
CONNECTICUT BAR ASSOCIATION NEWS & EVENTS

Retired Superior Court Judge Lynda B. Munro Receives 2019 Ladder Award

The CBA Women in the Law Section, in association with the CBA Young Lawyers Section (YLS) Women in the Law Committee, honored retired Connecticut Superior Court Judge Lynda B. Munro as the 2019 recipient of the Ladder Award at “Pathways to Leadership for Women Lawyers,” held on March 28 at Saint Clements Castle in Portland, CT.

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. Judge Munro has joined a distinguished group of female attorneys, including Former US Attorney for the District of Connecticut Deirdre M. Daly, 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 event before introducing keynote speaker, Judge Elizabeth A. Bozzuto, who discussed gender issues in the legal profession dating back to the 1880s: “Let us be mindful of the fact that women have, and continue to be, a minority group within the legal profession, and we need to recognize, support, and honor those who came before us to make it easier for those of us who follow to achieve great success in the law; Lynda is one of those people.” Judge Bozzuto acknowledged that women have come a long way in the field, but when it comes to equality and civility for women in the legal profession, there is still more to be done.

Judge Munro was introduced by her colleagues Judge Anne C. Dranginis (ret.) and CBA Past President Livia D. Barndollar (2008-2009), both of Pullman & Comley LLC. Attorney Barndollar further explored the ongoing gender issues in the legal profession by citing a study of gender bias in the administration of justice, which was put out by the Task Force on Gender, Justice, and the Courts in 1995. The study reported the statistical growth of women in the legal profession: seven percent (eight out of 112) of Connecticut Superior Court judges were women in 1980, increasing to 15 percent (24 out of 158) by early 1995. Currently, of the 154 Connecticut Superior Court judges, nearly 65 are female. Attorney Barn-



2019 Ladder Award Winner Hon. Lynda B. Munro and her colleagues, Hon. Anne C. Dranginis and CBA Past President Livia D. Barndollar (2008-2009), both of Pullman & Comley LLC.



2019 Ladder Award Winner Hon. Lynda B. Munro with past award recipients: Hon. Nada K. Sizemore (2014), Hon. Elizabeth J. Stewart (2012), Rosemary E. Giuliano (2008), Hon. Anne C. Dranginis (2007), and Justice Maria A. Kahn (2017).

dollar noted that “The CBA has always tried to ensure everyone is treated equally, whatever their gender, identity, race, or age.”

Judge Dranginis reminisced of her time shared with Judge Munro at the Connecticut Superior Court, expressing, “She was never selfish. She always allowed others to join the conversation to help make a better profession and practice.”

A standing ovation escorted Judge Munro to the podium. In acceptance of her award, she asserted the importance of being unconscious role models and mentors to not only help continue to leave the ladder down for young female attorneys, but to help change the world. “It’s a crazy, scary world we live in, but if we do these great mentorship activities, I believe we can make the world a better place,” she stated. ■



CBA Past Presidents Dinner

On March 20, CBA past presidents and current Executive Committee members gathered at Luce Restaurant in Middletown for the annual Past Presidents Dinner. (From L to R) **Back Row:** William H. Clendenen, Jr. (2015-2016), Brian T. Mahon (1995-1996), Monte E. Frank (2016-2017), William H. Prout, Jr. (2007-2008), Francis J. Brady (2009-2010) **Middle Row:** Louis R. Pepe (2005-2006), Barry C. Hawkins (2012-2013), Frederic S. Ury (2004-2005), Livia D. Barndollar (2008-2009), Carolyn P. Kelly (1990-1991), Donat C. Marchand (2000-2001), Hon. Kimberly A. Knox (2013-2014), Barbara J. Collins (2001-2002) **Front Row:** 2018-2019 Executive Committee: Immediate Past President Karen DeMeola, President Jonathan M. Shapiro, President-elect Ndidi N. Moses, Vice President Amy Lin Meyerson

Representing Victims of Childhood Trauma: Resilience Screening

On April 4, the Connecticut Bar Association, Education Law Section, Health Law Section, and the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Connecticut presented a screening of the film, *Resilience: The Biology of Stress & the Science of Hope*, at UConn School of Law in Hartford. This one-hour documentary discusses the science of childhood trauma and the movement to treat and prevent toxic stress.



Justice Maria A. Kahn began the panel discussion after the film's screening.

Following the film, attendees learned about the long-term impact of traumatic events on children; discussed the ways the medical community, legal community, and judicial system can assist victims of trauma; and created a framework for understanding how attorneys and health care providers can represent clients who have experienced traumatic events in a way that prevents continued trauma. ■

Purchase the Golf Option for Only \$175 to Play Golf at TPC River Highlands as an Unaccompanied Guest of the CBA

New Clubhouse Opening Soon

Visit ctbar.org/golf for complete program guidelines. Participants must book tee times through the CBA's Member Service Center at (844)469-2221.

CBA members interested in experiencing full membership privileges and unlimited access to TPC River Highlands have the option of purchasing an individual membership at a discounted rate. Full membership will require an initiation fee and monthly dues discounted 25%. Call (860)398-6795 for more details.

Connecticut Bar Association



In Memoriam

Michael S. Smiley passed away on February 22 at the age of 66. Attorney Smiley had an extensive legal career as an attorney at Traveler's Insurance Company, as an entrepreneur, and in solo legal practice. He was a fixture in the pro bono legal community, and in 2015 was presented with The Honorable Anthony V. DeMayo Pro Bono Award by the CBA. Attorney Smiley graduated from New York University Law School, where he earned his JD and LLM in taxation. ■



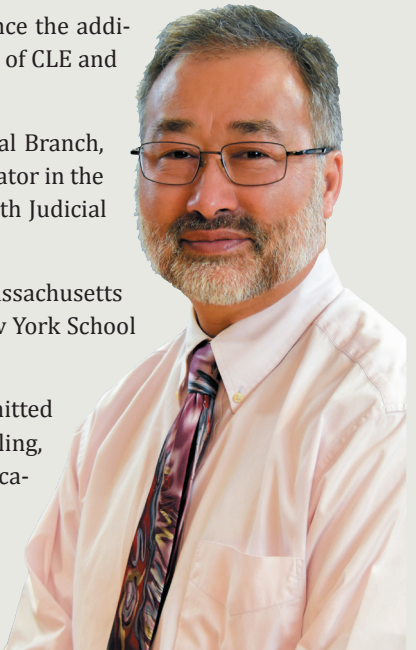
CBA Welcomes New Director of CLE and Section Programming

The Connecticut Bar Association is pleased to announce the addition of Attorney Thomas A. Genung as its new director of CLE and section programming as of March 19.

Attorney Genung comes to us from the Florida Judicial Branch, where he served for 12 years as a trial court administrator in the 19th Judicial Circuit. Prior to that he served in the 17th Judicial Circuit in several roles, lastly as general counsel.

He received his BS in forestry from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and his JD from the City University of New York School of Law.

"I am honored to join the CBA team, and am committed to working with CBA membership to deliver compelling, thought-provoking, and inspiring continuing legal education to the legal community," stated Genung. ■



Thomas A. Genung

PULLMAN & COMLEY 100 YEARS

Alternative Dispute Resolution Practice



(Left to right) Retired Judges Michael Riley, Anne Dranginis, Robert Holzberg and Lynda Munro

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Peers & Cheers

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

Attorney Announcements



Alan H. Bowie

Carmody Torrance Sandak & Hennessey LLP is pleased to announce that **Alan H. Bowie** was selected as a 2019 National Employment Law Council Academy Fellow (NELC). NELC provides mentoring, educational opportunities, and networking events for leading minority employment law attorneys and human resources professionals.



David P. Friedman

Murtha Cullina LLP partner **David P. Friedman** completed three years of service as president of the board of Statewide Legal Services of Connecticut, an organization that empowers low-income individuals in Connecticut to obtain justice by providing them with tools to address their civil legal needs.



Lauren Greenspoon



Robert R. Simpson

Carlton Fields is pleased to announce **Lauren Greenspoon** and **Robert R. Simpson** have joined the firm's Hartford office. Attorney Greenspoon represents pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturers in products liability matters, and Attorney Simpson focuses his practice on pharmaceutical and medical device litigation, as well as toxic tort cases.



Edward J. Heath

Edward J. Heath of **Robinson+Cole** was elected president and chair of the board of directors of Greater Hartford Legal Aid, an organization whose mission is to secure justice for and to protect the rights of the needy residents of Hartford County.



Rebecca A. Iannantuoni

Rebecca A. Iannantuoni of **Day Pitney LLP** received the 2019 Coleman Award in recognition of her exemplary service and dedication to pro bono work in her community.



John Kanca

John Kanca has been promoted to partner of **Goff Law Group**. Attorney Kanca represents clients with injuries caused by motor vehicle accidents, slip/trip and fall accidents, dog bites, and work accidents.



Michael V. Pepe

Saxe Doernberger & Vita PC is pleased to announce **Michael V. Pepe** as the firm's new partner. Attorney Pepe has assumed a leadership role in the firm, mentoring younger associates and being actively involved in firm-wide technology initiatives.

Firm/Organization Announcements



(Above) CBA 100% Club member **Pullman & Comley LLC** partnered with nOURish Bridgeport, a nonprofit organization striving to better the lives of those who are homeless, food insecure, and struggling to build better lives. Firm employee volunteers assisted with families at the Super Food Pantry and Baby Center to select nutritious food and essential baby items.

Brody and Associates LLC prepared and served dinner at the Gillespie Center in Westport, a non-denominational homeless shelter for men and a place where both men and women in Westport can have a warm meal.

CBA 100% Club member **Carmody Torrance Sandak & Hennessey LLP** and the Connecticut Bar Foundation established the Anthony M. Fitzgerald Fund for Excellence to honor Attorney Fitzgerald in his retirement.

The **Connecticut Veterans Legal Center** is pleased to announce **Liam Brennan** as its new executive director and **Ashleigh Backman** as its new pro bono manager and intake attorney. The organization is celebrating its 10th anniversary as a nationally acclaimed medical legal partnership with a proven track record of reducing veteran homelessness, improving financial stability, and supporting access to health services.



Liam Brennan



Ashleigh Backman

Robinson+Cole has expanded its bankruptcy capabilities with the addition of five attorneys, including three partners, and the opening of new offices in Wilmington, Delaware, and Philadelphia. ■