

CONNECTICUT BAR FOUNDATION

Serving the Bench, Bar, and Connecticut Citizens since 1952

Issue 9, Summer 2017



CBF James W. Cooper Fellows Programs

The third Judge Mark R. Kravitz Symposium will be held on December 1, 2017, at UCONN School of Law. The symposium will feature a panel discussion on the pros and cons of litigation in today's society with UCONN School of Law Professor Alexandra Lahav, and Columbia Law School Professors John C. Coffee, Jr., and Olatunde Johnson. Professor Lahav will discuss and share the conclusions of her book "In Praise of Litigation." Professors Coffee and Johnson will join in a debate on her conclusions. Hon. Janet Bond Arterton will serve as the moderator.

The Quinnipiac Probate Law Journal and the CBF Fellows are co-sponsoring a symposium tentatively titled "Exploring Unsupervised Probate," to be held at the Quinnipiac University School of Law (QUSL) on April 20, 2018. The symposium will explore the experience of states that have adopted unsupervised or informal probate for the settlement of decedents' estates. It will also examine recent Connecticut efforts to streamline the probate process and consider whether additional changes are desirable. The symposium is in its planning stages and additional details will be announced in the near future. Hon. Paul J. Knierim, Connecticut Probate Court Administrator, and QUSL Prof. Jeffrey A. Cooper are co-chairing the program's Steering Committee.

A third symposium about trauma-informed justice is currently in the early planning stages. Jamey Bell, Executive Director of Greater Hartford Legal Aid, is chairing the planning committee.

The CBF Fellows sponsored five Fellows Roundtables from January through June, 2017. On September 13, 2017, the Fellows held its sixth Roundtable at the UCONN Law School to discuss "*The Grass is Greener...or is it?*" Hosted by Hon. Barry F. Armata and Susan Garcia Nofi of the Central West Justice Center, twenty-three Fellows and law school students engaged in a wide ranging conversation about legal careers in various sectors, including public service, in-house counsel, private practice and working for non-profit organizations. This year's seventh Roundtable, "*Lawyers and the Use of Judgment – Counseling vs. Advocacy; Controlling Client Expectations,*" was held at Angellino's Restaurant in Vernon on September 27, 2017. Hosted by Timothy J. Johnston of Balskus & Johnston and Mark D. Leighton of Leighton, Katz & Drapeau, Hon. William J. Bright led a group of 22 Fellows and attorneys in a discussion on the relationship between Sections 2 and 3 of the Rules of Professional Conduct. Roundtables are being planned for 2017 and early 2018, details of which will be shared in future Newsletters, on the CBF website, and in email announcements.

The Fellows Education and Program Committee is led by Chair Daniel Schwartz. If you have suggestions for a future program, are looking to help plan a symposium, or would be interested in leading or hosting a Roundtable discussion, contact Dan (dschwartz@goodwin.com), or get in touch with Don Philips at don@cbf-1.org or at 860-722-2494.

Foundation Briefs

Announcement coming soon!

CBF Reception and James W. Cooper Fellows Annual Meeting

The New Haven Lawn Club

May 2018

Upcoming Events

3rd Judge Mark R. Kravitz Symposium

December 1, 2017
UCONN Law School
December 1, 2017
9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

James W. Cooper Fellows History of Connecticut Women in the Legal Profession Project Oral History Gala Reception And Portrait Exhibit

Location TBD
March 5, 2018
5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

James W. Cooper Fellows Exploring Unsupervised Probate Symposium

Quinnipiac University
School of Law
April 20, 2018
9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.



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Find the Connecticut Bar Foundation on Facebook and YouTube

The CBF is excited to announce the launching of its **Facebook** page. It includes a closed group for "Fellows only." Fellows may use the group to network with each other, discuss topics of interest, and share ideas for new CBF programs and projects. We also encourage you to visit our **YouTube** channel. New videos will be posted in the upcoming weeks and months, so stay tuned! Links to our Facebook page and YouTube channel are on the CBF website.

Building a Foundation for the Future

CONNECTICUT BAR FOUNDATION

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Singer Connecticut Public Service Fellowship Program

The CBF is pleased to announce the creation of the Singer Connecticut Public Service Fellowship Program. The program was initiated by Jay Sandak of Carmody Torrance Sandak & Hennessey LLP, who approached the CBF in March, 2017 with a proposal to create a five-year, public service fellowship program that would be funded by the Herbert and Nell Singer Foundation and administered by the CBF. The goals of the Fellowship program are 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 and to inspire Singer Fellows to continue their public service careers in Connecticut.

At Jay's request, CBF President Tim Shearin appointed a five member committee comprising CBF Vice President Andrea Barton Reeves, Hon. Jane Grossman, Anthony Minchella, Susan Garcia Nofi, and Cherie Phoenix to help Jay establish the program. Jay and the committee met several times over the summer, and by early September, the program guidelines, application and marketing brochure were completed. On September 14, 2017, a link to the program's information was added to the CBF website. The program is also being marketed on PSJD.org (Public Service Jobs Directory), a nationwide resource for law school graduates and law students searching for public service opportunities.

By working together, the Singer Foundation and the Connecticut Bar Foundation are striving to achieve the shared goals of encouraging new attorneys to enter the field of public service law in Connecticut. Beginning in 2018, the program expects to support three to five Fellows who will work for various legal aid organizations in our state.

Update on Fellows and Foundation Projects

We salute the winners of the **CBF James W. Cooper Fellows 2016-2017 Quintin Johnstone Essay Contest**. The statewide winner and recipient of a \$2,000 scholarship award is **Zach Reznikoff** of Greens Farms Academy, Westport, CT. The runners-up, who each received a \$1,000 scholarship award, are **Michelle Xiong** of Greenwich High School, Greenwich, CT, and **Daniel Coppinger** of Simsbury High School, Simsbury, CT. **Hon. Christine S. Vertefeulle**, as she has so graciously done many times, presided at the Awards Ceremony held at the Connecticut Supreme Court on Wednesday, June 7, 2017.

The essay contest committee, chaired by Robert A. Harris, is currently working on the fact pattern for the 2017-2018 contest which involves a high school student who believes she is the victim of reverse discrimination. We will be looking for approximately 150 or more Fellows to volunteer to serve as essay judges next spring.

The 25 interviews of Phase Two of the **Fellows History of Connecticut Women in the Legal Profession** have been edited and will be shown at a Reception on March 5, 2018, at a location to be determined. The videos will also be added to the CBF's YouTube channel in the near future. Attorney/Photographer **Isabel Chenoweth** is currently travelling to courthouses around the state to complete an additional 43 portraits, which will bring the project up to date. The photographs also will be displayed at the March 5, 2018 Reception. The framed photographs of 76 state and federal judges and magistrates from Phase One are on display in the Starr Reading Room of UCONN School of Law.

2017 Essay Contest Winners



From L-R: Daniel Coppinger, Hon. Christine S. Vertefeulle, Michelle Xiong and Zach Reznikoff.

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New Planned Giving Program

The CBF announces the unveiling of its new Planned Giving program. Making a tax deductible, charitable gift is an ideal way for individuals to support the CBF's mission to further the rule of law and to improve the administration of justice in Connecticut. For more information about planned giving to the CBF, please see our brochure at www.ctbarfdn.org/ctbar/plannedgiving.pdf, or contact Don Philips at don@cbf-1.org.

The Connecticut Bar Foundation



Improving the understanding of our judicial system and ensuring justice for all people since 1952.

*Leave a Legacy of Justice
Plan a gift to the CBF*

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!

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