The 2014-2015 Committee met on four occasions. The following is a description of the work of the Fellows during the past year.

2014-2015 Quintin Johnstone High School Essay Contest

The 2014-2015 statewide high school essay contest topic was “Restroom Unrest,” and students were asked to evaluate the issues surrounding a school policy concerning transgender students’ use of school facilities. The contest generated 89 entries from 30 schools, and 126 Fellows judged the entries. The contest winner will receive $2,000 and the two runners-up will receive $1,000 each. The students, school contest coordinators, and principals will receive awards that will be presented at a ceremony presided over by Connecticut Supreme Court Justices at the Connecticut Supreme Court on June 3, 2015.

The entries were initially reviewed by the following Fellows:

Erika L. Amarante  Richard E. Castiglioni  William Dunlap
Barry F. Armata  Margaret I. Castinado  Kathleen Eldergill
Vanessa Roberts Avery  Thomas P. Cella  Pamela K. Elkow
Jeffrey Babbin  Margaret Q. Chapple  Timothy H. Everett
Claudia A. Baio  Victoria Woodin Chavey  Garrett S. Flynn
Hon. Timothy D. Bates  Carlton S. Chen  Hon. Stephen F. Frazzini
Jon Bauer  Janice Chiaretto  Susan C. Freedman
Hon. Robert E. Beach, Jr.  David R. Chipman  Thomas E. Gaffey
Jamey Bell  Robert Coffey  Bridget A. Garrity
John A. Berman  Hon. Henry S. Cohn  James O. Gaston
Anne Louise Blanchard  Hon. Melanie L. Cradle  Hon. Charles D. Gill
Audrey B. Blondin  Alexia E. Cruz  Gary R. Gold
Jeffrey M. Blumenthal  Candace Cunningham  Dahlia O. Grace
Debra A. Brown  Joseph D. D'Alesio  E.J. Greenspan
Susan V. Busby  Eva DeFranco  Steven M. Greenspan
Frances Z. Calafiore  Ann-Marie DeGraffenreidt  Robert Harrison III
Kathryn Calibey  Laurie G. DeNigris  Jevera Kaye Hennessey
Hon. Susan L. Carney  Thomas J. Donohue, Jr.  Charles B. Higgins
William J. Casazza  Hon. Anne C. Dranginis  Norman K. Janes
The following Fellows will determine the winning entries:

Hon. Maureen D. Dennis  
Hon. Alexandra D. DiPentima  
Hon. Richard N. Palmer  
Hon. Christine S. Vertefeuille  
Hon. Peter T. Zarella

2013-2014 Quintin Johnstone High School Essay Contest

The 2013-2014 statewide high school essay contest topic was “Food Fight, and contestants evaluated whether school districts have the authority to eliminate foods that the school district’s registered dietician deems unhealthy. The contest generated 78 entries from 25 schools, and over 100 Fellows judged the entries. The winners of the 2013-2014 essay contest were:

Statewide winner: Colleen Bennett, Greenwich High School
Runner-up: Natalie Wallington, Greenwich High School
Runner-up: Olive Kuhn, Middletown High School

Committee Members:

Jack G. Steigelfest, Chair  
Andrea Barton Reeves  
Robert A. Harris  
Tamara Kagan Levine  
Priscilla Pappadia  
Justine C. Rakich-Kelly  
Ann M. Siczewicz  
Allan B. Taylor
**Connecticut Innocence Fund**

In partnership with Community Partners in Action, the Connecticut Bar Foundation (CBF) sponsors a program to provide short-term financial assistance to newly-released exonerees. A revolving fund was created to make bridge loans to exonerees upon their release from prison after proof of innocence, pending their awards of compensation from the State. Since 2012, four exonerees qualified for loans from the fund. Loans totaling $52,200 have been approved to date, and the balance in the fund after fulfilling the loans will be approximately $4,000.

A reception organized by the CBF and Community Partners in Action to benefit the Connecticut Innocence Fund was held on April 22, 2015 at the Hartford office of McCarter & English LLP. The reception was well-attended and included opening remarks from Innocence Project exoneree Kenneth Ireland. Additional fundraising activities will occur in 2015.

**Advisory Committee Members:**

- Gerard A. Smyth, Chair
- Karen Brown
- Hon. Anne C. Dranginis
- Dean Timothy S. Fisher
- Hon. Clarance J. Jones
- Ramona Mercado-Espinoza
- Maureen Price-Boreland
- Tiffany Stevens

**Fellows Roundtable**

The Fellows started roundtable forums to discuss topics of the day and issues involving the practice of law. It is hoped that there will continue to be four or more luncheon or dinner meetings each year, one in each of the four regions of the state. Twenty to thirty Fellows attend each forum, and a Fellow, in collaboration with one or more discussion leaders, moderates the conversation.

To date, there have been seven roundtables. This year, roundtables were held at the University of Connecticut School of Law and Quinnipiac University School of Law, which allowed for experienced practitioners and Fellows to interact with law students and faculty. The committee would like to host a roundtable at each institution each year. As to future plans, Fellows are in the process of planning roundtables on many subjects and all Fellows are encouraged to come forward with their own ideas for Roundtables.

The East Haven roundtable was held September 11, 2014 on the topic “Women in the Legal Profession?” Erika Amarante of Wiggin and Dana and Cynthia Carr, Deputy General Counsel at Yale University led the discussion. Judge Jonathan E. Silbert and William H. Prout, Jr. served as Regional Co-Hosts.

The New London roundtable discussion was held November 18, 2014, and, as in 2013, attendees again considered the topic “Too Many Lawyers? Not Enough Lawyers?” Quinnipiac University School of Law Professor Brad Saxton led the discussion, and Ralph J. Monaco of Conway Londregan Sheehan & Monaco and Ted V. O’Hanlan of Robinson & Cole served as Regional Co-Hosts.
The Hartford roundtable was held January 13, 2015, and the topic was “The Role of Bar Associations Today.” Judge Nina Elgo, Johnathan Shapiro of Shapiro Law Offices, James Sicilian of Day Pitney, and Amy Wergeles of Henkel Corporation led the discussion, and Barry F. Armata and Matthew Dallas Gordon served as Regional Co-Hosts.

The Quinnipiac University School of Law roundtable was held February 3, 2015 and the topic was “Lawyers’ Personal and Professional Values: Integration or Separate Spheres?” Dahlia O. Grace of Connecticut Legal Services, Judge Robert L. Holzberg (Ret.) of Pullman & Comley, and Louis R. Pepe of McElroy Deutsch Mulvaney & Carpenter led the discussion. Dean Jennifer G. Brown and Barry F. Armata were Regional Co-Hosts.

The most recent roundtable was held April 7, 2015 at the University of Connecticut School of Law on the topic of “Networking and Marketing in the Digital Age: How to Leverage Social Media to Expand Your Network and Develop Your Brand.” Meghan Freed of Freed Marcroft, Kimberly A. Knox of Horton, Shields & Knox, Jeanne Leblanc of the University of Connecticut School of Law, and Daniel A. Schwartz of Shipman & Goodwin led the discussion. Dean Timothy S. Fisher and Barry F. Armata served as Regional Co-Hosts.

**Committee Chair:** Barry F. Armata

**History of Legal Aid Project**

The purpose of the History of Legal Aid Project is to memorialize the stories of Connecticut’s legal aid pioneers and programs. To date, fourteen videos have been posted to the CBF’s YouTube channel, which can be found at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwN79s-DAK_BnbkYMtxusi](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwN79s-DAK_BnbkYMtxusi). A Quinnipiac University School of Law student is receiving course credit to write a paper that will synthesize the stories into a single narrative.

Additional interviews are planned for the future. Subsequently, the videos will be edited, posted on YouTube or another internet site that is publicly-accessible and transcribed so that the content will be available for historical research.

**Committee Members:**

Norman K. Janes, Chair  
Miguel A. Ayala  
Bruce Berwald  
William H. Clendenen, Jr.  
Douglas M. Crockett  
Frederick W. Danforth, Jr.  
Francis X. Dineen  
Steven Eppler-Epstein  
Marvin Farbman  
Hon. Stephen F. Frazzini  
Hon. Charles D. Gill

Patricia R. Kaplan  
Roger Koontz  
William Logue  
Dwight H. Merriam  
Hon. Raymond R. Norko  
Hon. Dennis J. O'Brien  
David A. Pels  
Raphael Podolsky  
Sydney T. Schulman  
Prof. James A. Trowbridge
History and Future of Legal Aid Symposium

On October 17, 2014, the CBF, Connecticut Legal Services, Greater Hartford Legal Aid, and New Haven Legal Assistance Association, Inc. presented “Justice for All: The History and Future of Legal Aid in Connecticut” at Quinnipiac University School of Law. Sponsored by McCarter & English LLP, the symposium featured discussions of the history of legal aid in Connecticut, contemporary issues in legal services, and the future of legal aid. In addition, the event was a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the first Legal Aid office in Connecticut and of the 50th anniversary of the incorporation of the New Haven Legal Assistance Association. The Quinnipiac Law Review has slated this year’s Issue 4 to be a Symposium Edition that will feature the ideas discussed at the symposium.

Symposium Planning Committee:

Daniel Baron  Anika Singh Lemar
Jamey Bell  William Logue
Nikki Bossert  Kelly McKeon
Connie Condon  Dwight H. Merriam
Steven Eppler-Epstein  Susan G. Nofi
Gary R. Gold  Alexis H. Smith
Norman K. Jones  Harry J. Wexler
David S. King

Judge Mark R. Kravitz Symposium

The Second Judge Mark R. Kravitz Symposium titled “Dollars, Sense and the High Cost of Litigation: Causes, Consequences and Responses” was held March 6, 2015 at Quinnipiac University School of Law. The symposium was very well-attended and explored the impact that rising costs have had on the traditional trial system and the role of new delivery systems in increasing judicial economy. The event featured an overview of the issues associated with the high costs of litigation, a panel discussion on the viability of alternative fee arrangements, and a panel focusing on bench and bar perspectives, which featured state and federal judges, as well as private practitioners. After the symposium, the conversations continued with three conference calls that were led by the presenters, moderators, and panelists of their respective sessions.

Symposium Planning Committee:

James K. Robertson, Jr., Chair  Hon. Janet C. Hall
Peter Arakas  William Logue
Hon. William H. Bright, Jr.  Dwight H. Merriam
Margaret Q. Chapple  Chris R. Nelson
William H. Clendenen, Jr.  Prof. Brad Saxton
Mark S. Gilcreast  Hon. Elliot N. Solomon
Steven M. Greenspan  Frederic S. Ury
John A. Speziale Alternative Dispute Resolution Symposium

The Ninth John A. Speziale Alternative Dispute Resolution Symposium titled “What Are the Cures for Conflict in Healthcare?” was held March 27, 2015 at Quinnipiac University School of Law. The program reflected a strong partnership between the medical and legal communities and was particularly timely in light of national reforms. Professor Robert A. Burt of Yale University delivered the keynote address, and the symposium featured sessions on shared governance, using a relational approach to resolve conflicts, addressing unexpected outcomes in patient care, and the future of accountable care organizations and private practice.

Symposium Planning Committee:

William Logue, Co-Chair
Charles A. Pillsbury, Co-Chair
Dean Jennifer G. Brown
Demian Fontanella
Peter Fraser
Professor Jennifer Herbst
Katharine Klebes
Dwight H. Merriam
Professor Lynn Price
Professor Gerard Robilotti
Merle Waxman
Eric W. Wiechmann

Mentoring Program

In May 2013, the Connecticut Bar Association (CBA) Second Task Force on Mentoring New Attorneys submitted its final report to the President of the CBA. It summarized the efforts of the program over the preceding nine years to pair seasoned attorneys with newly admitted lawyers for a one-year program during which the new admittees are mentored and counseled on the many issues and challenges confronting every lawyer during his or her first year in the profession. Pilot programs in several Judicial Districts had been maintained on a voluntary basis, but in June 2013, the House of Delegates voted to make the program a permanent undertaking of the CBA and vested authority for its continuation in its Standing Committee on Professionalism and CLE. Since that time, the committee has recruited additional mentors and is proceeding to implement its program in every Judicial District.

Early work on the mentoring program was supported by a one-time grant from the Foundation, which facilitated a mentoring pilot program conducted by the New Haven County Bar Association. The Fellows Education and Program Committee is now closing the loop on the Foundation’s involvement by presenting in the coming year a symposium on the importance of proper mentoring for new lawyers. The symposium will discuss the different types of mentoring programs (e.g., voluntary and mandatory); the strategies to establish such program; and the resulting benefits to young lawyers. The committee has begun to secure speakers and panelists, including Michelle West, Executive Director of the Georgia State Bar’s Transition Into Law Program, Lori Keating, Executive Director of the Professionalism Commission of the Ohio Supreme Court, Jayne Reardon, Executive Director of the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism, Professor Brad Saxton of Quinnipiac Law School, and Professor John Montgomery, Distinguished Professor Emeritus and Dean Emeritus of the University of South Carolina School of Law. The Committee is continuing to finalize the program.

Committee Chair: Louis R. Pepe
Oral History of Connecticut Women in the Legal Profession

Over 40 women have been interviewed since the inception of the Oral History Project in 1999. Karyl Evans, a documentarian, has completed 23 web-based videos of the interviewees, six of which are on the Foundation’s website, www.ctbarfdn.org. The committee will hold a meeting in the near future.

Committee Members:

Claudia A. Baio  Penny Mason
Nicole Bernabo  Catherine A. Mohan
Sara Bernstein  Hon. Ingrid L. Moll
Alice A. Bruno  Hon. Lisa K. Morgan
Frances Z. Calafiore  Hon. A. Susan Peck
Kathryn Calibey  Hon. Barbara M. Quinn
Hon. Henry S. Cohn  Ann H. Rubin
Hon. Elaine Gordon (ret.)  Ellen K. Rutt
William Logue  Prof. Brad Saxton
Prof. Jill E. Martin

The Struggle of the LGBTQ Community in Connecticut

This symposium will be held in the spring of 2016 and will most likely be co-sponsored by the UConn Law Public Interest Journal and the various Outlaw Groups at the law schools. The plan is for it to be a journal symposium and the proceedings will be published. The focus is on the legal and social problems of children and youth who self-identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning (LGBTQ). The objective of the symposium is to identify the issues stakeholders face; to improve the understanding of the needs of LGBTQ children; to provide all concerned with a common and respectful vocabulary; to focus on emerging issues, current legal tools and remaining legal needs; and to assist in developing ways in which children and adults will be able to relate to those who self-identify as LGBTQ. The planning committee will confer with the UConn Journal Symposium planners to develop the agenda and identify presenters and keynote speakers.

Symposium Planning Committee:

Prof. Kevin M. Barry  Allison Kaas  Hon. Maureen M. Murphy
Dean Jennifer G. Brown  Prof. Carolyn Wilkes Kaas  Justine C. Rakich-Kelly
Angela Cortese  Commissioner Joette Katz  Asker A. Saeed
Hon. Juliett L. Crawford  John Khalil  Prof. Brad Saxton
Katelyn Donovan  William Logue  Christopher J. Smedick
Rachel Goldberg  Thomas McCabe  Qesar Veliu
Jessica Grossarth  Emily I. McConnell  Dvora Walker
Elizabeth W. Jennings-Lax  Robin McHaelen  Hon. Dawne G. Westbrook
Leslie I. Jennings-Lax  Dwight H. Merriam
Truancy Intervention Project

The goal of the Truancy Intervention Project is to help keep middle school children in school through the intervention of attorney volunteers who serve as advocates and role models for the children. Volunteers and students commit to participate in the program for 12 months. Volunteers should expect to spend three to four hours per month with their students.

The Project is funded primarily through grants from the American Savings Foundation with supplemental support from the CBF, the Children’s Law Center, Connecticut Legal Services, and the CBA.

Now in its ninth year, the Project has trained over 123 attorneys and has served 141 students in New Britain. The Project has realized considerable success in reducing excessive student absences; over 70% of the student-participants have improved their attendance.

Committee Chair: Peter Arakas

Veterans Symposium

The “Veterans in Transition: Military Culture, Mental Health, and Readjustment to Civilian Life” symposium was held November 14, 2014 at Quinnipiac University School of Law. The symposium featured panels on military culture and experience; the mental health, economic, interpersonal and legal issues that veterans may face as they readjust to civilian life; and the existing legal resources and support systems designed to help veterans overcome obstacles during the reintegration process. Attendees were invited to continue the discussion at a brownbag lunch immediately following the symposium, and follow-up conference calls were organized to further discuss the ideas raised during each panel.

Committee Members:

Barry F. Armata, Chair
Robert M. Barrack
Francis J. Brady
Dennis Carnelli
Hon. Juliette L. Crawford
Roger Crossland
Edward J. Heath

Robert C. Hinton
William Logue
Paul McConnell
Dwight H. Merriam
Margaret Middleton
Ndidi Moses
Hon. Barry R. Schaller
## Fellows Education and Program Committee Members

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Respectfully submitted,

Dwight H. Merriam  
Chair, Fellows Education and Program Committee  
May 6, 2015