

# News & Events



Catherine Rawson, executive director of Weantinoge Heritage Land Trust, received a Clyde O. Fisher, Jr. Award.



Gregory A. Sharp accepted a Clyde O. Fisher, Jr. Award honoring him and his late wife Penelope Chester Sharp.

## Environmental Law Section Honors Environmental Leaders

The Connecticut Bar Association's (CBA) Environmental Law Section honored Catherine Rawson, Attorney Gregory A. Sharp, and Penelope Chester Sharp (posthumously) with Clyde O. Fisher, Jr. Awards on June 18. The award recognizes individuals or entities who have made a significant contribution to the preservation or enhancement of environmental quality through work in the fields of environmental law, environmental protection, and environmental planning.

"These awardees reflect the spirit of the Clyde Fisher award which recognizes people who have gone beyond the call in protecting Connecticut's natural resources and improving environmental policy," said Keith R. Ainsworth, an Environmental Law Section Awards Committee member.

Catherine Rawson is the executive director of Weantinoge Heritage Land Trust and a widely-recognized leader in Connecticut's nonprofit community. Under her leadership, Weantinoge has added 1,700 acres under permanent protection, secured numerous grants, and received several awards. Rawson has transformed the land trust and conservation community through her collaborative and partnership approach. Rawson is the chair of the Connecticut Land Conservation Council, commissioner of the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, council member of the Land Trust Alliance Conservation Defense Advisory Council, and a member of the Greenprint Steering Committee.

Attorney Gregory A. Sharp was one of the pre-eminent experts in water and

wetlands law and remediation of contaminated sites. He began his career in environmental protection at the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and was responsible for drafting the department's early regulations. After graduating from law school, he founded his firm Sharp & Berger before joining Murtha Cullina LLP where he remained until his retirement in 2017. During this career, he served as chairman of the Connecticut Council on Environmental Quality, was appointed to the Brownfields Task Force, and was chair of the CBA's Environmental Law Section.

At the time of her death in 2014, Penelope Chester Sharp was a widely respected leader, botanist, and wetland biologist. She served as the director of the Conservation Commission for the Town of Wilton for ten years. She was active and held leadership positions in many environmental organizations, including the Connecticut Association of Wetland Scientists, the Connecticut Botanical Society, the Connecticut Invasive Plants Work Group, and the Henry L. Ferguson Museum. Ms. Sharp served as the chairman of North Branford's Inland and Wetlands and Watercourse Agency and as a member of the Conservation Commission and the North Branford Land Trust. She was the principal author of *Trap Rock Ridges of Connecticut: Natural History & Land Use*.

The award was established in 1997 in memory of Clyde O. Fisher, Jr., an administrative law judge with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. Past recipients of the award have contributed to the public's education and awareness of environmental issues; contributed to the development, enactment, or administration of environmental law or regulation; and developed pollution prevention or environmental remediation.

## IN MEMORIAM



**Anthony M. Fitzgerald** passed away on June 4. Attorney Fitzgerald practiced law at Carmody Torrance Sandak & Hennessey LLP for nearly 50 years before his retirement in 2018. His civil trial experience was gained from years as a personal injury defense lawyer in his early career, and his civil litigation practice concentrated on business disputes and the representation of lawyers and law firms. Attorney Fitzgerald earned his undergraduate at Yale University in 1966 and his JD from Columbia Law School in 1969.



**Saul A. Rothman** passed away on July 13. After earning his JD from George Washington School of Law, he became a sole practitioner specializing in family law. Attorney Rothman worked with the Special Masters Program in the Stamford and Bridgeport superior courts, and received special recognition for his work with the Regional Family Trial Docket in Middletown Superior Court. He often handled pro bono cases for CT Legal Services in Stamford.

## Three CBA Attorney Members Receive CLABBY Awards

Attorneys **Thomas A. Gugliotti**, **Paige M. Vaillancourt**, and **Robert A. White** received CLABBY awards from the Connecticut Bar Association's Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section. These awards are presented each year by the section to honor the professional achievements of section members. The three awards include: Career Achievement Award, Service to the Profession Award, and Rising Star Award.

"We are fortunate to have such sterling role models in our section as Tom Gugliotti, Paige Vaillancourt, and Bob White, who have consistently demonstrated all that is good about our profession," said section Chair Thomas J. Sansone.

Thomas A. Gugliotti received the 2019 Service to the Profession Award for his section leadership, development of educational programs, and delivery of pro bono services.

Paige M. Vaillancourt received the 2019 Rising Star Award for her consistent and meaningful participation in section activities and meetings, and implementation of section initiatives.

Robert A. White received the 2019 Career Achievement Award for his professionalism and exemplary practice of commercial and bankruptcy law for more than 35 years.



*The 2019 CLABBY award winners Robert A. White, Paige M. Vaillancourt, and Thomas A. Gugliotti.*

## CBA Section Celebrates Paralegal Day

The **Paralegals Section** co-sponsored a Paralegal Day event with the Central Connecticut Paralegal Association Inc. at the Red Lion Hotel in Cromwell. The panel consisted of Connecticut Superior Court Judge Robert Holzberg (ret.); local attorneys with expertise in personal injury, criminal, municipal, and trusts and estates law; and investigators.



## 2019 L.A.W. Camp for High School Students

The CBA's 2019 L.A.W. Camp consisted of two, week-long camps in New Haven, Hartford, and New Britain from July 8-19. This camp exposes high school students to the legal profession and gives them instruction on critical and analytical thinking to help them succeed in their educational and professional careers. During the week, students visited courts and participated in panel discussions, advocacy training, and prepared for a mock court case.

Throughout the week, over 60 campers from across the state were coached by more than 30 CBA members who volunteered their time to answer questions and guide the students as they learned the techniques and skills necessary to effectively present their mock court case.

This was the second year the CBA assisted in organizing L.A.W. Camp. Hon. Angela C. Robinson, now of Wiggin and Dana LLP, and Sung-Ho Hwang of the Law Offices of Sung-Ho Hwang LLC, founded the camp in 2011.



*Pastor Al Watts of the Cornerstone Christian Center led a discussion with participants about success planning in the New Haven session at Yale's Sterling Law Building.*



*2019 L.A.W. Camp students from Hartford and New Britain with Connecticut Supreme Court Chief Justice Richard A. Robinson.*



*Connecticut Supreme Court Chief Justice Richard A. Robinson answered students' questions after the mock trial presentations.*



*This L.A.W. Camp student was sworn-in by Judge Vernon Oliver during round one of mock trials.*

## Annual CBA Leadership Trainings for the 2019-2020 Bar Year



Young Lawyers Section officers gathered on June 28 at Mohegan Sun for their annual leadership retreat at the start of the new bar year.

(L to R) Christopher Klepps, section secretary; Cindy M. Cieslak, section chair-elect; David A. McGrath, section past chair; Amanda G. Schreiber, section chair; Joshua J. Devine, section treasurer; CBA President Ndid N. Moses; and Attorney General William M. Tong.



Each year, newly elected CBA officers, as well as section and committee chairs, treasurers, and education and legislative liaisons, are given the opportunity to enhance their leadership skills. This year, on June 21 at Madison Beach Hotel, attendees learned how to create a strong personal leadership mindset, how to build self-empowerment, and the skills needed to foster comfort with responsibility.

(L to R) CBA Executive Director Keith J. Soressi, Keynote Speaker Elizabeth Derrico, President Ndid N. Moses, Immediate Past President Jonathan M. Shapiro, and Vice President Cecil J. Thomas.

## Sales Tax on Legal Services Removed from State Budget

*The below was sent to CBA members on June 26 from then-President Jonathan M. Shapiro.*

On June 26, 2019, Governor Ned Lamont signed the most recent biennial state budget into law. The approved two-year budget does not include a sales tax on legal services as originally recommended by the governor. As you know, the CBA strongly opposed the proposal as it would unnecessarily tax people in times of their greatest need.

We submitted joint letters from the Connecticut Council of Bar Presidents, a group comprised of the presidents of Connecticut's more than 35 voluntary bar associations representing 20,000 Connecticut attorneys, and 14 past presidents of the Connecticut Bar Association to Governor Lamont opposing the proposed tax on legal services. Many of you contacted your state representatives and state senators to express your opposi-

tion to the tax, and I provided testimony on behalf of the CBA and all attorneys in the state.

Thank you all for your efforts in response to our call for action. We all know the ramifications a sales tax on legal services would have on our profession and the public's access to justice.

The CBA remains committed to serving as your voice at the capitol, fighting for the interests of all attorneys, enhancing the practice of law, and improving the administration of and access to justice. It is through your continued support and membership that we are able to take on the issues important to our profession. Again, thank you for your support. We will keep fighting for all of you.

## Apply Now for Residential Real Estate Specialist Certification

The Real Property Section of the Connecticut Bar Association has created the Residential Real Estate Specialist Certification program to help the public identify attorneys who are competent, experienced, and skilled in the area of residential real estate law and to raise the level of practice in this area of law.

If you are interested in applying for certification, the process to become eligible begins with **filing a notice of intent to apply by October 10, 2019**. The CBA Examining and Standing Committee on Residential Real Estate Certification will hold an exam to certify specialists on February 28, 2020.

For more information regarding the Residential Real Estate Specialist Certification Program and to apply, visit [ctbar.org/RRESpecialist](http://ctbar.org/RRESpecialist).



## Board Certified Specialist Residential Real Estate

### PEERS AND CHEERS

#### Attorney Announcements

Ryan Ryan Deluca welcomed five new attorneys to their team of associates: **Karen L. Allison, Johnathan L. Konandreas, Charles Pobe-Mensah, Lindsay T. Reed, and Kurt J. Young, Jr.**

Robinson+Cole attorney **Stephen W. Aronson** was honored as Volunteer of the Year by the Pro Bono Partnership for his outstanding individual contributions of providing free legal services.

**Sara C. Bronin** received the 2019 Pro Bene Meritis Award, the highest honor given by the University of Texas College of Liberal Arts, for her outstanding contributions in professional and philanthropic pursuits.

An installation ceremony was held in Connecticut for officers and directors of the National Italian American Bar Association (NIA-BA), a California non-profit, installing **Francis M. Donnarumma** as national president, **Daniel Elliott** as a director, and **Cristina Salamone** as regional vice president and a director.

**Glenn W. Dowd** of Day Pitney LLP was invited to become a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA), a national association of experienced trial lawyers and judges.

Murtha Cullina LLP announces that **Marc T. Finer** has been named a James W. Cooper Fellow of the Connecticut Bar Foundation. The James W. Cooper Fellows Foundation honors the leading members of the legal community in Connecticut, promotes a better understanding of the legal profession and the judicial system, and explores ways to improve the state's administration of justice.

Suisman Shapiro Attorneys at Law welcome **Theodore W. Heiser** as a director in the firm's civil litigation department, practicing in the areas of personal injury and employment law.

Kahan Kerensky Capossela LLP welcomes **Joseph P. Mortelliti** as an associate. Attorney Mortelliti will practice in the real estate, litigation, and land use departments.

Carlton Fields added **Abigail L. Preissler** as an associate in the firm's Hartford office. Attorney Preissler represents institutional lenders, banks, real estate developers, and individual investors in all aspects of a wide variety of commercial real estate and finance transactions.

**C. Scott Schwefel** of Shipman Shaiken & Schwefel LLC was elected a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, an honorary organization of attorneys, judges, law faculty, and legal scholars whose public and private careers have demonstrated outstanding dedication to the welfare of their communities and to the highest principles of the legal profession.

The Law Offices of Edward Nusbaum PC welcomes **Maura A. Smith** as a partner. Attorney Smith focuses her practice on commercial and matrimonial matters.

**Lisa P. Staron** of Murtha Cullina LLP was elected to the Board of Directors of the Estate and Business Planning Council of Hartford Inc. (EBPC) for a two-year term. EBPC is an association of professionals who specialize in estate and financial planning for individuals and businesses.

#### Firm/Organization Announcements

**Day Pitney LLP** received the George J. and Patricia K Ritter Pro Bono Award from the Connecticut Fair Housing Center, recognizing the firm's service to the center and its clients.

The firm Cousins Desrosiers & Morizio PC transitioned to **Morizio Law Firm PC** and has relocated to a new location at 6580 Main St., Suite 200, in Stratford. ■

**PEERS and CHEERS SUBMISSIONS** e-mail [editor@ctbar.org](mailto:editor@ctbar.org)