
CONNECTICUT BAR ASSOCIATION NEWS & EVENTS

CBA Past President Receives 2019 NCBP Fellows Award



CBA Past President Frederic S. Ury receiving the 2019 NCBP Fellows Award plaque from NCBP President Jennifer Parent.

Congratulations to Frederic S. Ury, past president of both the Connecticut Bar Association (2004-2005) and the National Conference of Bar Presidents (NCBP) on receiving the 2019 NCBP Fellows Award during the American Bar Association's 2019 Midyear Meeting in Las Vegas, NV. This award was established in 2005 to honor an outstanding past president of a bar association.

Attorney Ury received this award for his continued leadership and lifetime of service to the bar, lawyers, and the public. In 2007, Attorney Ury was appointed by the chief justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court to serve as one of two attorneys on the Steering Committee of the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch's Public Service and Trust Commission. Additionally, in the wake of September 11, he donated hundreds of hours of free legal representation to World Trade Center victims and their families in hearings before the Victims' Compensation Board of the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch. Beyond his 42 years in the legal profession, Attorney Ury has helped with various pro bono and philanthropic projects in his community, including the Community Council of Westport-Weston, the United Way of Westport-Weston, and the Westport-Weston Foundation.

The NCBP was founded in 1950 to provide information and training to state and local bar association leaders. Its primary mission is to provide high-quality programming to current bar leaders at two meetings held each year contemporaneously with the annual and midyear meetings of the American Bar Association. ■

CBA Launches Connecticut Free Legal Answers

Connecticut Free Legal Answers is an online pro bono initiative between the Connecticut Bar Association and the American Bar Association (ABA). The ABA has partners in more than 40 states for this innovative project.



This program is a virtual legal advice clinic intended for low income Connecticut residents. Qualified users can request brief advice and counsel about a specific civil legal issue; volunteer attorney representation is limited to answering the question posed without any expectation of ongoing representation. All communication between the client and the attorney takes place anonymously via a secure website. Lawyers can provide assistance online, anytime via the web-based platform.

Watch our latest BarChat video interview with Ashleigh Backman of Statewide Legal Services at ctbar.org/BarChat to learn more about the program.

Visit ctbar.org/FreeLegalAnswers to become an attorney volunteer. ■

YLS Honors Asha Rangappa with Diversity Award

The Young Lawyers Section (YLS) held its eleventh Diversity Award Dinner on February 7 at Amarante's Sea Cliff in New Haven. The honor was presented to Asha Rangappa—former FBI agent, CNN contributor, and senior lecturer at Yale University—for her outstanding efforts on behalf of diversity.

YLS Chair David A. McGrath introduced the event and provided the background of the award. The YLS Diversity Award is presented to a person in the legal field who has shown both a personal and professional commitment to the elimination of bias in the legal profession as well as the principle that all people should have full and equal protection in the justice system.

YLS Senior Advisor Suphi A. Philip introduced Attorney Rangappa, noting that the recipient is “the embodiment of a creative, persevering spirit.” To illustrate this point, Attorney Philip shared an anecdote about Attorney Rangappa’s FBI physical fitness exam. After suffering contused ribs in a car accident, Attorney Rangappa continued her training and was able to complete the required running, push-up, pull-up, and sit-up drills to stay in the program beyond the required minimum.

Asha Rangappa is a director of admissions and senior lecturer at Yale University’s Jackson Institute for Global Affairs and a former associate dean at Yale Law School. Prior to her current position, she served as a special agent in the New York Division of the FBI, specializing in counterintelligence investigations. She was one of the first Indian-American female recruits to the FBI after the agency began a post-9/11 push for diversity and inclusion. Her work involved assessing threats to the national security, conducting classified investigations on suspected foreign agents, and performing undercover work. While in the FBI, Attorney Rangappa gained experience in intelligence trade craft, electronic surveillance, interview and interrogation techniques, and firearms and the use of deadly force.

In her previous role as Yale Law School’s dean of admissions, she was a part of the school’s efforts to increase diversity, which resulted in the most diverse class in Yale Law School’s history, in 2017.

Consistently involved in the Connecticut legal community, Attorney Rangappa has served on the boards of the South Asian



YLS Chair David A. McGrath, YLS Senior Advisor Suphi A. Philip, and Diversity Award recipient Asha Rangappa.

Bar Association of Connecticut (SABAC), the Connecticut chapters of the Society of Former Agents of the FBI, and the National Organization for Women (NOW). She has long supported Young Lawyers Section programs, including its Annual Women’s Professional Golf Event.

Attorney Rangappa graciously thanked the CBA and the organizations in attendance in support of her, stating: “Both [Yale] Law School and SABAC have played important roles in both shaping my career and offering me different perspectives on diversity and how it intersects with the legal profession.” She shared that she receives calls from South Asian girls and women each week who want to discuss a potential career in law enforcement or national security; many of them say that this career path had simply never occurred to them as something that they could do until they saw it in front of them.

She concluded the evening with a nod to the future of diversity and inclusion: “We as underrepresent[ed] groups in the legal profession in this country have a responsibility to paint a picture where our communities can see this path as one that they belong in and *can* belong in, and not only because doing so reflects the America we live in, but because it protects it as well.” ■

CBA Lawyer Wellbeing Website



In a professional culture that historically rewards intensity, long hours, skipping vacations, and perfectionism, it can be difficult for attorneys to take care of their health. In response, the CBA launched its Lawyer Wellbeing website to provide members with the necessary resources to

prioritize and maintain their wellness, in all its dimensions, and to prevent the materialization of serious health problems. Available resources include the ABA Wellbeing Toolkit, a calendar of CBA wellbeing events, videos, articles, and more. It is the hope of the CBA that this tool will provide helpful resources for practitioners and will promote a conversation about the need for balance in a long-term legal career.

For more information, visit cbalawyerwellbeing.com. ■

Winter Wellness

The CBA hosted a series of wellness programs this winter. Visit cbalawyerwellbeing.com to view the latest offerings.



Walt Hampton discussing the importance of mindfulness.

Mindfulness for Lawyers CLE

On January 24, Walt Hampton of Summit Success presented on mindfulness for lawyers. The science behind mindfulness shows that it reduces stress, enhances wellness, increases productivity, and significantly improves the bottom line. Attendees learned how it can help improve focus, productivity, and effectiveness with clients; the science behind it; and how to start a mindfulness practice. ■

From Bench/Bar to 5k

On January 29, the Lawyer Wellbeing Taskforce presented “From Bench/Bar to 5k: Learn How to Start (or Improve) a Running or Walking Program.” Stephanie Blozy of Fleet Feet in West Hartford taught attendees the key factors involved in starting a running/walking program and how to train for a 5k. Additionally, she addressed the risks of a sedentary lifestyle, the benefits of being active, common barriers to becoming active and how to overcome them, the basic bio-mechanics of running, and tips and tricks to stick with it. ■



Bill Jawitz teaching attendees how to set themselves up for a year of successful lawyering.

Productivity Boot Camp: Time and E-mail Management for Lawyers CLE

On January 31, Bill Jawitz of SuccessTrackESQ presented on how to be a more successful lawyer with time and e-mail management skills. Attendees learned how to prioritize, delegate, and minimize interruptions so they can devote more time to serving clients and developing new ones—while being less stressed and more effective in the process. Additionally, he discussed how to increase productivity and effectiveness by managing your environment, routines, boundaries, and choices.

Chief Justice Robinson Speaks at Section Meeting

On January 31, Chief Justice Richard A. Robinson joined the Litigation Section meeting at the Hartford Club for “An Evening with Connecticut Chief Justice Richard A. Robinson.” The chief justice gave attendees an update on the state of the Connecticut judiciary and imparted some of his lessons learned from his first nine months as chief justice. He also shared insights on effective trial and appellate advocacy based on his nearly two decades of experience in all levels of the Connecticut judiciary. ■

Chief Justice Richard A. Robinson with CBA President Jonathan M. Shapiro



In Memoriam

Judge John C. Flanagan passed away on February 13. Prior to his 51-year legal career, Judge Flanagan enlisted in the army from 1942-1946, achieving rank as captain. After his time in the army he earned his law degree at Yale University, later founding the firm now known as Mulvey Oliver Gould & Crotta in 1949. In 1980, he was appointed as a judge of the Connecticut Superior Court, where he served for 39 years. Judge Flanagan was the oldest sitting judge, retiring in 2018. ■



Ashleigh Backman of Statewide Legal Services discussing available pro bono opportunities.

YLS Hosts Pro Bono Hour

On Tuesday, January 22, the Young Lawyers Section (YLS) held their Pro Bono Hour program at Herd Restaurant in Middletown. The more than 50 members in attendance learned about pro bono opportunities in a variety of practice areas from representatives for ten different Connecticut organizations. Representatives from each of the pro bono organizations detailed the current projects, time requirement, and available training.

“The Pro Bono Hour was a wonderful opportunity for YLS members from a range of organizations—both in-house counsel and those at firms—to learn about the pro bono opportunities available throughout the state,” said YLS Assistant Pro Bono Director Alexandra J. Cavaliere. “It is my hope that those in attendance will take these opportunities back to their firms to expand the reach of the messages shared by the pro bono representatives that night.”

Attendees were encouraged by many of the pro bono representatives to examine both their availability and passions and to approach an organization to see how help is needed. Currently, the need for pro bono service is great and any volunteer assistance is appreciated. For more volunteer opportunities, visit ctbar.org/probonoorganizations. ■

Peers & Cheers

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

Attorney Announcements



Danielle M. Bercury

Danielle M. Bercury of **Brenner Saltzman & Wallman LLP** was promoted to of counsel. Attorney Bercury practices in the areas of land use and commercial real estate.



Patricia L. Boye-Williams



Marilyn B. Fagelson



Kristin L. Zaehring



Catherine A. Cuggino

Murtha Cullina LLP is pleased to announce **Patricia L. Boye-Williams, Marilyn B. Fagelson, and Kristin L. Zaehring** as partners, as well as **Catherine A. Cuggino** as counsel.



Deborah R. Brancato



Liam S. Burke



Todd R. Michaelis

Deborah R. Brancato, Liam S. Burke, and Todd R. Michaelis have been elected partners of **Carmody Torrance Sandak & Hennessey LLP**.



Jeffrey F. Buebendorf

Jeffrey F. Buebendorf of **Browne Jacobson LLP** was elected as an officer of Phi Delta Phi International Legal Honor Society, a 150-year-old law student-based organization dedicated to the promotion of professionalism and civility in the practice of law. Attorney Buebendorf will serve a two-year term.



J. Tyler Butts



Kevin P. Daly



Emilee M. Scott



Taylor A. Shea

J. Tyler Butts, Kevin P. Daly, Emilee M. Scott, and Taylor A. Shea were promoted to counsel at **Robinson+Cole's** Hartford office.



Daniel L. Gottfried

Daniel L. Gottfried rejoined **Day Pitney LLP** as a partner in the corporate and business law department and a member of the tax practice group at the firm's Hartford office.



Alexis S. Gettier



Sebastian M. Lombardi



Ruth S. Moskowitz



Robert G. Rahilly

Alexis S. Gettier, Sebastian M. Lombardi, Ruth S. Moskowitz, and Robert G. Rahilly have been promoted to partner at **Day Pitney LLP**.



Jennifer Rignoli

Parrett Porto Parse & Colwell PC welcomed **Jennifer Rignoli** as a principal of the firm, continuing to represent clients in litigation in all courts and as a member of the firm's health care, regulatory, and compliance practice group.



Elaine C. Doolan

Alaine C. Doolan of **Robinson+Cole** was appointed to the board of directors of Interval House, Connecticut's largest domestic violence intervention and prevention agency, for a two year-term.



Matthew E. Willis

Matthew E. Willis has become an equity partner of **Kahan Kerensky Capossela LLP**. Attorney Willis focuses his practice in the areas of personal injury and criminal law.

Firm/Organization Announcements

Jonathan Perkins Injury Lawyers is expanding its practice to assist employees who suffer emotionally and financially as victims of discrimination in the workplace.

CBA 100% Club member **Monstream & May LLP** have changed their firm name to **Monstream Law Group**. The firm's primary focus is insurance defense.

Murtha Cullina LLP completed the expansion of its New Haven office. The firm celebrated with an open house for attorneys and clients of the firm.

Nine **Robinson+Cole** lawyers and staff volunteered at Junior Achievement's "JA in a Day" program at Parkville Community

School in Hartford. The volunteers taught 90 first grade students a JA-developed curriculum focused on money, needs and wants, family, and the value of hard work.



Robinson+Cole

CBA 100% Club member **Pullman & Comley LLC** will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2019 with a "Centennial Year of Service," participating in a year of community service projects throughout Connecticut. ■