

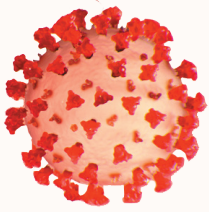


Image credit: CDC



Responds to the COVID-19 Pandemic

2020 COVID-19 Pandemic Task Force



THE CONNECTICUT BAR ASSOCIATION formed the 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic Task Force (the “task force”) to respond to the growing legal issues and needs in Connecticut arising from the COVID-19 pandemic

and includes lawyers, judges, and professionals statewide who have agreed to volunteer their time and resources to ensure issues and concerns raised by the legal community and the public are met. The task force is lead by Barbara J. Collins, The Law Office of Barbara J. Collins; Monte E. Frank, Pullman & Comley LLC; and Dana M. Hrelac, Horton Dowd Bartschi & Levesque PC. For the most up-to-date information about the task force’s efforts, visit ctbar.org/coronavirus.

Through the task force, leaders from various organizations have been able to maximize their resources to assist the various branches of government, the legal community, and the health care community with addressing the needs of the entire State of Connecticut. Specifically, the task force will work to identify legal needs arising

from the pandemic, make recommendations to address those needs, and help mobilize lawyers and legal professionals to assist individuals who are in need.

In addition to the task force and subcommittee chairs, long-time CBA member Daniel A. Schwartz has provided invaluable support to the bar association as the idea behind the formation of these groups and has helped keep the bar informed of the efforts of the ABA and other bar associations throughout the country in response to this pandemic.

The task force has eight subcommittees to help meet the needs of the State of Connecticut, focusing on the following issues: executive orders and legislation, legal aid associations, the public at large, the legal profession, the financial impact on the legal profession, state and federal courts, technology and cyber security, and law schools and students. Each subcommittee is discussed in detail below.

The Eight Subcommittees

Liaison to the Executive and Legislative Branch Subcommittee

This subcommittee addresses issues related to executive orders issued by Governor Lamont and potential legislative actions that pertain to the intersection of Connecticut law practice and the COVID-19 public health crisis. The subcommittee works closely with the Judicial and Federal Branch Liaison Subcommittee to facilitate communication between and among the bar and the judicial, executive, and legislative branches of government. The goal of this subcommittee is to ensure justice can be accomplished as effectively as possible during and after the immediate COVID-19 State of Emergency, by ensuring that the legislative and executive branches are aware of concerns of the bar and are addressing these concerns in a manner that is fair and balances the demands of safety and justice. For the most up-to-date information about this subcommittee, visit ctbar.org/covid19-executive.

Chair: *Paul A. Slager, Silver Golub & Teitell LLP*

Legal Aid Subcommittee

This subcommittee is working with those serving Connecticut's most vulnerable populations to address critical civil legal needs amplified by the COVID-19 public health crisis. The subcommittee is working to recruit and train pro bono lawyers in matters such as eviction and foreclosure defense, government benefits, bankruptcy, consumer debt, and certain family matters. Lawyers are able to sign up to participate, and access on-demand webinars and trainings, through the CBA's website at ctbar.org/coronavirus. The Legal Aid Subcommittee will also advocate for appropriate executive, legislative, and judicial responsive measures that will alleviate the impact of the COVID-19 public health crisis. Connecticut's low-income residents need capable lawyers and effective legal responses to help them navigate these critical legal problems, and we hope you will join us in answering the call. For the most up-to-date information about this subcommittee, visit ctbar.org/covid19-probono.

Chair: *Cecil J. Thomas, Greater Hartford Legal Aid Inc.*

Public at Large Subcommittee

This subcommittee will be a source of support and information for the public regarding legal and non-legal issues. For instance, with respect to non-legal issues, the subcommittee is collaborating with other bar and trade associations in Connecticut to raise money through Project Feed Connecticut to help feed those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. As of press time, Hartford County Bar Association, CFA Society Hartford, Connecticut Chapter of the American College of Surgeons Professional Association, Connecticut Asian Pacific American Bar Association, Portuguese American Bar Association, George W. Crawford Black Bar Association, New Haven County Bar Association, Middlesex County Bar Association, Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants, the Connecticut Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, Pullman & Comley's ADR Group, the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association, the South Asian Bar Association of Connecticut, the Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association, and the Connecticut Italian American Bar Association have joined forces to raise money for Connecticut Food Bank and Food Share, who are providing support for those in need throughout the state. Donations can be made at ctbar.org/ProjectFeedCT. The subcommittee has also prepared a webpage with resources for the public and legal communities, which provides information on the many pressing issues presented by the pandemic. For the most up-to-date information about this subcommittee, visit ctbar.org/covid19-public.

Chair: *Jonathan Shapiro, Aeton Law Partners LLP*

Legal Profession Subcommittee

This subcommittee provides information and resources to assist attorneys and to advance the state of the legal profession during this global pandemic. The focus of this subcommittee is on how attorneys can adapt and successfully manage their law practice while "stay at home" orders and closures are in place to aid in the ongoing coronavirus pandemic fight, including information on running a remote law firm and meeting client needs, adapting marketing, website and social media platforms, cyber security and database protection issues, and other law practice management issues. This subcommittee also strives to address concerns and highlight successes of lawyers working to develop relationships, exchange ideas, offer guidance, and learn about current technologies, office management

practices, business development strategies, and the business of the practice of law during this time of social distancing. For the most up-to-date information about this subcommittee, visit ctbar.org/covid19-lawyers.

Chair: *Amy Lin Meyerson, Law Office of Amy Lin Meyerson*

Financial Impact on the Legal Profession Subcommittee

This subcommittee addresses the financial impact on and resources available to law firms and legal aid organizations to weather the storm during the national pandemic. The subcommittee has studied public and private financing options and insurance claims that are available to lawyers and law firms. The subcommittee has published guidelines to assist Connecticut lawyers in seeking financial remedies to assist them during the crisis. These guidelines include hyperlinks to federal and state government websites at which attorneys may request loans, grants, and payroll assistance. In particular, the subcommittee outlined federal programs offered by the Small Business Administration (SBA) and state programs offered by the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). Moreover, the guidelines provide lawyers and law firms with private funding options with private banks, credit unions, and other private lenders. For the most up-to-date information about this subcommittee, visit ctbar.org/covid19-financial.

Co-Chairs: *Ralph J. Monaco, Conway Londregan Sheehan & Monaco PC and Keith B. Gallant, Day Pitney LLP*

Judicial and Federal Branch Liaison Subcommittee

This subcommittee addresses issues related to the closure of state and federal courts and the bar's concerns regarding the practice of law during the pandemic. For instance: the chair of the subcommittee monitored the meeting of the Rules Commit-

tee at which it suspended many practice book rules. Through the work of the subcommittee members, which received input from many sections, the chair immediately responded to the Connecticut Judicial Branch with concerns that were immediately addressed. The subcommittee and the Judicial Branch have continued to have a direct line of communication so that the concerns of the bar are heard. For the most up-to-date information about this subcommittee, visit ctbar.org/covid19-judicial.

Chair: *Monte E. Frank, Pullman & Comley LLC*

Technology Subcommittee

This subcommittee explores and addresses technology and cyber security issues that arose during the pandemic, and its aftermath. The subcommittee produces webinars and resources to assist practitioners and the community with working remotely, and hold hearings, depositions, and other meetings virtually. The subcommittee has produced webinars and created resources on topics such as cyber security, data privacy, converting to a virtual work spaces, managing your law firm remotely, and conducting online research. For the most up-to-date information about this subcommittee, visit ctbar.org/covid19-technology.

Co-Chairs: *Frederic S. Ury, Ury & Moskow LLC and CBA President Ndidi N. Moses*

Law Student and Law Schools Subcommittee

This subcommittee will explore issues facing law students and law schools in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in relation to bar admissions. For the most up-to-date information about this subcommittee, visit ctbar.org/covid19-lawschool.

Co-Chairs: *Hon. Anne C. Dranginis (Ret.), Pullman & Comley LLC and Dana M. Hrelac, Horton Dowd Bartschi & Levesque PC*

The CBA has created resource pages for both the legal community and the public, on topics that range from information on remote law practice management to financial resources for legal professionals to health and wellness resources to links of virtual tours of theme park rides, NASA, national parks, and museums. Access these resources at ctbar.org/covid19-resources.