
CONNECTICUT BAR ASSOCIATION NEWS & EVENTS

Richard A. Robinson: Connecticut's New Chief Justice



Chief Justice
Richard A. Robinson

Richard A. Robinson was confirmed as chief justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court on May 3. He is the first African American chief justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court.

His appointment follows Chase T. Rogers' February retirement after nearly 11 years as chief justice. Hon. Steven Ecker, who has been a judge of the superior court since 2014, filled the associate justice seat on the Connecticut Supreme Court.

Chief Justice Robinson was appointed to the superior court in 2000, was elevated to the appellate court on December 10, 2007, and became

a justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court on December 19, 2013.

Prior to his service on the bench, he was staff counsel for the City of Stamford Law Department from 1985-1988; in 1988, he became assistant corporation counsel in Stamford where he remained until his superior court appointment. Chief Justice Robinson has had a distinguished career in public service, serving as chair of the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities and the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch Advisory Committee of Cultural Competency. He received the CBA YLS Diversity Award in 2010, the CBA Henry J. Naruk Judiciary Award in 2017, and has been recognized as one of the NAACP 100 Most Influential Blacks in Connecticut. **CL**

CBA President Named Attorney of the Year by the Connecticut Law Tribune



Attorney of the Year Award winner Karen DeMeola with her wife, Jess Hockla, and parents, Pat and Bill DeMeola, at the Professional Excellence Awards celebration.

On May 24, CBA President Karen DeMeola was named Attorney of the Year at the *Connecticut Law Tribune's* fourth annual Professional Excellence Awards celebration at the Bond Ballroom in Hartford. Other finalists for the award included Aaron Bayer of Wiggin and Dana LLP and Thomas Behrendt of the Connecticut Legal Rights Project.

"I am honored and humbled by this award," stated President DeMeola. "Aaron and Tom have dedicated their professional lives to the rule of law and protecting the most vulnerable of our society. They both have a reputation of being professional and civil advocates for their clients. I am proud to have been nominated with them."

This awards celebration gives the Connecticut legal community a chance to highlight great work and achievements. Additional award categories included: new leaders in the law, litigation departments, best mentors, distinguished leaders, unsung heroes, lifetime achievement, GC impact of the year, game changers, giant slayer, and officiator. **CL**

CBA Presents the ABA's Grit Project



(L to R) Leander A. Dolphin, Elizabeth Seeley, Dr. Milana L. Hogan, Justice Maria A. Kahn, Sarah Man, and Danielle J.B. Edwards shared their personal and professional stories of grit and growth.

The CBA presented the seminar, "The Grit Project: How to Develop the Secret Skills of America's Top Women Attorneys." The Grit Project is an American Bar Association (ABA) Commission on Women in the Profession initiative designed to educate women lawyers about the science behind a grit and growth mindset to enhance the effectiveness, retention, and promotion of women lawyers.

Dr. Milana L. Hogan, author of *Grit, the Secret to Advancement: Stories of Successful Women Lawyers*, presented an interactive program that explained growth mindset and why many female attorneys lack it. Attendees participated in small group exercises, discussing video scenarios presented, to help participants learn how to tackle difficult work problems. **CL**

CBA at the Supreme Court of the United States



CBA members sworn in to the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States.

On May 21, thirty-three CBA members were sworn in to the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States. The event was organized by Young Lawyers Section (YLS) Executive Committee members Suphi Philip and Shari-Lynn Cuomo Shore.

Past YLS chair and current ABA Young Lawyers Division Chair Dana Hrelac presented the motion to admit the CBA members to the Court. Chief Justice John Roberts admitted the group, who then took the oath, swearing to protect the Constitution.

Prior to their admission, the group heard Justice Neil Gorsuch deliver the majority opinion in *Epic Systems Corp. v. Lewis*, a labor and employment law case. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg then spoke for the four dissenters. Justice Gorsuch also provided the majority opinion in *Upper Skagit Indian Tribe v. Lundren et vir*.

Prompted by a letter of invitation from Suphi Philip, the group had the additional good fortune of a private visit from Justice Ginsburg. She took a photo with the attorneys and answered questions. When asked about her favorite case, Justice Ginsburg replied that she has no favorites and that an answer would be like picking her favorite grandchild; however, she did mention that one such case would be *United States v. Virginia*, 518 U.S. 515 (1996), which struck down the male-only admission policy of the Virginia Military Institute.

Following the morning at the Court, the group assembled for brunch and heard comments on the emoluments clause of the Constitution from Sam Simon, chief counsel to US Senator Richard Blumenthal.

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CBA Members Sworn In to the United States Supreme Court

Brian Ajodhi	Carolyn Futtner	Lauren McNair
Linda Bulkovitch	James Haines	Tony Miodonka
Agnes Cahill	Eric Hard	Hilary Nelson
Logan Carducci	Suzanne Hard	Nicholas Ouellette
Cindy Cieslak	Daniel Hunsberger	Suphi Philip
Shari-Lynn Cuomo Shore	Uswah Khan	Adrienne Roach
Garnet DaCosta	Bonnie Kumiega	Amanda Schreiber
Joshua Devine	Trent LaLima	Aidan Welsh
Kathleen Dion	Andrew Marchant-Shapiro	Kristen Wolf
Garlinck Dumont	David McGrath	Stephen Yost
John Fries	Jeffrey McGregor	Jeffrey Zyjeski

In Memoriam

Gary G. Attmore passed away on May 3 at the age of 71. Attorney Attmore was a founding partner at O'Connell Attmore and Morris LLC in Hartford, where he practiced law for more than 30 years. He was a member of the CBA Tax Section, Business Law Section, and Estates and Probate Section.

Nancy E. Blair passed away on February 23 at the age of 64. Attorney Blair began her legal career at Cummings & Lockwood LLC in Stamford where she became partner and, in 1993, she went on to open the law firm Blair & Potts. She was a member of the CBA Estates and Probate Section.

David K. Jaffe passed away on April 18 at the age of 63. Attorney Jaffe was a civil rights attorney who advocated for those without a voice. He was a member of the CBA Alternative Dispute Resolution and the Human Rights and Responsibilities Sections. Attorney Jaffe earned his law degree from the University of Connecticut School of Law.

Allen Gary Palmer passed away on July 17 at the age of 54. Attorney Palmer recently retired from Halloran & Sage LLP, where he worked for nearly seven years in family law. He was a certified Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) and often accepted appointments to represent children both as an attorney and as a GAL. He previously served on the panel of appointed counsel in the Superior Court for Juvenile Matters and in various probate courts, where he accepted court appointments to represent indigent children and parents in matters brought by the Department of Children and Families. Attorney Palmer was active in the ABA, Family Law legislation, local, and national legal communities and was a longtime active member of the CBA, having served as a former chair of the Family Law Section and frequently presented case updates at section meetings. He was also a member of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee and its summit committee.

Thomas Ullmann passed away on April 13 at the age of 67. He joined the New Haven Public Defenders Office in 1985, was named chief public defender in 1992, and also was a visiting clinical lecturer at Yale Law School. He was a member of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission and a past president of the Connecticut Criminal Defense Lawyers Association.

William C. Whittemore III passed away on April 4 at the age of 71. Attorney Whittemore spent the last 20 years of his legal career as head of the business law firm he founded in Ridgefield. He was also a commercial arbitrator for a state-wide Connecticut dispute resolution organization. He was a member of the CBA Alternative Dispute Resolution; Business Law; and Franchise, Distribution, and Dealer Law Sections.

Frank N. Zullo passed away on May 26 at the age of 85. In 1959 Attorney Zullo formed Tierney & Zullo, now known as Tierney Zullo Flaherty and Murphy PC, where he practiced law full time for over 50 years. Prior to his career in law, Attorney Zullo served three terms as the mayor of Norwalk. He was the youngest mayor in the city's history, at the age of 33. **CL**

Attorney Announcements

Murtha Cullina LLP partners **Heather L. Berchem, Anthony P. Gangemi, Robert E. Kaelin, Bruce L. McDermott, Patricia E. Reilly, Joseph B. Schwartz,** and **Ryan M. Suerth** have been named James W. Cooper Fellows of the Connecticut Bar Foundation.

Jeffrey Bouchard recently joined **McCarter & English LLP's** Hartford office as an associate in the corporate, securities, and business transactions practice.



John F. Carberry

John F. Carberry, principle in **Cummings & Lockwood LLC's** litigation group, was selected as a James W. Cooper Fellow of the Connecticut Bar Foundation.



Diana Carlino

Diana Carlino was elected partner at **Rosenblum Newfield LLC**. Attorney Carlino focuses her practice on representing health care providers in medical liability litigation and regulatory proceedings, and general liability law.



April F. Condon

NAIOP Connecticut & Suburban New York, a chapter of NAIOP, the Commercial Real Estate and Development Association, appointed **April F. Condon** of **Robinson+Cole** to the board of directors.

Karen Culton of **McCarter & English LLP's** Hartford office, has been named income partner. Attorney Culton joined the firm in 2011 and is a member of the corporate, securities, and business transactions practice.



Meredith G. Diette

Meredith G. Diette joined **Berchem Moses PC** as a partner in the labor and employment law department. Attorney Diette advises clients on laws governing the employment relationship, and assists them during collective bargaining and binding arbitration proceedings.



Charles A. Deluca

Charles A. Deluca of **Ryan Ryan Deluca LLP** was inducted into the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, which honors those who have achieved a career of excellence through demonstrated skill and ability in jury trials, trials before court, and appellate practice.



Scott M. Gerard



Kelly A. Trahan

Scott M. Gerard and **Kelly A. Trahan** were added to **Shipman & Goodwin LLP's** business and finance, and real estate practice groups. Attorney Gerard was added as partner and Attorney Trahan was added as counsel.

Najia Khalid of **Wiggin and Dana LLP** was promoted to partner. Attorney Khalid is co-chair of the firm's immigration and nationality law and compliance practice, and focuses her practice on business immigration law.



Michael Koskoff

Michael Koskoff, principal attorney at **Koskoff Koskoff & Bieder PC**, received the Thurgood Marshall Award from Quinnipiac University School of Law and the Black Law Students Association, for using his legal education to promote civil rights and liberties in Connecticut.



Charles Modzelewski

Robinson+Cole welcomes **Charles Modzelewski** to the insurance and reinsurance group as an associate in the firm's Hartford office. Attorney Modzelewski represents insurers in a broad range of coverage matters and disputes.



Kathryn N. Mullin

Kathryn N. Mullin of **Robinson+Cole** has been appointed to the board of directors of The Discovery Center, an organization committed to building an equitable and just world where everyone has what they need to grow and thrive.

Moy N. Ogilvie will take on the role of managing partner at **McCarter & English LLP's** Hartford office. Attorney Ogilvie practices in the products liability, mass torts, and consumer class actions group.



Claire E. Ryan



Christopher J. Lynch



Edward N. Storck

Ryan Ryan Deluca LLP welcomes **Claire E. Ryan** as a new partner in the firm, as well as, partner **Christopher J. Lynch** and associate **Edward N. Storck**, both of whom will be practicing out of the firm's Hartford office.



Kelly A. Scott

Pullman & Comley LLC welcomes **Kelly A. Scott** as a new family law associate. Attorney Scott represents clients in all areas of matrimonial and family law.



Emily M. Souza

Neubert Pepe & Monteith PC attorney, **Emily M. Souza**, joined the board of directors of the Beth-El Center, Inc. The center works to alleviate homelessness and hunger in the Milford area.

Eric Wiechmann, partner in **McCarter & English LLP's** Hartford office, was selected as a member of the Connecticut Chapter of the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals, an organization of experienced arbitrators and mediators.

Firm/Organization Announcements

Mitchell & Sheahan PC has expanded their firm to lower Fairfield County. Specializing in labor law, employment law, and litigation, the firm now has offices in Stratford, Westport, and White Plains.

Louise T. Truax and **Veronica E. Reich** have opened the law firm, **Reich & Truax PLLC**, for the practice of all aspects of matrimonial law. **CL**