

News & Events

CBA Provides Pro Bono Legal Services in Libraries



CBA Vice President Horgan, Public Library of New London's Director of Informational Services Thomas Kramer, and Attorneys Zrenda and Scully volunteer for Lawyers in the Libraries at the Public Library of New London.

The CBA has established the Lawyers in the Libraries program to provide free pro bono legal services to members of the public in a community setting. The program, which began on December 3, allows members of the public to register for a 20-minute appointment and receive free legal advice in the areas of landlord/tenant, immigration law, family law, employment, consumer rights, and personal injury at the Public Library of New London and Ferguson Library in Stamford.

“With the COVID-19 restrictions in place, the CBA is thrilled that we are able to provide in-person and virtual legal services through our Lawyers in the Libraries program,” said CBA President

Amy Lin Meyerson. “Many thanks to Kyle LaBuff and CBA Executive Director Keith J. Soressi for conceptualizing and establishing this CBA pro bono legal services program, and Vice President Dan Horgan for taking the lead in running the program in the New London area. We welcome the participation of more attorney volunteers in the CBA Lawyers in the Libraries program.”

The Lawyers in the Libraries program was established by CBA member and Presidential Fellow, Kyle J. LaBuff. At-

torney LaBuff actively recruits attorneys to staff the program and coordinated the use of space and sign up of clients with the library representatives. CBA Vice President Daniel J. Horgan is assisting Attorney LaBuff with recruiting attorneys and staffing the New London location. This pro bono program is an initiative of the CBA's Pro Bono Committee and was originated as Attorney LaBuff's presidential fellowship project.

“These clinics are a great way to help those who are struggling in these tough times. Between the Great Recession and the COVID-19 pandemic, pro bono opportunities have helped those with evictions, family matters, and immigration cases. In addition, it gives young attorneys a chance to gain experience where needed. The moment I was sworn in, I started volunteering all over Connecticut,” shared Attorney LaBuff. “In the upcoming months, we plan to expand the Lawyers in Libraries program to more libraries throughout Connecticut. By the end of 2021, we hope to have participating libraries and attorneys in all of the counties of Connecticut.”

The program is currently meeting in-person and following all recommended social distancing guidelines. The program will continue to meet unless it is unsafe to do so and/or the libraries are closed.

Attorneys who wish to provide pro bono services through the Lawyers in the Libraries program should e-mail probonoclinic@ctbar.org.

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Nine Attorneys Certified as Residential Real Estate Specialists

Nine attorneys became part of the inaugural class of Connecticut Board Certified Residential Real Estate Specialists in January. This achievement signifies they are extremely competent, experienced, and skilled in residential real estate law.

The attorneys who earned this certification are:

Edward M. Cassella, Cloutier & Cassella LLC, Old Saybrook

Descera Daigle, Goldman Gruder & Woods LLC, Norwalk

Gregory F. DeManche, DeManche Law Group, LLC, Avon

Michael W. Epright, Epright Law LLC, Haddam

Monika A. Gradzki, The Gradzki Law Firm LLC, New Britain

Jay N. Hershman, Baillie & Hershman PC, Cheshire

Daniel K. Readyoff, Allingham Readyoff & Henry LLC, New Milford

Michael D. Rybak, Guion Stevens & Rybak LLP, Litchfield

Anthony D. Santoro, The Law Offices of Anthony D. Santoro, Middlebury

To achieve this five-year certification, each of these nine attorneys accumulated more than 36 hours of continuing legal education activities in residential real estate law, received five or more references from other attorneys or judges knowledgeable regarding their practice and competence, and passed a written exam. All specialists are in good standing with each bar they have been admitted, have practiced law in Connecticut for at least five years, and dedicate 25 percent or more of their total practice to the area of residential real estate law.

The Real Property Section of the Connecticut Bar Association (CBA) launched the Residential Real Estate Specialist



Certification program in July of 2019 to help the public identify attorneys who have demonstrated expertise in the area of residential real estate law based on their competence, experience, and skills. The Legal Specialization Screening Committee and the Rules Committee of the Connecticut Superior Court approved the CBA's certification program in December of 2018 to raise the level of practice in this area of law.

For more information regarding the Board Certified Residential Real Estate Specialist and the certification program, visit ctbar.org/RRESpecialist or contact the program's staff advisor, Phanny Cahill, at pcahill@ctbar.org.

SEEKING LEADERS TO SERVE ON THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES FROM 2021-2024

The CBA is seeking leaders to represent their colleagues in the House of Delegates for a three (3) year term.

Please consider volunteering your time to strengthen the CBA, bring new ideas, and encourage growth to the association as we move forward in the coming years. The districts that have

at least one (1) expiring seat beginning July 1 are 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 12.

Please keep in mind that if you currently are seated on the House of Delegates and your term is about to expire, you still need to follow the procedure for nomination once again.

To learn about the online nomination process, including instructions for nominating colleagues in your District and/or yourself, visit ctbar.org/HOD2021. Completed petitions are due Monday, April 12.

IN MEMORIAM

Hon. Dominic J. Squatrito passed away at the age of 82 on January 20, 2021. He was a member of the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut. He received his undergraduate degree from Wesleyan University, attended the University of Florence, Italy on a Fulbright scholarship, and received his law degree from Yale University. Judge Squatrito began his legal career at the law firm of Bayer & Phelon in Manchester. He remained at this firm, which later became Phelon Squatrito FitzGerald Dyer & Wood PC, for nearly 30 years. Judge Squatrito was nominated to the federal bench by President Bill Clinton on July 28, 1994, and received his commission on October 7, 1994. He assumed senior status on November 1, 2004 and served the court with honor and distinction for more than 25 years.

Richard A. Bieder passed away on January 16, 2021. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Finance and New York University Law School. Attorney Bieder served as a lieutenant in the US Navy's Judge Advocate General Corps., ultimately stationed at the Naval Air Station in Subic Bay, the Philippines. After the Navy, he began his 40-year career as a trial lawyer. He joined the firm headed by Ted Koskoff in Bridgeport in 1969. In 1972, the firm became Koskoff Koskoff and Bieder. As senior partner at the firm, Attorney Bieder fought for victims in class action suits resulting from state and national mass disasters, battled insurance companies and other powerful institutions, and fought for the un-empowered.

John Edward Lee passed away on December 12, 2020 at the age of 76. A graduate of Georgetown University and the UConn School of Law, he was admitted to the Connecticut Bar in 1969, but his practice was delayed when he was drafted into the United States Army, where he served until 1971. He then joined the firm of Garvey Collieran Weiner & Levy, eventually becoming a partner. He later became a solo practitioner and worked independently until the end of his career, which included arguing a case before the United States Supreme Court. Attorney Lee was a member of the American Bar Association, the Connecticut Bar Association (of which he served as chair of the Young Lawyers Section), and the New Haven County Bar Association.

Lee Sawyer passed away on October 31, 2020 at the age of 38. He earned his bachelor's degree as well as a graduate certificate in public relations at Central Connecticut State University, and he earned his JD from UConn School of Law. After finishing law school, he completed a public policy fellowship with the ZOOM Foundation before going on to envision and

launch RecycleCT, a foundation devoted to increasing recycling in Connecticut. His most recent role was chief of staff at the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP).

Richard P. Zipoli, Sr. passed away on November 2, 2020 at the age of 87. He was a graduate of Providence College and Fordham University Law School. After graduating from Providence College, he served in the US Army and attained the rank of first lieutenant. Attorney Zipoli began his law career as an associate of the late James E. Russell. He founded the law firm of Zipoli, Keefe & Dodd and practiced general law for 25 years, then later concentrated in residential and commercial real estate law, probate law, and elder law. He was a member of the Waterbury and Connecticut Bar Associations and an officer and director of the Connecticut Italian-American Bar Association. Attorney Zipoli also served as judge advocate for the Florio Post Veterans Association. ■

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