

# News & Events

## Project Feed Connecticut Raises \$40,000 in Past Year



In April 2020, more than a dozen Connecticut professional organizations partnered to establish **Project Feed Connecticut** to collect monetary donations to benefit the state's two largest food donation organizations at the time—Foodshare and Connecticut Food Bank, which have since merged—as a response to the increased challenges and demands to feed the countless people in need of support during these unprecedented times. CBA past president and chair of the 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic Task Force Public at Large Subcommittee, Jonathan M. Shapiro, along with his subcommittee, have spearheaded Project Feed Connecticut's efforts. In the year since its inception, Project Feed Connecticut has raised over \$40,000, including a \$16,000 contribution from the CBA.

Project Feed Connecticut is a joint effort by the Connecticut Bar Association, 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.

Donations can be made through the CT Bar Institute, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization, at [ctbar.org/Project-FeedCT](http://ctbar.org/Project-FeedCT). All donations received will be distributed to the newly-merged Connecticut Food Bank/Foodshare.

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## IN MEMORIAM



**Hon. Frederica S. Brenneman** passed away on March 15 at the age of 94. In 1950, she was accepted to the first class of women admitted to Harvard Law School. In 1967, Judge Brenneman was working as a law clerk to the Connecticut legislature's Judiciary Committee when the United States Supreme Court, in the landmark decision of *In Re Gault*, held that children facing delinquency proceedings are entitled to due process of law, including the constitutional right to legal counsel. She was subsequently appointed to the Connecticut Juvenile Court, becoming only the second female judge in the history of Connecticut, and went on to serve as a superior court judge in 1978, when the juvenile and superior courts merged. As a champion of juvenile justice throughout her career, Judge Brenneman specialized in abuse and neglect cases; pushed for stronger legal protections for children; shaped clear statewide protocols and case law; trained countless judges; and educated caseworkers, attorneys, parents, and the public on court procedures. In 1979, she helped found Children in Placement, which monitors and supports children in Connecticut's foster care system. From 1999 to 2005, Hon. Brenneman served as advisor on the television drama, *Judging Amy*, which was inspired by her life and work and which she co-created with her daughter, Amy.

**Nicholas W. Rosa** passed away on February 26 at the age of 90. He attended Georgetown University Law Center for his JD, and practiced in general law from 1957 to 2021 in Waterbury, until his death. Attorney Rosa was a member of the Waterbury, Connecticut, District of Columbia, and American

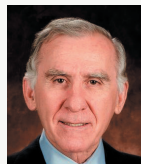
Bar Associations, and he was admitted to practice before the United States District Court for the District of Columbia (1956), the State of Connecticut Bar on (1957), the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut (1961), and the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit (1971). He was the recipient of a Certificate of Recognition from the Chief Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court and the Presiding Judges of the Superior Court for the Judicial District of Waterbury, for participating in Alternate Dispute Resolution Programs by serving as an attorney trial referee since 1989.



**Patricia R. Kaplan** passed away on February 14 at the age of 81 after a courageous battle with ALS. She was a true champion of access to justice for all and embodied the highest ideals of the profession. She began her legal career as a staff attorney at New Haven Legal Assistance Association (NHLAA) after interning there during law school, and rose to the role of executive director. Attorney Kaplan supervised junior lawyers and legal interns and taught at law schools, using every opportunity to teach the highest ideals of the profession to the next generation of lawyers. After retiring from NHLAA after 34 years of service, she established a private practice, and offered pro bono and low bono services directly to clients. She left her door, email, and phone lines open to assist both new and experienced lawyers. She received the Edward F. Hennessey Professionalism Award, which recognizes and honors a member of the bar whose career has manifested a dedication to the highest ideals and standards of the legal profession, posthumously at the CBA's annual awards celebration,

Bar Associations, and he was admitted to practice before the United States District Court for the District of Columbia (1956), the State of Connecticut Bar on (1957), the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut (1961), and the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit (1971). He was the recipient of a Certificate of Recognition from the Chief Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court and the Presiding Judges of the Superior Court for the Judicial District of Waterbury, for participating in Alternate Dispute Resolution Programs by serving as an attorney trial referee since 1989.

Celebrate with the Stars, on April 8. She previously received the Charles J. Parker Legal Service Award in 2008.



**Austin J. McGuigan** passed away on March 23 at the age of 77. He attended Merrimack College, then served in Army intelligence,

returning home to finish law school at Boston University. Attorney McGuigan served as chief state's attorney from 1978 to 1985, where he became known for prosecuting organized crime and government corruption. After leaving office, he went on to become a prominent defense lawyer and co-founder of the Hartford firm, Rome McGuigan PC. Attorney McGuigan's practice experience included the defense of intellectual property/trade secret litigation as well as corporate investigations both in regulatory and criminal cases.



**Daniel P. Scapellati** passed away on March 18 at the age of 63. He graduated from Villanova University and received his JD from the

University of Bridgeport (now Quinnipiac University School of Law). He practiced over 30 years in insurance coverage and bad faith litigation at Halloran & Sage LLP in Hartford, where he was a partner. Attorney Scapellati took pride in mentoring the firm's new associates and he served as chairman of Halloran Sage's Hiring Committee. He was an elected member of the Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel as well as a member of the Claims and Litigation Management Alliance. Prior to joining Halloran Sage, Attorney Scapellati served for seven years as staff counsel to the Connecticut Supreme and Appellate Courts.

## PEERS AND CHEERS

### Attorney Announcements

**Jennifer E. Czarnowski** has joined Neubert Pepe & Monteith PC in the firm's real estate and commercial finance & banking practice groups.

**Allison P. Dearington** has been promoted to principal at Jackson Lewis PC in the firm's Hartford office. Her practice is focused on employment litigation, including class and collective action defense, and preventive counseling.

**Peter J. Ryan** has published the new book, *How to Avoid Foreclosure: A Step-by-Step Guide to Loan Modifications, Short Sales, and Deeds in Lieu: A handbook for realtors, attorneys, and homeowners*, which is a detailed handbook for attorneys or realtors looking to complete foreclosure avoidance programs like short sales, deeds in lieu, or loan modifications. It is available for purchase at Amazon.com.

CBA Past President **Ndidi N. Moses** received the Quinnipiac University Black Law Students Association's (BLSA) Thurgood Marshall Award, which recognizes an outstanding person in law, education, or politics who exemplifies Marshall's dedication to improving society through the advancement of civil rights, civil liberties, and human rights.

### Firm News

The Law Firm of Clair & Gjertsen, Esqs. welcomes **Wendy Marie Weathers** as a partner, and the firm will now be known as Clair Gjertsen & Weathers PLLC. Additionally, Erin K. Flynn has been promoted from associate to partner in the firm.

**Butler Tibbetts** has promoted two of its lawyers to partner. Meredith McBride handles a variety of marital and family law matters, including divorce and alternative dispute resolution. Tommy Noonan handles complex cases involving a broad range of sectors and scenarios, focused primarily in the areas of health-care and managed care, civil and commercial, construction, corporate, personal injury, and probate.

Attorneys Stephen P. Fogerty, Thomas P. Lambert, and Eric D. Bernheim have launched the full-service law firm, **FLB Law PLLC**. The firm is located at 315 Post Road West in Westport. FLB Law's legal services include litigation; real estate transactions, finance, and development; banking and commercial transactions; employment law; family law; and trust and estates. The firm's clients include large corporations, local businesses, and individuals. ■

**PEERS and CHEERS SUBMISSIONS**  
e-mail [editor@ctbar.org](mailto:editor@ctbar.org)

# PULLMAN & COMLEY

## We are Pleased to Announce Our New Members and Associates

Pullman & Comley, LLC is pleased to announce the promotion of three attorneys to Members of the Firm and welcomes three new Associates.



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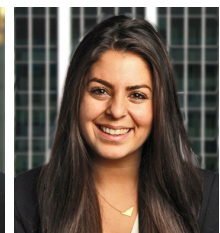
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