiger Gfeller Laurie LLP** as associates. Both Attorney Riexinger and Attorney Tawa practice primarily in the areas of complex civil and commercial litigation.



Olivia Tawa



Lara Schneider-Bomzer

**Lara Schneider-Bomzer** has been promoted to partner at **Czepiga Daly Pope & Perri**. Attorney Schneider-Bomzer has been an associate of the firm for four years, focusing her practice on estate planning, asset production, and Medicaid planning.

## Firm/Organization Announcements



Carmine Perri

**CzepigaDalyPope** has changed its firm name to **Czepiga Daly Pope & Perri LLC** in conjunction with a new principal, **Carmine Perri**. Attorney Perri joined the firm in 2012, and leads the firm's litigation department. Additionally, the firm has opened a new office in Madison and a second office in Berlin.



Fourteen volunteer attorneys and staff members of **Robinson+Cole** taught Junior Achievement curriculum to kindergarten, first grade, and second grade students at Parkville Community School in Hartford. **Christine E. Bromberg**, a firm partner, coordinated the efforts.



The Central Connecticut Paralegal Association (CCPA) presented **Robinson+Cole** with its 2017 Employer Appreciation Award at the association's annual Employer Appreciation Luncheon. CCPA is the largest paralegal association in Connecticut, serving the paralegal community in central Connecticut. **CL**