

# News & Events

## Elizabeth A. Alquist Receives 2022 Ladder Award

The CBA Women in the Law Section, in association with the CBA Young Lawyers Section (YLS) Women in the Law Committee, honored Attorney Elizabeth “Beth” A. Alquist as the 2022 recipient of the Ladder Award at “Pathways to Leadership for Women Lawyers,” on March 3 at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington.

The Ladder Award was created by the YLS Women in the Law Committee in 2007 to honor a woman attorney who has “left the ladder down” for women to follow in her footsteps, and values the importance of leadership development, mentoring, and supporting junior lawyers in their journeys to success. This year marked the return of the “Pathways to Leadership for Women Lawyers” event, which had not been held since 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Attorney Alquist joins a prestigious group of past awardees that includes Hon. Anne C. Dranginis, Rosemary E. Giuliano, Kathleen L. Brandt, Margaret A. Deluca, Hon. Elizabeth J. Stewart, Maureen Danehy Cox, Hon. Nada K. Sizemore, Diane W. Whitney, Tanya A. Bovée, Hon. Maria A. Khan, Deirdre M. Daly, Hon. Lynda B. Munro, and Elaine S. Amendola.

CBA Women in the Law Section Chair Garlinck Dumont welcomed attendees to the program, and past Ladder Award recipient and the current highest-ranking woman official in the state’s judiciary system, Justice Maria A. Khan, introduced keynote speaker, Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz. Justice Khan noted that the lieutenant governor, “...has continuously advocated for women throughout her career and she currently chairs Governor Lamont’s Council on Women and Girls, which provides a coordinated state response to various issues impacting the lives of women and girls and families throughout the state.”



(L to R) CBA Women in the Law Section Chair Garlinck Dumont, Ladder Award Recipient Elizabeth A. Alquist, Connecticut Supreme Court Justice Maria A. Khan, Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz, and CBA President Cecil J. Thomas.

Lt. Governor Bysiewicz spoke on the important role women leaders in the fields of law and government provide in the form of mentorship to the younger generations of women colleagues. She noted that “While women make up over 50 percent of our population and over 50 percent of students in law school, we represent only 37 percent of lawyers, 27 percent of congress, and only eight percent of fortune 500 company CEOs.” While recognizing the continuing presence of gender inequity, Lt. Governor Bysiewicz also pointed to achievements in increasing women’s positions in leadership, including the recent addition of ten organizations to the Paradigm for Parity Initiative, which calls upon Connecticut companies to pledge to have at least half of their board and c-suite executives be comprised of women by 2030. She emphasized the importance of the Ladder Award stating,



Bonnie Amendola, front right, daughter of 2020 Ladder Award Recipient Elaine Amendola, accepted a bouquet of flowers on behalf of her mother and spoke on her achievements.

“This annual recognition of women who left the ladder down for other women to follow in their footsteps celebrates such a critical component of creating more

diversity, equity, and inclusion in our legal profession.”

Following the lieutenant governor’s keynote speech, Attorney Dumont recognized past ladder award winners, including the 2020 Ladder Award recipient, Elaine Amendola, whose celebration was unfortunately cancelled that year due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Attorney Amendola’s daughter, Bonnie Amendola, accepted a bouquet of flowers on behalf of her mother and provided remarks on her mother’s numerous achievements in promoting women’s rights under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

YLS Women in the Law Committee Co-Chair Emily Zaklukiewicz provided background on the meaning of the Ladder Award and introduced Attorney Andraya P. Brunau, a colleague of Elizabeth Alquist at Day Pitney LLP and one of several people who nominated her for the award. Attorney Brunau extolled Alquist’s traits and achievements



*Elizabeth Alquist presents her acceptance speech after receiving the 2022 Ladder Award.*

stating, “She really is a leader in all sense of the word, and she is there in the trenches with her team to make sure that outstanding work is done for clients and that we have more women in private practice in the legal profession.”

As Attorney Alquist was invited to the podium, she received resounding applause from the audience. She spoke about the importance of increasing the presence of women in legal positions and the continuing difficulties of

establishing gender equity in the field. She stated, “As a trial lawyer, there simply weren’t that many women—they aren’t really in the courthouses, even still, and there certainly aren’t enough on the bench. And role models matter.” She pointed out that, “It’s a lot easier to believe that I can do something when I see someone like me, a cis-gendered, married, mother of three doing it. And it’s even harder for women of color in our profession or for transgender women. What we need are more role models for each one of them.” Attorney Alquist ended her presentation by emphasizing the importance of reciprocity in the relationship between experienced woman mentors and younger women entering the field: “The next generation has so much to teach us. Those of us in leadership positions in law firms, in corporations, and in government, we have to listen to them, we have to learn from them, and we have the mantle, and we need to take action with that knowledge.”

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## CBA Leaders Advocate For Members during 2022 ABA Days

As part of the 25th Annual ABA Days during the week of April 4-8, 2022, a delegation from the Connecticut Bar Association (CBA) and American Bar Association (ABA) met with Connecticut's federal legislators to advocate for issues important to members and encourage efforts to narrow the access to justice gap in Connecticut. Whether it was a discussion with Senator Richard Blumenthal examining the growing eviction crisis in Connecticut or brainstorming about student debt relief with Representative Jim Himes, the legislators and attendees participated in a productive exchange of information and ideas.

This year's primary advocacy issues at the ABA Days included the following:

**1. Increasing funding for the Legal Services Corporation:**

Thanking our Connecticut federal legislators who have protected the program from calls to dismantle it, supported recent funding increases, and advocated for future funding increases. As part of these discussions, the CBA highlighted significant access to justice issues in Connecticut, including increasing housing instability.

**2. Effective Assistance of Counsel in the Digital Era**

**Act:** Encouraging support for legislation ensuring that prison employees cannot interfere with the attorney-client

privilege as it relates to federal prisoners' emails with counsel.

**3. Student Debt Relief:** Discussions about immediate and lasting solutions addressing the student loan debt crisis, including student loan forgiveness, simplifying repayment options, allowing discharge of student loans in bankruptcy, and making recent temporary improvements to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program permanent in the future.

Dana M. Hrelc served as the Connecticut State Captain for the team; she spearheaded the efforts, led the discussions, and provided helpful information and resources for the team about the advocacy issues.

Additionally, other members of the CBA delegation that met with legislators were President Cecil J. Thomas, Immediate Past President Amy Lin Meyerson, Treasurer David M. Moore, Secretary Sharad A. Samy, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Cindy M. Cieslak, Director of Access to Justice Initiatives Jennifer L. Shukla, and Connecticut State Delegate Daniel A. Schwartz. Additionally, President-Elect Daniel J. Horgan, Vice President Margaret I. Castinado, and Past President Jonathan Shapiro helped the Connecticut delegation prepare for the meetings with legislators.

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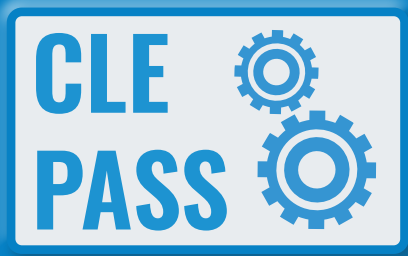
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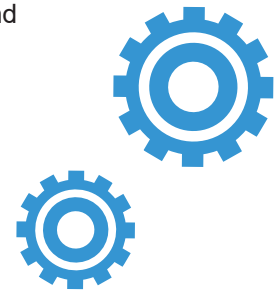
# Access to Unlimited CLE Credits for \$129!\*

- **New program for the 2022-2023 bar year**
- **Exclusively available to members of the Connecticut Bar Association**
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## The CLE Pass excludes:

- Meal costs
- The Connecticut Legal Conference and other CBA conferences, symposia, and premier events
- Any CLE program offering more than two credits
- The purchase of on-demand previously recorded programs through the CBA Education Portal
- CBA section meetings that offer CLE credit



The CLE Pass may only be used for programs that take place during the 2022-2023 bar year.

CBA members may purchase a CLE Pass while renewing their membership for the 2022-2023 bar year. Alternatively, any time during the 2022-2023 bar year (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023), members may purchase a CLE Pass from the CBA website. \*Exclusions apply

## CBA and UConn School of Law Collaborate to Help Low Income Individuals

The Connecticut Bar Association and UConn School of Law jointly held a Free Legal Answers Comes to Campus event on April 1. At the event, CBA President Cecil J. Thomas, CBA President-Elect Daniel J. Horgan, and UConn School of Law Dean Eboni S. Nelson spoke to student participants about the access to justice gap in Connecticut and the need for volunteer and pro bono assistance. After opening remarks, a team of eight volunteer attorneys from the CBA mentored a group of 20 UConn law students through the process of providing free legal advice to individuals with low or no income. The free advice was provided through CT Free Legal Answers, an American Bar Association (ABA)-supported website that allows individuals in need to post written questions about their legal situations and receive confidential responses written by volunteer attorneys.

“The CBA is proud of our many collaborations with the University of Connecticut School of Law, particularly in addressing the civil access to justice gap,” said CBA President Cecil J. Thomas. “UConn law students have been an integral part of our Virtual Free Legal Advice Clinics and have now proved invaluable in working alongside our attorney volunteers through our CT Free Legal Answers program. The civil access to justice gap in Connecticut is significant, but I am incredibly hopeful for the future when I see the enthusiasm that the future members of our profession bring to these volunteer opportunities. I look forward to seeing many more such collaborations in the future.”

At the Free Legal Answers Comes to Campus event, the CBA and UConn School of Law volunteers assisted 19 Connecticut clients by posting responses to real-world client questions. The clients seeking help included, among others, six who were experiencing family law issues, such as being subjected to abuse, and five clients facing housing issues, such as eviction or landlord misconduct. Due to the outstanding efforts of all who were involved with the event, the participants set a record for the most questions answered in Connecticut on the ABA Free



*Law students responded to CT Free Legal Answers posts in breakout groups.*

Legal Answers website in one day.

The CBA is grateful to the event speakers: CBA President Cecil J. Thomas, CBA President-Elect Daniel J. Horgan, and Dean Eboni S. Nelson as well as Assistant Dean Karen DeMeola and Associate Dean Jennifer Mailly of UConn Law School, who worked with CBA Director of Access to Justice Initiatives Jenn Shukla, to organize and coordinate the event. In addition, the CBA thanks the additional volunteer attorneys and law students who volunteered their time to help narrow the access to justice gap at the event.

### CBA ATTORNEY VOLUNTEERS

Brian J. Glenn  
Kyle LaBuff

Stephanie C. Laska  
Linda C. Lehmann-Taylor

Megan Maynard  
David M. Moore

Vivian Moreno-Zelinka

### UCONN LAW STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

Jenna Bator  
Kashvi Bhatt  
Valerie Bonifield  
Corey Evans  
Jillian Fernandes  
Brittany Jones

Sophia Keck  
John Ludke  
Stefanie McArdle  
Caroline McCormack  
Ismael Mohammed  
Manon Pellegrims

Stephanie Rovirosa  
Yanhire Sierra-Lavalle  
Julia Suesser  
Bron Tamulis  
Esangubong Udoh  
Aleem Usman Khan

Renee Varga  
Alona Voronova  
Adam Zwick

# CBA Members, Family, and Friends Annual Outing

## Holiday Hill

June 26, 2022

11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Don't miss out on this year's event!** Connecticut legal professionals and their families are invited to the summer picnic and festivities, including a lake with rowboats, kayaks, and canoes. All other sporting equipment will be supplied by Holiday Hill.

### Activities include:

- Airbrush Tattoos
- Disc Jockey with Music for Dancing and Games
- Pony Rides for the Children
- "Alpine" Rock Climbing Wall
- Bingo Games with Prizes
- Swimming Pool
- Contests, Games, and More!

### Price per person

**\$5.00** All Kids 12 and Under

**\$10.00** Member and Member's Guest(s)

**\$25.00** Non-Members

No limitations to number of guests



**Holiday Hill**  
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## PEERS AND CHEERS

**Billers Sachs & Robert** is pleased to announce that **Brianna Kastukevich Robert** has become a named partner with the firm. Attorney Robert has been with the firm for almost a decade and her primary focus is insurance coverage litigation on behalf of policyholders and representation of victims of serious personal injuries. The firm has also welcomed **Cileena Terra** as an associate. Attorney Terra joined the firm as a law clerk in 2018 while attending law school and joins the firm's insurance coverage and personal injury practice.

**Brown Paindiris & Scott LLP** is pleased to welcome **Mackenzie R. Angels** and **Cara T. Cavallari** as associates to the firm. Attorney Angels is a member of the Commercial Law and Real Estate Departments in the Glastonbury office, working with both individuals and institutional clients. Attorney Cavallari is a member of the Litigation Department in the firm's Hartford office, focusing primarily on criminal defense and personal injury.

**Cummings & Lockwood** is pleased to announce that **Heather J. Rhoades** has been appointed the new chairman of the firm's Private Clients Group. She will replace **Laura Weintraub Beck**, who will assume the role of chairman and managing director of the firm.

**Czepiga Daly Pope & Perri** is pleased to announce the promotion of four of its attorneys. **Paul Knierim** and **Colleen Masse** have been named partners of the firm. Attorney Knierim, former judge and probate court administrator, concentrates his practice on probate litigation, mediation and arbitration of complex probate and elder law disputes, and estate planning; Colleen E. Masse is the chair of both the firm's Special Needs Planning and Trustee Services Departments. **Jeffrey Rivard** and **Jennifer Reale** have been promoted from associate to counsel. Attorney Rivard is chair of the firm's estate administration practice area; Attorney Reale represents clients in the areas of trustee litigation, will contests, contract disputes, and conservatorships.

**Ericson Scalise and Mangan PC**, in New Britain, is pleased to announce its expansion with the acquisition of the Avon law practice of Attorney Michael J. Donoghue. Established in 1945, Ericson Scalise and Mangan PC provides a range of legal services for Connecticut individuals, families, and business owners with a focus on estate planning, probate, real estate, and elder law.

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

## IN MEMORIAM



**Frank S. Berall** passed away on March 31 at the age of 93. After graduating from Yale College in 1950, with a degree in Economics,

he served as an army officer in the field artillery, as a forward observer, and also gunnery instructor for two years during the Korean War. Honorably discharged as a first lieutenant in 1952, he returned to Yale Law School, graduating in 1955, was admitted to the New York Bar, and immediately started his legal career as an associate with the Wall Street law firm of Mudge Stern Baldwin & Todd, while earning a Masters of Law Degree in Taxation from New York University's School of Law (1959). In 1960, he joined the legal department of the

Connecticut General Life Insurance Company (now CIGNA). Returning to private practice in 1968, he became a partner in a predecessor of Copp & Berall LLP. He was an adjunct instructor at the University of Connecticut's Law and Insurance Schools, and adjunct assistant professor at the University of Hartford's Graduate Tax Program and instructor in the American College (of Life Insurance). Continuing education was always important to him as a lecturer and instructor, as well as student; he was working on his PH.D. degree in law from Leiden University in the Netherlands, right up until his death. Throughout his career, he held numerous leadership positions in both the Connecticut and American Bar Associations, as well as the American College of Trust and Es-

tate Counsel. As an active member of the CBA, he was a longtime member of the *CT Lawyer* Advisory Committee and the *Connecticut Bar Journal* Board of Editors (on which he served as the probate and estate planning senior topical editor) and wrote numerous articles for both publications. He is a former chair of the CBA's Tax and Estates and Probate Sections and was involved in the development of the Federal Tax Institute of New England, for which he served as its event chair for many years. He received the Federal Tax Institute's Achievement Award in recognition of his dedication and leadership to promoting quality professional legal education in the fields of trusts, estates, and tax law. ■