



538 Preston Avenue, 3rd Floor  
Meriden, CT 06450  
P: (860)223-4400  
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May 21, 2026

***RE: YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPLICATION - YOUR CHANCE TO LEAD!***

Dear Fellow Young Lawyers:

As the incoming Chair of the Connecticut Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section (YLS), and on behalf of my fellow YLS Officers, I am thrilled to invite you to apply for appointment to the 2026-2027 YLS Executive Committee! The term will run from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027. This is an incredible opportunity to step into a leadership role in the Bar, build meaningful connections with friends and colleagues, open doors to potential new clients, and make a real name for yourself at this exciting stage of your career. I would love for you to join me on the Executive Committee this coming year - let's make it a great one!

**What is the CBA/YLS? (Spoiler: You're Already a Member!)**

Here's the great news - as a member of the Connecticut Bar Association (CBA) under the age of thirty-seven or in your first six years of practice, you are *already* a member of the YLS! With more than 2,200 members strong, the YLS is the CBA's largest section. The YLS Executive Committee organizes and participates in continuing legal education (CLE), professional networking opportunities, and social activities for young lawyers and their communities throughout the state.

**What is the CBA/YLS Executive Committee? (And Why Should You Care?)**

The Executive Committee is your chance to take a leadership role in the YLS - and it's a big deal! Pursuant to the CBA/YLS Bylaws, the YLS is governed by an Executive Committee comprised of four officers, a team of directors, and committee chairs dedicated to varied practice areas, all made up of young lawyers from across the CBA and state. Committee chairs actively engage in planning and implementing programming catered to each area of the law and are ex-officio members of the corresponding CBA sections. This is a prime opportunity to dive deeper into the area of law you practice and start building your reputation there. The committee chair positions that may comprise the 2026-2027 Executive Committee are found in the application that follows.

**What Will You Actually Do? (Hint: Really Cool Stuff)**

The quality of each year's educational, social, and networking programming is the direct product of the creativity and dedication of our Executive Committee members and we are proud of what we've built! Connecticut continues to have enthusiastic and outstanding members who devote their time and energy to produce first-class seminars, panel discussions, networking programs, and public service opportunities. We also develop programs designed to improve the practice of law in Connecticut with projects that provide public service and pro bono opportunities for our membership. We bring in top-notch speakers from around the country and regularly receive national

recognition for the success we've achieved. To keep this tradition of excellence alive, we need **YOU** on our Executive Committee!

As for the time commitment, it's very manageable: Executive Committee members attend monthly meetings from September through May. Some sessions are dinner meetings held at the CBA Law Center in Meriden, CT, while others are social and professional networking opportunities throughout the state. Your responsibilities will include planning and implementing CLE programs and social events for young lawyers, as well as participating in public service and pro bono opportunities. Think of these less as obligations and more as chances to tailor programs to your interests, build valuable connections, and give back in a way that's personally meaningful to you.

Once appointed to the Executive Committee, members are **required** to attend the Executive Committee's Annual Leadership Retreat - and trust me, you won't want to miss it! This year's Retreat will be held on **August 7, 2026** and **August 8, 2026** at **Mohegan Sun**. It's a day-and-a-half of leadership training and strategic planning, and you'll need to take a full day away from work on Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup>. All meals, hotel accommodations, and some scheduled resort activities will be provided by the YLS with a \$100 registration fee. Please register by **July 9, 2026** to guarantee your spot! (*Financial hardship information is available upon request.*)

### **Are You a Law Student? Even Better - Apply!**

If you are a graduating 3L or 4L and intend to practice in Connecticut, we absolutely encourage you to apply! This is an amazing way to launch your legal career and hit the ground running. You'll need an active CBA student membership to apply - reach out to me or one of our members if you need help getting set up. If appointed, you'll serve as an ex-officio member until you are sworn into the Bar.

### **Ready to Apply? Here's How!**

Complete and return the enclosed application electronically to Heather Holt at [hholt@ctbar.org](mailto:hholt@ctbar.org) by **Friday, June 12, 2026**. Don't wait - space on the Committee is limited, and submitting your application is a prerequisite to appointment. This applies to both new and returning members. The application process helps the YLS Selection Committee build an Executive Committee that is diverse, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of our entire membership.

If you have any questions about the application process, the YLS, or the Executive Committee, please don't hesitate to reach out - I'm happy to help! Thank you for your interest, and I truly look forward to serving alongside you this upcoming bar year. Let's make it one to remember!

Sincerely,

Sara K. Bonaiuto  
Chair-Elect Young Lawyers Section  
[SBonaiuto@goodwin.com](mailto:SBonaiuto@goodwin.com)



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## **CBA/YLS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPLICATION**

### ***2026-2027 BAR YEAR***

*All applicants are asked to complete Sections A, B and D.  
If you are a returning applicant, please also complete Section C.*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

\*EMPLOYER/FIRM/AGENCY: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\*LAW SCHOOL GRADUATION YEAR: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_

\* If you are a current student, please state the law school you attend and your anticipated date of graduation.



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CHOICE OF COMMITTEE (Please select no more than three from the following list):

1. Administrative Law
2. Alternative Dispute Resolution
3. Animal Law
4. Antitrust and Trade Regulation
5. Appellate Advocacy
6. Business Law
7. Child Welfare & Juvenile Law
8. Commercial Finance
9. Commercial Law and Bankruptcy
10. Construction Law
11. Consumer Law
12. Criminal Justice
13. Disability Law
14. Education Law
15. Elder Law
16. Energy, Public Utility and Communications Law
17. Environmental Law
18. Estates & Probate Law
19. Family Law
20. Federal Practice
21. Financial Institutions
22. Franchise, Distribution & Dealer Law
23. Health Law
24. Human Rights & Responsibilities
25. Indian Law
26. Insurance Law
27. Intellectual Property
28. International Law
29. Labor & Employment Law
30. LGBT
31. Litigation
32. Media and the Law
33. Planning & Zoning
34. Professional Discipline
35. Real Property
36. Solo and Small Firm
37. Sports & Entertainment Law
38. Tax
39. Veterans and Military Affairs
40. Women in the Law
41. Workers' Compensation
42. Other (please specify)

1<sup>st</sup> Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

3<sup>rd</sup> Choice: \_\_\_\_\_



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### Section C: Director Role Selection *Returning Members Only*

CHOICE OF DIRECTOR ROLE (Please indicate your first, second and third choice):

1. CLE Director
  2. Diversity Director
  3. Law School Outreach Director
  4. Lawyer Well-Being Director
  5. Legislative Affairs Director
  6. Membership Director
  7. Pro Bono & Public Service Director
  8. Mentorship Director
  9. Other (please detail the new role): \_\_\_\_\_
- 1<sup>st</sup> Choice: \_\_\_\_\_  
2<sup>nd</sup> Choice: \_\_\_\_\_  
3<sup>rd</sup> Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

I am not interested in a Director role this year.

### Section D: Application Questionnaire *All Applicants*

1. Tell us about yourself! Please briefly describe your practice (or, if you are a law student, your law school activities and any coursework), your education background, and any prior leadership experience you believe is relevant to your application.

2. Please explain why you are interested in joining the YLS Executive Committee and what your goals and expectations are for the coming year if appointed to the Executive Committee.



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3. What kind of programming excites you? Tell us about the best professional, networking, or social event you attended during the past bar or school year and why you enjoyed it. Then, suggest an idea for a seminar or program related to your committee choice(s) above - let us know whether it's educational, pro bono, or social in nature and why it would be a hit with young lawyers.

4. Please certify that you are a registered member in good standing of the Connecticut Bar Association:

I CERTIFY I AM A REGISTERED MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING.

\_\_\_\_\_ INITIAL HERE (electronic initial acceptable)