

News & Events

CBA Hosts Summer Picnic

On June 27, over 200 CBA members, officers, and past presidents and their family and friends enjoyed a summer picnic at Holiday Hill in Prospect. Those in attendance enjoyed cotton candy, ice cream truck treats, and a picnic lunch. Attendees had their choice to participate in many activities, including pony rides, mini-golf, kayaking, canoes, basketball, softball, yard games, bingo, and a rock-climbing wall. Most families enjoyed the pool and the day ended with dancing. Please save the date for next year's picnic that will be held on June 26, 2022.



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2021 L.A.W. CAMP FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

The CBA hosted the 2021 L.A.W. Camp virtually over the week of July 12-16. During the camp, high school students were taught about different aspects of the legal profession, helping them to develop the critical thinking skills that will be essential to expanding their education and eventually embarking on professional careers. Thirty students attended the camp and 33 attorneys, judges, and law school representatives volunteered to guide the students through the week. The students were introduced to L.A.W. Camp with a welcome from past CBA President and UConn School of Law Assistant Dean for Finance, Administration, and Enrollment Karen DeMeola and CBA President Cecil J. Thomas.

Over the course of the week-long camp, the students joined Zoom sessions led by CBA members who introduced them to the Connecticut court system; the principals of court



proceedings; basic legal concepts; and the roles of lawyers, judges, and juries. Attendees were able to virtually sit in on an arraignment hearing and participate in a follow-up question-and-answer session with Judge Robert M. Spector.

For the second half of the week, the student campers were assigned to small groups to prepare for and engage in a series of mock trials. Prior to each mock trial, each group met

to plan how to present their case and strategize their arguments. Judges Tejas Bhatt, Matthew Gordon, and Vernon Oliver and Attorney Carolyn Ikari presided over the mock trials. At the end of the final mock trial, Judge Bhatt congratulated the students on the use of the skills they had developed over the week, telling them, "You all did an amazing job. This requires an immense amount of skill, self-confidence, and hard work." CBA President Cecil Thomas closed L.A.W. Camp by thanking the students for participating in the camp as well as all those who assisted in making this year's camp possible.

The CBA has assisted in organizing L.A.W. Camp since 2019. L.A.W. Camp was originally founded in 2011 by Hon. Angela C. Robinson, now of Halloran Sage LLP, and Sung-Ho Hwang of the Law Offices of Sung-Ho Hwang LLC.

Upcoming Education Calendar

SEPTEMBER

- 14** Net Gain: Small Law Firm Legal Operations on a Budget (LEAP)
- 22** Legislative Training Workshop
- 23** Civil Jury Innovations: Oh, the Possibilities
- 24** Attorney Fees in Workers' Compensation Cases
- 29** Legal Ethics: Law Office/IOLTA Management*

OCTOBER

- 14** 4th Annual Connecticut Bankruptcy Conference*
- 20** The Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Summit: The Collaborative Blueprint*
- 21** Appellate Procedure 101

NOVEMBER

- 3** Professionalism, Ethics, and Technology (LEAP)*
- 3** Civil Jury Panels in Connecticut: Its Time has Come
- 5** More Effective Writing Makes More Effective Lawyers
- 16** Hot Topics in Probate
- 18** Commercial Real Estate Closings
- 19** Practice, Procedure, and Protocol in the Connecticut Courts

DECEMBER

- 3** Raising the Bar: Bench/Bar Symposium*
- 10** Professionalism Boot Camp*

**Ethics credit available*

CBA HOSTS FOURTH RULE OF LAW CONFERENCE

The CBA Rule of Law Committee hosted its fourth conference, Rule of Law: The Integrity of the American Election System, virtually over Zoom on June 28 for an audience of 135 attendees. The event was divided between two panels hosted by CBA past presidents and Rule of Law Committee Co-Chairs Ralph J. Monaco and Jonathan M. Shapiro. The first panel featured Connecticut Secretary of the State Denise W. Merrill; Rhode Island Secretary of State Nellie M. Gorbea; and David Becker, executive director and founder of the Center for Election Innovation & Research in Washington, DC. The second panel featured Connecticut Attorney General William Tong and two university deans, Heather K. Gerken of Yale Law School and Sudha N. Setty of Western New England School of Law.

The conference began with an introduction from outgoing CBA President Amy Lin Meyerson. The first panel discussed the changes made to voter registration laws and processes in Connecticut and Rhode Island in recent years. Secretary Merrill thanked the CBA's attorney volunteers that assisted with election day issues this past fall. The panelists promoted the technological advancements made in expanding access to voter registration and ease of participation, such as allowing eligible citizens to register to vote at the Department of Motor Vehicles. They also stressed how the paper trails created by increased mail-in voting and the introduction of ballot drop boxes have improved election security. They roundly rejected the claims that largescale voter fraud has occurred in recent US elections. Panelist David Becker declared, "In 2020, there is absolutely no doubt we had the most accurate voter list in the history of the United States." While all the panelists were confident in the security of our state and federal election systems, they emphasized that increasing federal funding for elections could expand voter access and help defend against potential hacking attempts.



The second panel's discussion focused directly on the partisan disputes over the process of the 2020 presidential election. General Tong began by referencing how he was forced to engage in arguments with attorneys general of other states over their actions in attempting to overturn the results of the election. He also mentioned that he personally reached out to thank Republican colleagues who resisted political pressure that demanded that they attempt to overturn the popular vote counts of their states. He cautioned that false statements by elected officials can be extremely damaging to the public trust in elections.

The panelists warned that the recent rise in disinformation, political polarization, election litigation, and gerrymandering as well as the loss of critical elements of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 have conspired to create a voting rights crisis in the United States. Dean Gerken noted, "There isn't a simple and robust conception of what is the right to vote and what is an acceptable limitation upon it." The panelists suggested that multiple federal reforms are necessary to combat the current voting rights crisis, but they argued that the US Congress likely lacks the political will to pass legislation that would further define the right to vote and provide increased protections for it. They warned that the current politicization and partisanship over voting rights issues will likely further worsen before it improves. The panelists encouraged the public to remember that it is the voters who decide the results of an election and it is their responsibility to uphold the integrity of our election processes.

The 2021-2022 CBA President Cecil J. Thomas closed the conference by thanking all those involved with it and encouraging the attorneys in attendance to continue to protect and advance the rule of law.

Elder Law Section Presents Lifetime Achievement Award

The CBA Elder Law Section's Executive Committee has presented Lea Nordlicht Shedd with its Lifetime Achievement and Career Service Award in recognition of and appreciation for her outstanding service as a lawyer, extraordinary leadership of and service to the Elder Law Section over the years, her work and efforts in the development of elder law, and her continuing commitment to excellence in the legal profession.

Attorney Shedd taught at Quinnipiac College (now Quinnipiac University)

from 1980 to 1986 as chair of the Legal Studies Department, where she developed and taught the undergraduate course "Legal Problems of the Elderly," and continued to teach elder law at Quinnipiac as an adjunct faculty member to both undergraduates and law school students. Additionally, she served as one of the first chairs of the CBA Elder Law Section in 1992-1994, has served as co-chair of the Elder Law Section's Continuing Legal Education Committee, and has continuously served as a member of the Elder Law

Section Executive Committee.

She practiced elder law with her partner and friend, Judith Hoberman, in the law firm of Shedd and Hoberman LLC in Hamden, which was recognized by all as a pre-eminent elder law firm in Connecticut, until her retirement in 2015.

In the citation presented to Attorney Shedd, she was noted as a trail-blazer in the area of elder law and was commended for upholding the highest ethical standards.

Ten CBA Young Lawyers Receive Service Awards

Ten Young Lawyers Section (YLS) Executive Committee members of the Connecticut Bar Association (CBA) received awards at the section's Leadership Retreat on August 6-7 for their service during the 2020-2021 bar year.

Rookie of the Year Award

Scott Garosshen, Horton Dowd Bartschi & Levesque PC, received a Rookie of the Year award for his work as the Civics Education Committee co-director and for reinvigorating the Lawyers in the Classroom project, which had previously been dormant for several years.

Jermaine A. Brookshire, Jr., Wiggin and Dana LLP, was recognized with a Rookie of the Year award for his work as the Business Law Committee co-chair, his participation in an online voter registration drive, and his assistance with organizing various other YLS events.

Leadership Award

Vianca Malick, Diana Conti & Tunila LLP, garnered a Leadership Award for her exceptional work as a CLE director during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic as well as coordinating the CLEs that comprised the Bridge the Gap Series.

Leland Moore, Office of the Attorney General, received a Leadership Award for coordinating the Lawyers in the Classroom Project and for his involvement in several other programs through his roles as membership director and Civics Education Committee co-director.



Star of the Year Award

Aigne Goldsby, Goldsby Law PLLC, and **Ronald J. Houde, Jr.**, Ouellette Deganis Gallagher & Grippe LLC, received a Star of the Year award for their work as the YLS diversity directors, raising awareness for diversity, equity, and inclusion within the legal profession. They organized CLE programs that discussed issues regarding hate speech and organized a night of networking that encouraged difficult conversations about current social issues and racial injustice.

Megan Wade, Sexton & Company LLC, was recognized with a Star of the Year award for her service as the Appellate Practice Committee co-chair and for advocating for an amendment to the YLS Rules of Professional Responsibility to expressly prohibit discrimination and harassment in the practice of law.

Sara Bonaiuto, Cohen and Wolf PC, received a Star of the Year award for her work in her role as Business Law Committee co-chair and as a liaison with the CBA Lawyer Well-Being Committee. She assisted in the planning of several well-being programs for the YLS, including events for Lawyer Well-Being Week.

Benjamin Schimelman, United Healthcare, was recognized with a Star of the Year award for his service as the Insurance Law Committee co-chair and his work in planning the YLS year-end membership event at Lyman Orchards.

Christopher DeMatteo, DeMatteo Legal Solutions, received a Star of the Year award for his work as Criminal Law Committee co-chair and for planning and moderating a three-part Legal Entrepreneur CLE Series to assist those looking to open their own firm.

IN MEMORIAM

David L. Belt passed away on June 26 at the age of 77. Attorney Belt attended Yale University and went on to serve in the United States Army as a military intelligence officer, including a tour of duty in Vietnam between 1966 and 1967, where he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for Meritorious Achievement. After his service, he attended Yale Law School. Attorney Belt, a commercial litigator, practiced law in the New Haven area for more than 50 years, most recently as a member of Hurwitz Sagarin Slossberg & Knuff LLC. He was also an adjunct professor at the Quinnipiac University School of Law. He worked on many publications, including as co-author of "Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices, Business Torts and Antitrust, Vol. 12" of the *Connecticut Practice Series*, and authored numerous *Connecticut Bar Journal* articles; he served as a senior topical editor on the Connecticut Bar Journal Board of Editors.



quently became a partner of a Hartford firm, in charge of all tax operations, eventually opening his own firm in the Greater Hartford area until age 80, when he retired from full-time active practice.

Hubert J. Santos passed away on June 22 at the age of 76. He was a graduate of the University of Hartford and the University of Connecticut Law School. Attorney Santos began his legal career at Updike, Kelly and Spellacy and went on to become the first federal public defender in the District of Connecticut in 1972. Since 1974, he had practiced with his own firm in Hartford and tried a broad variety of civil and criminal cases in state and federal courts, including all types of criminal defense cases, trade secrets, personal injury matters, death penalty litigation and business disputes. In 1978, he was appointed as corporation counsel for the City of Hartford and in 1986 he was appointed as an original member of the Judicial Selection Commission. He has lectured in trial practice as a member of the adjunct faculty of the UConn School of Law and has received numerous awards throughout his legal career.



Jane Kinney-Knotek passed away on July 11 at the age of 69. She graduated from SUNY College Buffalo, Niagara University, and Western New England University School of Law. She dedicated her legal career to serving the low income population while working at Communities Law Center and Statewide Legal Services of Connecticut, where she spent the last 18 years. Attorney Kinney-Knotek also served as a tribal prosecutor for the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation where she represented the tribe's interest in family and juvenile matters in Connecticut Superior Court. Throughout her career, she was a dedicated legal advocate and friend and mentor to her peers.

Simon John Malinowski passed away on June 13 at the age of 88. He received a BS degree from the UConn School of Business Administration and received a commission as a lieutenant in the US Air Force Reserve, serving two years on active duty during the Korean War conflict, and was promoted to the rank of captain. Attorney Malinowski was later employed as a tax specialist at a major international CPA firm and went on to earn a JD degree from UConn Law School. He successfully passed both the Connecticut Bar exam and the Connecticut CPA exam that same year. He subse-



John F. Spindler passed away on June 3 at the age of 91. He graduated from the University of Michigan College and obtained his JD from the University of Michigan School of Law. Attorney Spindler was commissioned as a second lieutenant in The Quartermaster Corps of the Army through ROTC and was called to active duty. He transferred to the Army Judge Advocate General Corps and served in the Procurement Branch of the Litigation Division in the Office of the Judge Advocate General in the Pentagon (1954-1956). Attorney Spindler began his career as an attorney in 1956 when he joined Cummings & Lockwood as an associate and went on to become partner; his special focus was breaches of fiduciary duty by trustees and fights for control of both publicly and privately held corporations. He enjoyed mentoring young lawyers in legal analysis and writing and often consulted with his partners on issues of professional liability and ethics. He served as a member of the Ethics Committee of the Connecticut Bar Association.



Constance Baker Motley Centennial Commemoration

Hon. Constance Baker Motley, born and raised in New Haven, was recognized by Resolution of the United States House of Representatives of the 110th Congress in 2007 for her “lifelong commitment to the advancement of civil rights and social justice.” Judge Motley was the first female staff attorney of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund (LDF), hired by then Chief Counsel Thurgood Marshall. She argued and won many of the defining cases in the civil rights movement, including those to desegregate schools and universities, housing, transportation, and public accommodations. Judge Motley later became the first Black woman appointed as a federal judge, rising to chief judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

Throughout her life, Judge Motley maintained her deep roots in Connecticut. A graduate of Hillhouse High School, she married her husband Joel W. Motley, Jr. at Saint Luke’s Episcopal Church in New Haven, where her family held her funeral nearly 60 years later. She maintained a home in Chester, where she spent weekends and interwove her Connecticut life with her legal career, inviting civil rights activists as well as her court clerks and staff throughout her years on the federal bench to her home for legal discussions and dinner parties. An integral part of the Chester community, she was a lifelong member of the Chester Historical Society and maintained many close relationships with her fellow Chester residents.

To honor Judge Motley’s career and legacy, the CBA and Connecticut Bar



Hon. Constance Baker Motley

Foundation launched the Constance Baker Motley Speaker Series on Racial Inequality in July of 2020, and held a total of 13 events during the 2020-2021 bar year. The series will continue with a centennial commemoration of the birth of The Honorable Constance Baker Motley in September. Visit ctbar.org/MotleySeries for further information.

PEERS AND CHEERS

Robinson+Cole is pleased to announce the addition of **Benjamin M. Daniels** as counsel in the firm’s Business Litigation Group. Daniels’ practice focuses on complex litigation and education law. He will be resident in the firm’s Hartford and New York offices.

Scott Brian Clark has joined Day Pitney as chair of its Multistate Tax practice, based in the Stamford. Attorney Clark is well-versed in the intricacies of tax planning and has handled a vast number of diverse high-profile cases and issues and has significant tax experience representing both prominent entertainers and personalities, ultra-high net worth individuals, and well-known domestic and multi-national companies.

Kahan Kerensky Capossela LLP is pleased to announce **Brandon B. Fontaine** as an associate attorney at the firm. He is an experienced advocate for clients on a variety of family matters, including all aspects of divorce and custody actions and his practice will also focus on appellate, having handled numerous complex matters before the Connecticut Supreme and Appellate Courts.

State of Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner **Thomas J. Saadi**, who serves as a Judge Advocate in the U.S. Army Reserves, was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He has served as commissioner of the Department of Veterans Affairs since 2017, where

he previously served as chief of staff and general counsel. Lt. Col. Saadi is a first-generation Lebanese American, making him the first Arab American commissioner of Veterans Affairs in Connecticut.

Murtha Cullina LLP is pleased to welcome **Raquel Herrera-Soto** as an associate in the firm’s Regulatory Department. She is a member of the Energy, Environmental and Utilities Practice Group, represents clients in a wide range of energy and environmental matters, and has extensive experience with state and federal compliance regulations and permitting processes.

Bruce Loudon, of Loudon Katz & McGrath, received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Connecticut Law Tribune at its annual award ceremony, for “having made a lasting impact on the Connecticut legal community.” Attorney Loudon was one of two lawyers who spearheaded the establishment of a statewide grievance system in the 1970s. In the 1980s, he developed and taught a family law seminar at the UConn Law School and has been a national pioneer for over three decades on handling divorce cases through a non-adversarial approach. ■

PEERS and CHEERS SUBMISSIONS
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