

World Cup, Collaboration, and Lawyer Well-Being

By DANIEL J. HORGAN

"If you don't have an idea that materializes and changes a person's life, then what have you got? You have talk, research, telephone calls, meetings, but you don't have a change in the community."

— Eunice Kennedy Shriver

I have never been a huge soccer fan, although I could always appreciate the athleticism, dedication, and teamwork of the elite players. These attributes were on full display during the 2022 FIFA World Cup that ended on December 18 when Argentina beat France four to two with penalty kicks in extra time, breaking the match's previous tie score. It was epic and perhaps the greatest game ever played. It should also be mentioned that the USA team played very well before losing in the knockout round to the Netherlands—one of 16 qualifying teams. So, you may ask, why am I referencing the World Cup instead of reflecting on the successes of the CBA in 2022 and addressing the challenges and events that await our members in 2023? It is true that halfway through our bar year we can tout all the successful and well-attended events, including:

- 7th Annual Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Summit: The Collaborative Blueprint
- District of Connecticut Bench-Bar Conference
- Raising the Bar: A Bench-Bar Symposium on Professionalism
- Presidential Fellows Panel and Dinner
- Young Lawyers Section Leadership Retreat and Horn of Plenty Fundraising

Daniel J. Horgan is the 99th president of the Connecticut Bar Association. Attorney Horgan is an experienced litigator with Horgan Law office in New London, representing clients in workers' compensation cases and various civil matters in both State and Federal courts as well as the Mashantucket and Mohegan Tribal Courts. He has been chosen by his peers to frequently act as an arbitrator and mediator.



- 2022 5th Annual Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Conference
- Un-Ringing the Bell: Diagnosis and Treatment in Concussion and Brain Injury
- The Constance Baker Motley Speaker Series on Racial Inequality

I am drawing a comparison to the teams competing for the World Cup with what we as lawyers in firms or companies do for our clients. Like those teams, we work as a unit to accomplish our goals. Administrators, partners, associates, paralegals, and support staff need to be on the same page and work as a team to be successful. Like the deadly striker in soccer attempting a penalty kick, we as lawyers use skilled advocacy, preparation, and tenacity to reach a successful result. We can't do it alone. Just like the great Argentinian Lionel Messi needs to rely on the passing skills of his teammates to score goals, lawyers need to rely on and trust our paralegals and support staff. They are key components behind a successful

law firm or company. The last case my office tried to a successful verdict involved a contested liability motor vehicle matter. During jury selection, my paralegal, who had not been involved in the preparation of the case, located a witness out of the blue that observed the accident and testified that the defendant's vehicle crossed the center line as my client's vehicle pulled a U-turn. This was a very iffy case to prevail on. The testimony of that witness turned the evidence in our favor leading to a plaintiff's verdict. I liken her contribution to the success of the trial with the substitute players in the World Cup games who came off the bench and delivered critical contributions to their team in leading them to victory. The team that we as lawyers surround ourselves with and help us achieve success are motivated, loyal, and work very hard. We must not only appreciate their efforts but realize that they, like us, need to also focus on their health. Lawyers and their support staff face an enormous amount of pressure day in and day out.



"Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice, and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do." –Pelé¹

Unlike the elite soccer players who are in supreme physical and mental shape at game time, we as a profession all too often ignore our health. Our physical and mental well-being is critical to having a successful and enjoyable career. As Bob Dylan sang, "the times they are a-changin'." Our Well-Being Committee has been very active this bar year, and we are pleased to announce our first annual Well-Being Summit on March 3 at UConn School of Law. This inaugural summit will feature keynote speaker Heidi Alexander, director of the Standing Committee on Lawyer Well-Being for the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. Not only are we launching the summit, but we are starting a monthly gathering of lawyers to walk during lunch—let's call them "Walk-

ing for Wellness" outings. Led by Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Josh Devine and Well-Being Committee Co-Chairs Tanyee Cheung and Sara Bonaiuto, the walks are expected to take place in Hartford, New Haven, and Stamford. Please come join them and encourage participation from your office. Our health and success depend on it. Look for more details to come in *The CBA Docket*.

In keeping wellness and teamwork in mind—like the great World Cup teams—my Presidential Initiative Committee has been hard at work planning an April event that incorporates physical exercise and collaboration with lawyers dispensing legal advice to parents and guardians of Special Olympics athletes, which will take

place at the Kinsmen Brewing Company in Southington. The CBA will be partnering with Special Olympics Connecticut on an event that will include walking, running, or biking with the Special Olympics athletes! While the athletic outdoor part of the event is taking place, it is anticipated that CBA members from sections such as Disability Law and Estates and Probate will set up booths inside and answer questions dealing with legal issues facing the athletes and their families. The Special Olympics was established in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver. What better organization to collaborate with and bring focus on living a healthier life than the Special Olympics.

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A Special Message Regarding the 1875 Society

The 1875 Society, aptly named for the Connecticut Bar Association's (CBA) founding on June 2, 1875, is a group of members committed to sustaining the CBA and the legal profession in Connecticut. The society's recurring annual financial donations support the delivery of essential programs for members and the public and enables the CBA to maintain its high standards for ethics, professionalism, and civility; advance the effective administration of justice; and build diversity and inclusion in the legal community.



The 1875 Society has grown considerably over the last few years and currently includes 122 CBA members. Through their annual \$100 donations, these members show their support for the CBA's mission and help us advance the principles of law and justice.

In recognition of these important contributions, each current society member will receive an exclusive 1875 Society lapel pin designating their status. Recipients will receive their pin directly from me either by mail or in-person at certain CBA events. I invite you to join the 1875 Society today by visiting ctbar.org/1875society or contacting our Member Service Center at (844) 469-2221 or msc@ctbar.org.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Horgan
President, Connecticut Bar Association

1875 Society

The 1875 Society is a group of members committed to sustaining the CBA and the legal profession in Connecticut by supporting the delivery of essential programs to fellow members and the public through voluntary annual donations. Thank you to the following members for your contribution:

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Show your support and join a growing group of leaders in the CBA's 1875 Society. Contribute now by contacting our Member Service Center at (844) 469-2221 or msc@ctbar.org, or visit ctbar.org/1875society.

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comments you may have, including suggestions on how “[t]ogether we can identify and implement effective ways to fight hate crimes in Connecticut and lead the way to a safe and more inclusive United States of America.”⁴ ■

Amy Lin Meyerson, the 2020–2021 president of the Connecticut Bar Association, and **Judge Douglas Lavine**, Trial Judge Referee, are the co-chairs of the Connecticut Hate Crimes Advisory Council.

NOTES

1. 2022 Annual Report, The Connecticut Hate Crimes Advisory Council, <https://portal.ct.gov/hatecrimes/-/media/CT-Hate-Crimes-Advisory-Council-Annual-Report-FINAL-93022.pdf> at 3.
2. Written Testimony of Amy Lin Meyerson, Esq. as Co-Chair of the Connecticut Hate Crimes Advisory Council In Support of Raised Bill SB217, March 3, 2022.
3. HCAC Annual Report at 4.
4. HCAC Annual Report at 39.

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Free Speech

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18. *Cobb*, 2018 WL 587315, at *9.
19. *Palmer v. Brook & Whittle Ltd.*, No. NN-HCV146049093, 2017 WL 1239646, at *3 (Conn. Super. Ct. Mar. 2, 2017).
20. *D’Amato v. New Haven Bd. of Educ.*, No. CV196091032S, 2020 WL 1656202, at *9 (Conn. Super. Ct. Mar. 2, 2020).
21. *Weinstein v. Univ. of Connecticut*, No. HH-DCV116027112S, 2021 WL 2446339, at *15 (Conn. Super. Ct. May 18, 2021).
22. *Trusz*, 319 Conn. at 202.
23. No. 378772, 2000 WL 726839 (Conn. Super. Ct. May 10, 2000); aff’d on other grounds 71 Conn. App. 835 (2002).
24. *Id.* at *3.
25. *Id.* at *5.
26. No. NNHCV176067843, 2017 WL 5243854 (Conn. Super. Ct. Oct. 10, 2017).
27. *Id.* at *2.
28. *Id.*
29. *Id.* at *3-4.
30. *Zelnik v. Fashion Inst. of Tech.*, 464 F.3d 217, 225 (2d Cir. 2006), cert. denied, 549 U.S. 1342 (2007).
31. *Browne*, 2017 WL 5243854, at *3-4, note 8.
32. *Browne*, 2017 WL 5243854, at *4.
33. *Browne*, 2017 WL 5243854, at *3.
34. No. HHDCV116027112S, 2018 WL 2222131 (Conn. Super. Ct. Apr. 25, 2018).
35. *Weinstein*, 2018 WL 2222131 at *1-2.
36. *Id.* at *6.
37. *Id.*
38. *Id.* at *7.
39. *Id.*
40. As of this writing, the case, which is captioned *Chamber of Commerce, et al. v. Bartolomeo et al.*, No. 3:22-cv-01373, is currently pending in federal District Court for the District of Connecticut. With their lawsuit the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (“CBIA”) and other plaintiffs allege that Public Act 22-24’s amendments to Section 31-51q violate the First and Fourteenth rights of Connecticut employers and that the provisions relating to captive audience meetings are preempted by the National Labor Relations Act. The case raises a whole set of critical Section 31-51q questions that are beyond the scope of this article.

Book Review

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- stable mental health and became more involved in politics after 1854.
3. See, for example, John Ford’s treatment of Ann Rutledge in his award-winning movie “Young Mr. Lincoln.”
 4. Donald’s title reverses that of Herndon’s own biography of Lincoln, *Herndon’s Lincoln*.
 5. Slaughter, Thomas P., “Towering Terzagant,” *Reviews in American History*, Vol. 49, No. 3 (2021), pp. 429-434.
 6. *Id.* Revisionist history is seen in John Y. Simon, “Abraham Lincoln and Ann Rutledge,” *Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association*, Vol. 11, No. 1 (1990).
 7. See Burlingame, *supra*, note 1.

Wellness

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NOTES

1. The men’s first place finisher in 2021 finished the race in 21 minutes and 23 seconds, running on average each mile in 4 minutes and 30 seconds. <https://results.raceroster.com/en-US/results/detail/32c3jgw5n9g-p6x9>
2. My 2018 full course marathon time was 3 hours and 53 minutes. A mere 1 hour and 35 minutes behind the race winner (who completed the race in 2 hours and 18 minutes).
3. www.webmd.com/fitness-exercise/how-running-affects-mental-health

President’s Message

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We are hoping to raise funds that would benefit our Special Olympics Connecticut athletes by having a friendly competition between our section and committee members. Keep an eye out for more details as the new year unfolds. We can work together in 2023 just like a World Cup soccer team to achieve our GOOOOOOOOAAAAAAAAALL! (I couldn’t resist!) . ■

NOTES

1. Legendary soccer star Pelé passed away on December 29, 2022, at the age of 82.



Member Benefits

CBA members receive special perks with various retailers and vendors, including resources for practitioners and discounts on recreational activities, services, and goods. Take advantage of everything your membership has to offer by viewing the full list of benefits at ctbar.org/memberbenefits.