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**TWENTY-SIX NEW FELLOWS ELECTED TO THE CONNECTICUT BAR FOUNDATION
JAMES W. COOPER FELLOWS PROGRAM**

Hartford, Connecticut (April 1, 2025) – The Connecticut Bar Foundation (CBF) James W. Cooper Fellows Program recently elected twenty-six new Fellows, according to the Honorable Victoria Woodin Chavey, President of the Connecticut Bar Foundation. [See the list of new Fellows below.] Fellows are nominated by their peers based on their outstanding service to the profession and larger community and are elected by the CBF Board of Directors. “We are pleased to recognize our new Fellows for their distinguished service to the legal profession, and for their commitment to the principles of equal justice and the rule of law,” said Judge Chavey.

The CBF’s mission is to facilitate systemic change that advances civil justice for all, regardless of power or resources, to achieve a more just and equitable society. The James W. Cooper Fellows Program, now in its 30th year, helps further that mission by developing and sponsoring projects and programs to promote a better understanding of the legal profession, the judicial system, and the role of law in society; to explore ways to improve the profession and the administration of justice; and to further the highest ideals of the legal system.

“We extend a warm welcome to the 2025 Fellows and look forward to their support of and participation in the many programs at the CBF. By examining issues that are critical to the pursuit of equal access to justice, these programs strive to improve the legal system in Connecticut,” the Honorable Barry F. Armata, Chair of the Fellows Program, added. Fellows programs tackle topics of timely importance to the legal community, and include several speaker series, symposia, roundtable discussions, mentorships, a high school essay contest, and a Fellowship for recent law school graduates. CBF programming, including the *Constance Baker Motley Speaker Series on Racial Inequality*, has received national attention. More information about these and other Fellows programs can be found at www.ctbarfdn.org.

The Fellows consist of lawyers in private practice, U.S. Court of Appeals judges, U.S. District Court judges, Connecticut Supreme, Appellate, and Superior Court judges, corporate counsel, attorneys in non-profit associations and legal services agencies, and government lawyers. The program also includes law school deans, former deans, and professors of law, past and current leadership of the Connecticut Bar Association and other bar associations, and present and former government leaders.

The 2025 Fellows are as follows:

Anthony Ciolli	Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands
Hon. Tracy Lee Dayton	State of Connecticut, Judicial Branch
Aaron Dhir	University of Connecticut School of Law
Jennifer Ferrante	Center for Family Justice
Bridget Gallagher	Brown Paindiris & Scott, LLP
Dean Brian Gallini	Quinnipiac University School of Law
Hon. Jesse Giddings	State of Connecticut, Judicial Branch
Hon. Christopher Griffin	State of Connecticut, Judicial Branch
Sarah Healey	Carmody Torrance Sandak & Hennessey LLP
Jennifer Herbst	Quinnipiac University School of Law & Frank H. Netter, MD, School of Medicine
Daniel Jo	Silver Golub & Teitell LLP
Mary Kelly	Livingston, Adler, Pulda, Meiklejohn & Kelly, PC
Hon. Daniel Klau	State of Connecticut, Judicial Branch
Sandra Lautier	Robinson & Cole LLP
Samuel Neves	Connecticut Legal Services
Hon. Chris Pelosi	State of Connecticut, Judicial Branch
Darren Pruslow	Connecticut Veterans Legal Center

Jessica Ritter	Shipman & Goodwin LLP
C. Scott Schwefel	Shipman, Shaiken & Schwefel, LLC
Erin Shaffer	Shipman & Goodwin LLP
Hon. Amir Shaikh	State of Connecticut, Judicial Branch
Hon. Sophia Shaikh	State of Connecticut, Office of the Probate Court Administrator
Hon. Jessica Simpson	State of Connecticut, Judicial Branch
Richard Twilley	Athorus, PLLC
Marie-Louise Villar	State of Connecticut Judicial Branch, Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel
Carleen Zubrzycki	University of Connecticut School of Law

The Program is named in honor of James W. Cooper, who served as president of the CBF from 1973 to 1975 and made a generous bequest to the CBF. He also served as president of the Connecticut Bar Association from 1957-1958. In 1982, Attorney Cooper received the Charles J. Parker Award for distinguished contributions to legal services for the poor. He taught at Yale Law School from 1930 to 1932 and was a senior partner of the firm of Tyler, Cooper and Alcorn in New Haven.

In addition to the work of the Fellows program, the CBF pursues its mission by stewarding funding, volunteers, programming, data, innovation, and collaboration to lead and partner in integrated approaches to improving the administration of civil justice. Specifically, the CBF administers several grant programs that fund the delivery of legal services for Connecticut residents who cannot afford an attorney, including the Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts and the Interest on Trust Accounts programs, the Judicial Branch Grants-in-Aid, the Court Fees Grants-in-Aid, and the state's Right to Counsel program.

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