Report of the Chair of the
James W. Cooper Fellows
and the
Chair of the Fellows
Education and Program Committee
May 6, 2019

The 2018-2019 Committee met on four occasions. The following is a description of the work of the Fellows during the past year.

2018-2019 Quintin Johnstone High School Essay Contest

The 2018-2019 statewide high school essay contest topic involves the issue of “predictive violence”. Essayists were asked to determine whether a student’s suspension due to a video posted on social media of him shooting at a firing range and a subsequent search of his school locker leading to the discovery of a stash of *Guns and Ammo* magazines is proper and whether legislation to address “predictive violence” is feasible. The contest generated a total of 82 essays from 38 schools, and 129 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. The ceremony will take place on Tuesday, June 4, 2019 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The entries were initially reviewed by the following Fellows and CBF Board Members:

- Hon. Bethany J. Alvord
- Marsha L. Anastasia
- Hon. Barry F. Armata
- Jeffrey Babbin
- Melanie A. Bachman
- Hon. Claudia A. Baio
- Jon Bauer
- Jamey Bell
- Hon. Tejas Bhatt
- Anne Louise Blanchard
- Audrey B. Blondin
- Debra A. Brown
- Hon. Alice A. Bruno
- Joseph B. Burns
- Susan V. Busby
- Kathryn Calibey
- Hon. Karyl L. Carrasquilla
- Richard E. Castiglioni
- Maggie I. Castinado
- Thomas P. Cella
- Janice Chiaretto
- David R. Chipman
- Robert Coffey
- David M. Cohen
- Hon. Henry S. Cohn
- Andy I. Cohn
- Maureen Danehy Cox
- Hon. Melanie L. Cradle
- Hon. Juliett L. Crawford
- Alexia E. Cruz
- Candace M. Cunningham
- Joseph D. D’Alesio
- Eva DeFranco
- Karen DeMeola
- Kathleen E. Dion
- Thomas J. Donohue, Jr.
- Sharon Wicks Dornfeld
- Karen L. Dowd
- Hon. Anne C. Dranginis
- Felice Duffy
- William V. Dunlap
- Hon. Warren W. Eginton
- S. Bruce Fair
- Sandra Fair
- Melissa A. Farley
- Sabato P. Fiano
- Kathleen M. Flaherty
- Jason M. Fragoso
2017-2018 Quintin Johnstone High School Essay Contest

The 2017-2018 statewide high school essay contest topic titled “Diversity Disagreement?” dealt with a student who has written the principal asking for a meeting to discuss why she should have been selected for one of several subsidized spots set aside for students with diverse backgrounds for a school trip. The contest generated 64 entries from 33 schools, and 142 Fellows judged the entries. The students, school contest coordinators, and principals received their awards at a ceremony presided over by Connecticut Supreme Court Justices at the Connecticut Supreme Court on June 5, 2018.

**Statewide winner:** Seamus Connor, Fitch High School  
**Runner-up:** Katarina Flicker, Greens Farms Academy  
**Runner-up:** Daniel Coppinger, Simsbury High School

**Committee Chair:** Robert A. Harris

The following Fellows will determine the winning entries:

- Hon. Maureen D. Dennis  
- Hon. Maria Araujo Kahn
- Hon. Alexandra D. DiPentima  
- Hon. Christine S. Vertefeuille
- Robert A. Harris
Essay Contest Committee Members

Peter Arakas
Gary R. Gold
Tamara Kagan Levine
William Logue
Dwight H. Merriam
Justine C. Rakich-Kelly
Hon. Angela C. Robinson
Daniel A. Schwartz
Ann M. Siczewicz
Jack G. Steigelfest
Allan B. Taylor
S. Dave Vatti

Fellows Roundtables

In 2013, Roundtable discussions were started to discuss topics and issues of the day involving the practice of law. To date, there have been 29 Roundtables held around the state with up to 30 Fellows and members of the public attending each one. In 2018, there were eight Roundtables including the following seven that were held after the last Report of the Chair on May 10, 2018:

3. September 13, 2018 “Is Mediation Your Best Option to Create Value for Your Client?” in Hartford
4. October 9, 2018 “Brave New World: What will Artificial Intelligence do to the Practice of Law? Is it a Blessing or a Curse?” in Hartford
5. October 29, 2018 “Mindfulness at Work” in Southport
6. December 5, 2018 “Getting a Grip on Gender” in Vernon
7. December 12, 2018 “Taking Care of Adult Children Who Cannot Take Care of Themselves” in Hartford

In 2019, four Roundtables were held and another one is scheduled for May 15, 2019:

1. March 7, 2019 “The Use and Abuse of Social Media by Clients And Attorneys” in Willimantic
2. March 21, 2019 “Did You Hear The Story Of...? How Do Lawyers Tell That Story in a Way that Listeners Understand and Relate to?” in Avon
3. April 2, 2019 “Representing Clients with Mental Health Conditions” in Bridgeport
4. April 24, 2019 “Limited English Proficiency” in North Haven

Dwight Merriam and Kirk Lowry of Connecticut Legal Rights Projects (CLRP) are planning additional Roundtables in 2019 to discuss Representing Clients with Mental Health Conditions. These will be held in various locations around the state. Topics will include what lawyers need to know in representing clients with mental health conditions, the challenges such clients face in finding and keeping employment, obtaining housing, and dealing with life stresses. Other Roundtables are also being planned for 2019.

Committee Chair: Hon. Barry F. Armata

Probate Symposium

The CBF and Quinnipiac Probate Law Journal co-sponsored “Exploring Unsupervised Probate” Symposium at Quinnipiac School of Law on April 20, 2018. Approximately 150 judges and lawyers attended. The symposium looked at the experience of states that have adopted (in at least some form) unsupervised probate for the settlement of decedents’ estates and examined advantages and disadvantages of giving beneficiaries the ability to opt out of court-supervised estate settlement. Professor Mary F. Radford of Georgia State University College of Law and Professor Gerry W. Beyer of Texas Tech University School of Law spoke about their
respective state’s experience with unsupervised probate and a panel of distinguished Connecticut probate judges and lawyers discussed whether Connecticut might benefit by adopting similar streamline measures.

Committee Co-Chairs: Hon. Paul J. Knierim and Jeffrey A. Cooper

Symposium Steering Committee:

Paul A. Hudon
Hon. Robert K. Killian, Jr.
Bill Logue
Richard A. Marone

Peter T. Mott
Amy E. Todisco
Hon. Philip A. Wright, Jr.

Modest Means Representation & Unbundled Legal Services Symposium

The CBF and the Connecticut Bar Association co-sponsored the “Modest Means Representation & Unbundled Legal Services Symposium” at UConn School of Law on May 4, 2018. Over 100 people attended. The Symposium explored the issues surrounding Limited Scope Representation (LSR) and unbundling. Discussion focused on the ways those practices could impact the delivery of traditional legal services and create an expanded revenue stream for attorneys representing clients of modest means. Justice Maria A. Kahn, Judges James W. Abrams, Elizabeth A. Bozzuto, William H. Bright, Jr., Leslie I. Olear, and Mark H. Taylor and Attorneys Campbell D. Barrett, Stephen J. Conover, Jeff S. Gentes, Jocelyn B. Hurwitz, Chris R. Nelson, and Frederic S. Ury presented views from the bench and the bar on LSR topics and professional responsibility issues related to providing unbundled legal services.

Committee Co-Chairs: Hon. Maria Araujo Kahn and Krista Hess

History of Connecticut Women in the Legal Profession

On June 7, 2018, a Reception and Exhibit to Celebrate the History of Connecticut Women in the Legal Profession Project and the Photographic Portrait Exhibit of Women in the Judiciary: “Women in Black, 2nd Edition” was held at the Legislative Office Building (LOB). Connecticut Chief Justice Richard A. Robinson and Chief District Judge Janet C. Hall gave opening remarks. A video comprising excerpts from the 25 interviews of Phase Two was shown and framed photographs of 42 state and federal judges and magistrates from Phase Two also were displayed in the concourse of the LOB. Over 200 Fellows and members of the public attended. Karyl Evans, a six-time Emmy Award winner, produced and directed the videos. The photographs were taken by Isabel Chenoweth, a lawyer and photographer, who traveled to courthouses throughout the state. The photographs will be on display at Quinnipiac School of Law and UConn School of Law.

Committee Co-Chairs: Hon. A. Susan Peck and Ann H. Rubin

Committee Members:

Erika L. Amarante
Marsha L. Anastasia
Peter Arakas
Dean Jennifer G. Brown
Frances Z. Calafiore
Kathryn Calibey
Hon. Susan L. Carney
Cynthia Carr
Margaret L. Castinado
Hon. Anne C. Dranginis

Prof. Timothy H. Everett
Danielle P. Ferrucci
Courtney George
Maren Klawiter
Hon. Kimberly A. Knox
Hon. Linda K. Lager
Bill Logue
Kelly Masi
Jane I. Milas
Marsha B. Moses

Hon. Lynda B. Munro
Kathleen Lenehan Nastri
Debra C. Ruel
Hon. Mary E. Sommer
Carmina K. Tessitore-Hirsch
Hon. Erika M. Tindill
Rhonda J. Tobin
Stacy Smith Walsh
Trauma-Informed Justice Symposium

The Trauma-Informed Justice Symposium was held October 16, 2018, at Quinnipiac School of Law (QSL), and over 100 people attended. The program participants discussed diverse perspectives to Trauma-Informed Justice including those of practitioners, judges, and mental health and other service providers from Connecticut and other states that embrace a survivor-defined approach to justice for survivors of trauma. Speakers included Dr. Julian Ford of UConn Health, Judge Susan B. Carbon of the 9th Circuit Court, Family Division, Judge John A. Danaher Dr. Meghan Berthold of UConn School of Social Work, academicians from UConn and QSL, attorneys from the USDOJ’s office, the Connecticut State’s Attorney’s office, and local practitioners.

Committee Chair: Jamey Bell

Symposium Planning Committee

Professor Jon Bauer
Kara Hart
Professor Carrie Kaas
Ndidi Moses

Opioid Summit

The Opioid Summit was held November 9, 2018, at Quinnipiac School of Law, and it was an overwhelming success. Over 200 people attended. Requests were received from many organizations asking if their representatives could attend. The Ceremonial Courtroom was full and the symposium was live streamed into another meeting room. It was also video-taped by CT-N and is available on their website. Following the plenary programs, participants joined one of 10 Working Groups to discuss issues and to generate suggestions and ideas. The Chairs of the Working Groups have been meeting periodically since November in preparation of the upcoming Reporting Day on June 7, 2019, to further their work. The groups will present their findings and ideas and will collectively create a plan to move those ideas forward.

Committee Chair: Hon. Barry F. Armata

Summit Planning Committee

Ramona Anderson  Dr. Gail Gilmore  Jennifer Muggeo
John Bashaw  Dr. Millie Hepburn  Dave Onusko
Justin Bengtson  Jennifer Herbst  Dr. Mary Peterson
Dean Jennifer G. Brown  Robert C. Hinton  Don Philips
Alan Bruce  Carol Jones  Dr. Karen Ragaisis
Joel Cartner  Amber Kelly  Clinton J. Roberts
Margaret I. Castinado  Olivia Knott  Dr. H. Andrew Selinger
Theresa M. Dalton  Katarzyna Lessard  John Thomas
Carol DeJohn  Stephen McGuinn  Kelly Thompson
Liz Drummond  Jeanne Milstein  Mark Zebrowski
Mary K. Eschuk  Ralph Monaco
Monte E. Frank  John W. Morgan

Hartford Promise Mentorship

The Fellows began a pilot project in the fall of 2017 to mentor approximately 30 Hartford public high school sophomores, juniors and seniors identified as having the potential to satisfy the eligibility requirements to
become Hartford Promise Scholars. Hartford Promise is a college success program that is working to simultaneously transform the lives of Hartford students and transform the city of Hartford.

In order to qualify for a Hartford Promise Scholarship, a student must:
- attend a Hartford public high school continuously since 9th grade
- be a Hartford resident throughout high school
- have a 93% or better cumulative attendance record during high school, and
- have a 3.0 or better cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale in high school.

In addition to access to high school and college counseling, college day events and other support services, Hartford Promise Scholars are entitled to receive up to $20,000 to attend the college or university of their choosing. Additionally, many colleges and universities have committed to match the $20,000 (resulting in awards of up to $40,000) and others have also committed to provide free room and board for Promise Scholars living on their campuses.

Through this Fellows project, students are paired with Fellows who mentor them throughout the year. In addition to regularly meeting with their students, their teachers and counselors, some Fellows have also met with their students’ friends and families, building relationships that hopefully will last far beyond high school graduation. As part of the project, training and other various resources are provided to the mentors and a number of social and advising programs were organized to make the mentorship process run smoothly.

The Hartford Promise leadership has continuously and consistently expressed their gratitude for the important work done by the Fellows to help change the lives of some very deserving Hartford students.

The Committee is presently wrapping the second successful academic year, and will be discussing expanding this mentorship program for the 2019-2020 school year.

**Committee Co-Chairs:** Peter Arakas and Denise V. Zamore

**Singer Connecticut Public Service Fellowship Program**

In 2017, The Herbert and Nell Singer Foundation and the Connecticut Bar Foundation launched the Singer Connecticut Public Service Fellowship Program in collaboration with the CBF James W. Cooper Fellows Program. The Singer Fellowship Program was established for the purpose of offering opportunities to recent law school graduates to gain practical experience working for Connecticut civil legal aid organizations. The Singer Foundation is paying each Fellow a salary and it also provides partial funding towards the cost of each Fellow’s benefit package. Fourteen applications were received for the 2018 Fellowships and the Singer Foundation chose to fund three students to continue working at their current organizations: Connecticut Legal Services (CLS), Greater Hartford Legal Aid, and New Haven Legal Assistance. Subsequently, CLS offered their Fellow a full-time position. For 2019, nine applications were received and two students were chosen to work at Connecticut Veterans Legal Center and New Haven Legal Assistance.

**Committee Chairs:** Jay H. Sandak and Andrea Barton Reeves

**The Anthony M. Fitzgerald Fund for Excellence**

The partners of Carmody Torrance Sandak & Hennessey LLP have established the Anthony M. Fitzgerald Fund for Excellence to honor Tony Fitzgerald on the occasion of his retirement from the practice of law. Tony is a long-time supporter of the CBF and is a Charter James W. Cooper Fellow. Carmody lawyers and staff, friends and others have contributed to the Fund, and proceeds from the Fund have been donated to the CBF to
establish the award. The Anthony M. Fitzgerald Award for Excellence honors legal service providers and attorneys who demonstrate a commitment to the provision of zealous and skilled legal representation to low-income clients, including direct client or other activities that ensure that Connecticut citizens have legal representation when facing important civil legal concerns affecting their safety, health, shelter and survival. The Award recognizes excellence in advocacy, a hallmark of Tony’s distinguished career which spanned nearly 50 years. The CBF will present the award annually.

**Connecticut Innocence Fund**

Since 2012, eight exonerees qualified for loans from the fund. Total loans made from the fund since inception equals $136,700, six exonerees have repaid $77,800 to the fund, and loans still payable to two exonerees equal $14,800. The amount owed to the fund as of April 30, 2019 was $44,100. The unencumbered balance as of April 30 was approximately $49,946.

The CBF was asked to administer a Reentry Award Fund of $232,000 for one exonoree who recently received a payout from the State Claims Commission. The fund for reintegration service expenses will be co-administered by the CBF and Connecticut Partners in Action. On April 30, 2019, the CBF received the funds from the Office of the Comptroller and a separate account will be established for these funds.

**Committee Chair: Gerard A. Smyth**

**Advisory Committee Members:**

Karen Brown
Hon. Anne C. Dranginis

Hon. Clarance J. Jones
Ramona Mercado-Espinoza

**Fellows Education and Program Committee**

Marsha L. Anastasia
Hon. Barry F. Armata
Livia D. Barndollar
Dean Jennifer G. Brown
Margaret I. Castinado
Andy I. Corea
Joseph D. D’Alesio
Hon. Nina F. Elgo
Jason M. Fragoso
Gary R. Gold
Krista Hess
Robert C. Hinton
Carolyn Wilkes Kaas
Robert K. Killian, Jr.
Joaquina Borges King
Patrick A. Klingman
William Logue
Kirk W. Lowry
Martha Penny Mason
Dwight H. Merriam
Ndidi Moses
Susan Garcia Nofi

Moy Ogilvie
Cherie G. Phoenix
Charles A. Pillsbury
Justine Rakich-Kelly
Keith J. Soressi
Jack G. Steigelfest
Fred S. Ury
Diane W. Whitney
Michael S. Wilder
Deborah R. Witkin
Denise V. Zamore

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel A. Schwartz
James W. Cooper Fellows Chair

Hon. Juliett L. Crawford
Fellows Education and Program Committee Chair