

News & Events

CBA Members Volunteer at Stand Down 2021



For the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, CBA members continued to provide pro bono legal services to veterans at the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs' annual Stand Down event, which the CBA has assisted with since 1998. On Friday, September 24, Attorneys Richard D. Arconti, Melissa Biggs, Dennis M. Carnelli, Jason M. Fragoso, Joshua G. Grubaugh, James M. Hyland, Frank A. Manfredi, and Winona W. Zimmerlin represented the CBA and provided in-person assistance to Stand Down attendees in Bridgeport, Danbury, Danielson, 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 kickoff ceremony and informational

webinars on September 22 and 23. For the in-person services on September 24, the five-location format helped to create socially distanced environments for veterans to safely receive in-person services.

"This was my first-year volunteering for Stand Down, and I'm so grateful for the opportunity. I was able to speak with veterans and some of their loved ones, all who have given so much for our country," stated Melissa Biggs. "It was wonderful to give back to veterans in need and I'm looking forward to participating next year."



Attorney Melissa Biggs with Executive Director of the Connecticut Office of Higher Education Tim Larson at the Danielson Stand Down location.

Solo and Small Firm Resource Center

The Solo and Small Firm Resource Center provides resources to CBA members to assist with the business and management aspects of law practice, including technology, marketing, personnel, client development, finance, and compliance with pertinent ethical regulations, along with wellness, time management, and work-life balance challenges, so that they may optimize their effectiveness and competence as advocates for their clients and their satisfaction and success with the practice of law. Visit ctbar.org/SoloSmallFirmResources to learn more.

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Upcoming Education Calendar

NOVEMBER

- 2** In the Weeds: Employee and Employer Rights Post Legalization
- 3** Professionalism, Ethics, and Technology (LEAP)*
- 3** Civil Jury Panels in Connecticut—A View from Both Sides of the Bench
- 4** Motley Series: Policing Task Force Presentation*
- 5** More Effective Writing Makes More Effective Lawyers
- 8** The Essentials of Federal Practice

- 16** Hot Topics in Probate*
- 18** Commercial Real Estate Transactions—From Acquisition to Closing*
- 19** Practice, Procedure, and Protocol in the Connecticut Courts
- 30** Common Ethics Issues and Addressing IOLTA Audits and Grievances*

DECEMBER

- 1** Transition Services for Special Ed. Students: DDS, DMHAS and ADS

- 1** Gambling Law
- 3** Raising the Bar: A Bench-Bar Symposium on Professionalism*
- 7** IP Ethics*
- 7** Litigation—Short Calendar
- 8** Adult-Use Cannabis in CT: Business, Criminal Justice, and Insurance Considerations
- 9** Say What Now? When and How to Ask Trial Courts to Clarify or Change Their Decision Pre-Appeal
- 10** Professionalism Boot Camp*

**Ethics credit available*



CLE On-Demand

The CBA has enhanced your CLE experience with video production of select in-house CLE seminars. You can purchase an on-demand CLE and watch it through any browser, on any platform, wherever and whenever is convenient for you, as many times as you wish. These on-demand seminars still allow the CBA to offer New York CLE credit certificates and Connecticut letters of attendance for these programs.

Visit ctbar.org/EducationPortal to learn more.



IN MEMORIAM



Herman S. Bershtein

passed away on September 3 at the age of 95. Attorney Bershtein, a WWII Veteran,

served with the 86th Black Hawk Infantry Division and later served as a lieutenant under General Douglas McArthur. After he was discharged from the Army in Japan, he remained in Tokyo as a civilian employee of the US Civil Service. He went on to attend Columbia University, University of South Carolina, Cornell University, and graduated from Yale University. Attorney Bershtein was admitted to the South Carolina Bar in 1953, the Connecticut Bar in 1954, and the Federal Bar in 1955. He was the founder and senior partner of the law firm of Bershtein Bershtein & Bershtein, Professional Corporation, d/b/a Bershtein Law Center. Attorney Bershtein was a member of the New Haven County and Connecticut Bar Associations, and he was an arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association. Additionally, he served as a judge advocate for many years for the Jewish War Veterans, Hamden Post 204, now associated with Levitow, Post #45.

Charles Arthur Heckman passed away on August 2 at the age of 82. He attended Brown University for his A.B. and one year graduate study in French and was awarded a full academic scholarship to the University of Chicago School of Law where he was a managing ed-

itor in the Law Review. Attorney Heckman went on to teach law, specializing in legal history and commercial law at the University of North Dakota, University of Houston, Western New England University, Whittier Law School, and finally at Quinnipiac University in Connecticut, where he retired as professor emeritus and elected member of the American Law Institute. His studies in law were multidisciplinary and multinational, including helping to establish a legal course in Mexico while at the University of Houston and attending a yearly meeting of the European Society for Comparative Legal History.



Jeffrey Joseph Tinley, Sr.

passed away on September 3 at the age of 66. He received his undergraduate

degree from SUNY Stony Brook and his JD from St. John's University. Attorney Tinley began his legal career in litigation at Cummings & Lockwood in Stamford and soon went on to serve as an assistant United States (AUSA) attorney in Orlando, FL. As an AUSA, he handled both civil and criminal matters and earned two Department of Justice special achievement awards for his exceptional work. After three years, he moved back to Connecticut where he worked at Gager Henry as a partner in commercial litigation. Soon after, he founded his own firm in Waterbury, Tinley Nastri

& Renehan (now Tinley, Renehan & Dost). As an active member of the Connecticut Bar Association, he served on the Professionalism and CLE Committee and on the Professional Discipline Executive Committee. He enjoyed taking on pro bono cases, serving as the town attorney of Southbury, and advocating for environmental preservation as a board member of the Friends of the Lake.

Frederick Tse-shyang Chen

passed away on June 3 at the age of 85. He earned an LLB from Soochow University School of Law in 1958, earned an LLM degree while studying under Professors Myres McDougal and Harold Lasswell at Yale Law School in 1961, and later earned a JD from The University of Chicago School of Law. In 1966, he decided to teach law in the US and became the first student from Taiwan ever to be a tenure-track assistant professor of law in this country. Over the course of his career, Attorney Chen taught at the law schools of Drake University, Ohio Northern University, Catholic University of America, Texas Tech University, University of Wyoming, and Quinnipiac University. Attorney Chen lectured at Chuo University Law School in Japan and served as visiting professor at Japan Institute of Comparative Law and visiting professor of law at National Chengchi University in Taiwan. From 1993-95, he was dean of Soochow University Law School; he also served as advisor of the Ministry of Finance, Republic of China.

CBA Welcomes New Director of Access to Justice Initiatives

The Connecticut Bar Association is pleased to announce the addition of Attorney Jennifer Shukla as its Director of Access to Justice Initiatives. She is responsible for developing and coordinating the CBA's initiatives on improving access to the legal system for indigent and underserved individuals, as well as participating in related legislative and public policy advocacy.

Attorney Shukla is a Connecticut native that earned bachelor's degrees in finance and psychology at the University of Connecticut, summa cum laude, and a JD at Harvard Law School, magna cum laude. She is admitted to the state bar of Connecticut and numerous federal courts.

Attorney Shukla has experienced the obstacles facing various people in our legal system firsthand as a litigator. In addition to practicing in corporate law and family law, she has also had extensive experience working with underserved populations, including individuals with low or no income, inmates, homeless, non-native speakers, and elderly clients.

She served as the chair of the Connecticut Bar Association's Resolution of Legal Fee Dispute Resolution Program from 2018 to 2021 and has been on the executive committee of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Section of the CBA. Attorney Shukla served as a coordinator of volunteer legal clinics at



Director of Access to Justice Initiatives, Attorney Jennifer Shukla

the South Park Inn, a Hartford-based homeless shelter, and is a mother of three children.

"I am honored to join the CBA team, and I am committed to working with CBA members to make courts, lawyers, and our justice system more accessible and available to more people," stated Attorney Shukla.

PEERS AND CHEERS

Siegel Colin & Kaufman is pleased to announce the addition of **Hon. Thomas D. Colin** (ret.) to the firm. He brings unrivaled skill and capability to our firm in all aspects of family and matrimonial law and will be leading the firm's mediation/arbitration department.

FLB Law in Westport has promoted **Enrico (Rick) R. Costantini** and **Laura A. Penney** to partner. Attorney Costantini focuses his legal practice on commercial and residential real estate, land use, zoning, and commercial transactions. Attorney Penney is a civil and commercial litigator with a primary focus on defense, including auto and premises liability, professional liability, condominium law, contract law, insurance coverage, employment discrimination, and construction defect cases.

Day Pitney LLP is pleased to announce the completion of its merger with Rhode Island-based law firm Howland Evangelista Kohlenberg LLP, a dedicated trusts and estates boutique handling complex and sophisticated planning, probate, and trust matters for high net worth individuals and families. With the completion of the merger, Day Pitney has nearly 300 attorneys and operates 14 offices along the East Coast.

Murtha Cullina LLP partner **Jennifer Morgan DelMonico** has been elected to the American Law Institute (ALI), an exclusive group of the nation's top attorneys, judges, and law professors. ALI is the leading independent organization in the United States producing scholarly work to clarify, modernize, and otherwise improve the law. Attorney DelMonico is a trial lawyer for parties in complex commercial litigation disputes and defendants in tort and product liability actions.

Murtha Cullina LLP is pleased to welcome **Alyssa R. Ferreone** and **Julie A. Lavoie** as associates in the firm's Litigation Department. Attorney Ferreone was previously a Judicial Law Clerk for the Honorable Robert J. Devlin, Jr. and the Honorable Melanie L. Cradle at the Connecticut Appellate Court. Attorney Julie Lavoie was previously a judicial law clerk for the Hartford Superior Court and for the Honorable Eliot D. Prescott at the Connecticut Appellate Court.

Gfeller Laurie LLP is pleased to announce **David 'Dave' Kenna** as a partner in the West Hartford office. Attorney Kenna has practiced law for close to 25 years, predominantly in the insurance industries, litigating through trial numerous insurance coverage and reinsurance disputes in state and federal courts as well as arbitration panels throughout the US.

Neubert Pepe & Monteith PC is pleased to welcome **Patrick R. Linsey** to the firm. Attorney Linsey is experienced in bankruptcy and commercial litigation.

Robinson+Cole managing partner **Rhonda J. Tobin** has been named one of Benchmark Litigation's Top 250 Women in Litigation for 2021 for the eighth consecutive year. Attorney Tobin has represented insurance companies for 30 years in litigation, arbitration, and mediation of complex disputes involving insurance and reinsurance coverage. ■

PEERS and CHEERS SUBMISSIONS
e-mail editor@ctbar.org