

Nominee	Company/Organization	Nominator
Hon. Tom Colin (Ret.)	Schoonmaker, George, Colin, Blomberg, Bryniczka & Welsh, P.C.	Hon. Barry Armata

**Category:** Law Firm (previous State Judge)

**Nominator Comments:** Tom is a retired judge who was past chair of the CBA Family Law section and the past president of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. Whatever group he is in he gives it his all and has a good way of bringing about clarity, focus, brainstorming and action. I know because I was an officer when he was CBA chair. He seeks out talent and stresses promotion of the same to encourage a group mission and continuation. As a former judge, he has first-hand knowledge of the need of quality legal representation for indigent individuals and people with claims of legal injustice or harm.

**Staff Notes:** N/A

**Company/Organization Online Biography:** Attached

# THOMAS D. COLIN

## Founding Partner

Thomas D. Colin is a founding partner of Schoonmaker, George, Colin, Blomberg, Bryniczka & Welsh, P.C. Attorney Colin handles matters statewide, including all aspects of traditional client representation, litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution services as an arbitrator, mediator, special master and private judge.



## BACKGROUND & EXPERTISE

He returned to the firm in 2018 after spending five years as a trial court judge handling primarily family and criminal matters, including serving as the presiding judge for family matters in the judicial district of Stamford/Norwalk at Stamford, where some of the nation's most sophisticated financial family law cases are heard. As a judge, he also regularly presided over the weekly domestic violence criminal court docket and served on the Connecticut Judges Institute Education Committee and the Evidence Oversight Committee of the Supreme Court. His duties as a judge included handling criminal jury and bench trials, family court trials, probation violation, suppression and firearms safety hearings, arraignments, pretrial settlement conferences in both family and criminal cases, mediations in family cases and all of the usual and customary matters heard by a trial court judge. As a family court judge, he presided over the court docket and heard and mediated many cases involving sophisticated financial issues, particularly in the financial services/investments field, as well as many child custody matters.

Attorney Colin is an adjunct professor of family law at the Quinnipiac University School of Law where he has taught both basic and advanced family law, including family trial practice. He has lectured and taught nationally and in Connecticut to many groups, including judges, lawyers, law students and family services counselors and appeared on a nationally syndicated talk show as a legal analyst to discuss and demonstrate divorce mediation. His teaching topics generally involve family law, evidence (including electronic, social media and other computer related evidence) and trial practice and many are noted below. While a judge in 2013 and 2014, Attorney Colin was a member of the Connecticut Law Revision Commission Alimony Reform Study Committee.

Prior to becoming a judge, Attorney Colin had an extraordinary amount of trial and mediation experience throughout the state of Connecticut in complex child custody and financial divorce related matters including in many high profile cases involving individuals and their spouses in the entertainment, sports, medical, legal and finance industries. In many instances, he is the attorney that other attorneys hired for their own representation. He has represented husbands, wives, mothers, fathers, children and other witnesses in family law disputes. He earned a reputation as a skilled courtroom trial lawyer even though the overwhelming majority of his cases were resolved outside of court in a private manner through negotiation and mediation. In addition, he has a vast amount of experience in negotiating prenuptial agreements and litigating their enforceability. In 2007, Attorney Colin served as lead trial counsel for the successful parent in what was reportedly the longest child custody trial in United States history, spanning over eight months. In addition, Attorney Colin is a former President of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, and Chair of the family law sections of both the statewide Connecticut Bar Association and the Fairfield County Bar Association.

Attorney Colin received his Juris Doctor degree from the St. John's University School of Law in 1992. After completing law school, he served as a law clerk for Justice Paul L. Rudman of the Supreme Judicial Court of Maine. Attorney Colin then joined the law firm of Cummings & Lockwood in Stamford, Connecticut, where he joined two legends in the field of family law, Samuel V. Schoonmaker, III and Cynthia Coulter George, in the firm's family law practice group.

Nominee	Company/Organization	Nominator
Art Corey	Vice President and General Counsel, Connecticut Bankers Association	Steve Lewis

**Category:** Financial Services

**Nominator Comments:** Previous experience included 13 years with Hinckley Allen and Snyder. He brings together both legal experience and banking knowledge. I think he would be a great addition to our Board. He could help bridge the gap between the CBF, LSPs and Banks.

**Staff Notes:** Also previously nominated in 2020-2021. At that time the committee felt that having one connection to the banking community on the Board was sufficient but staff request that the committee consider adding at least one additional Board member from the financial sector.

**Company/Organization Online Biography:** Attached

## Contact

[www.linkedin.com/in/art-corey-b887b711](https://www.linkedin.com/in/art-corey-b887b711) (LinkedIn)

## Top Skills

Litigation

Commercial Litigation

Civil Litigation

# Art Corey

Vice President and General Counsel at Connecticut Bankers Association (CBA)

Hartford

## Experience

Connecticut Bankers Association (CBA)

1 year 6 months

Vice President and General Counsel

August 2020 - Present (6 months)

Farmington, Connecticut, United States

Vice President and Counsel

August 2019 - July 2020 (1 year)

Farmington, Connecticut

Hinckley, Allen & Snyder LLP

Counsel

May 2006 - July 2019 (13 years 3 months)

Connecticut Credit Union Association, Inc.

CEO/General Counsel

March 1997 - May 2006 (9 years 3 months)

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## Education

Western New England College School of Law

Juris Doctor (J.D.) · (1991 - 1994)

University of Vermont

Bachelor's Degree · (1984 - 1988)

**Nominee**

Karen DeMeola

**Company/Organization**

Assistant Dean, UConn School of Law

**Nominator**

Isa Squicciarini

**Category:** Law School

**Nominator Comments:** Karen would be a diverse candidate, who offers a great background in both her work on behalf of the CBA, her role as Dean at the UCONN Law School, and her focus on various diversity projects.

**CBF Staff Notes:** James W. Cooper Fellow since 2017, was a member of FEPC, and previously attended CBF board meetings when she was president of the CBA. She has participated in numerous CBF Symposia and Roundtables, and judged the Annual High School Essay Contest. Previously nominated and considered as a finalist in 2020-2021 but asked to defer due to her heavy workload at the time.

**Company/Organization Online Biography:****Karen DeMeola**

Assistant Dean for Finance, Administration, and Enrollment, Dean's Office

Office: Chase 104

Phone: 860-570-5086

[karen.demeola@uconn.edu](mailto:karen.demeola@uconn.edu)

Karen is the Assistant Dean for Finance, Administration, and Enrollment at the UConn School of Law. She received her undergraduate degree in psychology from UConn and her JD from UConn Law. After graduation from law school, Karen was a civil rights litigator whose practice focused primarily on employment discrimination, police brutality and housing discrimination. While at UConn Law, she has been an adjunct professor teaching Critical Identity Theory and has presented on numerous panels, symposia and conferences on diversifying law school populations, implicit bias, intersectionality, inclusive leadership, and diversity and inclusion. Karen has also created numerous pipeline projects, including the CBA Pathways to Legal Careers Pipeline. Karen is the immediate past president of the Connecticut Bar Association.

Karen was the recipient of the Lawyers Collaborative for Diversity Edwin Archer Randolph Diversity Award; the CWEALF Maria Miller Stewart Award; the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities Constance Baker Motley Award for Business and Law; and the University of Connecticut Spirit Award.

<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Company/Organization</b>	<b>Nominator</b>
Hon. Kari Dooley	US District Judge	Hon. Bill Bright

**Category:** Federal Judge

**Nominator Comments:** N/A

**CBF Staff Notes:** Judge Dooley was photographed in the first group of the Judges Portrait Project, attended the Photo Project Reception, and attended a CBF symposium.

**Company/Organization Online Biography:**

## Biography - District Judge Kari A. Dooley

Prior to her appointment as a United States District Judge, from 2004 until her appointment, Judge Dooley was a judge of the Superior Court for the State of Connecticut. Prior to her appointment to the state court bench by Governor M. Jodi Rell, between 1992 and 2004, Judge Dooley was an Assistant United States Attorney in the District of Connecticut. While at the U.S. Attorney's Office, she held various supervisory positions, to include, Counsel to the United States Attorney. Judge Dooley began her legal career at Whitman and Ransom, in Greenwich, Connecticut.

Judge Dooley graduated from Cornell University with a B.A. in psychology in 1985. She graduated from the University of Connecticut, School of Law, cum laude, in 1988.

**Nominee**  
Hon. Nina Elgo

**Company/Organization**  
Connecticut Appellate Court

**Nominator**  
Isa Squicciarini

**Category:** State Judge

**Nominator Comments:** Judge Elgo was the first Asian Pacific American judge appointed to the CT Appellate Court, and the CT Supreme Court. According to her bio, she has served in various capacities to support children, including as presiding judge for the Child Protection Session in Middlesex JD, and as a member of the Connecticut team selected to participate in the Three Branch Institute on Child, Social, and Emotional Well-Being Initiative sponsored by the National Governors Association.

**Staff Notes:** James W. Cooper Fellows since 2009 and became Life Fellow in 2018. Participates regularly on FEPC, was a panelist on various CBF symposia, was a facilitator on a Roundtable, is involved with History Project on Attorneys of Color Symposium, and has judged the Annual High School Essay Contest. Judge Elgo was photographed in the first group of the Judges Portrait Project and attended the Photo Project Reception.

**Company/Organization Online Biography:**



Judge Nina F. Elgo is the first Asian Pacific American judge appointed to the Connecticut Appellate Court and was the first Asian Pacific American judge appointed to the Connecticut Superior Court.

Governor Dannel P. Malloy nominated Judge Elgo to be a judge of the Appellate Court and the General Assembly confirmed her appointment on May 25, 2017.

Prior to her appointment to the Appellate Court, Judge Elgo served as a Superior Court judge since May 5, 2004. In this role, she heard civil matters in the Hartford Judicial District and also served as presiding judge for the Child Protection Session in the Middlesex Judicial District. Additionally, she presided over criminal, juvenile and habeas corpus cases in the Hartford, Tolland and New Haven judicial districts.

Judge Elgo has served on various committees designed to improve the court system. Since 2012, she has served as a member of the Connecticut Bar Examining Committee and previously served on the Rules Committee of the Superior Court. She is a James W. Cooper Life Fellow and serves on the Education and Program Committee of the Connecticut Bar Foundation. For many years, Judge Elgo served on the Committee for Judicial Education and has been a frequent faculty member/facilitator of the Connecticut Judges' Institute.

Additionally, in 2013, Governor Malloy appointed her to represent the Judicial Branch as a member of the Connecticut team selected to participate in the Three Branch Institute on Child Social and Emotional Well-Being Initiative sponsored by the National Governors Association.

Judge Elgo is the recipient of various awards and recognitions. In 2015, Judge Elgo was honored with the Native Daughter of Norwich Award; in 2014, she was the recipient of the CT Asian Pacific American Bar Association Impact Award; and in 2013, Judge Elgo was the recipient of the Edwin Archer Randolph Diversity Award. As the first Asian Pacific American judge in Connecticut, Judge Elgo was honored in 2006 by the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association Women's Caucus as a "Trailblazer in the Connecticut Judiciary." She was also a recipient of the 2007 Connecticut Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section Diversity Award.

Judge Elgo is also a member of the Swift's Inn, a Bencher Emeritus member of the Oliver Ellsworth Inn of Court and was active for several years with the Connecticut-Pskov Russian American Rule of Law Consortium.

Judge Elgo is a first generation Filipino-American, born in Groton, CT and raised in Norwich, CT. She received her BA from Connecticut College in 1984 and her Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center in 1990. Judge Elgo is married to Attorney Christopher Kriesen and they have a daughter, Caroline.



**Nominee**  
Steve Eppler-Epstein

**Company/Organization**  
Non-profit Consulting

**Nominator**  
Hon. Barry Armata  
Hon. Bill Bright  
Isa Squicciarini

**Category:** Legal Aid

**Nominator Comments:**

Armata: Steven would make an excellent Board member. His knowledge of legal aid organizations, the challenges they face, the inner workings and ideas of how the legal community could afford greater legal representation to a broader number of people would be of great benefit to the Board. He is dedicated and hardworking. I had the privilege of working with him on promoting the use of Limited Scope Representation in Connecticut. He was focused, engaged, prepared and a great partner in that movement.

Squicciarini: As everyone is familiar with Steve's background, I recommend his invitation to the Board so as to utilize his broad experience and knowledge with pro bono efforts and the Connecticut legal community.

**Staff Notes:** James W. Cooper Fellow since 2002. Participated on FEPC, Legal Service Conference Committee, Legislative Steering Group, History of Legal Aid Committee, and CBF symposia. Staff strongly recommend adding an individual with previous experience providing legal aid services to the board.

**Company/Organization Online Biography:** <https://www.linkedin.com/in/steven-eppler-epstein-5203329>



**Steven Eppler-Epstein**  
**Non-profit Consulting**  
Steve Eppler-Epstein  
Guilford CT

Steve Eppler-Epstein is a justice advocate and nonprofit consultant from Connecticut. His consulting focuses on advocacy organizations that benefit from strategic analysis/planning; executive coaching and supports; executive search; project design/development; and organizational and board training. Steve also works on a pro bono basis with immigrants and immigrant advocacy groups. Steve worked at Connecticut Legal Services from 1984 to 2017, serving as its executive director for more than 10 years. Steve is the vice-chair of the board of the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law, board member of the National Legal Aid & Defender Association, and a member of the Harvard A2J Lab Advisory Board. He has served on Connecticut's Access to Justice Commission, Victim Services Advisory Council, and the Board of the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence. His recognitions include the Governor's Victim Services Award, the Connecticut Bar Foundation's Legal Services Leadership Award, and the Connecticut Bar Association's Charles Parker Legal Services award.



**Nominee**  
Beck Fineman

**Company/Organization**  
Partner, Ryan Ryan Deluca LLP

**Nominator**  
Hon. Barry Armata

**Category:** Law Firm

**Nominator Comments:** Beck has been an asset to CBF since he became a Fellow. He assisted in organizing CBF Roundtables before he became a Fellow and is an active part of the Knights of the Roundtable. He consistently demonstrated his commitment to community and legal efforts through the various organizations and causes he supports. He is very philanthropic and works to ease the plight of folks in needs. Add to that his background and commitment and dedication to diversity and inclusion, he would offer a balanced vantage point and perspective to the undertakings of the Board.

**Staff Notes:** James W. Cooper Fellow since 2019. Member of the CBF Knights of the Roundtable Committee and has judged the Annual High School Essay Contest.

**Company/Organization Online Biography:** Attached

## Our Firm

## People

## Results

## Practice Areas

## Awards

## News

## Publications

## People

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### BECK S. FINEMAN

Partner

P: 203-541-5018

F: 203-549-6655

[bsfineman@ryandelucalaw.com](mailto:bsfineman@ryandelucalaw.com)

[vCard](#)

Beck Fineman is a partner in the firm. He litigates cases on behalf of the firm's corporate, governmental and individual clients, with a focus on labor and employment, railroad, professional negligence and personal injury cases. Beck has tried high exposure cases to verdict and has tried cases in federal and state courts in both Connecticut and New York, as well as in the federal administrative forum. He has briefed and argued six appeals to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second and Eleventh Circuits. Beck also has been an invited presenter at annual and special litigation meetings of the National Association of Railroad Trial Counsel, where he has shared his experience in trying the first cases arising under a new provision of the Federal Rail Safety Act.

Beck received the Connecticut Defense Lawyers Association's "Rising Stars" award in 2017. He has been selected for inclusion in Connecticut Super Lawyers® each year since 2013 and was named one of the Connecticut Law Tribune's "New Leader in the Law" in 2013.

Beck is as dedicated to his communities as he is to litigation. In 2012, he founded RRD's Volunteer Corps, through which he leads the firm's outreach to individuals and families in need throughout Fairfield County. Among other endeavors, the RRD Volunteer Corps has planted, and then expanded, a vegetable garden at a residential home for boys in the care of Department of Children and Families; prepared and served meals at shelters; volunteered with the Stamford-based DOMUS organization's "Holiday Mall" event providing gifts to families in need; and, contributed and sorted clothing donations for Darien-based Person-to-Person and for Bridgeport's LifeBridge Community Services. These efforts have resulted in lasting relationships with these organizations, and with others throughout Connecticut.

Beck serves as the chair of the firm's Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

Beck also is a member of the Board of Directors for the Family Equality Council, a non-profit organization working to advance legal and lived equality for LGBTQ families, by creating community connections and supporting policy changes. Beck also serves on the Consumer Advisory Board of Anchor Health Initiative, which offers medical and behavioral health care services to everyone, with a particular focus on the needs of the LGBTQ community. He is the Treasurer of the Connecticut Bar Association's LGBT Section and was chosen to sit on the Connecticut Defense Lawyers Association Board of Directors. Additionally, Beck has been selected as a "Knight of the Roundtables" for the Connecticut Bar Foundation, a non-profit organization of nominated lawyers, judges and teachers of law, dedicated to promoting equal access to justice in Connecticut. The Roundtables, organized and moderated by the Knights, provide Fellows an opportunity to examine timely issues involving the practice of law.

Prior to embarking on his legal career, Beck graduated Smith College, *magna cum laude*. He then worked as a legal assistant at Covington & Burling in Washington, D.C., before earning his juris doctorate from the University of Maryland School of Law. There, he served as a staff editor for the Journal of Race, Religion, Gender & Class, was a member of the executive board of the Moot Court Board, was selected to join the Phi Delta Phi scholastic fraternity, and received the James H. Rosner award for advocacy. Following law school, Beck served as a Legal Research Clerk to the Judges of the Superior Court of Connecticut. He joined RRD in 2007.

#### Professional Affiliations:

[Daniel E. Ryan III](#)

[Michael T. Ryan](#)

[Robert C. E. Laney](#)

[Robert O. Hickey](#)

[James J. Noonan](#)

[John F. Costa](#)

[Steven H. Malitz](#)

[James A. Mahar](#)

[Beck S. Fineman](#)

[Janice D. Lai](#)

[Maria Alexander](#)

[John W. Cannavino Jr.](#)

[Michael R. Young](#)

[Claire E. Ryan](#)

[Christopher J. Lynch](#)

[Michael P. Kenney](#)

[Liam M. West](#)

[Maciej A. Piatkowski](#)

[Jonathan C. Zellner](#)

[Michael C. Barbarula](#)

[Meredith C. Lander](#)

[Raymond J. Carta](#)

[Irene J. Kim](#)

[Edward N. Storck III](#)

[Kurt J. Young Jr.](#)

[Karen L. Allison](#)

[Ryan T. Daly](#)

[Shane A. Mathieu](#)

[Julia K. Steere](#)

[Shanique D. Fenlator](#)

[Amanda C. Stefanatos](#)

[Victoria K. Wunder](#)

[Amanda T. Heffernan](#)

[Jenna T. Cutler](#)

[Pamela D. Miller](#)

[Charles \(Chuck\) A. Deluca](#)

[Catherine S. Nietzel](#)

[Charles M. McCaghey](#)



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#### Education

B.A., *magna cum laude*, Smith College, 2001

J.D., University of Maryland School of Law, 2006

#### Admissions

Connecticut, 2006

New York, 2015

#### Practice Areas

Railroad

Appellate Practice

Commercial Litigation

Employment Law

#### News & Events

Super Lawyers Recognizes Thirteen Ryan Ryan Deluca Attorneys in Connecticut for 2018

Beck S. Fineman Presented with CDLA's Rising Star Award at Annual Fall Meeting

Ryan Ryan DeLuca Volunteer Corps Support Competitors at DOMUS NINER Cross Fit Fundraising Event

Beck S. Fineman Elected to Partner

[more »](#)

#### Results

RRD Obtains Summary Judgment in Railroad Injury Case

[Kevin M. Tepas](#)[Kieran M. Ryan](#)[Elizabeth Ryan Lane](#)[Colleen M. Magarian](#)

Connecticut Defense Lawyers Association

Board of Directors

Rising Star 2017

Connecticut Bar Association

Treasurer, LGBT Section

National Association of Railroad Trial Counsel

National LGBT Bar Association

Listed in Connecticut Super Lawyers Rising Stars (2013-2019)

Selected for inclusion in Connecticut Super Lawyers (2020)

RRD Wins Second Circuit  
Appeal in Labor Dispute CasePartner Robert Hickey Secures  
Appellate Win for Metro-NorthRRD Obtains Summary  
Judgment in ADA Case[more »](#)

## Representative Experience:

In March 2018, the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit finally put to rest the first ever lawsuit initiated under a whistleblower amendment to the Federal Rail Safety Act. Ten years earlier, in 2008, the plaintiff, an employee of Metro-North Commuter Railroad Company, filed a complaint with the United States Department of Labor, claiming that the railroad had unlawfully retaliated against him by denying, delaying and/or interfering with his medical treatment following an on-the-job injury. Although he had been provided emergency medical treatment, and although his employer paid for several months of post-accident treatment, the plaintiff claimed that the railroad violated the federal statute by declining to directly pay his ongoing medical expenses, instead referring his medical providers to the plaintiff's company-provided health insurance plan. Beck and partner Chuck Deluca successfully defended Metro-North in a trial to a Department of Labor Administrative Law Judge, who dismissed the plaintiff's case in its entirety. The plaintiff appealed to the Department of Labor's Administrative Review Board, which remanded and directed the ALJ to issue a new decision under the ARB's novel interpretation of the new federal amendment. When the ALJ ruled in the plaintiff's favor under that interpretation, Beck represented Metro-North in its appeal to the ARB, which upheld the ALJ's second decision in the plaintiff's favor. Beck then represented Metro-North in its appeal to the Second Circuit. That appeal was defended by the United States Department of Labor and involved complex issues of statutory interpretation and administrative law. Ultimately, the Second Circuit decided in Metro-North's favor and remanded to the ARB, which dismissed the plaintiff's claims in their entirety.

In August 2017, Beck teamed up with fellow partner Bob Hickey to obtain a full defense verdict on behalf of Metro-North Commuter Railroad Company and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, in a lawsuit brought by a trespasser, who climbed a catenary tower next to the railroad's right-of-way and was electrocuted by high voltage wires supplying electricity to the trains, resulting in burns over most of the man's body and amputation of both legs above the knees. He also suffered brain damage as the result of the electrocution. The trespasser alleged that Metro-North should be held liable because the railroad was on notice of others trespassing on the right-of-way and the catenary towers and claimed that his injury was precipitated by a hidden danger, namely, static electricity surrounding the wires, which startled him, knocking him off balance and onto the high voltage wires that ultimately caused his injuries. The case was tried over the course of two weeks in the United States District Court in New Haven. The plaintiff presented over 20 witnesses in total, including 7 expert witnesses, and asked the jury to award more than 90 million dollars in damages. In rendering a full defense verdict for Metro-North and the MTA, the jury found that the plaintiffs had failed to prove that Metro-North or the MTA had been negligent or that anything Metro-North or the MTA had done caused the trespasser's injuries.

Beck successfully defended Metro-North Commuter Railroad Company in the federal district court and in the Second Circuit in a case arising out of Metro-North's decision to terminate the plaintiff's employment. Metro-North's decision was upheld by a neutral arbitrator to whom the plaintiff appealed under his collective bargaining agreement. The plaintiff sued Metro-North, as well as his union and his union representative. With respect to the claims against the railroad, the plaintiff claimed that Metro-North violated the Labor Management Relations Act, and also sought to vacate the arbitrator's award upholding the termination under theories of due process and fraud. Following extensive briefing and oral argument, the district court found that the plaintiff's allegations, accepted as true to the extent the record permitted, did not state a viable claim, and dismissed his action in its entirety. The plaintiff appealed to the United States Court of

Appeals for the Second Circuit, which affirmed the district court's ruling.

Beck won a unanimous defense verdict after a two-week trial in the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut, in two consolidated cases brought by a railroad employee pursuant to the Federal Employers' Liability Act, which allows railroad workers to sue for on the job injuries caused by the negligence of the railroad. The plaintiff received electric shocks while working in a train repair shop on two different occasions and claimed partial paralysis, brain injury, cognitive deterioration and facial nerve injuries, all resulting in an inability to work or care for himself. The plaintiff's economic damage model included a significant life care plan and lost earning capacity component approaching \$15 million. The plaintiff's settlement demand was \$16 million. There were numerous experts called during the trial of the case by both sides, including electrical experts, economists, neurologists and neuropsychologists. The jury deliberated for approximately one hour before returning a defense verdict on both cases finding that the railroad was not negligent.

Beck tried a case to verdict in the United States District Court on behalf of Metro-North Commuter Railroad Company, in a case involving a Metro-North employee injured on the job and permanently medically disqualified from his railroad occupation following a partial amputation of the plaintiff's foot. The pre-trial settlement demand was \$875,000 and a final offer of \$150,000 was made at close of evidence. After more than one week of evidence and two days of deliberations, the jury found Metro-North only 10% liable and assessed 90% contributory negligence against plaintiff, resulting in a damages award totaling just under \$85,000, nearly one-half the final offer.

Beck successfully defended Metro-North Commuter Railroad Company in a lawsuit under the Family and Medical Leave Act. The plaintiff claimed interference and retaliation under the statute, as well as common law intentional infliction of emotional distress. A jury trial in the United States District Court resulted in a verdict in Metro-North's favor on the FMLA retaliation and intentional infliction claims. Although the jury found in the plaintiff's favor on the FMLA interference claim, it awarded plaintiff only \$612.50 in damages. The plaintiff's pretrial demand had been more than \$400,000.

Beck obtained a defense verdict in a trial in the United States District Court, in a case involving a Metro-North employee who had claimed retaliation under the Family and Medical Leave Act. When the employee later committed suicide, his widow continued to prosecute the retaliation claim, and brought a second claim for wrongful death under the Federal Employer's Liability Act. Faced with a demand of \$1,600,000, Beck and Chuck tried the case over ten days. The jury returned a verdict in favor of Metro-North on all counts.

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Stamford Office  
707 Summer Street  
Stamford, CT 06901  
Phone: 203-357-9200  
Fax: 203-357-7915

Bridgeport Office  
1000 Lafayette Blvd, Suite 800  
Bridgeport, CT 06604  
Phone: 203.549.6650  
Fax: 203.549.6655

Hartford Office  
CityPlace II  
185 Asylum Street, 6th floor  
Hartford, CT 06103  
Phone: 860-785-5150  
Fax: 860-785-5040

New York Office\*  
45 Knollwood Road, Suite 301  
Elmsford, NY 10523  
Phone: 888-656-9334  
Fax: 888-656-9335

\*By appointment only

Law Firm Website By eLawMarketing

**Nominee**  
Hon. Matthew Gordon

**Company/Organization**  
Connecticut Superior Court

**Nominator**  
Tory Chavey

**Category:** State Judge

**Nominator Comments:** Very involved in other bar organizations including the Hispanic Bar Association.

**Staff Notes:** James W. Cooper Fellow since 2006. Charter Roraback Fellows Circle Member, has attended numerous Roundtables and Fellows Receptions and other CBF events and has judged the Annual High School Essay Contest.

**Company/Organization Online Biography:** Attached

## Contact

[www.linkedin.com/in/matthewdallasgordon](http://www.linkedin.com/in/matthewdallasgordon) (LinkedIn)

## Top Skills

Litigation  
Personal Injury  
Commercial Litigation

## Languages

Spanish

# Matt Gordon

Judge  
West Hartford

## Summary

Judge Gordon was nominated by Connecticut Governor Dannel P. Malloy to serve as a Judge of the Connecticut Superior Court on May 10, 2017. Judge Gordon's nomination was subsequently approved by the Connecticut Legislature on or about May 25.

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## Experience

### Connecticut Judicial Branch

Judge  
May 2017 - Present (3 years 9 months)  
Hartford, Connecticut

### Hartford County Bar Association

President, Board of Directors, and Member  
January 1987 - Present (34 years 1 month)

Matt has proudly served as President, Secretary and Treasurer, and is currently an active member of the oldest (and best) bar association in the United States.

### American Bar Association

Member  
January 1987 - Present (34 years 1 month)  
ABA active Member

### Matthew Dallas Gordon LLC

Attorney and Owner  
November 2004 - May 2017 (12 years 7 months)

Matt and the other lawyers in his firm represent individuals and companies in employment, personal injury, product liability and general commercial litigation in the State and Federal Courts in Connecticut and New York. Matt is also admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court. Matt has tried numerous jury cases to verdict and has handled many cases on appeal before the Connecticut Appellate Court and the United States Court of Appeals.

#### COURT ADMISSIONS:

Admitted to practice in all Connecticut State and Federal Courts and the United States District Courts for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York, the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and the United States Supreme Court.

#### Connecticut Bar Association

##### Treasurer

June 2014 - June 2014 (1 month)

As Treasurer, Matt is responsible for overseeing the CBA's finances, reporting on the financial conditions of the organization at the annual meeting and from time to time to the board of directors, and discharging such other duties as may be required by the board of directors, or the President. As Treasurer, Matt is responsible for the funds of the Association and for getting the organization audited annually by a certified public accountant. In the absence of the President, President-Elect, the Vice President and the Secretary, the Treasurer presides over meetings of the CBA House of Delegates.

#### Connecticut Bar Association

##### House of Delegates Member

January 1987 - October 2009 (22 years 10 months)

Member of decision making body of the Connecticut Bar Association. Member of Legislative Review Committee and participant in several CBA Task Forces. Chair- CBA Audit Committee; Member - Treasurer's Advisory Committee.

#### Skelley Rottner P.C. (Partner/Shareholder)

##### Shareholder-Partner

January 1992 - September 2004 (12 years 9 months)

Matt represented insurance companies and individuals in personal injury, general commercial and insurance related litigation in Connecticut's State and Federal Courts. He tried numerous jury trials to verdict. Matt also argued several cases on appeal before the Connecticut Appellate Court. He was an active member of the Hartford County Bar Association during his tenure at SR and followed the lead of founding partner, Joe Skelley, by ultimately becoming President of the organization.

#### Day, Berry & Howard LLP

##### Litigation Associate Attorney

August 1987 - May 1992 (4 years 10 months)



As an associate attorney, Matt was responsible for all aspects of civil litigation and tried his first jury trial to verdict. He also handled numerous bench trials, depositions and other proceedings in the State and Federal Courts and the United State Bankruptcy Court.

#### COURT ADMISSIONS:

Admitted to practice in all Connecticut State and Federal Courts and the United States District Courts for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York, the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and the United States Supreme Court.

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## Education

The University of Connecticut School of Law  
JD, LAW · (1983 - 1987)

Bard College, Annendale-On-Hudson, NY  
B.A, Dramatic Arts · (1979 - 1981)

<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Company/Organization</b>	<b>Nominator</b>
Steven Greenspan	Vice President and Chief Litigation Counsel, Raytheon	Hon. Bill Bright

**Category:** In-House

**Nominator Comments:** I would again suggest Steven Greenspan from Raytheon (formerly UTC), whom we contacted last year but he needed to defer in light of the UTC/Raytheon merger.

**CBF Staff Notes:** James W. Cooper Fellow and Life Fellow since 2011 and has judged the Annual High School Essay Contest for the past ten years. He was also a panelist for the 2015 Kravitz Symposium. Previously nominated in 2020-2021.

**Company/Organization Online Biography:**

Personal Biography –Steven M. Greenspan is presently Chief Litigation Counsel for United Technologies Corporation. In his role, Attorney Greenspan oversees all worldwide litigation for UTC and its numerous divisions and subsidiaries. United Technologies Corporation (UTC) is a diversified company that provides a broad range of high-technology products and services to the global aerospace and building systems industries. UTC’s aerospace businesses are Sikorsky helicopters, Pratt & Whitney aircraft engines and UTC Aerospace Systems. UTC’s building systems businesses are Otis elevators and escalators, and UTC Climate, Controls & Security, which includes Carrier heating, air-conditioning and refrigeration systems, as well as fire and security solutions from brands such as Kidde and Chubb.

Attorney Greenspan graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1982 and from the University of Connecticut School of Law in 1985. While in law school, Attorney Greenspan was Managing Editor of the Connecticut Law Review. He served as a judicial law clerk for Associate Justice David M. Shea, Connecticut Supreme Court. Thereafter, he was in private practice from 1986 – 2010 with the law firm of Day Pitney, LLP and was elected a Partner of the firm in 1993. While in private practice as a commercial trial lawyer, Attorney Greenspan tried cases to successful jury verdicts and court judgments in federal and state courts in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, Delaware, Minnesota, Michigan, and New Jersey.

His professional affiliations include his service as a member of the Hartford County Bar Association, having served as its president in 2004 and a member of its board of directors from 1997 through 2005; the Connecticut Bar Association, serving as a member of its House of Delegates since 2005; and the University of Connecticut School of Law Foundation, serving as a trustee since 2000, and currently as president-elect.

**Nominee**

Hon. Jane Grossman

**Company/Organization**

Connecticut Superior Court

**Nominator**

Hon. Barry Armata

**Category:** State Judge

**Nominator Comments:** Jane is a strong member of CBF. She has worked on overseeing and producing the Roundtable programs and other education opportunities, including chairing the Singer Fellowship Program. She has significant knowledge of what legal aid providers' face as she worked in New Haven Legal Aid for a number of years. She was Family Support Magistrate and is an esteemed member of the Superior Court Bench. She is passionate about social justice and leads students every year to assist folks in third world countries with legal issues. The mission of CBF is who she is. She also teaches law students at Quinnipiac University School of Law.

**CBF Staff Notes:** James W. Cooper Fellow since 2017. Participated on Knights of the Roundtable Committee and Singer Fellowship Committee (current chair). Previously nominated in 2020-2021. She has participated in CBF receptions, symposia, and other events.

**Company/Organization Online Biography:** <https://patch.com/connecticut/hamden/hamden-resident-nominated-for-superior-court-judgeship>

**Nominee**

George Hermann

**Company/Organization**

President, Windsor Federal Savings and Loan

**Nominator**

Hon. Barry Armata

**Category:** Financial Services

**Nominator Comments:** George is the President of Windsor Federal Savings and Loan. He is a recognized leader in the banking community. I know George as he is a friend and neighbor who has given to various philanthropic and community projects. Given an interest in seating Board members with ties to the Banking community, I would suggest George.

**CBF Staff Notes:** While the staff strongly request that the committee consider adding more individuals from the financial sector to the Board, Windsor Federal S&L is not a CBF leadership bank (banks that voluntarily pay 1% or higher on IOLTA accounts), which could make it difficult for Mr. Hermann to promote that program within the banking community.

**Company/Organization Online Biography:** <https://patch.com/connecticut/windsorlocks/windsor-federal-savings-names-new-president>

## George Hermann

President & CEO at Windsor Federal Savings and Loan  
Windsor

### Experience

Windsor Federal Savings and Loan  
President & CEO  
February 2012 - Present (9 years)

The First National Bank of Suffield  
President & CEO  
October 2006 - January 2012 (5 years 4 months)

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### Education

Central Connecticut State University  
Bachelor's degree, Finance · (1976 - 1980)

ABA Stonier Graduate School of Banking

Western Connecticut State University  
Master of Science (MS), Finance, General

**Nominee**

Richard Knotek

**Company/Organization**

Partner, Mahoney Sabol

**Nominator**

Hon. Barry Armata

**Category:** Financial Services

**Nominator Comments:** I know Rich through his wife Jane, who worked in legal aid and was a staff attorney at the Community Law Center. I also know him from my prior firm's affiliation with Mahoney Sabol. Rich is an accountant who is community minded, knowledgeable and giving. I think he could be an excellent Board member.

**CBF Staff Notes:** Staff strongly request that the committee consider adding additional board members with ties to the financial industry as well as ties to legal services.

**Company/Organization Online Biography:**

Rich Knotek is a partner in charge of business clients in a wide range of industries, handling both common and unique business and tax issues that clients face throughout their lives. He provides practical, insightful guidance based on extensive experience in family businesses of all sizes. He strives to help clients build business strength while ensuring family wealth. Rich's practice includes complete individual tax services from consulting to reporting.

Rich's practice areas focus on family economics. Be it building a family business or creating family wealth as an individual, Rich utilizes business and tax know-how to secure and build financial futures. As the firm's head of trust and estate services, Rich's experience in the transition of wealth from one generation to the next takes on special meaning for his clients. He also specializes in international business and individual consulting and taxation as clients expand into the realm of foreign activities.

Rich's experience is almost exclusively with local accounting firms where his understanding of family business dynamics has been tempered.

Rich received a B.S.B.A Degree in Accounting from Georgetown University.

**Accreditation, Designation and Professional & Civic Activities**

Rich is a member of both state and national societies of CPAs and has served his community as an elected official on town boards, as well as board service on a number of charitable organizations. Rich is currently board chairman of MARC Community Resources, LTD., based in Middletown Connecticut, which services people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

**Nominee**

Walter Menjivar

**Company/Organization**

Associate General Counsel, Office of the Governor

**Nominator**

Maggie Castinado

**Category:** Government

**Nominator Comments:** N/A

**CBF Staff Notes:** James W. Cooper Fellow and Life Fellow since 2018. Participated on the Diversity Symposium Planning Committee and attended a CBF symposium before he became a Fellow.

**Company/Organization Online Biography:** Attached



UConn School of Law new Graduates of the Last Decade Impact Award  
**Walter Menjivar '12**

Walter Menjivar is an assistant attorney general in the Health and Education Division of the Connecticut Office of the Attorney General. He has served as president of the Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association and on the House of Delegates for the Connecticut Bar Association. He was recently nominated a James W. Cooper fellow of the Connecticut Bar Foundation.

## Contact

[www.linkedin.com/in/waltermenjivar](http://www.linkedin.com/in/waltermenjivar) (LinkedIn)

## Top Skills

Commercial Litigation  
Civil Litigation  
Legal Research

## Languages

Spanish

## Certifications

Bar Admissions

# Walter Menjivar

Associate General Counsel, Office of the Governor  
West Hartford

## Experience

Office of the Governor  
Associate General Counsel  
February 2019 - Present (2 years)  
Hartford, Connecticut

Connecticut Office of the Attorney General  
Assistant Attorney General  
March 2015 - Present (5 years 11 months)  
Hartford, Connecticut

Day Pitney LLP  
Commercial Litigation Associate  
September 2012 - March 2015 (2 years 7 months)

City of Hartford  
Corporation Counsel Legal Intern  
September 2010 - May 2012 (1 year 9 months)

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## Education

The University of Connecticut School of Law  
Doctor of Law (JD), Law · (2009 - 2012)

Vanderbilt University  
Bachelor of Arts (BA), Public Policy Analysis · (2005 - 2009)



**Nominee**

Susan Nofi

**Company/Organization**

Chairperson, Employment Security Board of Review (CTDOL)

**Nominator**

Hon. Bill Bright

**Category:** Government (previously Legal Aid)**Nominator Comments:** N/A

**CBF Staff Notes:** Previous Executive Director of the New Haven Legal Assistance Association. James W. Cooper Fellow and Life Fellow since 2013. Participated on the History of Legal Aid Symposium Planning Committee, FEPC, Knights of the Roundtable Committee, and Singer Fellowship Committee. Attended numerous Roundtables and symposia and other CBF events and has judged the Annual High School Essay Contest.

**Company/Organization Online Biography:** Attached<https://www.cfgnh.org/articles/advisory-board-spotlight-susan-garcia-nofi>

## Contact

[www.linkedin.com/in/susangarcianofi](http://www.linkedin.com/in/susangarcianofi) (LinkedIn)

## Top Skills

Legal Writing  
Appeals  
Legal Research

## Languages

Spanish (Full Professional)  
English (Native or Bilingual)

## Publications

Connecticut's Online Learning Tools for Self-Represented Parties & Pro Bono Attorneys

Unemployment Appeals: Can Your Program Really Do More with Less?--the Legal Aid Perspective

Representing Claimants in Unemployment Compensation Proceedings: Lessons Learned from Hearing and Deciding These Cases

# Susan Garcia Nofi

Chairperson, Employment Security Board of Review  
Wethersfield

## Summary

Chair of three-member board that decides appeals from referee decisions in unemployment compensation matters in Connecticut. Executive head of the Employment Security Appeals Division, an autonomous, quasi-judicial agency housed in the Connecticut Department of Labor.

## Experience

Connecticut Department of Labor  
2 years 4 months

Chairperson, Employment Security Board of Review  
December 2018 - Present (2 years 2 months)  
Wethersfield, CT

Counsel, Employment Security Board of Review  
October 2018 - December 2018 (3 months)  
Wethersfield, CT

Central West Justice Center  
Staff Attorney  
November 2016 - October 2018 (2 years)  
Springfield, Massachusetts

Represented low-income residents of central and western Massachusetts in unemployment compensation, wage and hour and other employment matters. Successfully represented bean sprout packing workers before the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts in *Arias-Villano & others vs. Chang and Son Enterprises & others*. The court held that the workers were not exempt from overtime under state law.

New Haven Legal Assistance Association, Inc.  
7 years 2 months

Executive Director  
September 2012 - November 2016 (4 years 3 months)  
New Haven

Led nonprofit legal services organization: responsibilities included fiscal, resource development, human resources and program management. Established and maintained external relationships with the private bar, the legal community, client and community groups, and funders. Worked with the board, management and staff to fulfill mission of providing high-quality legal services to low-income people in the Greater New Haven and Lower Naugatuck Valley communities.

#### Deputy Director

October 2009 - September 2012 (3 years)

Provided legal advice and representation to clients; represented NHLAA at community events, task forces, boards, and committees; assisted the Executive Director in the following areas: financial management of the program; program planning and administration; supervision of staff; development/implementation of organizational goals. Served on the project team and content editorial team for CTLawHelp.org.

#### Connecticut Department of Labor

6 years 11 months

##### Principal Attorney, Employment Security Board of Review

August 2005 - September 2009 (4 years 2 months)

Analyzed records of unemployment compensation appeals and made recommendations to the board of review; drafted board of review decisions; served as hearing officer; served as mediator; represented the board in court proceedings; reviewed court decisions, proposed legislation, statutes and regulations to determine impact on administrative proceedings; drafted policy memoranda for appeals division staff; drafted agency regulations; served as representative on agency committees; conducted staff training; mentored referees.

##### Employment Security Appeals Referee / Associate Employment Security Appeals Referee

November 2002 - August 2005 (2 years 10 months)

Performed quasi-judicial work conducting hearings and rendering decisions in unemployment compensation appeals, which included eliciting relevant sworn testimony from interested parties, ruling on the admissibility of evidence, conducting legal research and issuing written decisions applying statutory, regulatory and case law to the evidence in the record. Responded to general and technical inquiries regarding appeals division procedures and Connecticut unemployment insurance law.

New Haven Legal Assistance Association, Inc.

Staff Attorney

January 1996 - October 2002 (6 years 10 months)

Represented low-income clients before administrative agencies, state and federal courts. Recruited, hired, trained and supervised law student interns and volunteers. Staffed satellite office and conducted community outreach program.

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## Education

Quinnipiac University School of Law

J.D., Law · (1991 - 1994)

Southern Connecticut State University

B.S., Communications · (1988 - 1991)

Ansonia High School

**Nominee**

Andrew O'Toole

**Company/Organization**

O'Toole + O'Toole LLC

**Nominator**

Tory Chavey

**Category:** Law Firm

**Nominator Comments:** Excellent person and lawyer with his own firm in Hartford - great work ethic and strong collaborator.

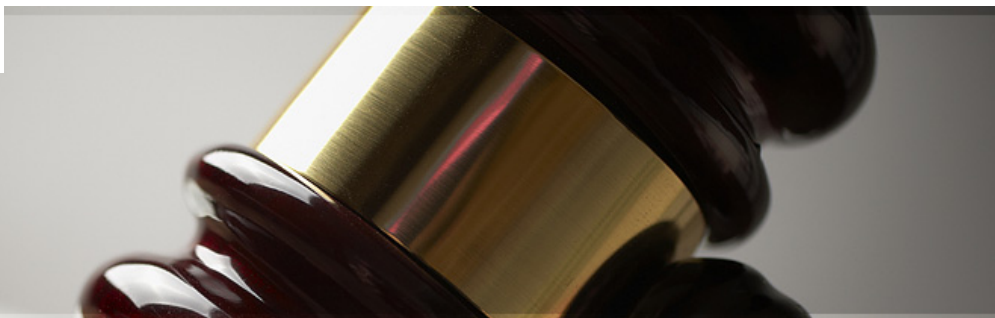
**CBF Staff Notes:** N/A

**Company/Organization Online Biography:** Attached



Limited Liability Company

## Sophisticated litigation boutique helping you navigate complex disputes



### Andrew D. O'Toole

Andrew D. O'Toole represents individuals and businesses in commercial disputes, appeals, government and regulatory enforcement proceedings and internal investigations. He also advises on compliance matters related to state insurance, FINRA and state securities rules and regulations.



Mr. O'Toole has successfully represented individuals and large financial institutions and their employees in state and federal court proceedings and arbitrations. He has also represented clients in litigations and arbitrations involving a wide range of substantive areas, including joint ventures, trust agreements, federal tax refunds, fraud allegations, ERISA and federal securities laws. He has also advised and represented clients before various federal, state, and regulatory bodies, including the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), FINRA, the Department of Justice, the Department of Labor, various United States Attorney's Offices, State Attorneys General, and state insurance and securities divisions. Mr. O'Toole has also conducted internal investigations for clients.

#### Education

Harvard Law School, J.D., 1998  
cum laude

Columbia University, B.A., 1992  
summa cum laude

#### Clerkship

Hon. Janet Bond Arterton

U.S. District Court for the District of  
Connecticut

#### Bar Admissions

U.S. Supreme Court  
State of Connecticut  
State of New York  
U.S. District Court, D. Conn.  
U.S. District Court, S.D.N.Y.  
U.S. District Court, E.D.N.Y.

#### Contact

Tel: 860.519.5805  
email: aotoole@otoolegroup.com

Mr. O'Toole previously served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of New York. During his time with the United States Attorney's Office, Mr. O'Toole represented the United States and its agencies in all phases of civil litigation, including pre-trial, trial and appeals. He was responsible for a range of cases involving commercial law, international law, tax, bankruptcy, fair housing, employment law, constitutional law, environmental, bankruptcy and tort law. Mr. O'Toole has briefed and argued ten appeals before the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. He also led investigations under the federal False Claims Act involving allegations of healthcare fraud and fraud in connection with government contracts. He has litigated a broad range of tax enforcement matters including enforcement of administrative summons, litigation seeking to reduce assessments to judgment, protection of liens, applications for seizure and foreclosure.

Mr. O'Toole served as a law clerk to the Honorable Janet Bond Arterton of the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut.

Mr. O'Toole graduated cum laude from Harvard Law School where he was the President of the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau. Mr. O'Toole is a Phi Beta Kappa, summa cum laude graduate of Columbia University. Before attending law school, Mr. O'Toole worked in commercial real estate finance and securitization for a Fortune 100 financial institution and the New York City Mayor's Office of Construction.

**Nominee**  
Sonja Pedraza

**Company/Organization**  
Senior Counsel, Travelers Insurance

**Nominator**  
Maggie Castinado

**Category:** In-House

**Nominator Comments:** N/A

**CBF Staff Notes:** N/A

**Company/Organization Online Biography:** Attached

<https://patch.com/connecticut/northbranford/an--north-branford-resident-sonia-pedraza-selected-asf79274ba08>



## Contact

[www.linkedin.com/in/sonia-pedraza-45889794](http://www.linkedin.com/in/sonia-pedraza-45889794) (LinkedIn)

## Top Skills

Litigation

Legal Research

Legal Writing

## Languages

Spanish (Native or Bilingual)

# Sonia Pedraza

Senior Counsel at Travelers  
Hartford

## Experience

Travelers

5 years 4 months

Senior Counsel

September 2019 - Present (1 year 5 months)

Hartford, Connecticut

Counsel

October 2015 - September 2019 (4 years)

Shipman & Goodwin LLP

Associate

September 2006 - October 2015 (9 years 2 months)

Sonia Pedraza's practice focused on tort, product liability and business litigation, as well as employment based immigration matters. She represented major product manufacturers and retail establishments in a variety of matters ranging from premises liability to defective design cases. She has also handled complex business litigation matters for major oil companies involving franchise relationship issues, the Petroleum Marketing Practices Act, and Department of Transportation jurisdictional issues. Prior to practicing law, Sonia held positions at two major insurance companies for over thirteen years.

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## Education

Quinnipiac University School of Law

Doctor of Law (JD) · (2002 - 2006)

University of Connecticut

Bachelor's degree, Sociology and Economics, Cum Laude · (1988 - 1992)

<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Company/Organization</b>	<b>Nominator</b>
Hon. Robert A. Richardson	US Magistrate Judge	Hon. Barry Armata Tory Chavey

**Category:** Federal Judge

**Nominator Comments:**

Armata: Given the departure of Judge Hall from the Board of Directors and a desire to keep connections with the Federal Bench, I suggest Judge Robert A. Richardson. I knew Rob from days in private practice when we had a case together. I found him very ethical, dedicated and committed to doing what was right. He is organized, thoughtful and believes strongly in the rule of law and the need for people who are wronged to have legal representation, thus his tenure in a plaintiff's employment firm. I think he would make an excellent addition to the Board.

Chavey: Great work ethic and demeanor, and I think he would be very interested in the work of CBF.

**CBF Staff Notes:** Previous plaintiff-side attorney prior to appointment as a federal magistrate judge.

**Company/Organization Online Biography:** <https://garrisonlaw.com/garrison-levin-epstein-celebrates-former-partner-u-s-magistrate-judge-robert-richardson/>

## Biography - Judge Robert A. Richardson

Judge Robert A. Richardson was appointed to the position of United States Magistrate Judge on January 12, 2016. He received his Bachelor's degree from the Pennsylvania State University in 1988, and his Juris Doctor from the Ohio State (Moritz) College of Law in 1991. He was a Managing Editor for the Ohio State Law Journal from 1990-91.

After graduating law school, Judge Richardson joined the New Haven, Connecticut law firm formerly known as Garrison, Silbert & Arterton, P.C., which later became Garrison, Levin-Epstein, Richardson, Fitzgerald & Pirrotti, P.C. His practice focused on representing individuals and employees in employment matters and civil rights matters, in both state and federal courts.

While in private practice, Judge Richardson served on the District Court's Federal Grievance Committee and on a Federal Magistrate Judge Merit Review Panel. He was active in numerous state and local bar activities. He was a Co-chair of the Connecticut Bar Association's ("CBA") Federal Judiciary Committee, served on the CBA's Committee on Professional Ethics, served on the Executive Board for the CBA's Labor & Employment Section, and served on the CBA's Task Force on Multi-Jurisdictional Practice. He was also a Vice President of the New Haven Inn of Court and a Vice President of the National Employment Lawyers' Association.

Judge Richardson is an elected Member of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

Nominee	Company/Organization	Nominator
Jessica Torres	Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General	Maggie Castinado

**Category:** Government

**Nominator Comments:** N/A

**CBF Staff Notes:** James W. Cooper Fellow since 2012. Participated on History of Attorneys of Color Committee and attended numerous symposia and other CBF events and has judged the Annual High School Essay Contest. Nominated 2020-2021.

**Company/Organization Online Biography:**

## Jessica Torres

Assistant Attorney General  
Hartford

### Experience

CT Assistant Attorney General  
Office of the Attorney General  
November 2005 - Present (15 years 3 months)

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### Education

Western New England University School of Law  
Juris Doctor (J.D.) · (1996 - 1999)

**Nominee**  
Magdalena Wiktor

**Company/Organization**  
Associate, Madsen, Prestley & Parenteau LLC

**Nominator**  
Tory Chavey

**Category:** Law Firm

**Nominator Comments:** Accomplished employment lawyer in New London, earlier in her career than many other Board members.

**CBF Staff Notes:** N/A

**Company/Organization Online Biography:**

## Magdalena Wiktor

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Magdalena Wiktor graduated from Trinity College in 2006 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature. She received her Juris Doctor degree in 2010 from the University of Connecticut School of Law.

During her time in law school, Magdalena was Interscholastic Director of the Connecticut Moot Court Board and was Executive Editor of the Connecticut Public Interest Law Journal. During law school, Magdalena worked in UConn's Criminal Appellate Clinic, representing an incarcerated individual in the appeal of a criminal conviction to the Connecticut Appellate Court. Magdalena also held internships with the Connecticut State's Attorney's Office in its Asset Forfeiture Division and on the Domestic Violence docket at G.A. 15, Hartford Superior Court. Magdalena joined Madsen, Prestley & Parenteau in 2010.

### **Bar Admissions**

Connecticut, 2010

United States District Court for the District of Connecticut, 2011

### **Professional Organizations**

Connecticut Bar Association

National Employment Lawyers Association

Connecticut Employment Lawyers Association



### **Contact:**

Direct Dial: 860-910-4819

Email: Magdalena Wiktor