Our History, Our Future: Celebrating Attorneys of Color in Connecticut Symposium

April 13, 2012
8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Quinnipiac University School of Law
Hamden, CT
Welcome to the celebration!

We are delighted to welcome you to this unique symposium celebrating the untold history of attorneys of color in Connecticut. Many years ago, attorneys at the Connecticut Bar Foundation envisioned a project which would highlight and preserve the rich history of attorneys of color. The original proposal was to create an oral history archive.

In 2008, the planning committee officially convened to develop a plan for the project and to see it through to implementation. That committee, led by Judge Juliett Crawford, determined that prior to embarking on a project of the magnitude of an oral history archive it would be wise to plan a symposium with the following goals:

- to generate broad interest in the history project;
- to generate greater interest and participation in the four bar associations for attorneys of color in Connecticut and in the broader legal profession;
- to generate discussion of topics addressed;
- to generate one or more publishable articles on the symposium;
- to educate the audience regarding our legal history; and
- to inspire the audience.

A key component of our project is the development of the historical timeline that you see displayed on the wall at the entrance to this courtroom. Please stop by during the breaks to review it, add your own notes to it regarding historical events and continue to update us with information for the virtual timeline that will be displayed on the Bar Foundation website – www.ctbarfdn.org – into the foreseeable future.

It is our hope that today’s program will satisfy each of these goals and that you will leave here educated, inspired and with a renewed interest in the history project on attorneys of color that will help us to continue to grow this rich and meaningful historical archive for many years to come.

Hon. Juliett L. Crawford, Judge
Symposium Co-Chair

Attorney Vanessa Roberts Avery
Symposium Co-Chair
History of Attorneys of Color Planning Committee

Hon. Juliett L. Crawford, Co-Chair
- Connecticut Superior Court Judge
- James W. Cooper Sustaining Life Fellow, CT Bar Foundation
- Past President of Crawford

Vanessa Roberts Avery, Co-Chair
- McCarter English, LLP
- James W. Cooper Fellow, CT Bar Foundation
- Past President of Crawford

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- Past President of SABAC

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- Office of the Chief State’s Attorney, Appellate Bureau
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- Former Board Member, CT Bar Foundation
- Founding Member, Past President and Current Board Member of CHBA

Connecticut Bar Foundation Staff
Sandy Klebanoff, Executive Director
Liz Drummond, Assistant Director
Anne E. Goico, Finance Director
Katllyn Carling, Administrative Assistant
Program Schedule

8:30 a.m.  Registration and Continental Breakfast - Lobby

Historical Timeline Display

9:30 a.m.  Introductions and Welcome - Grand Courtroom

Dean Brad Saxton, Quinnipiac University School of Law;
Chair, James W. Cooper Fellows
Attorney Timothy S. Fisher, President, Connecticut Bar Foundation;
McCarter & English LLP
Attorney Vanessa Roberts Avery, McCarter & English LLP
Overview and Introduction of Keynote Speaker

9:45 a.m.  Keynote Speaker

Professor John Brittain, University of the District of Columbia School of Law

10:30 a.m.  Break

10:45 a.m.  Panel

Leadership/Forming a Professional Identity

Moderator
Professor Sudha Setty, Western New England University School of Law

Panelists
Professor John C. Brittain, Founding Member of Crawford
Attorney Amy Lin Meyerson, Founding Member of CAPABA;
Law Office of Amy Lin Meyerson
Hon. Edgardo Ramos, U.S. District Judge, S.D.N.Y.
Attorney Asker Saeed, Founding Member of SABAC;
IAE International Aero Engines AG

12:00 p.m.  Break and Box Lunch Pick-Up - Lobby - Return to Grand Courtroom

12:30 p.m.  Lunch Panel

Judges/Personal Perspectives

Moderator
Professor Marilyn Ford, Quinnipiac University School of Law

Panelists
Hon. Nina F. Elgo, CT Superior Court Judge
Hon. Sheridan L. Moore, CT Superior Court Judge
Hon. Antonio C. Robaina, CT Superior Court Judge
Hon. M. Nawaz Wahlia, CT Superior Court Judge

1:45 p.m.  Remarks by Attorney General George Jepsen

Role of Public Leaders
2:00 p.m.  **Afternoon Panel**  
**Mentoring, Historical Lessons Still Applicable Today**

**Moderator**  
Attorney Virginia E. McGarrity, Robinson & Cole LLP

**Panelists**  
Attorney Sung-Ho Hwang, Law Offices of Sung-Ho Hwang  
Attorney Ilia M. O’Hearn, Bracewell & Giuliani LLP  
Attorney Robert R. Simpson, Shipman & Goodwin LLP  
Attorney S. Dave Vatti, Deputy Chief, Violent Crime and Narcotics, Office of the United States Attorney, District of Connecticut

3:00 p.m. -  **Closing Remarks**  
3:05 p.m.  Hon. Juliett L. Crawford, CT Superior Court Judge

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