CBA Members Volunteer at Stand Down

Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, CBA members were still able to continue the nearly 25-year tradition of providing pro bono legal services to veterans at the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs’ annual Stand Down event. On Friday, September 25, Attorneys Richard D. Arconti, Dennis M. Carnelli, Carrie M. Coulombe, Jason M. Fragoso, Daniel J. Horgan, Timothy Lenes, Frank Manfredi, and Winona W. Zimberlin represented the CBA as one of the few service organizations able to provide in-person assistance to Stand Down attendees in Bridgeport, Danbury, Norwich, and Rocky Hill.

Stand Down was established after the Vietnam War and provides veterans with “one-stop” access to a range of programs and services offered by state and federal agencies, Veterans organizations, and community-based non-profits. This year’s Stand Down event included a virtual component on September 24, in which community organizations explained how to access available services. On September 25, the new four-location format created a social distancing environment for veterans to safely receive in-person services.

Above: Jason M. Fragoso and Richard D. Arconti volunteering at Stand Down in Danbury.

Right: Winona W. Zimberlin and Carrie M. Coulombe volunteer in Rocky Hill at this year’s Stand Down.
On Friday, September 19, the world lost the gender equality and women’s rights champion, US Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. She received a BA from Cornell, where she was the highest-ranking female in her graduating class, and went on to graduate from Columbia Law School, where she was tied for first in her class. After law school, Justice Ginsburg served as a clerk for the Honorable Edmund L. Palmieri, United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. She went on to teach at Rutgers Law School and Columbia Law School, where she became its first female tenured professor. In 1972, she co-founded the Women’s Rights Project at the ACLU and led the project until her appointment as a judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in 1980. She was nominated as an associate justice of the Supreme Court by President Clinton and took her seat on August 10, 1993.

As the nation remembers her life and her numerous accomplishments, the Connecticut Bar Association most recently recalls the time she took time out of her day to attend the CBA Young Lawyers Section sponsored swearing in of 33 CBA members to the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States in May 2018. The group was honored with a private visit from Justice Ginsburg in which she took a photo with the attorneys and answered questions.

Other CBA members might recall when she was a visiting scholar lecturer at UConn School of Law in March 2004. Justice Ginsburg spoke about behind-the-scenes customs of the US Supreme Court and current issues of the times, including the Court’s recusal policy and the reliance on foreign law in its own jurisprudence.

We deeply feel the great loss of Justice Ginsburg in our legal community and send our condolences to her family. It is an amazing part of her legacy that she touched so many lives personally here in Connecticut and throughout the world.

Lawrence “Larry” Samuel Brick passed away at the age of 74 on June 17. Attorney Brick was a graduate of Marietta College and Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. He was an attorney for nearly 50 years, 32 of which he had his own practice specializing in workers’ compensation. Described as fair, brave and willing to compromise, he was well respected within the legal community and beyond. As a community leader, he was an active member and contributor to a number of organizations, including Jewish Federation, West Hartford Democratic Town Committee, and Jewish Family Services, for which he served as a president.

IN MEMORIAM
The CBA Celebrates Constitution Day

On September 29, the CBA held “Celebrate Constitution Day” with the CBA: *Bush v. Gore* at Twenty: Lessons for the 2020 Election” in observance of this year’s Constitution Day. Program attendees, which included CBA members as well as teachers and students throughout the state, learned about the disputed 2000 presidential election, the United States Supreme Court’s resulting decision in *Bush v. Gore*, the roles of the federal and state courts in considering election disputes, and how they are likely to inform court challenges that may arise during the 2020 presidential election.

“Starting with the commemoration of the centennial of the 19th Amendment at our annual Law Day ceremony in May, much of the CBA’s civics education programming this past year has focused on the exercise of our citizens’ most fundamental right and responsibility: voting,” stated Civics Education Committee Chair Jonathan Weiner.

The program was led by Civics Education Committee Chair Jonathan Weiner with a discussion from Secretary of State Denise W. Merrill and Douglas M. Spencer, professor of law and public policy at UConn School of Law. The program was followed by a robust question and answer session from the audience.

PEERS AND CHEERS

Attorney Announcements

RoseKallor LLP is pleased to announce that Operation Fuel’s Board of Directors has elected Rauchell Beckford-Anderson to serve on the organization’s governing body. Attorney Beckford-Anderson is an associate at the firm and focuses her practice on all aspects of employment law. She defends public and private employers against claims of discrimination, breach of contract, free speech retaliation, whistleblower retaliation, and other civil rights violations.

The law firm of Neubert Pepe & Monteith PC is pleased to announce that Sean R. Caruthers has been named a partner with the firm. Attorney Caruthers’s practice is focused in the areas of insurance defense and coverage disputes, premises, products and professional liability as well as construction, commercial, construction, employment, and municipal litigation.

James Horwitz, managing attorney at Koskoff Koskoff & Bieder, has been named to the Board of Directors of the Brain Injury Alliance of Connecticut (BIAC). BIAC provides resources and support to brain injury survivors, their families, and caregivers while educating people throughout Connecticut about brain injury and prevention.

Fitzgerald Attorneys at Law PC is pleased to announce that Andrea Momnie O’Connor joined the firm’s Connecticut office. Attorney O’Connor is among the region’s foremost legal experts in the areas of business financing, restructuring, bankruptcy, asset protection, and commercial matters.

McCarter & English is pleased to announce the addition Rolan Joni Young and Christine Owens Morgan to its Hartford office. Attorney Young brings her leadership in the affordable housing, economic development, community development, and community-based healthcare development arenas to the firm where she joins as a partner in the firm’s Real Estate Practice Group. Attorney Morgan has extensive experience representing affordable housing developers in numerous real estate transactions, including assisting them with acquisitions and related financings and joined the firm as special counsel.

Firm/Organization Announcements

The partners of Carmody Torrance Sandak & Hennessey LLP have established the Anthony M. Fitzgerald Fund for Excellence to honor Tony Fitzgerald on the occasion of his retirement from the practice of law in 2018. Attorney Fitzgerald was a long-time supporter of the Connecticut Bar Foundation (CBF) and was a Charter James W. Cooper Fellow. Carmody lawyers and staff, friends, and others made the initial contributions to the Fund and proceeds were donated to the CBF to establish The Anthony M. Fitzgerald Award for Excellence. The award recognizes excellence in advocacy, a hallmark of Attorney Fitzgerald’s career. The CBF will present the award annually.

The law firm of Conlon & McGlynn LLC has changed its name to Conlon McGlynn & McCann as of August 1, 2020. It is a boutique matrimonial and family law firm that specializes in complex and high net-worth cases. The firm is pleased to welcome Lauren McCann, who has exclusively practiced family law her entire career.

Murtha Cullina LLP is pleased to announce that Andy I. Corea has been elected managing partner of the firm, effective January 1, 2021. Attorney Corea currently serves as chair of the firm’s Business and Finance Department. He will succeed Jennifer Morgan DelMonico, who has served as Managing Partner of the firm since 2015 and will resume her full-time practice as a trial lawyer for corporate clients in product liability and commercial litigation disputes.

Peer and Cheers Submissions

e-mail editor@ctbar.org