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For Immediate Release

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CONNECTICUT BAR FOUNDATION NAMES
EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL STATEWIDE ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

The Connecticut Bar Foundation James W. Cooper Fellows program sponsored its Sixteenth Annual Quintin Johnstone Statewide High School Essay Contest this year. The contest, open to high school students at all public and private schools statewide, invited students to prepare an essay on the topic “Diversity Disagreement?”. This year’s topic dealt 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. She believes she is being discriminated against both economically and in terms of her background. Contest entrants are asked to assume the role of the school district lawyer who is called upon to provide a recommendation for or against selecting the student for the subsidized spot. Submissions were evaluated by panels that included Connecticut Supreme, Appellate and Superior Court judges, Federal District Court judges, law school professors and practicing attorneys. Supreme Court Senior Justice Christine Vertefeuille presented awards to the three contest winners at a special ceremony, which was held at the Connecticut Supreme Court on June 5th, 2018.

Seamus Connor, a home schooled senior, was awarded the statewide prize. The two runner-up prizes were awarded to Daniel Coppinger, a junior at Simsbury High School and Katarina Flicker, a senior at Greens Farms Academy. Andrea Barton Reeves, President of the Connecticut Bar Foundation, noted that the winning essays “reflect thoughtful, well written presentations of a controversial topic.” The Fellows presented a \$2,000 cash prize to Seamus Connor and \$1,000 cash prizes to Daniel Coppinger and Katarina Flicker.

Seamus Connor, son of Sean and Susan Connor of Woodstock Valley, Connecticut, has received the following honors: National Merit Scholar, and Captain of the 2017 World Champion Written and Oral Debate Team of Westfield Academy IPPF. In addition, Connor actively participated in the following extracurricular activities including Debate Team, Theater at Ashford Shakespeare Project, and Trial Maintenance Crew Volunteer at Appalachian Mountain Club. He plans to attend Williams College next fall.

Daniel Coppinger, son of Lori and Daniel Coppinger of Simsbury, Connecticut, has received the following honors: DAR Christopher Columbus Essay Contest 3rd place national and state winner, National World War II Museum Essay Contest 3rd Place National winner, and the Federal Bar Association Essay contest 2nd place national winner. In addition, Coppinger actively plays on the Junior Varsity baseball team for Simsbury High School. He was also a runner up in the 2016-2017 Connecticut Bar Foundation James W. Cooper Fellows Quintin Johnstone Essay Contest on the topic of “Taking a Knee or Taking a Stand”. His goal is to be a forensic accountant.

Katarina Flicker, daughter of Mary and James Flicker of Fairfield, has received the following honors: Head of School Distinction, Williams College Book Award, and AP Scholar. In addition, Flicker actively participated in the following at Greens Farms Academy: Student Council and Greens Farms Academy Forum. Flicker's extracurricular activities outside of school include being Captain on the Varsity Girl's Tennis, and GFA Harbor Blues A Capella. She plans to study international relations in college and hopes to then attend law school.

The Connecticut Bar Foundation, established in 1952, is a non-profit organization that administers the Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts and the Interest on Trust Accounts programs for the benefit of legal services agencies and for law school scholarships based on financial need. It also administers the Judicial Branch Grants-in-Aid and the Court Fees Grants-in-Aid programs for legal services organizations. The Connecticut Bar Foundation James W. Cooper Fellows Program was established in 1994. The Fellows promote a better understanding of the legal profession through the sponsorship and production of a diverse array of programs and projects, which seek to improve the legal profession and the administration of justice in Connecticut. Quintin Johnstone was a professor at Yale Law School before his death in 2014. Professor Johnstone served as president of the Connecticut Bar Foundation from 1987-1991, participated in a variety of Fellows Projects for many years, and was a longtime member of the Fellows Education and Program Committee, which helps to organize the annual Essay Contest.

Further information on the Connecticut Bar Foundation James W. Cooper Fellows Quintin Johnstone Essay Contest can be found on the Foundation's website, www.ctbarfdn.org. The deadline for entries for the 2018-2019 contest is February 22, 2019.

**THE CONNECTICUT BAR FOUNDATION
JAMES W. COOPER FELLOWS
2017-2018 STATEWIDE ESSAY CONTEST WINNER PHOTO**

**Press Photo File Name: CBF 2017-2018 Statewide Essay Contest Awards Ceremony-54
Press Photo (left to right):**

- Connecticut Supreme Court Chief Justice Richard A. Robinson
- Connecticut Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Christine S. Vertefeuille
- Andrea Barton Reeves, President, Connecticut Bar Foundation
- Seamus Connor, Home Schooled (Graduated)
- Katarina Flicker, Greens Farms Academy (Graduated)
- Daniel A. Schwartz, Chair, James W. Cooper Fellows
- Daniel Coppinger, Simsbury High School (Senior)
- Robert A. Harris, Chair, James W. Cooper Fellows Essay Contest
- Connecticut Supreme Court Justice Maria Araujo Kahn