



Connecticut Bar Foundation
James W. Cooper Fellows Roundtable Catalog

Below are ideas for possible Roundtables. Please feel free to adopt them in whole or to change them. At the end of the ideas is a listing of prior Roundtables we have previously held. You are also free to re-use any of those topics, or come up with something on your own.

Please send your ideas to Liz Drummond at liz@cbf-1.org and they will be forwarded to the Roundtable Steering Committee for review before you begin planning an event.

Possible Roundtables Ideas:

1. Generations: Baby Boomers/Millennials/Gen X
2. Is the System Broken and if it is Not, Why Do People Think So?
3. Solo and Sane
4. The Future of the Law - Fred Ury
5. Faith and the First Amendment
6. Codes of Law
7. Cyber Bullying
8. Your "On-line" Reputation
9. Fake News and its Effect on Society
10. Opioid Addiction and its Effect on Families, Work Place, Court and Law
11. Rule 8.4 - Larry Fox
12. The Illusion of Privacy
13. The Change in Sexual Harassment Allegations
14. The "NCIS" Effect - The Influence of Pop Culture on the Law
15. Media and the Law
16. Lawyers and Tech - Communicating with Clients and Storing Information
17. Artificial Intelligence and the Law
18. The Need to Belong
19. Dealing with Bias - Yours and Others
20. Have Moderation and Compromise Fallen into Ill Repute?
21. Restorative Justice
22. What do People Expect from our Justice System?
23. Lawyer Burn-out - What to Do When it Happens
24. What Do You See When in Court: a View from the Bench, the Bar and the Public
25. Has Justice Changed? If so, How and Why?

Some Possible Program Descriptions:

Lions of the Law

The Fellows comprise many lions and leaders of the bar and bench - people who have left legacies and made their mark on Connecticut Legal Culture. This program will invite 4 to 6 “Masters” to have a discussion about the way things were, the way things are, and their views of the way things may be. Perhaps have them answer some of the following questions:

1. What was your greatest moment in law? Why?
2. What was your worst moment in the law? Why?
3. What would you give as advice to the lawyers of today?
4. Who had the biggest impact on your career and why?
5. What do you see as the future of the law and lawyers?
6. If you had to do it again - would you? Or would you have chosen another area of law or field altogether?
7. Would you advise your child or close relative to go into law? Why or why not?
8. What do you want to be remembered for?
9. What do you like to do outside of the law?
10. Are you the same person now as you were starting law school - if not what has changed?

Model Rule 8.4

What do you know about Model Rule of Professional Conduct 8.4 which bars harassment and discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion, national origin, ethnicity, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, or socioeconomic status in all conduct related to the practice of law. Come and join us for discussion on the same to see how it could affect you and your practice. How does this line up with First Amendments rights? What does it really mean in practice? Should the Rule be adopted in Connecticut? With Larry Fox

Generations: Baby Boomers/Millennial/Gen X/iGen

Different generations have different characteristics when communicating with others, defining moments, working philosophies, and views of life. Understanding how these different generations came to be, function, think and work together is crucial for practitioners and employers. Learn how different generations' views on life affect our interactions and outcomes with them. Please join us for a night where we can talk about the various generations we encounter in our workplace. This discussion will help you better understand yourself and the way we work with each other.

Is the System Broken - and if it is Not, Why Do People Think it is?

How many times have you heard "the system is broken!""? Is it? Are legal professionals oblivious to people's criticism of the system? Is the system so engrained in us that we cannot accept that observation? If it is not broken, why do so many people think it is? What do people expect from the system? If those expectations are not met, does that mean the system is broken? How does that perception get passed and accepted? What are the factors that cause people to lose confidence in

the system? Please join us for a night where we discuss the system and why people feel the way they do about it.

Solo and Sane

Many lawyers want to be or are their own boss. After time with a firm, agency, or in law school, they hang a shingle and venture into solo waters, taking responsibility for all aspects of their practice. But how do these lawyers stay connected with the legal community; remain up to date with their practice areas; manage the marketing, finances, personnel, and the day to day operations, all while trying to practice their craft and maintain their sanity. Join us for a night where we talk to successful solo practitioners who share their secrets.

The Future of the Law

Fred Ury has gone to great lengths to understand future trends that are occurring in the legal world. He has studied the legal world and seen its evolution and where it is going. Please join us as he, and a panel of legal prognosticators, shares their insight into the future of our profession and the challenges we likely will face. With Fred Ury

Faith and the First Amendment.

How do you feel when your faith prevents you from doing something you are required to do? What are the limits of your individual freedom of religion apply to being a member of Society. Should public officials and private commerce be allowed to not perform their function based on religious beliefs? Please join us for a night where we discuss separation of church and state with clergy, constitutional lawyers and members of the bar as we talk about faith and the First Amendment.

Codes of Law

Many faiths have codes of law designed to deal with crimes, disputes and other aspects of everyday life. How do American judicial systems interact with these religious laws such as Talmudic law, Sharia law, Cannon law, and other faiths' laws and rules for living? What happens when they conflict? What can we learn from these historic rules and principles that have helped resolve issues and guided life for centuries? Please join us for a night where we discuss the fundamentals of these codes of justice, their meaning, their interpretation and misinterpretations, and their effect on the American and Connecticut jurisprudence.

Past Roundtables:

2013

What it Means to be a Lawyer Today - Hartford

2014

Too Many Lawyers? Not Enough Lawyers? - Hartford

Women in the Legal Profession: “Some Cause for Optimism?” - New Haven

Too Many Lawyers? Not Enough Lawyers? - New London

2015

Bar Crawl: All for One or One for All? (The Role of Bar Associations Today) - Hartford

Lawyers’ Personal and Professional Values: Integration or Separate Spheres? - Quinnipiac School of Law

Networking and Marketing in the Digital Age: How to Leverage Social Media to Expand your Network and Develop your Brand - UCONN School of Law

2016

Immigration post-Paris and post-San Bernardino, and its Impact on Diversity and Inclusion in Connecticut Society - New Haven

2017

The Art of the Legal Blog - Hartford

“Can You Just Listen?” - Hartford

And Justice for All? Can We Make Access to Justice a Reality? -
Quinnipiac School of Law

Choosing your Path: Litigation, Transactional and More - UCONN School of Law

The Grass is Greener . . . or is it? - UCONN School of Law

Lawyers and the Use of Judgment- Counseling vs. Advocacy; Controlling Client Expectations - Vernon

Exit Strategies - New Haven

Transgender People and the Law - New Haven

2018

Securing Their Future: Finding Solutions for Adults with Disabilities - Hartford