

News & Events

CBA Members, Family, and Friends Enjoy Third Annual Summer Outing



(L to R) 2022-2023 CBA President Daniel J. Horgan, Government and Public Sector Committee and Membership Committee Co-Chair Kyle LaBuff, and Attorney LaBuff's guest

Boats, kayaks, and canoes were available for use by attendees on Holiday Hill's lake.

On Sunday, June 25, over 290 CBA members, officers, and their families and friends gathered at Holiday Hill in Prospect for a day packed with summer recreation. Attendees enjoyed a variety of outdoor activities, including water activities, mini golf, bingo, yard games, and a rock-climbing wall as well as plentiful food options for breakfast and lunch. The day had great weather, which allowed families to take full advantage of all the outdoor activities available. We look forward to seeing everyone again at next year's annual outing in June of 2024.



2023-2024 CBA Vice President Emily A. Gianquinto with her son

GET THE NEWS and JOIN THE CONVERSATION www.ctbar.org

Distinguish Yourself from the Crowd by Becoming a Board Certified Residential Real Estate Specialist!



Gain a certification that identifies you as a competent, experienced, and skilled attorney in the area of residential real estate law through the Connecticut Bar Association Real Property Section's Residential Real Estate Specialist Certification Program. The program has been approved by the Connecticut Superior Court's Legal Specialization Screening Committee and Rules Committee. This approval process ensures that our program has met the court's strict standards. Only attorneys who have been formally certified may use the designation "Board Certified Residential Real Estate Specialist" on business cards, letterhead, and other advertisements.

To apply for the designation "Board Certified Residential Real Estate Specialist," you must satisfy the following requirements:

- Demonstrate that no less than twenty-five percent of your total practice has been in the area of residential real estate law
- Have been engaged in the practice of law in Connecticut for at least five years and be a member in good standing of each bar in which you are admitted
- Maintain an errors and omissions policy with minimum limits of \$1,000,000 per claim
- Have a satisfactory disciplinary and malpractice history
- Accumulate a minimum of thirty-six hours of continuing legal education activities in the area of residential real estate law, including at least six hours of ethics in the three years prior to filing the application
- Have a minimum of five references from other attorneys or judges knowledgeable regarding your practice and competence
- Pass a one-day written examination

To become certified as a residential real estate (RRE) specialist, you must apply for and pass the RRE specialist certification exam. The notice to apply form for the examination is available online at ctbar.org/RRESpecialist. You must submit your notice to apply for the RRE specialist certification exam (with an accompanying \$50 fee) by **October 20**.

After submitting your notice to apply for the RRE specialist certification exam, you will then need to submit a completed application with an accompanying \$250 fee (applicants who submit the notice of intent with the \$50 fee will be credited \$50) for the exam by **December 15, 2023**. The RRE specialist certification exam is planned to take place on **Friday, March 8, 2024**, with a snow date scheduled for **Friday, March 15, 2024**.

Image credit: Daniel Tadevosyan/Getty Image

CBA HOSTS JULY 2023 FREE LEGAL ADVICE CLINIC

On July 25 and 26, The Connecticut Bar Association (CBA) Pro Bono Committee and Statewide Legal Services of Connecticut held a Free Legal Advice Clinic, where 20 volunteer attorneys met with 41 clients over Zoom meetings. Prior to the clinic, 13 volunteer paralegal and law students completed intake forms and asked follow-up questions to help the attorneys prepare for the meetings and provide the best possible legal advice.



FREE LEGAL ADVICE CLINIC

Throughout the clinic, volunteer attorneys met with clients and provided free legal guidance on topics involving various areas of law, including family law, immigration, housing, and employment law.

"These free legal advice clinics provide vital support to individuals and families that cannot afford an attorney," stated CBA President Maggie Castinado. "I am proud to say that over 200 clients have been served by the clinics over the past year. Thank you to all the attorneys, law students, and paralegals who have dedicated time to participate in them and help close the access to justice gap. I encourage anyone who is interested in volunteering to reach out and get involved in these quarterly events."

Learn more about the CBA Free Legal Advice Clinics at ctbar.org/freelegaladviceclinics.



CBA LEADERS GATHER FOR ANNUAL RETREAT

On August 25, CBA officers, members of the Board of Governors and House of Delegates, and section and committee chairs gathered for the annual CBA Leadership Retreat at the Madison Beach Hotel, where they were trained on the CBA's various programs, initiatives, and procedures.

Save the Date

Rule
of Law
Conference

2023 Rule of Law Conference

Thursday, November 9 | 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Quinnipiac University School of Law, North Haven

Learn more at ctbar.org/RuleOfLaw.

YLS LEADERS ATTEND 2023 ANNUAL LEADERSHIP RETREAT AND RECEIVE SERVICE AWARDS

The Connecticut Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section (YLS) hosted its annual leadership retreat on August 11-12 at Foxwoods Casino in Ledyard. The YLS Executive Committee holds this event each summer to familiarize new members of the committee with the duties of their leadership roles and to present awards to members of the committee for their service during the previous bar year.

During the retreat, CBA President Maggie Castinado provided welcome remarks to the committee members, encouraging them to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion as young leaders. "There is still inequity in our profession and glass ceilings to break... If we are to have a diverse, tolerant, and understanding society that is celebrated and truly equal then we must have a consensus on reaching this goal," stated President Castinado. "You are the new trailblazers, you are the future, you are our hope, and this is your call to action."

Retired Connecticut Supreme Court Justice Christine Keller served as the keynote speaker for the event. She spoke about the expanding and evolving issues related to the relationship between artificial intelligence and legal practice. "AI is already out there, its inexpensively acces-

sible... and its capable of being utilized and controlled by many who will not have the best of intentions," warned Justice Keller, as she touched upon several legal and ethical issues that have recently risen from the development and use of AI.

After the keynote speech, 12 YLS Executive Committee members received awards for their service during the 2022-2023 bar year. The 2022-2023 YLS Chair Christopher A. Klepps presented the recipients with their awards, noting each attorney's commendable achievements.

Leadership Award

Cindy M. Cieslak received a leadership award for her devoted work as an American Bar Association representative after having previously served as the chair of the YLS. During the 2022-2023 bar year, she organized a trip on behalf of the YLS for members of the CBA to be sworn-in to the US Supreme Court.

Logan A. Carducci earned a leadership award for her long-term dedication to the YLS and for serving as a role model for members of the section. She has been integral in the planning and organization of the YLS pro bono fair and other events throughout the years.

Alison J. Toumekian received a leadership award for her service as an American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division representative and her involvement in planning the Northeast Regional Professional Development Conference for Young Lawyers.

Rookie of the Year Award

Virginia M. Gillette was recognized for preparing a successful CLE, attending numerous YLS social events, and showing great enthusiasm and promise as a leader throughout her first year on the executive committee.

Kevin F. Brignole, Jr. was also recognized for preparing a successful CLE as well as representing the YLS section at the June swearing-in ceremony for newly admitted attorneys at the Connecticut Supreme Court.

Star of the Year Award

Jermaine Brookshire, Jr. received a Star of the Year award for his performance as CLE director, ensuring that YLS members stayed committed to their responsibility to host programs throughout the year.

Paige M. Vaillancourt earned a Star of the Year award for preparing an engaging and well-attended CLE, planning the 2022-2023 YLS kickoff event, and serving as an asset to the section.

Hon. Shanique Fenlator and **Andrew Glass** both received their Star of the Year awards for planning and hosting student outreach events at Quinnipiac School of Law and UConn School of Law to develop a pipeline for future YLS members.

Volunteer of the Year Award

Ashley A. Cervin, **Nora Gray**, and **Caroline Boisvert** each earned Volunteer of the Year awards for collectively providing over 300 hours of pro bono and public service work, which greatly contributed to the section successfully reaching its annual goal of having its members provide over 1,000 hours of pro bono services.



(L to R) Sara Bonaiuto, 2022-2023 YLS Chair Christopher A. Klepps, Retired Connecticut Supreme Court Justice Christine E. Keller, 2023-2024 YLS Chair Sara O'Brien, Vianca T. Malick, and Trent LaLima



(L to R) YLS Executive Committee Members Sara J. O'Brien, Kevin F. Brignole, Jr., and Vianca T. Malick greeted the new attorneys at the reception following the ceremony.



2022-2023 CBA President Daniel J. Horgan delivers remarks to the newly admitted attorneys.

New Attorneys Sworn-In to the Connecticut Bar

On the morning of June 23 at the Connecticut Supreme Court building, 29 new attorneys were sworn-in to the Connecticut Bar. Chief Justice Richard A. Robinson and Associate Justices Joan K. Alexander, Gregory T. D'Auria, Steven D. Ecker, Andrew J. McDonald, and Raheem L. Mullins presided over the ceremony, which began with welcome remarks from Chief Justice Robinson.

Justice Alexander recognized and congratulated the new admittees for their achievement and addressed the important role they will play in upholding the rule of law. "More than ever, it is imperative that our courts exemplify civility and respect, because if our justice

system disintegrates because of incivility and chaos in this court, so too does our nation," stated Justice Alexander, who also identified civility as a critical element of maintaining the rule of law.

Justice McDonald administered the oath of attorney to the inductees before they each individually presented themselves as attorneys before the court. At the end of the ceremony, 2022-2023 CBA President Daniel J. Horgan welcomed the new attorneys to the profession. "From this day forward, you each have the awesome responsibility to impact the lives of your clients through your advocacy," stated President Horgan. Like Justice Alexander, he also

emphasized the importance of civility and respect in the profession, warning the new attorneys that their conduct would define their reputations.

After the ceremony, the newly admitted attorneys were invited to attend a reception held in the Connecticut Supreme Court building's Museum of Connecticut History, where they were able to meet with representatives from the Connecticut Bar Association Young Lawyers Section and other bar associations from across Connecticut.



Candidates await their admission to the Connecticut Bar with family and friends seated behind them.

Upcoming Education Calendar

Register at ctbar.org/CLE.

OCTOBER

4 Navigating Vocational and Earning Capacity Evaluations

16 Current Courtroom Tactics in Civil and Criminal Cases

18 [A Higher Bar: How to Exceed Client Expectations in a Virtual World](#)

18 Special Education 101

20 [2023 Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Summit: The Collaborative Blueprint](#)

25 IOLTA/Law Office Management

27 WC Medical Conference

NOVEMBER

2 2023 Federal Tax Institute of New England

6 Tribal Law

9 Rule of Law Conference

13 Appellate Advocacy

14 Hot Topics in Probate

15 Ethics

28 Nonprofit Law 101

30 Civic Engagement

DECEMBER

1 Raising the Bar: A Bench/Bar Symposium on Professionalism

4 Professional Ethics

5 Antitrust Law

13 Education Law

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

CBA HOSTS 2023 LAW CAMP

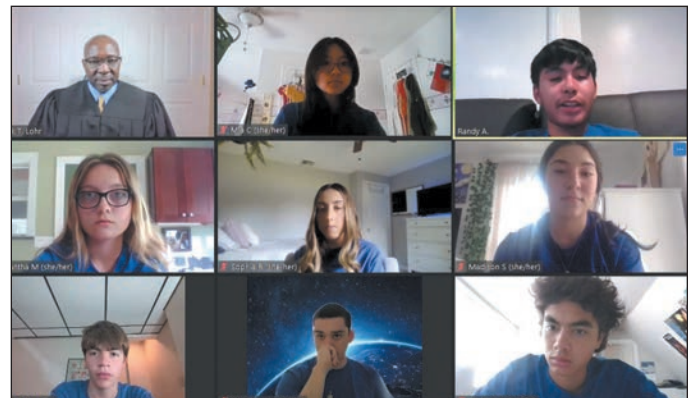


On the week of July 10-14, the CBA hosted the virtual 2023 LAW camp for a group of Connecticut high school students. LAW Camp exposes high school students to the legal profession and teaches them critical and analytical thinking to help them succeed in their educational and

professional careers. A total of 35 students attended this year's camp, where they learned about the legal system and what is involved in pursuing a career in law. Throughout the week, they heard presentations and engaged in activities with 40 different Connecticut Bar Association member attorneys and judges who volunteered to participate in the camp.

As a kickoff to their week, students learned about the diverse pathways to becoming an attorney through the personal stories told by CBA members, which critical educational and professional skills are necessary to succeed in law, and the different career paths available to attorneys. Over the following days, the students learned about the Connecticut court system and the mechanics of court proceedings and lawsuits. They participated in exercises demonstrating how to conduct direct and cross-examinations; heard presentations on the roles of lawyers, judges, and the jury in court; and virtually observed a court proceeding.

The week-long camp culminated with a closing argument competition between the students, who worked with volunteers to prepare. While overseeing one group's preparations, President Maggie Castinado reassured the students that "it's natural to get nervous or tongue-tied," and offered each student constructive feedback as they practiced their arguments.



Judge Erik T. Lohr oversaw the closing argument competition on the last day of LAW Camp.

The finalists presented their arguments to Judge Erik T. Lohr of the Connecticut Superior Court, who selected the winner and runner-up. After the competition, Judge Lohr explained the duties of his role as a Connecticut Superior Court judge to the students. He spoke about his path to entering the field of law and inquired with each finalist about their background and interests while providing feedback on their performances.

The week of learning ended with closing remarks from Ronald J. Houde, Jr., CBA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee co-chair and LAW Camp chair: "I hope you all had a good time, learned something new, and had a meaningful experience. I hope you had a connection or felt something with at least one speaker to give you an example of the type of law or type of career that you might want to go into, or you heard from someone who provided an example for you of what it's like to be a lawyer."

ABA Appoints Two Connecticut Lawyers to Board's Executive Committee

American Bar Association President

Mary Smith appointed Amy Lin Meyerson as chair of the Board's Profession, Public Service and Diversity (PPSD) Committee and Linda Randell as chair of the Board of Governors' Finance Committee. In their leadership roles of these Standing Committees of the ABA Board, both Randell and Meyerson are serving one-year terms on the ABA Executive Committee, effective as of the end of the ABA Annual Meeting on August 8, 2023, in Denver, CO.

As Finance chair, Randell will head the committee that recommends policies to assure the prudent financial management of the Association's resources and compliance with Board-approved financial policies and oversees all financial activities of the Association, including facilities, human resources, association insurance coverage, and legal fees.

PPSD Chair Meyerson will oversee three main mission-critical areas to the ABA, its members, and the communities which they serve: the profession, public service, and diversity.¹ PPSD has oversight responsibility, including review and recommendations regarding new programming and recommendations to the Board regarding requests from ABA entities, program support funds, board nominations, and strategic planning.

"The American Bar Association will be well served during the 2023-2024 bar year from the leadership of Amy Lin Meyerson and Linda Randell as Chairs of two of the Board of Governor's Committees and as members of the Executive Committee," said Mary Smith, President of the American Bar Association. "It is historic that two female Connecticut lawyers will serve at the highest levels of the largest voluntary bar association in the world and leverage the experience they gained in the Connecticut legal community on a national scale."

Meyerson is in the third year of her board term. She is co-chair of the Con-



(L to R) Linda Randell, Mary Smith, and Amy Lin Meyerson

necticut Hate Crimes Advisory Council. Meyerson was the first Asian Pacific American and 97th president of the Connecticut Bar Association (2020-2021); President of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (2005-2006); chair of the ABA Solo, Small Firm and General Practice Division (2014-2015); president of the NAPABA Law Foundation (2016-2018); and founder/president of the Connecticut Asian Pacific American Bar Association (2000). She is a member of the ABA House of Delegates and served on its Admissions and Credentials (2018-2020) and ABA Scope and Correlation of Work (2020-2021) Committees. Meyerson chaired the ABA Solo

and Small Firm Caucus (2012-2013) and served as the ABA alternate deputy representative to the United Nations and vice-chair of the ABA UN Representatives and Observers (2020-2021). She is a graduate of Duke University and the University of Connecticut School of Law. Meyerson looks forward to continuing to champion the ABA's causes, including its sustainable and inclusive initiatives while ensuring the health and vitality of ABA members.

Randell is in the first year of her current three-year term on the board, having served previously on the board and its Finance Committee from 2016-2018. She is the chair of the Long-Range

4 WAYS TO PROVIDE PRO BONO SERVICE

Connecticut's Rules of Professional Conduct for attorneys (Rule 6.1) defines Pro Bono Publico legal services as: "... professional services at no fee or a reduced fee to persons of limited means or to public service or charitable groups or organizations, by service in activities for improving the law, the legal system or the legal profession, and by financial support for organizations that provide legal services to persons of limited means." Volunteer today through one of our pro bono programs.

CBA Pro Bono Connect

Get connected with one of Connecticut's civil legal services providers, based on your expressed pro bono interests, to provide civic legal services to Connecticut residents in need. Connections to training is also available.

Lawyers in Libraries

Provides pro bono legal services to members of the public at libraries throughout the state in the areas of landlord/tenant, immigration law, family law, employment, consumer rights, and personal injury.

Bankruptcy Pro Bono Program

The Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section has formed a panel of volunteer attorneys to represent needy and qualified individuals or married spouses pro bono in Chapter 7 bankruptcy cases, contested matters, and adversary proceedings.

CT Free Legal Answers

CT Free Legal Answers is an online civil legal service for people who cannot afford to pay for an attorney. Attorneys will answer questions through an online portal.

Visit ctbar.org/members/volunteer to learn more about these programs and other pro bono resources.

Planning Committee and a past section chair of the ABA Infrastructure and Regulated Industries Section and chaired its Long-Range Planning Committee until beginning her board service this August. As of the association's annual meeting in August, she will have completed five years of service on the ABA Committee on Scope and Correlation of Work, including one year as chair and this year as past chair; member, Standing Committee on Technology and Information Systems; and member, ABA House of Delegates. Randell also serves on the Boards of Towers at Tower Lane (HUD-funded senior congregate housing); Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven; Gateway Community College Foundation; and University of Michigan Honors Alumni Council. She is the co-chair of the CBA Experienced Lawyers Committee. Randell was the senior VP and general counsel of UIL Holdings, a publicly held utility holding company. She was a partner and chair of Regulated Practices at Wiggin and Dana. Randell is a graduate of the University of Michigan and Yale Law School. Her favorite two-word phrases are: Play Ball, Go Blue, and Let's Eat! For people reading this article, she adds Join ABA!

NOTES

- 1 • The Profession, including persons and institutions involved in the legal profession, the practice of law and those things impacting the practice of law and the justice system, legal education, the public image of the legal profession, and the ABA as an indispensable force for the betterment of the profession.
- Public Service is a defining characteristic of the legal profession, and includes service to the community, pro bono service, rule of law initiatives, and other matters involving the law and its impact on the public.
- Diversity is an ABA goal and includes encouraging diversity in all things, promoting full and equal participation and inclusion of all persons in the association and the justice system, eliminating bias, and proactive efforts to achieve diversity and inclusion goals." ABA 2023-2024 Policy and Procedures Handbook at p. 12.

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