

CONNECTICUT BAR FOUNDATION

Serving the Bench, Bar, and Connecticut Citizens since 1952

Issue 10, Fall 2017



James W. Cooper Fellows Events

On October 4, 2017, the CBF James W. Cooper Fellows Catherine Roraback Circle hosted a special dinner event to honor the civil rights legacy of Catherine Roraback and to thank the members of the Circle, who comprise the CBF's highest level of donors. The dinner was held at Yale Law School and featured inspirational remarks of Judge Anne C. Dranginis who recounted personal stories of Catherine's life and commented on many of the civil rights cases in her storied career. The evening also featured a keynote address by Yale Law School Professor James Forman, Jr., who discussed his recently published book, "Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America."



Hon. Anne C. Dranginis



Prof. James Forman



Prof. Forman addresses the attendees

The Third Judge Mark R. Kravitz Symposium, "Should We Praise Litigation?", was held on December 1, 2017, at UConn School of Law. Professor Alexandra Lahav shared the conclusions of her book "In Praise of Litigation" with the estimated 100 attendees 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. UConn School of Law Dean Timothy S. Fisher and CBF President Tim Shearin welcomed the audience to the event.



Foundation Briefs

SAVE THE DATE!

CBF Reception and James W. Cooper Fellows Annual Meeting

May 10, 2018

New Haven Lawn Club

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Probate Symposium
"Exploring Unsupervised Probate"**

**Co-sponsored by the CBF
Fellows and the
Quinnipiac Probate
Journal**

**Quinnipiac University
School of Law**

April 20, 2018

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

(Further details to follow)

**2018 Roundtables
(Dates and Locations TBD)**

**January or February
Mindfulness. Fairfield, CT**

**February
Limited English Proficiency.
Quinnipiac University
School of Law**

**More Roundtable details
will be announced soon.**

Building a Foundation for the Future

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Update on Fellows and Foundation Projects

As reported in the Summer 2017 issue of the CBF Newsletter, the CBF and the Singer Foundation have partnered to create the **Singer Connecticut Public Service Fellowship**. The program's goal is to have a long term impact on access to justice in Connecticut by funding and supporting the placement of talented new lawyers with legal services organizations within the state. The Singer Fellowship Selection Committee will be meeting over the next several months to review the applications submitted by potential Fellows. Fellowship selections will be announced by March 1, 2018.

The Eighteenth **Annual James W. Cooper Fellows Quintin Johnstone Statewide High School Essay Contest** is presently underway. This year's topic, "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. We'll be reaching out to Fellows in late February for volunteers to judge the essays.

The CBF will soon announce details of the **History of Connecticut Women in the Legal Profession Project** Gala Reception, which will feature portraits taken by Isabel Chenoweth, the photographer for the **Judges Portrait Project**, and excerpts from recently completed videotaped interviews of the pioneering women in Connecticut's legal profession.

This Fall, the Fellows began working on a new project to assist **The Hartford Promise**, an organization that provides Hartford students with the financial resources, support services, and key relationships that lead to college success. Co-chaired by Peter Arakas and Denise Zamore, the project recruited and trained 19 Fellows who have volunteered to serve as mentors to students who meet criteria established by The Hartford Promise. The mentors will work with three Hartford high schools and 34 students. Each mentor will be matched with one, two or three students. The students, teachers, counselors, and the Hartford Schools Superintendent are very excited to get this season's program going!

Since 2012, seven individuals have qualified for loans from The **Connecticut Innocence Fund**, a program the CBF sponsors in partnership with Community Partners in Action to provide short-term financial assistance to newly-released exonerees. There is one loan currently payable in the amount of \$11,200. The unencumbered balance in the fund is approximately \$50,420.

Fellows Roundtables

The eighth Fellows Roundtable in 2017, "**Transgender People and the Law**," was held on November 14th at Eli's on Whitney in Hamden. Co-hosted by Hon. Andrew J. McDonald, Hon. Barry Armata and Rachel Goldberg, 25 attendees listened, discussed and gained a better understanding of the challenges and victories that transgender attorneys, clients, and people face in today's society.

Cheryl Halford, a research attorney in the Connecticut Judicial Branch who attended the forum, said "[i]t was a powerful evening, and I was so inspired by each and every person in the room."

For more information about upcoming Roundtables, please visit <http://www.ctbarfdn.org/FellowsRoundtable>.



Hon. Barry Armata opens the "Transgender People and the Law" Roundtable discussion on November 14, 2017.

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Legal Services Provider Spotlight—Greater Hartford Legal Aid

Greater Hartford Legal Aid, Inc. (GHLA) provides a full range of free civil legal services to low income people from birth through their senior years in the greater Hartford area. GHLA's lawyers have deep knowledge within all the substantive areas impacting people's ability to meet their basic needs.

GHLA represents individual clients and classes of clients before courts and governmental agencies in cases related to housing, employment, domestic violence, education, disability, elders' rights and preserving public benefits. GHLA's theory of change is that if poor people have access to an attorney, the harsh effects of poverty—including homelessness, living with violence, inadequate educational opportunities, unfairness on the job, hunger, poor health, and going without basic necessities-- can be reduced.

GHLA's strategies continually evolve to meet emerging client needs. One example is GHLA's nimble response to the recent threat of increased and arbitrary immigration enforcement. GHLA already had a successful immigration practice involving securing U visas for clients. (U visas are a form of immigration relief available to victims of crime who have suffered abuse and who have provided assistance to law enforcement.) In the past year, GHLA worked with other legal services programs and the Governor's office to develop standby guardianship documents and educational materials to help immigrants plan for potential disruption to their family relationships if the parents were detained. GHLA is expanding its immigration work with a Legal Initiative for Immigrant Victims. The Initiative will be staffed by an experienced immigration advocate and supplemented by two Community Justice Fellows from UConn Law School who will provide information and referrals to community members at busy branches of the Hartford Public Library.

GHLA relies on and welcomes partnerships with attorneys and legal workers in its efforts to seek justice for low income people and communities. Please contact them at www.ghla.org for more information.

Meet the Newest Members of the CBF Board of Directors

At its September 19, 2017 meeting, the CBF Board of Directors filled the vacancies created by the resignations of Asker Saeed and Asha Rangappa by unanimously voting to approve Stephen Lewis, President and CEO of Thomaston Savings Bank, and Vanessa Avery of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the remainder of their respective terms.



Leadership Banks

The CBF extends its appreciation to its Leadership Banks for paying the highest rate on IOLTA balances and generously waiving service fees. The CBF is also grateful for the many attorneys and law firms who place their IOLTA accounts with a Leadership Bank. Such patronage results in greater funding to civil legal aid providers and helps to increase legal representation and provide legal services to low-income Connecticut residents. Thank you!

Bank of New York Mellon • Start Community Bank • Sterling Bank

Thomaston Savings Bank • Torrington Savings Bank

Washington Trust Company • Westfield Bank

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