

CONNECTICUT BAR FOUNDATION

Serving the Bench, Bar, and Connecticut Citizens since 1952

Issue 7, Fall 2017



Please join the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Bar Foundation at our Annual Reception to welcome the 2017 James W. Cooper Fellows



Keynote Speaker
Rachel B. Tiven, CEO
Lambda Legal



Tuesday
April 25, 2017
The Hartford Club
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.



Distinguished Service Award
Louis R. Pepe
McElroy Deutsch Mulvaney & Carpenter LLP

Legal Services Leadership Award
Raphael L. Podolsky
Connecticut Legal Services, Inc.

Special Recognition Award
Eric D. Coleman Martin M. Looney William Tong
Former Co-Chair Judiciary Committee Senate President Pro Tempore Co-Chair Judiciary Committee

For more information about the Annual Reception, including sponsorship opportunities and registration, please contact the Connecticut Bar Foundation at ctbf@cbf-1.org.

Looking Ahead: James W. Cooper Fellows Programs

The CBF James W. Cooper Fellows and Quinnipiac University School of Law (QUSL) will hold the Tenth John A. Speziale Alternative Dispute Resolution Symposium entitled "Finding Solid Ground: Environmental and Land Use Dispute Resolution in Connecticut" on March 17, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at QUSL in North Haven, CT. The program kicks off with nationally known Keynote Speaker Lawrence Susskind of MIT, includes three panel sessions and two small group break-out discussions, and concludes with a St. Patrick's day-inspired reception for participants and attendees. Attorneys may claim up to 5.0 CT MCLE credits for attending the full day program. There is no charge for attending. A light breakfast and lunch is included. For more information about the program, including how to register, please visit <http://www.ctbarfdn.org/node/1875>

The CBF Fellows Diversity Symposium, co-sponsored with the Connecticut Bar Association, is scheduled on April 20, 2017 at the UCONN Law School. The symposium will consist of three panel presentations: Implicit Bias; Diversity Metrics; and Facilitating Conversations Around Diversity. In addition to many experienced Connecticut attorneys, panelists will include Supreme Court Justice Richard A. Robinson, Superior Court Judge Maria Araujo Kahn, Dr. Anne F. Farrell, Director of Research, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, and Gabrielle Lyse-Brown, Director of Diversity and Inclusion for the New York City Bar. Attendees are invited to continue the discussion in small groups over lunch. Breakfast and lunch are included. There is no charge for attending.

Thank you! ADR Symposium Sponsors

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Building a Foundation for the Future

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Update on Fellows and Foundation Projects

The Seventeenth Annual James W. Cooper Fellows Quintin Johnstone Statewide High School Essay Contest is headed into the judging stage. This year's topic, "Taking a Knee or Taking a Stand" was chosen for its special relevance to students of high school age. The Fellows should take great pride at the continued interest in and success of the contest. The CBF received 117 essays from 53 schools – both records – and is anticipating that over 150 Fellows will volunteer to serve as essay judges. The statewide winner and two runners-up will be announced in May, together with information about the award ceremony to be held at the Connecticut Supreme Court.

The History of Connecticut Women in the Legal Profession Project fundraising and interview subcommittees continue to meet to finalize details for the oral history portion of the Project. Since mid-2016, 25 interviews have taken place at Connecticut Public Broadcasting Network/Connecticut Public Television (CPBN/CPTV). The interviews are being produced and edited by Karyl Evans, an award winning documentarian with a long association with CPBN/CPTV. The promotion subcommittee will meet to plan an event after the interviews are completed and edited.

Isabel Chenoweth, the photographer for the Judges Portrait Project, is providing her services at no charge and plans to travel to the assigned courthouses to photograph 39 judges, which will bring the project up to date.

Fellows Roundtables



The CBF Fellows held three Roundtables in January and February. Clockwise from above: January 18th "The Art of the Legal Blog" discussion facilitators Meghan Freed, Regina Von Gootkin, Bruce Stanger and Daniel Schwartz, at the Republic at the Linden, Hartford; February 22nd "And Justice For All? Can We Make Access to Justice a Reality?" participants, at Quinnipiac University School of Law Pondview Lounge, North Haven; and January 24th "Can You Just Listen," with discussion facilitator Rep. Rosa Rebimbas and Fellows Roundtable Chair Barry Armata, at Peppercorn's Grill, Hartford.

For more information about upcoming Roundtables, please visit <http://www.ctbarfdn.org/FellowsRoundtable>.



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Legal Services Provider Spotlight—Connecticut Legal Rights Project

Connecticut Legal Rights Project (CLRP) was established in 1990 as a result of a consent order settling a lawsuit filed by patients at Connecticut's state psychiatric hospitals against the Department of Mental Health alleging inadequate access to the courts. It provides legal services to low income adults with mental health conditions, who reside in hospitals or the community, on matters related to their treatment, recovery, and civil rights. CLRP's central office is located on the grounds of Connecticut Valley Hospital in Middletown, with satellite office locations at all state-operated mental health facilities. It partners with private nonprofit community providers who provide space for client meetings. CLRP uses funds from the Connecticut Bar Foundation to represent clients who live in the community on legal matters other than housing, such as representation in Social Security disability appeals, fighting discrimination in education or employment, accessing needed health services, or protecting their rights under the Patients' Bill of Rights.

CLRP's clients not only face poverty but also must overcome the additional barrier of severe mental health conditions that often dominate their lives, define their identities and subject them to discrimination. These conditions are often triggered or compounded by trauma, abuse and isolation that lead to difficulty trusting "systems" and authority figures. Adverse side effects from medications and co-occurring conditions interfere with functioning, result in a life expectancy twenty-five years less than average, and complicate their ability to manage their condition and take control of their lives.

CLRP's fundamental goal is to assure that every client has an equal opportunity to full community integration consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). When people living with mental health conditions are able to protect their legal rights to opportunities in education, employment, and housing, they are better able to recover and contribute to our communities.

One of the organization's most significant challenges is preventing any reduction to its state funding. Even as the state has continued to maintain, or even increase, investments to provide greater access to decent, safe, and affordable housing – along with support services – CLRP is fighting to protect the critically needed funding necessary to protect people's rights to get into, or stay in, that housing.

Attorneys who have an interest in learning about legal issues and/or advocacy related to persons with mental health conditions are encouraged to contact Kathy Flaherty, Executive Director, at kflaherty@clrp.org, or Kirk Lowry, Legal Director, at klowry@clrp.org.

Leadership Banks

The CBF extends its appreciation to its Leadership Banks for paying the highest rate on IOLTA balances and generously waiving service fees. The CBF is also grateful for the many attorneys and law firms who place their IOLTA accounts with a Leadership Bank. Such patronage results in greater funding to civil legal aid providers and helps to increase legal representation and provide legal services to low-income Connecticut residents. Thank you!

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