
CONNECTICUT BAR ASSOCIATION NEWS & EVENTS

CBA Members Assist with Protecting the Right to Vote

On Election Day, more than 60 CBA attorney members were on-call, through the Connecticut Bar Association Secretary's Legal Assistance Program (SLAP), to assist with any potential issues that arose at polling places.

The volunteer attorneys were trained by the Office of the Secretary of the State to respond and assess the situation, report back to Secretary of the State Denise W. Merrill, and then communicate her directives to the voting moderator.

"[SLAP] has given this office a valuable rapid response capacity to look into Election Day problems. This neutral, nonpartisan program is now a model for the nation for its ability to gather facts on



the ground when issues occur," said Secretary of the State Denise W. Merrill at a pre-election press conference.

"I appreciate this experience and the sense of having contributed—albeit in a small way—to ensuring that this election ran smoothly," said P. Jo Anne Burgh, a CBA member and first-year SLAP volunteer. "For those who would like to participate in elections but may not have a great deal of time, the Secretary's Legal Assistance Project offers an excellent opportunity to help. I would definitely do it again."

SLAP was created in 2012 to ensure that no voter is disenfranchised and exemplifies the CBA's mission to advance the principles of justice and defend the rule of law. ■

December was Ethics Month at the CBA

For the month of December, the CBA held five ethics seminars for Ethics Month at the CBA to help members comply with the December 31, 2018 deadline of the Connecticut MCLE rule. According to the rule, attorneys must earn 12 CLE credits each year, two of which must be ethics credits.



Tools to Ethically Manage Client Trust Accounts CLE on 12/5 at the CBA Law Office with Stephen J. Conover of Carmody Torrance Sandak & Hennessey LLP and Deborah J. Schaefer of Deborah J. Schaefer CPA.

To access the CBA's CLE programs year-round, visit our calendar at ctbar.org/calendar for a full list of in-person seminars, as well as our award-winning Education Portal at ctbar.org/EducationPortal for a variety of on-demand video and audio CLE products. ■

MEMBERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Karaoke for Charity

On November 7, the Connecticut Bar Association and Young Lawyers Section as well as the Connecticut Asian Pacific American Bar Association, the Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association, the George W. Crawford Black Bar Association, the South Asian Bar Association of Connecticut, and UConn Law's APALSA Chapter/Diversity Week Committee hosted Karaoke for Charity at Butchers & Bakers in Farmington. All ticket sales were donated to the Connecticut Food Bank. The Connecticut Food Bank partners with the food industry, food growers, donors, and volunteers to distribute food to people across Connecticut. ■

**CONNECTICUT
FOOD BANK**

Three CBA Sections Host Joint Meeting on Renewable Energy Projects

On Wednesday, December 5, the CBA's Energy, Public Utility, and Communications Law; Environmental Law; and Planning and Zoning Sections held a joint educational event at the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies. More than 75 people attended, including 30 students from Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, Yale School of Management, and Yale Law School's Environmental Law Program.

Connecticut Green Bank president and CEO, Bryan Garcia, moderated a panel discussion on the practical aspects of renewable energy projects for commercial and large-scale residential developments from the perspectives of a developer, lender, and utility. David Ferrante, manager of Distributed Energy Resources and Technology at Eversource; William Herchel, co-founder and CEO of Verogy; and Elizabeth "Liddy" Karter, managing director at Enhanced Capital Partners LLC served on the panel. ■



Bryan Garcia moderating the panel discussion.

In Memoriam



Christine P. Brew passed away on December 12 at the age of 33 after a long-time battle with cancer. Attorney Brew was an associate in Cohen and Wolf PC's trusts and estates, tax, elder law, and business and corporate groups. Her practice included a wide range of estate planning, estate administration, taxation, and corporate matters. Attorney Brew was an active member in the CBA Tax, Elder Law, and Estates and Probate Sections. She was also a member of the New York State Bar Association, and the Westchester and Fairfield County Bar Associations. Attorney Brew graduated cum laude from Pace Law School in 2012 where she was a presidential scholar, and was the recipient of the Hyman Trusts and Estates Scholarship and the Extraordinary Pro Bono Service Award. ■

MEMBERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Young Lawyers Section Donates to The Open Hearth

On December 12, the Young Lawyers Section held their annual holiday party at City Steam Brewery and Café in Hartford. All funds collected from the event benefited The Open Hearth, one of Hartford's oldest nonprofits. This organization endeavors to help homeless men and ex-offenders enhance their capacity for self-help, self-respect, and dignity, and to achieve their full potential as responsible citizens of the state. In addition to providing food, clothing, and shelter, the Hearth uniquely focuses on rehabilitation through employment training, job placement, and transitional life skills classes.



"The Open Hearth is one of those organizations that walks the walk and talks the talk," stated Young Lawyers Section Chair-elect Amanda Schreiber. "It provides basic shelter necessities, but uniquely focuses on employment training and transitional life skills so that its residents can ultimately be successful, contributing to members of society. The

Connecticut Bar Association Young Lawyers Section is pleased to have raised funds over the holiday season for this pillar of the Hartford nonprofit community."

Additionally, the YLS collected over 30,000 meals for Connecticut residents struggling with hunger through its Horn of Plenty Food Drive. Monetary donations to Feeding America's Give a Meal Program were matched two to one by Bank of America. The YLS also collected food items for Connecticut Foodbank and Foodshare at law firms across the state. ■

YLS Women in the Law Committee Presents Program on Work-Life Balance



On November 8, the Young Lawyers Section Women in the Law Committee presented “Can You Have It All? Conversations on Achieving Work Life Balance” at the Quinnipiac Club in New Haven. The guided panel discussion explored the paths and perspectives of three accomplished female attorneys: Keisha Blake Harp, executive director of Women Presidents’ Educational Organization in New York; Joaquina Borges King, senior counsel of Eversource Energy; and Carolyn A. Reers, partner at Norton Rose Fulbright in New York. Through these different lenses, they explored different career paths for female lawyers, discussed ways to achieve a work-life balance, and what it means to have it all. ■

(L to R) Keisha Blake Harp, Carolyn A. Reers, Joaquina Borges King, and YLS Women in the Law Committee Co-chair Madiha M. Malik.

Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section Member Honored for Service



Robert E. Kaelin

On December 10, the Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section recognized Robert E. Kaelin of Murtha Cullina LLP for his tremendous service to the section and the planning of the inaugural Connecticut Bankruptcy Conference. Attorney Kaelin chaired the conference committee and designed the conference program, which included recruiting national speakers and bankruptcy court judges. More than 170

people attended the sold-out event held on October 4, 2018 at Water’s Edge in Westbrook. This successful program will become an annual event with next year’s date already planned for October 2019. ■

PPP & C

PARRETT, PORTO, PARESE & COLWELL P.C.

attorneys at law

is pleased to announce that

Jennifer Rignoli

has become a Principal of the firm



Jennifer will continue her practice in the areas of healthcare, corporate and regulatory compliance. Jennifer will also continue to represent our clients in litigation in state and federal courts, and before administrative agencies. Jennifer is a Hamden native, is a graduate of Boston University (magna cum laude, 2003) and Quinnipiac University School of Law (cum laude, 2006). We welcome Jennifer as a principal of our firm and as part of our management team.

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Peers & Cheers

E-mail editor @ctbar.org with submissions for the Peers & Cheers section.

Attorney Announcements

Joseph J.
AndriolaDennis M.
CarnelliJonathan
R. Longo-
bardi

Neubert Pepe & Monteith PC welcomed **Joseph J. Andriola**, **Dennis M. Carnelli**, and **Jonathan R. Longobardi**. Attorney Andriola joined the firm as a principal, and Attorneys Longobardi and Carnelli joined as associates.

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.

Matthew A.
Ciarleglio

Matthew A. Ciarleglio joined **Murtha Cullina LLP** as an associate in the firm's litigation department. Attorney Ciarleglio represents clients in a wide variety of commercial and business litigation matters.

Thomas D.
Colin

Thomas D. Colin, partner at **Schoonmaker George Colin & Blomberg PC**, was named to the Advisory Board of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Academy of Certified Financial Litigators (AACFL). AACFL is a nationwide organization dedicated to enhancing the legal profession through advanced financial education.

Matthew
K. CurtinMartha M.
Royston

Murtha Cullina LLP welcomed **Matthew K. Curtin** and **Martha M. Royston** to its labor and employment law practice group. This practice group represents employers concerning a wide variety of claims before state and federal courts and agencies in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York.

Joseph W.
Martini

Joseph W. Martini joined **Spears Manning LLC** as partner. Attorney Martini will his focus his practice on white collar defense, internal investigations, complex commercial litigation, and related appeals.

Kathleen M.
Merrigan

Kathleen M. Merrigan was promoted to income principal at **Cummings & Lockwood LLC's** Greenwich office, effective January 2019. Attorney Merrigan focuses her practice on residential sale, purchase, and financing transactions, as well as assisting clients with real estate transactions for estate planning.

Linda L.
Morkan

Linda L. Morkan of **Robinson+Cole** was elected to the board of governors of the UConn Law School Alumni Association. Attorney Morkan is a member of the firm's business litigation group and chairs their appellate practice group.

Lindsay M.
Rinehart

Lindsay M. Rinehart of **Brody and Associates LLC** was named program chair of the CBA Westport-Weston Chapter. Attorney Rinehart plans and hosts the organization's local lunchtime CLE program, held at the Westport VFW on the third Thursday of every month.

Norman H.
Roos

Norman H. Roos of **Robinson+Cole** was elected president of the American College of Mortgage Attorneys. Attorney Roos also chairs the firm's finance group.

Meghan E.
Smith

Meghan E. Smith was elected to serve on the South Windsor Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Attorney Smith practices business law and commercial real estate at **Kahan Kerensky & Capossela LLP**.

Firm/Organization Announcements

Berchem Moses PC (pictured at right) sponsored the Walter Camp Football Foundation Coat Drive, which helped to generate hundreds of winter garments for the Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center Homeless Program.

Murtha Cullina LLP will continue to host Lawyers Collaborative for Diversity (LCD) in the firm's Hartford office through the year 2020. LCD has been resident in the firm's Hartford office since 2014.

Rao & Jo LLC has opened its office in Trumbull. The newly formed firm practices civil, construction, business, and family law. ■



Berchem Moses PC