

News & Events

CBA Celebrates 2020 Law Day

More than 120 legal professionals and middle and high school students attended the CBA's annual Law Day event, "Your Vote, Your Voice, Our Democracy: Celebrating the Centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment in the Age of COVID-19," which was held virtually on Friday, May 8. Guest speaker Secretary of the State Denise W. Merrill wove the American Bar Association's Law Day theme, celebrating suffrage history and the centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment, into a discussion about voting challenges today, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The event was organized by the CBA's Civics Education Committee and co-sponsored by Connecticut's numerous affinity and local bar associations, including the Connecticut Asian Pacific American Bar Association, Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association, Fairfield County Bar Association, Hartford County Bar Association, The Greater Bridgeport Bar Association, Greater New Britain Bar Association, Litchfield County Bar Association, Middlesex County Bar Association, New Haven County Bar Association, Tolland County Bar Association, and Waterbury Bar Association. The event served as the culmination of the CBA's yearlong efforts to commemorate the centennial of the 19th Amendment with events that included lectures and a statewide scavenger hunt.

Law Day is a national effort, held since 1957, to celebrate the rule of law, providing an opportunity to understand

how law and the legal profession protect our liberty, strive to achieve justice, and contribute to the freedoms that all Americans share. Traditionally, the CBA's Civics Education Committee, co-chaired by Karen DeMeola and Jonathan Weiner, observes Law Day at the Connecticut Appellate Court in Hartford by hosting an event featuring an interactive activity, such as a debate or essay and art contest, for middle and high school students. The event was held virtually this year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The committee's initial disappoint-

ment of having to cancel this year's interactive event, which would have featured Mercy High School students acting as prominent figures in the history of women's suffrage and the struggle to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, was greatly relieved by the overwhelming response from both the bar and the public schools to the virtual event featuring Secretary of the State Merrill, who is a longtime friend of both civics education and the CBA," said Civics Education Committee Co-Chair Jonathan Weiner. "We're looking forward to providing more events like this in the coming year to expand access to civics education across Connecticut, especially in light of post-COVID-19 restrictions on school activities."



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CBA Establishes Policing Task Force

The CBA has established the **Policing Task Force** to convene community and law enforcement leaders in an earnest and frank dialogue about where we find ourselves in 2020. The Task Force will facilitate conversations with a diverse group of community leaders, law enforcement officials, and attorneys to hear the concerns raised by community members and to consider potential solutions in order to recommend reforms to policies, procedures, training, and culture in police departments. The goal is to ensure that our police departments have the policies and practices that best support fairness, procedural justice, transparency, and accountability. The Task Force is chaired by Deirdre M. Daly, former United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut and a partner at Finn Dixon & Herling LLC; Reverend Keith A. King, pastor at Christian Tabernacle Baptist Church and an attorney; and Alexis Smith, executive director of New Haven Legal Assistance Association.

The Task Force will focus on:

- Facilitating conversations between the community and law enforcement regarding excessive force, police mis-



conduct, and systemic discrimination.

- Examining the hiring, disciplinary, and firing practices of police departments; the reporting and review of incidents of misconduct; and the role of the community in the review of police misconduct and the recruitment of police officers.
- Reviewing police department's training, policies, and practices relating to use of force, de-escalation, and officer wellness.
- Making recommendations to improve accountability and transparency.

For more information on the task force, visit ctbar.org/policing-task-force

Three Attorneys Recognized with 2020 CLABBY Awards



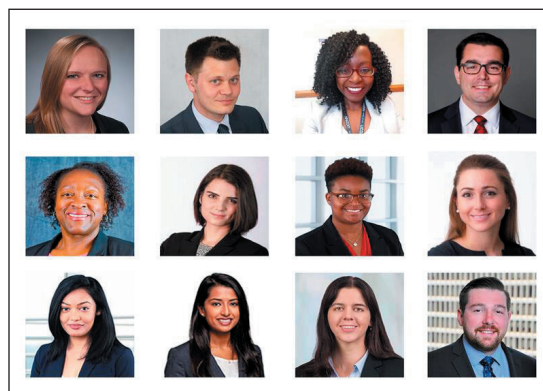
Attorneys *Matthew K. Beatman, John L. Cesaroni, and Charles A. Maglieri*

Attorneys **Matthew K. Beatman, John L. Cesaroni, and Charles A. Maglieri** were recognized with 2020 CLABBY awards by the CBA Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section. The CLABBY awards, established in 2016, are presented by the section each year to honor the professional achievements of section members.

Matthew K. Beatman received the 2020 Service to the Profession Award for his section leadership, development of educational programs, and delivery of pro bono services. Attorney Beatman is a shareholder and partner at Zeisler & Zeisler PC in Bridgeport.

John L. Cesaroni received the 2020 Rising Star Award for his consistent and meaningful participation in section activities and meetings and implementation of section initiatives. Attorney Cesaroni is an associate at Zeisler & Zeisler PC in Bridgeport.

Charles A. Maglieri received the 2020 Career Achievement Award for his professionalism and exemplary practice of commercial and bankruptcy law for more than 35 years. He is a sole practitioner at his firm the Law Offices of Charles A. Maglieri in Bloomfield.



2019–2020 Presidential Fellows

Apply Now to the Presidential Fellows Program

The CBA is now accepting applications for the Presidential Fellows program. The goal of this program is to further encourage and increase the active involvement of young lawyers, lawyers who no longer qualify for membership in the Young Lawyers Section, and diverse lawyers with an opportunity to become more involved in the substantive work of CBA sections and further develop their leadership abilities. Each appointment will be for a period of two years.

Visit ctbar.org/Fellows for more information and to apply. Applications are due Friday, July 31.

IN MEMORIAM

Hon. Kevin Dubay

Judge Kevin Dubay passed away on March 6 at the age of 65. He earned his undergraduate degree from Tufts University and his JD at UConn Law School. Judge Dubay served with distinction on the Connecticut Superior Court since 2001 and he spent many years presiding over the complex litigation docket. Prior to his judgeship, he was appointed Corporation Counsel for the City of Hartford, working in the administration of his dear friend, the late Mayor Mike Peters.

Hon. Cara F. Eschuk

Judge Cara F. Eschuk passed away on April 11 at the age of 68. She graduated from the University of Wales at Aberystwyth with a degree in law and earned her JD from UConn Law School after moving to Connecticut. Judge Eschuk practiced with Carmody & Torrance in Waterbury and went on to join the State's Attorney's Office in Waterbury where she specialized in the prosecution of child abuse. She attended and later taught classes on the subject at the National Advocacy Center in South Carolina. In 2003, continuing her work with children, she became supervising attorney at the Waterbury Juvenile Court State's Attorney's Office until March of 2008 when she was appointed a superior court judge by Governor M. Jodi Rell.

Hon. Glenn E. Knierim

Judge Glenn E. Knierim passed away on May 9 at the age of 89. He received his undergraduate degree from Cornell University and went on to attend the evening division at UConn Law School while also working at Connecticut General Life Insurance Company. He became judge of the Simsbury Probate Court in 1966, a role he held for 32 years, along with serving as the administrative head of

the Probate Court system from 1973 to 1989. Judge Knierim held numerous leadership positions in the bar and served on the executive board of the National College of Probate Judges. As a dedicated resident of Simsbury, he served on town's Planning and Ethics Commissions and chaired the committee that wrote the town's first charter.

William J. Doyle

William J. Doyle passed away on April 18. He was a graduate of Fairfield University and St. John's University School of Law. In 1963, he joined the 18-lawyer Wiggin and Dana LLP in New Haven, where he went on to become a partner and head of the firm's litigation practice. He was appointed by the federal judges in Connecticut to serve as a special master and by the chief justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court to sit as a special trial referee. Attorney Doyle served as principal trial lawyer for Yale University for over 25 years and taught as a member of the adjunct faculty. Additionally, he served as chair of the CBA's Federal Practice Section and Lawyer-to-Lawyer Dispute Resolution Committee.

Christopher P. McCormack

Christopher P. McCormack passed away on April 30 at the age of 63. He received a BA in musicology from Yale, a Master of Music degree from Eastman School of Music, and obtained his law degree from Fordham University. Attorney McCormack began his legal career as a clerk for Judge Thomas Meskill, worked for Tyler Cooper & Alcorn in New Haven for 17 years, and joined Pullman & Comley LLC in 2004 where he specialized in environmental litigation. He served as CBA Environmental Law Section chair from 2015-2017,

and served as the section's legislative liaison for the past few years, providing "must-read" updates for the section.

Albert R. Moquet

Albert R. Moquet passed away on May 29 at the age of 96. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Connecticut and his JD from Boston University Law School. After law school, Attorney Moquet joined the private practice of Francis J. Moran and John E. McNerney and practiced as a litigator for 25 years before becoming a partner in the firm of Barberio Staley and Moquet. He was admitted to practice in all Connecticut Courts, Federal District Court, the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, the US Supreme Court, and the Mashantucket Pequot Trial Court and was a member of the American Bar Association, the Connecticut Bar Association, and the New Haven County Bar Association.

Robert Percy

Robert Percy passed away on March 16 at the age of 74. He earned a degree in engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and earned his JD from UConn Law School. Before entering private practice, he worked for the IRS Chief Counsel's Office where he met his future legal partner, Richard G. Convicer; they went on to form the law firm of Convicer & Percy LLP. Additionally, he was a member of CBA Tax Section Executive Committee.

Matthew N. Perlstein

Matthew N. Perlstein passed away on February 19 at the age of 74. He was a graduate of Bard College and Boston University School of Law. Since 1991, he concentrated his practice on condominium and community

IN MEMORIAM

association law, representing condominium, community, and homeowner associations. He served on the advisory committees to the Connecticut Law Revision Commission that adapted the original Uniform Common Interest Ownership Act and two revisions of the Act for use in Connecticut. He was a member of the CBA Real Property Section Executive Committee and chaired the committee that prepared the original *Connecticut Common Ownership Manual* as well as was lead author of the second edition of the manual (both published by the Connecticut Bar Association).

Ellery E. Plotkin

Ellery E. Plotkin passed away on April 2 at the age of 67. He was a

graduate of the University of Connecticut and Hofstra University School of Law. Attorney Plotkin, of the Law Offices of Ellery E. Plotkin LLC in Norwalk, specialized in bankruptcy law and served as a member of the CBA Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section. As a long-time resident of Fairfield, he was committed to community service, having served as a Democratic Town Committee member and former chairman of the committee; an RTM member; and a commissioner on the Fairfield Parks and Recreation Commission.

Stephen E. Ronai

Stephen E. Ronai passed away on April 30 at the age of 83. He was a

graduate of Columbia College of Columbia University and Yale Law School and was a nationally recognized expert in a broad range of health care industry provider legal issues. Attorney Ronai served as a partner at Murtha Cullina LLP for 20 years, where he provided leadership as chairman of the Health Care Department and as a mentor to many of the health care lawyers that served provider clients through the firm. He was a member of the CBA Health Law Section and held numerous leadership positions in health care provider organizations and health care educational institutions.

CBA and Local Law Firms Launch Virtual Small Business Legal Clinic

The CBA is sponsoring a statewide **COVID-19 Small Business Virtual Legal Clinic** (the COVID-19 Clinic) along with Robinson+Cole and other area law firms. The purpose of the clinic is to help Connecticut's entrepreneurs and small businesses that have suffered adversely from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic by providing free, limited-scope legal guidance during 45-minute telephone or video calls with a volunteer attorney. The COVID-19 Clinic is expected to run through August 2020.

The COVID-19 Clinic offers the opportunity for Connecticut-based entrepreneurs and small businesses with twenty five (25) or fewer employees to ask questions relating to COVID-19 assistance available under federal or state programs as well as broader legal questions relating to challenges they face as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Topics in which small businesses can receive support include loans and grants, contracts and force majeure clauses, employment law matters, real estate and commercial leasing issues, and insurance matters.

Volunteer Connecticut attorneys will provide free, limited-scope legal guidance during 45-minute telephone or video calls with a Connecticut-based entrepreneur or small business. Consultations will include helping Connecticut



small business owners understand the legislative language in the CARES Act and Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).

Attorneys and Connecticut-based entrepreneurs or small businesses interested in participating in the COVID-19 Clinic should visit ctbar.org/smallbusinessclinic to learn more and register. Questions regarding the Clinic should be directed to smallbusinesscovid19virtualclinic@ctbar.org.

PEERS AND CHEERS

Attorney Announcements

Audrey Blondin, of Blondin Law Office LLC in Torrington, received her Master of Public Health (MPH) degree from UConn this year. She was the recipient of the school's 2020 Susan S. Addiss Award in Applied Public Health Practice, which recognizes the graduating MPH student who best exemplifies the qualities of the award's namesake: public health advocacy, leadership, demonstrated commitment, and academic performance.

Daniel L. King has been named a partner of The Law Office of P. Michael Lahan and the firm name has been changed to Lahan & King, LLC. The Norwich firm limits its practice to wills, trusts, elder law, and probate administration.

Robinson+Cole Litigation Section co-chair **Rhonda J. Tobin** was selected by the *Hartford Business Journal* for inclusion in its 2020 "Women in Business" recognition. Attorney Tobin is among 15 honorees who demonstrate business success, confidence in themselves and their organizations, and a strong track record of professional leadership. Attorney Tobin has represented insurance companies for almost 30 years in litigation of

disputes involving insurance and reinsurance coverage, insurance bad faith and extracontractual liability, and professional liability.

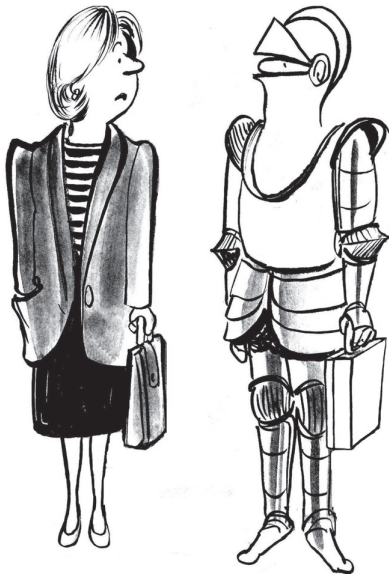
Firm/Organization Announcements

The CBA Veterans and Military Affairs Section's Executive Committee donated \$500 of their section funds to Columbus House to help homeless veterans affected by COVID-19. The section was inspired by the CBA's donation to Project Feed Connecticut and redirected the money allocated to their May meeting for the donation.

The Hartford law firm of **Alderman & Alderman** has elected to set aside an hour a day to provide free legal services to Connecticut businesses impacted by COVID-19. In addition to other pro bono services, free telephone consultations will be offered from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. This free support is intended for local businesses that were forced to close, or are suffering extreme financial difficulty, as a result of COVID-19. ■

PEERS and CHEERS SUBMISSIONS
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