

## Legislative Affairs

BY BILL CHAPMAN

**T**he CBA has known since its inception that its attorneys need to be involved in the legislative undertaking of the way it practices and protects the rule of law within the state of Connecticut. Legislative positions are taken by the Association, the sections and committees on proposals presented to the Rules Committee of the Superior Court affecting the practice book, federal and state regulations that affect certain areas of practice, and proposed legislation that may be supported or opposed by our members. Below provides you with the means by which the CBA manages its legislative affairs.

The Legislative and Policy Review Committee (LPRC) was designated in the CBA Constitution and Bylaws as one of its eight standing committees, traditionally chaired by the CBA president-elect and having a membership of at least nine members of which 2/3 are present or previous members of CBA governing bodies (the Board of Governors or House of Delegates). The LPRC is one of the busiest committees as it meets throughout the year, including nearly weekly for at least five months of the year, reviewing proposed legislation, rules, and regulations. The committee is diverse in its makeup by its legal experience, its locations of practice, and its areas of legal practice.

Position requests are submitted by sections to the LPRC requesting the LPRC's recommendation. The request is then forwarded for authorization from the House of Delegates or Board of Governors. Additionally, the four-person CBA Executive Committee may authorize

an LPRC recommended position, if in a timely situation and in between meetings of the governing bodies. Prior to submission, sections or committees will need to discuss and receive approval by 2/3 of either its membership, executive committee, or Legislative Committee (of at least ten section members). Next, sections or committees should complete the position request form. After the position request form is submitted to the LPRC, it is distributed with pertinent background material, such as proposed draft legisla-



tion, to the chairs and legislative liaisons of each section and committee for review and comment. At that point, the LPRC meets with the section representatives to thoroughly review, discuss, and decide whether its proposal should be recommended. The proposal then moves on to the governing body—the House of Delegates or Board of Governors—which decides at its meeting whether it is to be authorized.

If authorized, the CBA can then lobby for that proposal, and, along with the CBA lobbyist, may meet with legislators and other stakeholders to discuss its

position. The section is urged to present and/or submit testimony on the proposal. The section may write comments on a specific proposal to the Rules Committee of the Superior Court and speak at the monthly Rules Committee meeting at the Supreme Court. It may also write comments regarding proposed federal regulations and provide them to the specific committee of cognizance and to the Connecticut Congressional delegation.

The CBA website provides a main tab for Legislative Affairs, which includes assistance and background to your participation and to the issues involved. This page includes the position request form as well as the CBA legislative policy, our up-to-date legislative agenda on what positions are authorized and by which sections, and the ongoing proposals to the rules committee and their monthly decisions. This resource page also provides a list of our legislative liaisons by section and a page of resources with links to your congressional delegation; the White House; Supreme Court; the Connecticut legislature members, its committees, and even its daily schedule; and finally the Connecticut Judicial Branch. You can also get to the Constitutional officers and every state agency. Also provided are links to the most used local political blogs and the CT Network (CT-N).

We also provide a regular CBA Capitol Update Twitter feed, which can be found @CTBarLeg. Find us, use us, follow us, share us. ■

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