

News & Events

CBA and Local and Affinity Bar Associations Host 2023 New Admittees Reception

On February 9 the Connecticut Bar Association (CBA), CBA Young Lawyers Section, Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association, Connecticut Italian American Bar Association, Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association, Fairfield County Bar Association, George W. Crawford Black Bar Association, Hartford County Bar Association, New Haven County Bar Association, South Asian Bar Association of Connecticut, and Tolland County Bar Association hosted a New Admittee's Reception at Anthony's Ocean View in New Haven Connecticut for all attorneys newly admitted to practice in Connecticut since 2020.

The event opened with a welcome from CBA President Daniel J. Horgan who

CBA President-Elect Margaret I. Castinado introduced each of the four judges speaking at the event: Connecticut Supreme Court Chief Justice Richard A. Robinson, Connecticut Appellate Court Chief Judge William H. Bright, Chief Court Administrator Judge Elizabeth A. Bozzuto, and Connecticut Superior Court Judge and CBA Past President Ndidi Moses.

Chief Justice Robinson congratulated the newly licensed attorneys and encouraged them to maintain proper decorum in their practice, stating, "Do your job and do your job well. Don't fall for the anger and hostility. Don't fall for the incivility. Those kinds of things are affecting the world and are definitely

Justice Robinson's statements on the importance of civility and noted that, due to the reduction of in-person proceedings since the pandemic, "We lost some of camaraderie that takes place through those random meetings in courthouses. So, we have to work harder at that." Chief Judge Bright noted that the judges of the appellate court are available to assist newer attorneys in developing skills such as oral arguments, brief writing, and how to interact with opposing counsel.

Judge Bozzuto reminded the new attorneys of the important duties associated with their roles, stating, "As our code tells us, the legal profession's relative autonomy carries with it special responsibilities of self-government.... We as lawyers and judges have the responsibility to see to it that all the good of this profession endures for decades and centuries to come."

The reception's final speaker, Judge Moses, advised the new admittees that developing relationships is the key to success as a new attorney, "It's about being kind even when you're tired and frustrated. It's about answering phone calls, even when you don't feel like it. It's about reaching out to those when you see them suffering. It's about building a family and building relationships."

President-Elect Castinado closed out the reception, thanking the partner organizations in attendance for their support. "Speaking of the other bar associations in our midst, this event would not have been possible without their support and encouragement," stated President-Elect Castinado.



Newly admitted attorneys from across the state attended the reception.

informed the new admittees, "It is a privilege to be a lawyer in Connecticut. I say that because it is a great place to practice law. If you ask lawyers and judges in this state and the surrounding states, they will often tell you how cooperative, civil, and respectful the lawyers are to each other and tonight's event is an example of that cooperative spirit."

affecting the practice of law. We have to be above all of that and above it in big ways. Exemplify civility and respect. Behavior and words matter a great deal in a court of law... The bottom line is that if you are honorable and respect others and make integrity your hallmark, people will notice you."

Chief Judge William H. Bright echoed

SEEKING LEADERS TO SERVE ON THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES FROM 2023-2026

The CBA is seeking leaders to represent their colleagues in the House of Delegates for a three (3) year term. Please consider volunteering your time to strengthen the CBA, bring new ideas, and encourage growth to the association as we move forward in the coming years. The districts that have at least one (1) expiring seat beginning July 1 are 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 17.

Please keep in mind that if you currently are seated on the House of Delegates and your term is about to expire, you still need to follow the procedure for nomination once again.

We have made it easier to secure a seat in our election for the House of Delegates with our online nomination process. Please visit ctbar.org/HODNomination to find the instructions for nominating colleagues in your District and/or yourself. Completed petitions are due Saturday, April 15, 2023.

Your membership is greatly appreciated and your participation in the governing of the Connecticut Bar Association will only strengthen our organization.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Carol DeJohn, cdejohn@ctbar.org.



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.

IN MEMORIAM



Elaine Smith Amendola passed away on November 21, 2022 at the age of 87. She graduated Wellesley College with a BA in

mathematics and was employed in the structural engineering department at Sikorsky Aircraft programming their first computers. In 1962, Attorney Amendola became one of the first women to graduate from the Yale University Law School. She was admitted to the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut in 1963, the United States Second Circuit Court of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court in 1967. She went on to co-found the law firm of Zeldes, Needle & Cooper, where she specialized in criminal and civil litigation. Attorney Amendola promoted women's rights throughout her career, including suing the National Little League organization to allow girls to play and promoting Title IX so women could have equal access to athletic opportunities in college sports. In 1997, Attorney Amendola co-founded the law firm of Amendola & Amendola, LLC., which concentrates in matrimonial law and advocacy for children's rights.



Germain D. "Gerry" Newton passed away on December 28, 2022, at the age of 91. He was a graduate of Trinity College and the

University of Virginia School of Law, and a combat veteran of the Korean War where he was a tank commander in the 73rd Tank Battalion of the 7th Infantry Division. His entire profes-

sional career was in personal trust administration and estate planning, beginning with Hartford National Bank and Trust Co. in 1961, and retiring as vice president of Shawmut Bank N.A. in 1993. He was a member of the Connecticut Bar Association, the Hartford County Bar Association, and a charter member of the Estate and Business Planning Council of Hartford.



Emanuel N. Psarakis passed away on December 29 at the age of 90. He received his undergraduate degree from the University

of Connecticut, his JD degree from Boston University Law School, and his LL.M. in Labor Law from Columbia University Law School. Attorney Psarakis served as a lieutenant in the United States Airforce, and his first job in law was as an attorney with the National Labor Relations Board in Washington D.C. practicing civil rights law. He joined Robinson+Cole in 1978, becoming a partner and head of the labor group, representing clients in civil rights, employment, labor relations, business, and construction law; he retired from the firm in 2002. Formerly, Attorney Psarakis served as an administrative hearing judge for the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and as a parajudicial officer and special settlement master in the U.S. Federal District Court. Active in many legal organizations, he was part of the CBA's ADR Section. He continued to work as an arbitrator and mediator and taught law at the Quinnipiac University School of Law throughout his retirement.

Ralph J. Monaco Memorial Civics Education Award and Fund



Ralph J. Monaco

The CT Bar Institute (CTBI) established the Ralph J. Monaco Memorial Civics Education Award (“Monaco Civics Award”). The Monaco Civics Award is presented annually during the Connecticut Bar Association’s (CBA) Law Day Celebration. The Monaco Civics Award may be accompanied by a monetary grant, drawn from the Ralph J. Monaco Civics Education Fund.

Monetary Award: Each 2022 Monaco Civics Award was accompanied by a \$1000 monetary grant provided to each selected recipient. Amounts of such monetary grants for future years will be determined by the Awards Committee annually.

Award Committee: The Ralph J. Monaco Memorial Awards Committee (“Monaco Awards Committee”) is responsible for promoting the Monaco Civics Award; selecting the recipients of the Monaco Civics Award each year; determining, within available funds, the number and amount of Monaco Civics Awards to grant in a year; and fundraising for the Ralph J. Monaco Memorial Civics Education Fund.

The Monaco Awards Committee suggests that nominations be submitted by a teacher, coach, club advisor, or similarly-situated individual with personal knowledge of the nominee’s activities and commitment to civics education and the rule of law. In the event of a self-nomination, a letter of reference from such an individual, while not required, would be helpful in the Monaco Awards Committee’s consideration of the nominee.

To learn more and submit a nomination, visit ctbar.org/MonacoFund.

Award Criteria:

The Monaco Civics Award is awarded to either one or more current Connecticut high school students, in their junior or senior year of study, who have demonstrated a significant commitment to advancing civic engagement, civics education and/or the rule of law. Participation in extracurricular activities promoting civic engagement, civics education, and the rule of law, such as mock trial, student government, speech and debate, Model U.N., or other forensic activities and student activism shall be considered favorably.

Upcoming Education Calendar

MARCH

- 15 Advanced MS Word for Legal Professionals—Part II
- 15 Motley Speaker Series | The Rage of Innocence: Race and the Criminalization of Adolescent Behavior ♦
- 16 Ethical Considerations in Residential Real Estate Closings ♦
- 17 Tribal Law
- 21 Residential Real Estate Closings
- 23 Ethics for Workers’ Compensation Practitioners ♦
- 28 Education Law
- 30 Annual Advanced Labor and Employment Law Symposium

APRIL

- 4 What Real Estate Lawyers Need to Know about Accessibility Under the ADA, FHA
- 5 Advanced MS Word for Legal Professionals—Part III
- 5 Risk Management for Lawyers ♦
- 10 Intellectual Property
- 11 CFIUS—The Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States
- 11 Litigation
- 18 Your Office is a Public Accommodation—Compliance with the ADA, FHA ♦
- 18 Commercial Law and Bankruptcy

- 19 Advanced MS Word for Legal Professionals—Part IV
- 20 Residential Real Estate Practice—Optimizing Work with Paralegals ♦
- 21 Tools to Ethically Manage Client Trust Accounts ♦
- 24 Workers’ Compensation and Insurance Law
- 25 Building a Modern Law Firm
- 25 Alternative Dispute Resolution
- 27 More Effective Writing Makes More Effective Lawyers

♦ Ethics credit available
CLE PASS ELIGIBLE: For more information about the CLE Pass, visit ctbar.org/CLEPass.

PEERS AND CHEERS

Attorney Announcements

Kahan Kerensky Capossela LLP, a law firm in Vernon, hired William R. Broneill to head up its Real Estate Department. Attorney Broneill practices in residential and commercial real estate.

Karen DeMeola was named as the inaugural assistant dean for diversity, belonging and community engagement, a new position to UConn School of Law. In the new role, Attorney DeMeola will work with various faculty, staff, and student committees including the Diversity, Equity and Belonging Committee and the student-led Diversity Alliance.

The National Legal Aid & Defender Association (NLADA) Racial Equity Initiative honored **Leander Dolphin**, managing partner of Shipman & Goodwin, with a 2022 Courageous Leader Award. This award is given annually to racial equity leaders who are committed to advancing anti-racist values. It recognizes the dedicated advocacy of trailblazers who model the commitment and courage that it takes to advance meaningful, lasting change.

Robinson+Cole Public Finance Group lawyer and partner in charge of the firm's Hartford office, **Keisha S. Palmer** was recognized by The Bond Buyer as a "Trailblazing Woman in Public Finance" during the publication's annual Deal of the Year Awards Gala. She was recognized for her accomplishments and commitment to the industry as well as helping to define a new generation of leaders.

Ridgefield's historic community center, Lounsbury House, appointed **Marisa Schafer** as a member of its Board of Directors. She is a resident of Ridgefield and practices with Schafer Law.

Pullman & Comley LLC has added **Frederic S. Ury** to the firm as a member of the litigation practice based in the firm's office in Westport. He is a board-certified civil trial lawyer and represents clients including individuals, corporations, and small businesses in both civil and criminal matters as well as represents other attorneys in ethics and disciplinary grievances, successfully bringing and defending hundreds of cases in Connecticut's Superior, Appellate, and Supreme Courts.

McCarter & English LLP has elected **Rolan Joni Young** as an equity partner. Attorney Young focuses on commercial real estate development with an emphasis on complex affordable housing, community healthcare, and economic development projects.

Firm Announcements

The **American Association of Law Schools** honored UConn Law Professor **Jennifer Maily** and student **Alona Voronova** '24 for their pro bono work, naming them to the organization's inaugural Pro Bono Honor Roll. Professor Maily, now an emerita member of the faculty, served as director of field placements

and as associate dean for experiential education. In those positions she oversaw much of the law school's pro bono programming and supervised the law school's Pro Bono Pledge program. Voronova, a second-year student from Ukraine, is an active pro bono volunteer. She has helped with CBA Pro Bono Clinics and the CT Free Legal Answers Comes to Campus event. Additionally, she took on a pro bono project with Murtha Cullina helping Ukrainian refugees settle in Connecticut.

Day Pitney LLP promoted the following attorneys to partner: **James M. Leva**, who practices in employment and labor in the New Jersey office; Katherine A. McAllister, who practices in trusts and estates in the Stamford office; and Elizabeth P. Retersdorf, who practices in insurance and reinsurance disputes in the Hartford office.

Pullman & Comley LLC has added **Kristin B. Mayhew** and **Sebastian D'Acunto** as members of the firm. Attorney Mayhew is a member of the litigation practice and is based in the Bridgeport office. Attorney D'Acunto is a member of the trusts and estates practice based in the Westport office.

Robinson+Cole elected the following partners: **Benjamin M. Daniels**, who advises financial institutions and global corporations on litigation and dispute resolution; **Andrew A. DePeau**, who focuses his practice on all aspects of business litigation, bankruptcy, and dispute resolution; and **Evan J. Seeman**, who concentrates his practice in land use and zoning, real property litigation, and municipal law.

Saxe Doernberger & Vita PC has elevated **Brian J. Clifford** and **Kerianne Kane Luckett** to partner. Attorney Clifford focuses his practice on representing policyholders in multiple industries, including the real estate, hospitality, insurance broker support, and construction industries. Attorney Luckett focuses her national practice on representing policyholders in complex insurance litigation matters.

Shipman & Goodwin LLP promoted the following attorneys to partner: **Danielle McGrath Braun**, whose practice focuses on public finance and municipal law; **Miriam Lewis**, who practices in corporate and commercial finance; **Natalia Sieira Millán**, who is a member of the firm's Law Practice Group and represents local and regional boards of education, regional educational service centers, and charter schools in all areas of school law; and **Sarah A. Westby**, who is co-chair of the firm's cannabis team and is the "go-to" counsel for regional cannabis businesses.

Shipman & Goodwin LLP also promoted three associates to counsel status: **Dori Pagé Antonetti**, who is a member of the School Law Practice Group where she represents a wide range of educational institutions, including both public and independent K-12 schools; **Aaron T. Baral**, who is a member of the Business and Corporate Practice Group; and **Christopher J. Cahill**, whose practice focuses on business and commercial litigation. ■