

STARS IN THE LEGAL COMMUNITY GATHER FOR A NIGHT OF HONOR AND INSPIRATION



CBA Leadership with the 2023 award winners: (Back Row, L to R) Jonathan E. Friedler, Cheryl A. Sharp, Carolyn Wilkes Kaas, Rosendo Garza, Jr., Hon. Terence A. Zemetis, David M. Moore, Kirk Lowry

(Front Row, L to R) Regen O'Malley, Hon. Cecil J. Thomas, Sylvia Ho, Hon. Karen Lynn DeMeola, Denise W. Merrill, Margaret I. Castinado, Daniel J. Horgan, and James T. Shearin

Over 300 legal professionals, community members, families, and friends attended the tenth annual “Celebrate with the Stars” awards dinner on May 3 at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville to honor individuals who have made an impact on the Connecticut Legal community. The event began with CBA President Daniel J. Horgan addressing the attendees. “To see lawyers and other professionals supporting this noble and honorable profession and rise to meet the challenges that face our communities is really inspirational,” stated President Horgan. “Recipients, the commitment to serve others are your tracks of accomplishment



Hon. Stanley Novack (Ret.)



John L. Giulietti

that we the CBA celebrate tonight, and those tracks will lead and inspire future generations of lawyers, educators, and public servants.”

The first recognition of the evening was for members of the bar admitted in 1973, who were honored for their 50 years of practice with half-century pins.

The awards presentation began with **The Honorable Anthony V. DeMayo Pro Bono Award**. The winners of this award, as selected by the Pro Bono Committee, exhibit commitment to pro bono service and serve as role models for the profession. This year’s winners included: **Rosendo Garza, Jr., John L. Giulietti, Sylvia Ho, and Regen O’Malley**.

Young Lawyers Section (YLS) Chair Christopher A. Klepps presented the



(L to R) James T. Shearin, Margaret I. Castinado, ABA President-Elect Mary L. Smith, Daniel J. Horgan, Amy Lin Meyerson, Frederic S. Ury

Young Lawyers Section Vanguard Award to **Jonathan E. Friedler**. Attorney Friedler was recognized for his commitment to the YLS and for organizing events for the section, such as nature walks that allowed YLS members to socialize during the COVID-19 Pandemic. “I really did enjoy the hiking events. I’m looking forward to doing more of that and promoting health and wellness in the lawyer community,” stated Attorney Friedler. “I’ve also really enjoyed teaching civics to elementary students throughout the state with the YLS Lawyers in the Classroom program.”

After dinner, the signature awards were presented by President Daniel J. Horgan, President-Elect Margaret I. Castinado, and Vice President James T. Shearin.

The first signature award, the **Henry J. Naruk Judiciary Award**, was presented to **the Honorable Stanley Novack** for his contributions to the administration of justice during his 25-year career as a Con-

necticut judge. “I really got a lot of enjoyment out of helping people resolve their difficulties by settlement instead of going to trial so everybody could leave with their self-esteem and integrity intact. That was significant to me,” stated Judge Novack. “Also, I appreciated working with so many nice people that were very helpful and made my job easier.”

The **Citizen of the Law Award** was bestowed to **Cheryl A. Sharp** for her contributions to programs and projects that have increased Connecticut students’ awareness of civil and human rights laws, including the creation of the statewide Connecticut Kids Court Competition and Kids Speak event. She spoke about growing up in Hartford and has always strived to give back to her community and empower others. She encouraged the event’s attendees to do the same, stating, “I hope that you see the importance of giving back, the importance of stewardship, the

50-YEAR AWARDEES



These CBA member attorneys are observing the 50th anniversary of their admission to practice in Connecticut:

Hon. Marshall K. Berger Jr. (Ret.)	Stephen Donahue	J. Timothy Mannion
Hon. Anne Dranginis (Ret.)	Gordon Y. Fain	Neil R. Marcus
Mark Capecelatro	Joseph Fallon	Edward Nusbaum
David M. Cohen	Richard Gee	R. Richard Roina
Jeff Crown	Susan Halperin	David Shaw
	John C. King	Steven M. Zelman
	Robert M. Langer	Barry Zitser

importance of pro bono work because the bar only becomes better when we work together to make a difference."

Carolyn Wilkes Kaas of Quinnipiac University School of Law received the **Tapping Reeve Legal Educator Award** for her contributions to legal education, including teaching the school's in-house civil clinic for over 20 years. "Thank you for seeing and valuing my contributions," stated Professor Kaas. "My time in law teaching has coincided with the rise of clinical legal education and experiential legal education and finally, I guess this is really helping me take some small credit for that."

The **Edward F. Hennessey Professionalism Award** was presented to the Hon-

orable **Terence A. Zemetis** for his exemplary professionalism and willingness to share his experience and expertise with others through his presentation of continuing legal education programs with the CBA and long-term participation in UConn's trial advocacy classes. Judge Zemetis reflected on his understanding of the term "all rise," stating, "Over the years I've thought about it as an exhortation, a command, a plea, a prayer, and aspiration. All rise—rise above our limitations, rise above our biases, our prejudices, rise above our self-serving interests.... Think of 'all rise' as a reminder to fill your soul with hope and joy and the anticipation of greatness."

The Honorable **Cecil J. Thomas** was presented with the **Charles J. Parker Legal Services Award** for his dedication to the delivery of legal services to the disadvantage in Connecticut during his time as an attorney at Greater Hartford Legal Aid. Judge Thomas remarked on his belief in the importance of closing the access to justice gap and encouraged attending attorneys to act. "I ask you to take action as you see fit, not just because the rules suggest it or it is the right thing to do, but because I believe we are, in this moment particularly, called to answer this significant concern," asserted Judge Thomas. "Improved access to justice strengthens the rule of law, promotes public confidence in our systems of justice, and demonstrates our own professional deep commitment to equal justice."

The Honorable **Karen Lynn DeMeola** received the **John Eldred Shields Distinguished Professional Service Award** for her long-term outstanding service through the CBA for the benefit of the legal community and community at large. She spoke of the many lessons her parents taught her, including the importance of understanding privilege and helping those in need. "They exemplified the ways in which one person can make a difference in the lives of others," stated Judge DeMeola.

The final award of the evening, the **Distinguished Public Service Award**, was presented to former **Connecticut Secretary of the State Denise W. Merrill** for her significant contributions to society and distinguishing herself in her profession. Secretary Merrill reflected on her experiences as secretary of the state and her involvement with the Connecticut Bar Association. She specifically thanked the CBA's Civics Education Committee for their work, noting, "That committee is just this little group that's been operating for all these years trying to make a difference in promoting democracy for the next generation. I think the bench and bar play an incredibly important role and can continue to play an even more important role in preparing the next generation." ■



Has Your Colleague Made a Difference in the Connecticut Legal Community?

Nominate Them for a CBA Award!

Charles J. Parker Legal Services Award is presented to a CBA member who has a deep and abiding interest in and dedication to the delivery of legal services to the disadvantaged in Connecticut.

Citizen for the Law Award is presented to a person who is not employed in the legal area but has made a significant contribution to the institution of justice and the law on a voluntary basis.

Citizen of the Law Award is presented to a CBA member who has made a significant contribution to a charitable or public service cause that does not involve professional legal skills.

Distinguished Public Service Award is given to a Connecticut resident, or a person with a meaningful relationship to Connecticut, who has made a significant contribution to society and is distinguished in his or her profession.

Henry J. Naruk Judiciary Award is presented to members of the state and federal judiciary who have made substantial contributions to the administration of justice in Connecticut.

John Eldred Shields Distinguished Professional Service Award is presented to a CBA member who has performed outstanding service through or on behalf of the CBA, for the benefit of the legal community and the community at large.

Tapping Reeve Legal Educator Award is presented to a CBA member who is a faculty member or instructor at one of Connecticut's Law Schools or Western New England School of Law who has made a significant contribution to the cause of legal education in the state.

The Honorable Anthony V. DeMayo Pro Bono Award is presented to CBA members who are not salaried employees of a legal aid or similar nonprofit organization that have demonstrated dedication to the provision of legal services without expectation of payment to those in need.



**Submit
Nominations
by August 31**

For the complete awards criteria and to submit a nomination, visit ctbar.org/awards.