The Connecticut Bar Foundation (CBF) Board of Directors elected Attorney Andrea Barton Reeves to serve as its 20th president at its Annual Meeting held on April 26, 2018. Ms. Barton Reeves, President and CEO of Harc, Inc., is the second woman and first African-American president in the organization’s 66-year history. “It is an honor to be elected as President of the Connecticut Bar Foundation Board of Directors,” said Ms. Barton Reeves. “I am grateful to my fellow Board members for the opportunity to lead the organization as we work to provide greater access to legal representation for the state’s most vulnerable population, to produce the highest quality programs on issues concerning the rule of law and the role of the judiciary, and to develop projects that promote and preserve the important contributions made by the state’s legal community.”

The Board also elected Timothy A. Diemand (top right), a partner in the law firm Wiggin and Dana, as Vice President, and Stephen L. Lewis (middle right), President and CEO of Thomaston Savings Bank, as Treasurer. Keith J. Soressi (bottom right), Executive Director of the Connecticut Bar Association, joined the CBF Board of Directors as its Secretary on February 26, 2018. As CBA Executive Director, Mr. Soressi serves as an ex-officio member of the CBF Board.

UPCOMING EVENTS
Quintin Johnstone 2017-2018 High School Essay Contest Award Ceremony
June 5, 2016
3:30 p.m.
Connecticut Supreme Court Hartford, CT

Roundtable Discussion
June 5, 2018
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Angellino’s Restaurant Vernon, CT

June 7, 2018
5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Legislative Office Building Hartford, CT

Roundtable Discussion
“The Trajectory of the Law Legal Education: Past, Present and Future “
June 28, 2018
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
America’s First Law School The Tapping Reeve House and Museum Litchfield, CT
Over 200 Fellows, sponsors and guests attended the 2018 CBF Reception and James W. Cooper Annual Meeting on May 10, 2018, at the New Haven Lawn Club. The event featured opening remarks from CBF President Andrea Barton Reeves (top left); honoring and recognizing the Class of 2018 Fellows in attendance (top right); and Chief Justice Richard Robinson (bottom left) presenting the CBF Legal Services Leadership Award to former Chief Justice Chase T. Rogers. Highlights also included Teresa C. Younger’s keynote address, which offered a timely examination of issues including feminism, diversity and inclusion, empowerment, and justice; presentment of awards honoring Peter Arakas and Joseph D. D'Alesio; and the election of Daniel A. Schwartz as Fellows Chair, Hon. Juliett L. Crawford as Vice-Chair, and Hon. Barry Armata as Secretary.
Top Row (L-R): CBF Past President and Award Presenter James T. (Tim) Shearin, President Andrea Barton Reeves, and Peter Arakas, 2018 Distinguished Service Award Recipient; Joseph D. D’Alesio, 2018 Special Recognition Award Recipient, Andrea Barton Reeves, Hon. Patrick L. Carroll, III, Award Presenter.

Middle Row: Keynote Speaker Teresa C. Younger, President and CEO, Ms. Foundation for Women; newly elected Fellows Officers, Hon. Juliet L. Crawford, Fellows Vice-Chair and Daniel A. Schwartz, Fellows Chair; CBF staff Kati Carling, Anne Goico, Don Philips, Alaina Underwood, Jodi Albert, Shelby Carey, and Liz Drummond.

Bottom: The 2018 Class of CBF James W. Cooper Fellows.
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A capacity audience of approximately 150 attorneys, probate judges and law school students attended the April 20, 2018 “Unsupervised Probate” Symposium at Quinnipiac School of Law. Speakers from Georgia, Texas and Massachusetts, and judges and attorneys from Connecticut discussed their experiences and thoughts concerning the ultimate question: “Should Connecticut Consider an Unsupervised Probate Option?”

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Top Row: Dean Jennifer G. Brown, Quinnipiac School of Law; President-Elect Andrea Barton Reeves, Connecticut Bar Foundation; Professor Jeffrey A. Cooper, Quinnipiac School of Law; Professor Mary F. Radford, Georgia State University College of Law; Second Row: Professor Gerry W. Beyer, Texas Tech University School of Law; Attorney Michele J. Feinstein, Shatz, Schwartz & Fentin, P.C., Springfield, MA; Bottom Row: Hon. Paul J. Knierim, Probate Court Administrator; Attorney Christopher J. Hug, Robinson & Cole, LLP; Rep. Rosa C. Rebimbas, Law Offices of Rosa C. Rebimbas; Attorney Peter T. Mott, Brody Wilkinson PC; Hon. Beverly K. Streit-Kefalas, Milford-Orange Probate Court; Attorney Paul M. Smith, Borner Fraser Aleman; Attorney Suzanne Brown Walsh, Murtha Cullina LLP; Hon. Robert K. Killian, Jr., Killian & Donohue LLC; and Hon. Philip A. Wright, Jr., Wallingford Probate Court.
CBF James W. Cooper Fellows Events Planned for Fall 2018

Friday, September 7, 2018
Connecticut Bar Foundation
James W. Cooper Fellows
and
Connecticut Bar Association
Diversity and Inclusion Committee
The Second Annual Diversity and Inclusion Symposium
Achieving Meaningful Diversity and Inclusion for Lawyers and Law Students with Disabilities
8:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
UCONN School of Law

Friday, October 26, 2018
Connecticut Bar Foundation
James W. Cooper Fellows
Quinnipiac School of Law
and
The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
“Trauma-Informed Justice” Symposium
Enhancing the understanding of trauma and exploring key principles and strategies of trauma-informed legal advocacy adjudication
8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Quinnipiac School of Law

Friday, November 16, 2018
Opioid Summit
Quinnipiac School of Law
(Details to be Announced)

CBF Access to Justice League Runs Again

On May 12, 2018, the CBF Access to Justice League made its third consecutive appearance in the Hartford County Bar Foundation Joseph J. Cassidy Memorial 5K Road Race. The ATJL was well represented by (L-R): Sandra San Emeterio, Statewide Legal Services Project Manager Attorney, Don Philips, CBF Executive Director, Erica Basoli, office manager at Kurien Ouellette in West Hartford, and Lauramarie Sirois, Assistant Clerk Magistrate at Hampden Superior Court in Springfield, MA. Proceeds from the race are used to assist people who are homeless, hungry, sick, and disabled in the Greater Hartford community.

Building a Foundation for the Future

Introducing the 2018 Singer Connecticut Public Service Fellows

The Singer Connecticut Public Service Fellowship Program is a joint project sponsored by the Singer Foundation and the CBF James W. Cooper Fellows Program. The 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 School of Law. Ms. Gill will be engaged in the Legal Initiative for Immigrant Victims project at Greater Hartford Legal Aid. Ms. Smallhorn will serve as a statewide resource on collateral civil consequences that result from criminal convictions and will recommend ways to remedy or mitigate the negative effects that flow therefrom for New Haven Legal Assistance. Ms. Torres will be employed at Connecticut Legal Services to assist victims of crime and domestic violence and immigrant children in the Danbury and Bridgeport areas.

Christy Gill, Mandy Smallhorn, and Angelique Torres
Connecticut Legal Services, Inc. (CLS) is Connecticut’s largest provider of free civil legal services to low income people of all ages. CLS serves 122 communities across Connecticut; all but the greater Hartford and greater New Haven areas (and also collaborates with its sister agencies in those areas). As a law firm, a social services agency, and a community resource, CLS helps solve urgent problems affecting low-income people.

Although clients usually are focused on one crisis situation, CLS staff often discovers that they also can help them resolve additional problems before they too become crises. CLS represents individuals, families and groups of clients in administrative and court settings. Its work generally involves issues related to: housing; domestic violence, divorce, child support and other family matters; consumer problems; education and juvenile law; health care; disability rights; immigration; public benefits; and employment matters. CLS also responds to emergent issues in the local communities it serves, often identified through its outreach activities and connections with clients and their service providers.

This year, CLS is partnering with law schools at Harvard, UCONN and the University of Maine, to help low-income defendants who are sued in small claims court over matters involving credit card debt. This project looks at the efficacy of various models of service delivery, as it simultaneously helps hundreds of low-income people escape crushing debt and achieve financial stability.

CLS advocates carry approximately 2,000 ongoing cases into every year, and open another 3,000 during the year. The organization focuses on cases for people who are not able to represent themselves adequately, and where its lawyers can have a significant impact. In addition to providing legal counseling in a high volume of cases, CLS collaborates with other legal aid providers to maintain legal education materials that are accessed (on paper and on the web) approximately 500,000 times a year. The website, CTLawHelp.org, has over one million visitors per year.

CLS works in partnership with many private attorneys to provide access to justice for Connecticut’s low-income people. Contact CLS at ctlegal.org to learn more about who they are and what they do.

Hosted by Jennifer G. Brown, Dean and Professor of Law, Quinnipiac University School of Law (QSL), attorneys, judges and students from QSL and Yale Law School gathered to discuss ABA Model Rule of Professional Conduct 8.4 and how it could affect the practice of law. Led by discussion facilitators Karyl L. Carrasquilla, Richard E. Hayber, Patricia King, Tracie Molinaro and Hon. Barry Armata, attendees delved into practical and ethical issues about the model rule, including discussing how it implicates First Amendments rights, what it could really mean in an attorney’s legal practice, and whether the rule should be adopted in Connecticut. Twenty-five people attended the two-hour program.

We are excited to welcome Wells Fargo Bank as a CBF Leadership Bank! Leadership Banks pay the highest rate on IOLTA balances and generously waive 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.

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Thomaston Savings Bank  ●  Torrington Savings Bank
Washington Trust Company  ●  Wells Fargo Bank  ●  Westfield Bank
(Highest rate paid on balances over $100,000)

Building a Foundation for the Future