REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE
JAMES W. COOPER FELLOWS
EDUCATION AND PROGRAM COMMITTEE
May 10, 2018

The 2017-2018 Committee met on four occasions, and there is another meeting scheduled for June 26, 2018. The following is a description of the work of the Fellows during the past year.

2017-2018 Quintin Johnstone High School Essay Contest

The 2017-2018 statewide high school essay contest topic titled “Diversity Disagreement?” deals 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 a total of 64 essays from 33 schools, and 137 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 an awards ceremony presided over by Connecticut Supreme Court Justices at the Connecticut Supreme Court. The ceremony will take place on Tuesday, June 5, 2018, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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

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<th>Hon. Bethany J. Alvord</th>
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Leonard M. Isaac  Andrew B. Nevas  Alexis H. Smith
Norman K. Janes  Nadine Nevins  Hon. Mary E. Sommer
Hon. Alfred J. Jennings, Jr.  Nell Jessup Newton  Courtney P. Spencer
Tara R. Johnson  Hon. Cesar A. Noble  Isabella Squicciarini
Patricia R. Kaplan  Susan Garcia Nofi  James H. Stark
William J. Kelleher, III  Moy Ogilvie  Jack G. Steigelfest
Erin Kemple  Jonathan B. Orleans  Hon. Elizabeth J. Stewart
Philip G. Kent  Keisha S. Palmer  Hon. Lois Tanzer
Joaquina Borges King  Susan Tarren Pearlman  Jessica C. Torres
Robert M. Langer  David A. Pels  Jonathan B. Tropp
Sharon D. Langer  Donald D. Philips  Andrew M. Ullman
Molly S. LeVan  Jean Perry Phillips  Janet VanTassel
Tamara Kagan Levine  William K. Piotrowski  Matthew T. Wax-Krell
William Logue  Justine C. Rakich-Kelly  Maureen Weaver
Andrew R. Lubin  Linda L. Randell  Jonathan S. Weiner
Hon. Michael F. Magistrali  Peter R. Reynolds  Robert A. White
Margaret Penny Mason  Dorothy K. Robinson  Diane W. Whitney
John C. Matulis, Jr.  Stuart D. Rosen  Eric W. Wiechmann
Christopher P. McCormack  Sarah French Russell  Jennifer Willcox
Jane I. Milas  Howard B. Schiller  Gregory J. Williams
Christine O. Morgan  Hon. Hope C. Seeley  Latonia C. Williams
Linda L. Morkan  Hon. Rupal Shah  Gayle Wintjen
Hon. Lynda B. Munro  Kevin C. Shea  Jeremy G. Zimmermann
Colleen M. Murphy  James Sicilian
Chris R. Nelson  Carolyn A. Signorelli

The following Fellows will determine the winning entries:

Hon. Maureen D. Dennis
Hon. Alexandra D. DiPentima
Hon. Maria Araujo Kahn
Hon. Richard N. Palmer
Hon. Chase T. Rogers
Hon. Christine S. Vertefeuille

2016-2017 Quintin Johnstone High School Essay Contest

The 2016-2017 statewide high school essay contest topic was “Taking a Knee or Taking a Stand,” which dealt with school discipline in a case involving a high school athlete’s refusal to stand for the national anthem and a fellow student’s reaction to his protest. The contest generated 116 entries from 53 schools, and 154 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 7, 2017.

Statewide winner: Zachary Reznikoff, Greens Farms Academy
Runner-up: Michelle Xiong, Greenwich High School
Runner-up: Daniel Coppinger, Simsbury High School
Essay Contest Committee Members:

Robert A. Harris, Chair  
Peter Arakas  
Andrea Barton Reeves  
Gary R. Gold  
Tamara Kagan Levine

William Logue  
Dwight H. Merriam  
Priscilla Pappadia  
Justine C. Rakich-Kelly  
Hon. Angela C. Robinson

Daniel A. Schwartz  
Ann M. Siczewicz  
Jack G. Steigelfest  
Allan B. Taylor  
S. Dave Vatti

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, seven exonerees qualified for loans from the fund. As of March 31, 2018, five exonerees have paid back loans totaling $57,700. There is one loan payable in the amount of $4,200. A law firm which represents one of the exonerees donated $25,000 to the Fund in 2016. The unencumbered balance in the fund is approximately $51,082.

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 Roundtables

The Fellows started Roundtable forums in 2013 to discuss topics of the day and issues involving the practice of law. The goal is to have four or more Roundtables each year in several different counties of the state. Twenty-five to thirty-five Fellows attended each forum, and a Fellow, in collaboration with one or more discussion leaders, moderates the conversation. To date, there have been 18 Roundtables, including the following five that have been held since the last Report of the Chair on April 25, 2017. There are several more scheduled for the remaining part of 2018.

“Exit Strategies.” Facilitated by Dr. Sidney Horowitz, Judith M. Keppelman, Bruce Louden, John Rose, Jr., Mark G. Sklarz, and Elizabeth J. Stewart, attendees discussed exit strategies for early and mid-career lawyers struggling to make orderly transitions to new positions and for older lawyers who were winding down their careers. Hosted by Dwight H. Merriam and Barbara S. Miller.

“The Grass is Greener…or is it?” This forum delved into the different types of practices and assumptions that are made about the various types of legal lifestyles: public service, in-house counsel, private practice, and working for a non-profit organization. Kathy M. Flaherty, Gail P. Hardy, Kristen M. Marcroft, Hon. Tammy T. Nguyen-O’Dowd, Bryan J. Orticelli, John J. Philips, José A. Santos, Alexis N. Smith, Amy Wergeles, Edward Wilson, Gayle C. Wintjen, and Anne Kelly Zovas served as discussion facilitators. Hosted by Hon. Barry F. Armata and Susan Nofi Garcia.

“Lawyers and the Use of Judgment – Counseling vs. Advocacy; Controlling Client Expectations.” At this first Roundtable held in Tolland County, Judge William J. Bright, Jr. led a discussion about the relationship between Sections 2 and 3 of the Rules of Professional Conduct. Hosted by Timothy J. Johnston and Mark D. Leighton.
“Transgender People and the Law.” Beck S. Fineman, Professor Jennifer L. Levi, Maureen M. Murphy, Dalia Panke, and Alix Simonetti, facilitated a conversation about transgendered individuals and the journeys they have undertaken, the issues they face in dealing with the law and society, the prejudices they feel and the triumphs they teach. Hosted by Hon. Barry F. Armata, Rachel Goldberg and Justice Andrew J. McDonald.

“Battling Bias or Infringing on Free Speech?” Led by facilitators Karyl L. Carrasquilla, Richard E. Hayber, Patricia King, Hon. Kimberly A. Knox, and Tracie Molinaro, the Roundtable examined proposed ABA Model Rule of Professional Conduct 8.4, particularly regarding how it might impact an attorney’s first amendment rights and the practice of law. Hosted by Lawrence J. Fox and Dean Jennifer G. Brown.

Committee Chair: Hon. Barry F. Armata

Hartford Promise Mentorship

The Fellows began a pilot project this year to mentor Hartford high school students who were at risk for becoming ineligible to receive a Hartford Promise scholarship. This scholarship allows Hartford student residents to receive a substantial scholarship to a college of their choosing if they meet certain school and attendance criteria. Through this project, we have paired up students with Fellows who can mentor these students throughout the year. We have provided training to the mentors and set up programs through the year to make the mentorship process run more smoothly. We will be discussing expanding this mentorship program for the 2018-2019 school year.

Committee Co-Chairs: Peter Arakas and Denise Zamore

History of Connecticut Women in the Legal Profession

The 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” will take place on June 7, 2018, at the Legislative Office Building (LOB). A video with excerpts from some of the 25 interviews of Phase Two will be shown at the Reception. The framed photographs of 42 state and federal judges and magistrates from Phase Two also will be on display in the concourse of the LOB.

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

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
Courtney George
Maren Klawiter
Kimberly A. Knox
Hon. Linda K. Lager
Kelly Masi
Jane I. Milas
Marsha B. Moses

Hon. Lynda B. Munro
Kathleen Lenehan Nastri
Margaret Roberts
Debra C. Ruel
Hon. Mary E. Sommer
Carmina K. Tessitore
Hon. Erika M. Tindill
Rhonda J. Tobin
Stacy Smith Walsh
Stuart G. Warner
Judge Mark R. Kravitz Symposium

The Third Judge Mark R. Kravitz Symposium, “Should We Praise Litigation?”, was held on December 1, 2017, at UConn School of Law. Approximately 100 people attended. Professor Alexandra Lahav shared the conclusions of her book “In Praise of Litigation” with the audience and put her conclusions to a debate by Professors Olatunde Johnson of Columbia Law School and Peter Siegelman of UConn Law School. The program was moderated by United States District Judge Janet B. Arterton.

Committee Chair: Tim Shearin

Probate Symposium

The CBF and Quinnipiac Probate Law Journal co-sponsored the “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 examine the 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 our state might benefit by adopting similar streamline measures.

Symposium Steering Committee:
Hon. Paul J. Knierim, Co-Chair
Prof. Jeffrey A. Cooper, Co-Chair
Paul A. Hudon
Hon. Robert K. Killian, Jr.
Bill Logue
Peter T. Mott
Amy E. Todisco
Hon. Philip A. Wright, Jr.
Richard A. Marone

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. UCONN School of Law Dean Timothy S. Fisher and CBF President Andrea Barton Reeves provided opening remarks, and CBA President Karen DeMeola gave closing comments to the approximately 100 attendees.

Committee Chairs: Hon. Maria Araujo Kahn and Hon. Ingrid I. Moll

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 of Connecticut, Connecticut Legal Services, and the
Connecticut Bar Association.

Now in its twelfth year, the Project has trained over 172 attorneys and has served 158 students in New
Britain. The Project has realized considerable success in reducing excessive student absences; over 54%
of the student-participants have improved their attendance.

**Committee Chair:** Peter Arakas

**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 which provide legal services to the underserved population of Connecticut. The
program’s selection committee, comprised of six CBF Fellows, selected three Connecticut law school
students for fellowships: Christine Gill of UCONN School of Law, and Amanda Smallhorn and
Angelique Torres, both of Quinnipiac Law School. The students will begin their Fellowships later this
year. The host employers are Connecticut Legal Services, Greater Hartford Legal Aid, and New Haven
Legal Assistance.

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

**Fellows Education and Program Committee Members**

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Respectfully submitted,

Daniel A. Schwartz
Chair, Fellows Education and Program Committee
May 10, 2018