

# News & Events

## Connecticut Bar Association Delegation Attends 2024 ABA Day

On April 10-11, a Connecticut Bar Association delegation traveled to Washington, DC to attend the American Bar Association (ABA)'s 2024 ABA Day event. ABA Day is a conference that brings together leaders of the ABA and thousands of professionals from state and local bars from across the country to advocate on behalf of issues of importance to the legal profession. The CBA delegation consisted of CBA President Maggie Castinado, CBA President-Elect James T. (Tim) Shearin, ABA State Co-Captain Alison J. Toumekian, CBA Past President Amy Lin Meyerson, Suphi A. Philip, and Scott Schwefel. ABA State Co-Captain Dan Schwartz was not able to attend the event in-person but provided remote support for the other delegation members.

During the event, the delegation met with various Connecticut politicians, including US Senators Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy and Congressman Jim Himes as well as policy analysts for Representatives Rosa DeLauro, Jahana Hayes, and John Larson. The delegation advocated for increased funding for public defenders and the Legal Services Corporation, which is a national program that provides free legal assistance to individuals with low or no income.

*(L to R) Suphi A. Philip, CBA Past President Amy Lin Meyerson, US Congressman Jim Himes, ABA State Co-Captain Alison J. Toumekian, Scott Schwefel*



*(L to R) Suphi A. Philip, Scott Schwefel, CBA President Maggie Castinado, CBA President-Elect James T. (Tim) Shearin, US Senator Richard Blumenthal, CBA Past President Amy Lin Meyerson, and ABA State Co-Captain Alison J. Toumekian*



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## CBA ANTITRUST AND TRADE REGULATION SECTION CHAIR ROBERT M. LANGER RECEIVES LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

On March 13 at Terrace on the Green in Wallingford, Connecticut Bar Association Antitrust and Trade Regulation Section Chair Robert M. Langer was presented with the section's first ever Lifetime Achievement Award. At the event, Attorney Langer was also presented with letters from five Connecticut Attorneys General, current Attorney General William Tong, and former Attorneys General George Jepsen, Senator Richard Blumenthal, Clarine Nardi Riddle and former Senator Joseph Lieberman.

Attorney Langer currently serves as senior counsel at Wiggin and Dana LLP in Hartford. He has spent over 50 years in practice, more than 20 of which were spent as assistant attorney general in charge of antitrust and consumer protection in Connecticut. He is co-author of the leading treatise on CUTPA and the

Connecticut Antitrust Act and is also an antitrust professor at the University of Connecticut School of Law and Quinnipiac University School of Law. In addition to his current tenure as chair of the CBA Antitrust and Trade Regulation Section, Attorney Langer also served in the role of chair of the section earlier on in his career from 1979-1980.

"He is a litigator, counselor, enforcer, scholar, and friend who has never ceased to give back and contribute to the Connecticut Bar Association," noted Antitrust and Trade Regulation Section Secretary Peter A. Barile III, who presented Attorney Langer with the award. "The Executive Committee of the section unanimously and enthusiastically supports honoring him with the first-ever CBA Antitrust and Trade Regulation Section Lifetime Achievement Award."



*CBA Antitrust and Trade Regulation Section Secretary Peter A. Barile III (Left) presents CBA Antitrust and Trade Regulation Section Chair Robert M. Langer (Right) with the CBA Antitrust and Trade Regulation Section Lifetime Achievement Award.*

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## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### TWELVE CBA MEMBERS NOMINATED TO THE CONNECTICUT SUPERIOR COURT

**Governor Ned Lamont** nominated 12 jurists on March 1 to fill vacancies on the Connecticut Superior Court, and more than half are current CBA members.

“The Connecticut Bar Association congratulates those nominated for judicial appointment by Governor Lamont,” stated CBA President Maggie Castinado. “We are happy to see such a diverse group of CBA members being recognized for their outstanding and exemplary qualifications and experience.”

#### CBA Members Nominated to the Connecticut Superior Court Bench:

**Tamar R. Birkhead** is a solo practitioner at Birkhead Law LLC, where she primarily works as appointed counsel representing indigent individuals in criminal and juvenile courts. She is a member of the CBA Child Welfare and Juvenile Law Section Executive Committee.

**Corrine A. Boni-Vendola** is a partner at Charles and Boni-Vendola, LLC, which she co-founded in 2000. She primarily focuses on family and matrimonial law.

**Kristin A. Connors** is a named partner at Stockman O'Connor Connors PLLC. Her practice concentration for over thirty years has been complex civil litigation, primarily medical malpractice and product liability actions. She serves on the CBA Health Law Section Executive Committee.

**Steven R. Dembo** is a partner with Berman Mickelson Dembo and Jacobs, LLC, where he has served as a trial and appellate lawyer practicing in the areas of family law, juvenile, administrative, general litigation, and mediation.

**Cody N. Guarnieri** is a senior partner and trial attorney at the law firm of Brown, Paindiris and Scott, LLP. His law practice focuses on all aspects of litigation, including representing criminal defendants in Connecticut state and federal courts, representing plaintiffs in civil personal injury and small business litigation, and defending professional license holders before the various departments and boards of the

State of Connecticut. He serves on the CBA Lawyer Well-Being Committee, Standing Committee on Professional Ethics, and the Criminal Justice Section Executive Committee.

**Cristina M. Lopez** is senior counsel in business law at The Hartford, where she provides legal advice to various business units. In her prior role as senior counsel in coverage litigation, she managed complex environmental and construction cases and provided legal advice to the claims organization.

**Matthew Necci** is of counsel at the Montstream Law Group, and previously was a partner at Halloran and Sage, where he chaired the firm's Workers' Compensation practice group. He currently serves as chairman of the board of directors for Special Olympics Connecticut.

**Susan E. Nugent** is a partner at Murphy and Nugent in New Haven. She also serves as the assistant clerk of the Connecticut Senate.

**John P. Regan** is a solo practitioner at the Law Office of John Regan, representing a diverse clientele in litigation in civil, criminal, housing, and juvenile matters, including numerous assignments as a special public defender, special needs children and veterans. He is also chairman of the St. John Urban Development Corporation, which provides affordable housing in Stamford.

**Eric P. Smith** is a partner and trial lawyer at Faxon Law Group, where he represents catastrophic injury victims and their families in tort claims with a focus on medical malpractice. He

currently serves as a director on the board of New Haven Legal Assistance Association. He has been practicing law for more than 28 years.

**Alayna M. Stone** serves as associate attorney general and chief of the Division of Civil Litigation at the Connecticut Office of the Attorney General, overseeing the functions of the office's Employment, Workers' Compensation and Labor, Health and Education, Public Safety and General Litigation sections.

**Matthew Wax-Krell** is a partner at Rogin Nassau LLC, focusing on business litigation. In addition, he serves on the Connecticut Bar Examining Committee, the board of directors for Greater Hartford Legal Aid, and the board of directors for the West Hartford Little League.

In his press release, Governor Lamont stated, “One of the most notable honors of my responsibilities as governor is to fill vacancies in our court system with capable jurists whose qualifications meet the high standards that the people of Connecticut deserve on the bench. This group of nominees I am forwarding to the legislature today continues this administration's effort to ensure that the people who are serving as judges in our state reflect the diversity, experience, and understanding of the people who live here.”

Governor Lamont also nominated attorneys Nicole Anker, Christine Jean-Louis, Devant J. Joiner, Sara Nadim, Maria C. Rodriguez, Adam R. Schibley, Pedro E. Segarra, Melissa Streeto, Nicole J. Tung, and Colleen Zingaro. Additionally, he nominated Jessica W. Simpson as a family support magistrate. His nominations, made from a pool of candidates screened and endorsed by the Judicial Selection Committee, need to be confirmed by the General Assembly before they take the bench.

## The Honorable Evelyn M. Daly Receives 2024 Ladder Award

The CBA Women in the Law Section, in association with the CBA Young Lawyers Section (YLS) Women in the Law Committee, presented the 2024 Ladder Award to the Honorable Evelyn M. Daly at this year's Pathways to Leadership for Women Lawyers event on March 7 at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville.

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. Judge Daly 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, Elaine S. Amendola, Elizabeth A. Alquist, and Tanyee Cheung.

This year's event began with CBA Women in the Law Section Chair Michelle M. Napoli providing welcome remarks to attendees and introducing keynote speaker Chief Court Administrator Hon. Elizabeth A. Bozzuto. In her keynote speech, Judge Bozzuto spoke of the historic achievements women have made within the legal field. She described how in 1882 Connecticut became the first state to admit a woman to the practice of law through judicial decision, when a state supreme court decision provided Mary Hall with the opportunity to undertake an oral exam held by the state bar. Judge Bozzuto noted that despite this and numerous later achievements towards equity, women continue



*Hon. Evelyn M. Daly presents her acceptance speech for the 2024 Ladder Award.*

to encounter hurdles and barriers within the profession. After recounting her own career experiences and the challenges she faced, Judge Bozzuto concluded by stating, "Surely women in the legal profession have come a long way, but its not over. Every one of us in this room tonight as lawyers, judges, and other justice professionals have a special responsibility to commit ourselves wholeheartedly to the lofty ideals, ethics, and principles of our beloved profession."

Young Lawyers section Women in the Law Committee Co-Chairs Kara A. Newell, Olivia C. Tawa, and Audrey E. Trace presented

the Ladder Award to Judge Daly after summarizing her career achievements that led to her current role as a judge of the Farmington Regional Probate Court. They also explained that Judge Daly had been selected due to praise received by the committee from several women attorneys who she had mentored through judicial internships.

In her remarks, Judge Daly thanked her family, friends, colleagues, and interns for their support before describing her personal experiences as a woman in the legal profession and her work with the judicial internship program. While noting that the program is not exclusive to women, Judge Daly extolled its benefits and stated "It is totally inclusive, diverse, and an equal opportunity initiative. We've had female participants, male participants, and gender non-specific... Each and every one of the interns bring fresh ideas with them." Judge Daly concluded by recognizing the achievements of those who have participated in the program, noting "I've had two fantastic chief clerks who were originally interns and many more of our interns enrich the probate system today and certainly the field of law in general."



*(L to R) YLS Women in the Law Committee Co-Chairs Audrey E. Trace and Olivia C. Tawa, CBA Vice President Emily A. Gianquinto, CBA President Maggie I. Castinado, Hon. Evelyn M. Daly, Keynote Speaker Hon. Elizabeth A. Bozzuto, YLS Women in the Law Committee Co-Chair Kara A. Newell, and CBA President-Elect James T. Shearin*

## PEERS AND CHEERS

**Cummings & Lockwood** is pleased to announce that Amanda E. Carino, Frederick H. Reeder, and Christina M. Rubino have joined the firm's Private Clients Group. Based in the Greenwich office, **Amanda E. Carino** brings with her several years of experience developing complex estate plans for high net worth individuals and families. She advises clients on different planning structures and strategies, including revocable trusts, testamentary trusts, irrevocable trusts, asset protection trusts, trust decanting and planning mechanisms for non-U.S. residents. Based in the West Hartford office, **Frederick H. Reeder** served as an FBI Special Agent for over 21 years investigating criminal and national security matters as well as a JAG Officer in the United States Army Reserve (USAR). He has experience drafting a broad range of estate planning documents, including wills, trusts, powers of attorney, health care proxies and living wills to protect his client's assets and legacies. He also assists clients with the estate and probate administration process. Based in the Stamford office, **Christina M. Rubino** brings with her six years of trusts and estates legal experience working with high net worth and other individuals in estate planning, estate administration

and trust administration, with particular emphasis on minimizing exposure to income, estate and generation-skipping taxes in order to preserve generational wealth.

**Jackson Lewis P.C.** is pleased to announce that Principal Sarah R. Skubas has been appointed to the Lawyers Collaborative for Diversity's (LCD) Board of Directors. The LCD was formed to increase the representation of lawyers of color by uniting the resources and commitment of the region's leading corporations, public sector entities, law firms, law schools and state bar associations. Attorney Skubas is co-leader of the firm's Healthcare group as well as its Practicing and Parenting attorney resource group. She is an experienced litigator in all aspects of employment law, including internal investigations, labor-management relations and employment litigation advocacy.

**Michael A. Hespeler** has joined **Suisman Shapiro Attorneys-at-Law** as a director, practicing primarily in the area of workers' compensation law. He focuses on the representation of injured workers in both State and Federal Worker's Compensation forums.

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## IN MEMORIAM

**Richard J. Beatty** passed away at the age of 85 on December 20, 2023. He was a member of the first graduating class of North Haven High School in 1955, graduated from Holy Cross College in 1959, and received his Master's degree in English from Fairfield University in 1960. Attorney Beatty graduated from the University of Connecticut School of Law in 1966. He practiced law for over 50 years during which time he was a member of the Connecticut Bar Association and New Haven County Bar Association. Before retiring, he was a partner with Clark, Hall and Peck; The Pellegrino Law Firm; and, most recently, Beatty & Beatty, LLC, in Guilford. He served as a member of the Connecticut Standards of Title and taught real estate law classes at Quinnipiac College for many years.



**Stanley Cohen** passed away at the age of 87 on April 12, 2024. He earned his BA in Political Science from the University of Hartford in 1960 and his Juris Doctor from UConn's School of Law



in 1963, where he received a Fuller scholarship and garnered Book Prizes in Property Administrative Law and Mortgages. Admitted to the Connecticut Bar in 1963, his distinguished career included serving on the Law Review and publishing articles in the Connecticut Law Journal. His first position was with Stoner, Burke & Wise before founding his own firm, Stanley Cohen, Attorney at Law, in Hartford in 1973; his firm, now known as Cohen, Burns, Hard, and Paul, is located in West Hartford. In his legal practice, Attorney Cohen specialized in secured transactions, banking law and regulations, commercial litigation, real estate, bankruptcy, and foreclosures; he also held advisory roles in prominent financial institutions, such as the Bank of Boston Connecticut and the Bank of Mystic. Throughout his career, Attorney Cohen was extensively involved in various community organizations and governmental committees, from his tenure as a former member of the Windsor Zoning Board and the Windsor Democratic Town Committee to his roles as a State Trial Referee and Fact Finder. Additionally, he had been appointed by the governor to committees studying the recodification of banking laws and his service on the Judicial Review and Disciplinary Committees.



**Giacomo "Jack" Guarnaccia, Jr.** passed away at the age of 75 on February 29, 2024. He earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Gannon College in 1970 and graduated with his Juris Doctor Degree from the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William and Mary in 1973. Attorney Guarnaccia was admitted to the Connecticut Bar in 1974, the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in 1975, and the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut in 1976. He was a founding member of the firm that is known today as Guarnaccia, Connors, Kalom & Zorn, LLC and focused his practice on elder law, commercial and residential real estate, estates and probate, and estate planning. Additionally, he was a member of the Connecticut and Windham County Bar Associations, and the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys. He is a past president of the Windham County Bar Association (2010-2012); a former member of the Connecticut Bar Examining Committee; a member of the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Attorneys Title Insurance Company (CATIC) (1997-2008); and served on the Board of the CATIC Foundation, Inc.

## Free Legal Answers Comes to Campus

The CBA and UConn School of Law jointly hosted a CT Free Legal Answers Comes to Campus Event, held at the UConn School of Law campus, on March 22. CBA volunteers and law students worked as a team to provide free legal assistance to Connecticut residents with low or no income. Volunteer attorneys—Kathy Flaherty, Rachel Garron, Brian Glenn, and David Moore—mentored and worked with a group of 13 law students to provide

limited free legal assistance and answer legal questions online. The volunteers helped the students work through the process of providing legal guidance, and reviewed their final responses to the public's questions. The law students benefitted from the opportunity to provide real world help to those who otherwise lack legal assistance. The CBA values its partnership with the UConn School of Law and looks forward to future collaborations. ■

