REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE
JAMES W. COOPER FELLOWS
EDUCATION AND PROGRAM COMMITTEE
May 3, 2016

The 2015-2016 Committee met on four occasions. The following is a description of the work of the Fellows during the past year.

2015-2016 Quintin Johnstone High School Essay Contest

The 2015-2016 statewide high school essay contest topic was “Minors and Medical Decisions,” based on *In Re Cassandra C.*, addressing the issue of mature minors making medical decisions. The contest generated 98 entries from 38 schools, and 146 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 1, 2016.

The entries were initially reviewed by the following Fellows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hon. Holly Abery-Wetstone</th>
<th>Richard E. Castiglioni</th>
<th>Hon. Stephen F. Frazzini</th>
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<td>Hon. Bethany J. Alvord</td>
<td>Margaret I. Castinado</td>
<td>Susan C. Freedman</td>
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<td>Erika L. Amarante</td>
<td>Margaret Q. Chapple</td>
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<td>Vanessa Roberts Avery</td>
<td>Victoria Woodin Chavey</td>
<td>Michael A. Gailor</td>
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<td>Jeffrey Babbin</td>
<td>Janice Chiaretto</td>
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<td>Claudia A. Baio</td>
<td>David R. Chipman</td>
<td>Emily Gianquinto</td>
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<td>Livia D. Barndollar</td>
<td>Robert Coffey</td>
<td>Rosemary E. Giuliano</td>
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<td>Andrea Barton Reeves</td>
<td>David M. Cohen</td>
<td>Gary R. Gold</td>
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<td>Hon. Timothy D. Bates</td>
<td>Hon. Henry S. Cohn</td>
<td>Dahlia O. Grace</td>
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<td>Hon. Robert E. Beach, Jr.</td>
<td>Maureen Danehy Cox</td>
<td>E.J. Greenspan</td>
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<td>Jamey Bell</td>
<td>Hon. Melanie L. Cradle</td>
<td>Steven M. Greenspan</td>
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<td>John A. Berman</td>
<td>Hon. Juliett L. Crawford</td>
<td>Thomas A. Gugliotti</td>
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<td>Anne Louise Blanchard</td>
<td>Alexia E. Cruz</td>
<td>Gail P. Hardy</td>
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<td>Audrey B. Blondin</td>
<td>Joseph D. D’Alesio</td>
<td>Charles B. Higgins</td>
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<td>Jeffrey M. Blumenthal</td>
<td>James F. DeDonato</td>
<td>Beverly J. Hodgson</td>
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<td>Mary Piscatelli Brigham</td>
<td>Eva DeFranco</td>
<td>Maura H. Horan</td>
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<td>Debra A. Brown</td>
<td>Ann-Marie DeGraffenreidt</td>
<td>Leonard Isaac</td>
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<td>Hon. Alice A. Bruno</td>
<td>Hon. Anne C. Dranginis</td>
<td>Norman K. Janes</td>
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<td>Joseph B. Burns</td>
<td>Prof. Steven Duke</td>
<td>Hon. Alfred J. Jennings, Jr.</td>
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<td>Susan V. Busby</td>
<td>Prof. William Dunlap</td>
<td>Timothy J. Johnston</td>
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<td>Kathryn Calibey</td>
<td>Hon. Warren W. Eginton</td>
<td>Hon. Maria Araujo Kahn</td>
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<td>Kerry R. Callahan</td>
<td>Prof. Timothy H. Everett</td>
<td>Kevin T. Kane</td>
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<td>Hon. Susan L. Carney</td>
<td>Kathleen M. Flaherty</td>
<td>Patricia R. Kaplan</td>
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<td>William J. Casazza</td>
<td>John R. Flores</td>
<td>Hon. Maureen M. Keegan</td>
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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

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 students, school contest coordinators, and principals received awards that were presented at a ceremony presided over by Connecticut Supreme Court Justices at the Connecticut Supreme Court on June 3, 2015.

Statewide winner: Samuel Stuart, Greens Farms Academy
Runner-up: Harrison Pellerin, RHAM High School
Runner-up: Michelle Printsev, Academy of Information Technology & Engineering

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 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, six exonerees qualified for loans from the fund. The CBF has received loan pay backs from five exonerees totaling $57,700 as of March 31, 2016, and a donation of $25,000 from one of the exonerees’ law firms. There is one loan payable in the amount of $9,400, with an unencumbered balance of approximately $77,000 in the fund.

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 nine roundtables.

On February 18, 2016, the Connecticut Bar Association Diversity and Inclusion Committee co-sponsored the eighth roundtable on “Immigration Post-Paris and Post-San Bernardino and its Impact on Diversity and Inclusion in Connecticut Society”. Co-hosts Allen G. Palmer and David V. DeRosa and facilitators Hon. Saud Anwar, Norman Pattis, and Associate Dean Asha Rangappa led the discussion with approximately 25 attendees focusing on immigration policy in the wake of the recent terror attack in Paris and the massacre in San Bernardino, California.

The ninth roundtable, co-sponsored by Quinnipiac University School of Law, “The Happy Lawyer: A Myth or a Real Possibility?”, was held April 18, 2016, with approximately 30 attendees. Professor Carrie Kaas, Maggie Castinado, David Crotta, and Quinnipiac Law School students presented research findings and conclusions from the book, The Happy Lawyer: Making a Good Life in the Law by Nancy Levit and Douglas O. Linder, and offered personal experiences.

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, 14 videos have been posted to the CBF’s YouTube channel, which can be found at http://tinyurl.com/CBFLegalAid. The videos will be edited and transcribed so that the content will be available for historical research.
Committee Members:

Norman K. Janes, Chair	Steven Eppler-Epstein	Hon. Dennis J. O'Brien
Miguel A. Ayala	Marvin Farbman	David A. Pels
Bruce Berwald	Hon. Stephen F. Frazzini	Raphael Podolsky
Douglas M. Crockett	Patricia R. Kaplan	Prof. James A. Trowbridge
Frederick W. Danforth, Jr.	Roger Koontz
Francis X. Dineen	Hon. Raymond R. Norko

History of Connecticut Women in the Legal Profession

Hon. A. Susan Peck and Ann Rubin of Carmody Torrance Sandak & Hennessey co-chair the project. The Carmody firm will play a leadership role and has committed to providing $20,000 over the next several years to support the project. Ms. Rubin will lead efforts to raise the additional $30-35,000 necessary for this phase of the project. Judge Peck will continue her leadership role of the project’s videotaped interviews of the State’s pioneering women lawyers and jurists. Over 50 people attended the February 17, 2016 organizational meeting. Subcommittees for fundraising, interviews, and education and promotion will be meeting in the coming weeks. Proposals from video producers have been submitted and are being reviewed.

Committee Members:

Hon. A. Susan Peck, Co-Chair
Ann H. Rubin, Co-Chair
Marsha L. Anastasia
Peter Arakas
Dean Jennifer G. Brown
Frances Z. Calafiore
Kathryn Calibey
Hon. Susan L. Carney
Cynthia Carr
Margaret I. Castinado
Deborah DelBarba
Prof. Timothy H. Everett
Danielle P. Ferrucci
Kaitlyn Fydenkevez
Courtney George
Maren Klawiter
Kimberly A. Knox
Hon. Linda K. Lager
Kelly Masi
Jane I. Milas

Judge Mark R. Kravitz Symposium

The Third Judge Mark R. Kravitz Symposium is in the planning stages, and James I. Glasser of Wiggin and Dana has agreed to serve as Chair. The symposium, scheduled for spring or fall of 2017, will focus on pursuing unique and interesting ways to manage cases and increase efficiency.

Committee Chair: James I. Glasser

John A. Speziale Alternative Dispute Resolution Symposium

The Tenth John A. Speziale Alternative Dispute Resolution Symposium is currently in the planning stages. Co-Chairs Charles Pillsbury and Dwight Merriam convened an exploratory committee to develop the topic on “the environmental aspects of land use and the ADR modalities that already
apply or could be used in this context” which will take place at Quinnipiac University School of Law in March or April 2017.

**Symposium Exploratory Committee:**

Charles A. Pillsbury, Co-Chair
Penny Bellamy
Edward V. O’Hanlan
Dwight H. Merriam, Co-Chair
Prof. David S. King
Roger Reynolds
Hon. Timothy D. Bates
William Logue
Gregory A. Sharp
Gail E. McTaggart
Diane W. Whitney
Elizabeth Murphy

**LGBTQ Symposium**

On March 4, 2016, the Fellows and the *Connecticut Public Interest Law Journal* presented the “LGBTQ Youth Issues and the Law” Symposium at the University of Connecticut School of Law. Over 170 Fellows, members of gay and lesbian organizations, state and municipal officials, students from law schools, high schools, and middle schools, and representatives from the legal community, professional associations, and community organizations attended the all-day program. All showed great interest and participated in lively discussions with distinguished panelists. The morning panels were videotaped by the Connecticut Network (CT-N) and are available for viewing on the CT-N website [http://tinyurl.com/CBFLGBTQ](http://tinyurl.com/CBFLGBTQ).

**Symposium Committee**

Jill C. Anderson, Symposium Advisor, *Connecticut Public Interest Law Journal*; Professor, University of Connecticut School of Law
John Khalil, Symposium Editor, *Connecticut Public Interest Law Journal*
Susan Schmeiser, Symposium Advisor, *Connecticut Public Interest Law Journal*; Professor, University of Connecticut School of Law
Dvora Walker, Symposium Editor, *Connecticut Public Interest Law Journal*

The idea for an LGBTQ Symposium originated with the CBF and the following committee members. This group merged with the *Connecticut Public Interest Law Journal* when it was discovered that the CPILJ was independently planning an LGBTQ symposium.

**CBF Symposium Exploratory Committee**

Hon. Juliett L. Crawford
Rachel Goldberg
Prof. Carolyn W. Kaas
Hon. Dawne G. Westbrook

**Committee Members**

Prof. Kevin M. Barry
Leslie I. Jennings-Lax
Hon. Maureen M. Murphy
Dean Jennifer G. Brown
Allison Kaas
Justine C. Rakich-Kelly
Angela Cortese
Commissioner Joette Katz
Asker A. Saeed
Katelyn Donovan
Thomas McCabe
Prof. Brad Saxton
Jessica Grossarth
Emily I. McConnell
Christopher J. Smedick
Elizabeth W. Jennings-Lax
Robin Mchaelen
Qesar Veliu
**Mentoring Symposium**

The symposium was held November 13, 2015 at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford and was very well received. Topics included the different types of mentoring programs (e.g., voluntary and mandatory); the strategies to establish such a program; and the resulting benefits to young lawyers. Speakers and panelists were 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 University School of Law; and Professor John Montgomery, Distinguished Professor Emeritus and Dean Emeritus of the University of South Carolina School of Law. New and past mentees offered their views on going through the mentoring process. The symposium can be viewed at [http://tinyurl.com/nr89nwy](http://tinyurl.com/nr89nwy).

**Committee Chair:** Louis R. Pepe

**Pro Bono Colloquium**

The CBF convened its inaugural colloquium on April 19, 2016 at Quinnipiac University School of Law. The colloquium was conceived by Norman K. Janes and Peter Arakas and chaired by Priya S. Morgenstern, Steven Eppler-Epstein and Krista Hess. Facilitated by Bill Logue, thirty-five invited thought leaders gathered to discuss how to improve delivery of services to low-income people through pro bono legal help with the ultimate goal of designing a plan for providers and other stakeholders. The steering committee continues to meet to review information developed at the colloquium and to draft an action plan setting forth recommendations for enhancing the delivery of pro bono legal services.

**Committee Members:**

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<th>Ashleigh Backman</th>
<th>Steven Eppler-Epstein</th>
<th>Don Philips</th>
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<td>Janice Chiaretto</td>
<td>Krista Hess</td>
<td>Sandra San Emeterio</td>
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<td>Karen DeMeola</td>
<td>William Logue</td>
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<td>Liz Drummond</td>
<td>Priya S. Morgenstern</td>
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**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 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
Fellows Education and Program Committee Members

Dwight H. Merriam, Chair
Peter Arakas
Barry F. Armata
Prof. Jon Bauer
Aaron S. Bayer
Douglas S. Brown
Dean Jennifer G. Brown
Margaret I. Castinado
Hon. Juliette L. Crawford
Joseph D. D’Alesio
Timothy A. Diemand
Hon. Steven D. Ecker

Steven Eppler-Epstein
Lawrence J. Fox
Monte E. Frank
Rosemary E. Giuliano
Gary R. Gold
Robert C. Hinton
Sung-Ho Hwang
Norman K. Janes
Prof. Carolyn W. Kaas
Hon. Robert K. Killian, Jr.
Daniel J. Krisch
Robert M. Langer
William Logue

Penny Mason
Susan G. Nofi
Moy Ogilvie
Hon. Rupal Shah Palanki
Louis R. Pepe
Charles A. Pillsbury
Daniel A. Schwartz
Hon. Jonathan E. Silbert
Mike K. Thompson
Frederic S. Ury
Michael S. Wilder
Denise V. Zamore

Respectfully submitted,

Dwight H. Merriam
Chair, Fellows Education and Program Committee
May 3, 2016