

# CONNECTICUT BAR FOUNDATION

*Serving the Bench, Bar, and Connecticut Citizens since 1952*

Issue 2, Fall 2015



## Foundation Adopts Diversity Policy

The CBF Board of Directors unanimously approved the following diversity policy at its September 24, 2015 meeting:

The Connecticut Bar Foundation is committed to diversity and inclusion in its Board of Directors, officers, committees, James W. Cooper Fellows, and staff, and in the focus, subject matter, and participation of its programs, including symposia, colloquia, and roundtables. Diversity is an inclusive concept encompassing race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, and intellectual, mental or physical disability.

We are a richer and more effective organization because of diversity and inclusion, as it increases our organization's strengths, capabilities, and adaptability. Through increased diversity and inclusion, our organization can more effectively accomplish our mission with the varied perspectives, experiences, knowledge, information, and understanding inherent in a diverse and inclusive relationship.

## Looking Ahead: James W. Cooper Fellows Programs and Projects

On Friday, November 13, 2015, the CBF James W. Cooper Fellows is presenting an exciting and timely symposium: "The Mentoring of New Lawyers: Challenges, Rewards and Best Practices." Experts from statewide lawyer mentoring programs in Illinois, Ohio, South Carolina and Georgia--experienced in both mandatory and voluntary mentoring programs--will join with the leaders and graduates of our own Connecticut-based mentoring program in a stimulating discussion of lessons learned, successes achieved, and the present need to help our new colleagues transition from studying the law to practicing it. This is a can't miss program for experienced attorneys, new lawyers, law firms large and small, and law school administrators and students. As always, there is no charge for this symposium. To register or obtain additional information about the symposium, please contact the CBF at 860-722-2494, by email at [ctbf@cbf-1.org](mailto:ctbf@cbf-1.org) or visit [www.ctbarfdn.org](http://www.ctbarfdn.org).

Plans for the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Quintin Johnstone Essay Contest are underway. The topic for this year's contest is "Minors and Medical Decisions." Essayists will take on the role of a legislative intern who is asked to draft a memorandum that may include a legislative proposal to the General Assembly's Judiciary Committee discussing whether the legislature should pass a law recognizing the "mature minor" doctrine discussed but not decided by the Connecticut Supreme Court in the 2015 decision *In re Cassandra C.* Stay tuned for further updates on the essay contest.

## Fellows Nominations

The James W. Cooper Fellows Program was created by the Connecticut Bar Foundation in 1994. The purpose of the Program is twofold: to promote a better understanding of the legal profession and the judicial system among the citizens of Connecticut, and to address matters concerning the legal profession and administration of justice in Connecticut, including the structure, organization, and challenges. Nomination to the Fellows program is evidence of professional distinction and membership comprises such outstanding judges, lawyers and law teachers as are nominated by the Fellows and approved by the Board of Directors.

This year, the Fellows Nominating Committee will recommend a diverse group of over 50 potential new Fellows to the Board for approval. The Board will consider and act on the committee's recommendations at its meeting on November 18, 2015.

## Foundation Briefs

### Bank of America Settlement Awards

The Connecticut Bar Foundation received \$341,085 from the Bank of America settlement of claims relating to the bank's involvement in residential mortgage-backed securities. Use of these funds was restricted to "foreclosure related legal assistance" and "community redevelopment legal services." The CBF Board of Directors awarded the following grants:

Connecticut Fair Housing Center:	\$152,217
Connecticut Legal Services:	\$ 52,217
Connecticut Veterans Legal Center:	\$ 22,217
Greater Hartford Legal Aid:	\$ 67,217
New Haven Legal Assistance:	\$ 42,217

### Upcoming Events

LGBTQ Symposium  
March 4, 2016

Diversity Symposium  
Spring 2016

Pro Bono Colloquium  
Winter 2016

### Upcoming Meetings

Fellows Education and Program  
Committee  
November 16, 2015

Board of Directors  
November 18, 2015  
January 12, 2016

### Submissions to Newsletter

If you have news that you'd like to share with the CBF community, please send your submission limited to 150 words to Don Philips at [don@cbf-1.org](mailto:don@cbf-1.org). Thank you!

**Building a Foundation for the Future**

# CONNECTICUT BAR FOUNDATION

*Serving the Bench, Bar, and Connecticut Citizens since 1952*

Issue 2, Fall 2015



## Leadership Bank Spotlight: Thomaston Savings Bank



Thomaston Savings Bank (TSB) is a Charter Member of the CBF Leadership Bank program. It's continued commitment to provide the highest rate on IOLTA accounts helps make a difference for the most vulnerable individuals in our communities who need civil legal assistance.

"Thomaston Savings Bank's distinction of being a Leadership Bank is a testament to the strong partnership we have formed with the Connecticut Bar Foundation and area law firms. Our mission of being a responsible neighbor and giving back to the communities we serve aligns well with CBF's, which is to ensure that the State's legal system is available to all regardless of power or resources." - Stephen L. Lewis, President & CEO, Thomaston Savings Bank



TSB is a state chartered mutual savings bank, incorporated in 1874. It is a full-service Connecticut community financial institution with ten branches located in New Haven, Litchfield and Hartford counties. An 11th branch is scheduled to open in Bristol in early 2016. The Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation, Inc., established in 1997, helps to ensure that charitable needs within its community can continually be met well into the future.

## 2016 Budget and Projected Revenues

The Board of Directors will consider and act on the 2016 proposed budgets (Foundation and legal services) at its November 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. Primarily due to a steady decrease in court filings and continued flat interest rates, revenues for grants to legal aid providers in 2016 are projected to decline drastically in 2016.

Under the leadership of CBF President Tim Shearin and with guidance from the CBF Long Range Planning Committee, efforts to secure new, sustainable sources of funding are currently underway. Mr. Shearin and others have met with state government officials and more meetings are being scheduled to discuss several proposals and concepts for funding civil legal aid. In addition, the CBF is exploring new bank products that could supplement IOLTA funds and staff is meeting with bank representatives to explore other mutually beneficial opportunities. The Foundation continues to work with leaders of its strongest supporter, the Connecticut Bar Association, on a variety of prospects to help the Foundation and grantees meet the needs of low income residents.

### Congratulations

On October 21, 2015, the *Connecticut Law Tribune* (CLT) hosted its first Professional Excellence Awards and recognized 25 lawyers and judges who distinguished themselves over the course of their legal careers. Those receiving the Lifetime Achievement Awards included CBF President James T. ("Tim") Shearin, CBF Fellows Education and Program Chair Dwight H. Merriam, Sustaining Life Fellows Hon. Ellen Bree Burns and Joseph D. Garrison, Life Fellows Carlton C. Chen, Cynthia Coulter George, David S. Golub, Hon. Brian T. Mahon, Austin J. McGuigan and Ann H. Rubin, and Fellows James I. Glasser and Christina M. Storm.

The CLT selected Life Fellow Lee D. Hoffman as the 2015 Attorney of the Year. Congratulations to Tim, Dwight, Lee and all the James W. Cooper Fellows on receiving these well-deserved awards!

### CCBA Invites CBF to Meeting

The Connecticut Community Bankers Association (CCBA) invited Jamey Bell, Executive Director of Greater Hartford Legal Aid, and Don Philips, Executive Director of the Connecticut Bar Foundation, to speak at its November 4, 2015 meeting on the topic "How Connecticut's Community Banks partner with the Connecticut Bar Foundation and Civil Legal Aid Providers to Stabilize and Increase Positive Outcomes in Their Communities." Thanks to CCBA President George Hermann and Board Member Stephen L. Lewis for their help in arranging this opportunity!

CCBA's 30-plus community bank members have branches throughout the state and each provides IOLTA banking services to lawyers and law firms.

## Leadership Banks

We extend thanks to our Leadership Banks that pay the highest rate on IOLTA and IOTA balances and generously waive service fees. Please consider using a Leadership Bank for your IOLTA accounts!

Bank of New York Mellon

Start Community Bank

Thomaston Savings Bank

Torrington Savings Bank

Washington Trust Company

Westfield Bank

## Building a Foundation for the Future