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# CONNECTICUT BAR ASSOCIATION NEWS & EVENTS

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## CBA Celebrates 2015 Law Day

The Connecticut Bar Association hosted its annual Law Day Celebration on Monday, May 4, 2015 at the Connecticut Appellate Court in Hartford. This year's theme was "No Person is Above the Law."

In commemoration of the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta, the CBA's Annual Law Day Celebration tested the principle that no person stands above the law by holding a mock jury trial in the case of *State v. Kim Dixon*. Middlesex County State's Attorney Peter McShane and Public Defender James McKay tried the thought-provoking case of *State v. Dixon*, in which a 17-year-old high school student from a wealthy and prominent family is charged with assaulting a student from a low income family as the culmination of a long campaign of cyberbullying—which school officials had ignored because of the wealth and community standing of the defendant's family.

Students from Region 4 High School in Deep River played the witnesses and students from Crosby High School in Waterbury served as the jury. **CL**



2015 Law Day participants.

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## The ADA at 25: A Celebration

The "ADA at 25: A Celebration" was held on July 22 at UConn Law School. This event was hosted by the CBA Labor and Employment Law Section in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. A panel of experienced labor and employment practitioners, skilled in representing both employers and employees, presented a review highlighting major decisions and the evolution of reasonable accommodations in the workplace.

Moderated by Sachin Pandya, Professor of Law at UConn Law School, the panel was comprised of Nancy Brouillet, Assistant Attorney General for the Office of the Attorney General for the

State of Connecticut; Michelle A. Duprey, Department of Services for Persons with Disabilities for the City of New Haven; Gabriel J. Jiran, Shipman & Goodwin LLP in Hartford; and Gary Phelan, Mitchell & Sheahan PC in Stratford. The discussion offered attendees a better understanding and increased awareness of the ADA as well as best practices for attorneys when helping clients meet ADA requirements, the role of technology in complying with the ADA, and likely developments in this area of the law.

Following the panel, a reception was held for speakers and attendees to network and discuss the topics that were covered. **CL**

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## CBA Welcomes New Communications Associate

The CBA is pleased to welcome Michael Ficorilli to its team as a communications associate. In this role, Mike's primary areas of focus will be in web marketing, social media, and member engagement. He is an integral part of launching and managing the association's new enhanced listserv communication feature, SideBar. Mike is currently pursuing a graduate degree in strategic communication from Central Connecticut State University and is originally from Guilford. **CL**



# YLS Hosts Youth Law Academy

Over 150 students from across the state attended the “Youth Law Academy” hosted by CBA-YLS on Friday, May 29 at Quinnipiac University School of Law in North Haven.

The program is designed to educate students about the law and to encourage them to consider a career in the legal profession. The day featured a panel discussion with Supreme Court Justice Richard A. Robinson and Superior Court Judges Antonio C. Robaina, Nina F. Elgo, and Vernon D. Oliver as well as a mock law class with Judge Angela C. Robinson. CBA member attorneys participated in breakout sessions to engage students in small group discussions about legal concepts and explore potential career paths in the law. Students also got some tips on the college and law school admissions process from Karen DeMeola, Assistant Dean of Students at UConn Law and Kathy A. Kuhar, Associate Dean of Students at Quinnipiac University School of Law. The academy was supported with a generous sponsorship from Day Pitney LLP. **CL**



Students from New London High School at the YLS Youth Law Academy.

## Peers & Cheers

E-mail editor@ctbar.org with submissions for the Peers & Cheers section

The law firm of **Wiggin and Dana LLP** has appointed partner **Jeffrey Babbin** to the Advisory Committee on Appellate Rules by **Chief Justice Chase T. Rogers**. In his new role, Attorney Babbin will advise the Connecticut state appellate courts on proposed amendments to the rules of appellate procedures. He is currently a partner in the firm’s Litigation Department and is a member of the Appellate and Complex Legal Issues Practice Group.



Dena Castricone

Governor Dannel P. Malloy has appointed **Murtha Cullina LLP** attorney **Dena Castricone** to serve as a member of the Citizen’s Ethics Advisory Board (CEAB). The CEAB, which is the governing body of the Office of State Ethics, consists of nine members. The board administers Connecticut’s Code of Ethics for public officials, state employees, and lobbyists. Attorney Castricone’s appointment is a four-year term.

**Jeffrey M. Sklarz** of **Green & Sklarz LLC** was appointed co-chair of the American Bankruptcy Institute’s Bankruptcy Taxation Committee. Jeff’s practice is focused on representing businesses and individuals with complex financial litigation needs, including bankruptcy/bankruptcy litigation, creditor/debtor litigation, tax litigation, pension and employee benefit litigation, and commercial litigation.

**Jackson Lewis PC** is pleased to welcome shareholder **Richard Vitarelli** to the firm’s Hartford office. Attorney Vitarelli represents clients across a broad spectrum of industries in labor relations, collective bargaining, and union organizing as well as the employment law aspects of mergers and acquisitions, corporate restructuring, and contract administration.

The law firm of **Bracewell & Giuliani LLP** gave a special grant to the American Jobs for America’s Heroes (AJAH) national military hiring campaign to support its ongoing efforts to encourage employees to register, post jobs, and hire National Guard members, veterans, and military spouses.



Campbell D. Barrett



Jon T. Kukucka

**Pullman & Comley LLC** is pleased to announce the addition of **Campbell D. Barrett** and **Jon T. Kukucka** to the firm. The new attorneys will expand services devoted to family law and will provide legal guidance on the full spectrum of matrimonial law, dissolution of marriages, and all aspects of family litigation.

**Withers Bergman LLP** is proud to announce expansion in California, opening new offices in San Diego, Los Angeles, and Rancho Santa Fe. The extended California team joins Withers Bergman shortly after the arrival of five corporate, litigation, and IP partners who are based in its Connecticut offices. **CL**

# In Memoriam

**Linda R. Christiani** passed away at the age of 59 on May 15. She attended Fairfield University and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Pre-Law Studies. She then furthered her education at the University of Bridgeport Law School. She was employed as an attorney at Willinger Willinger & Buccini for over ten years.

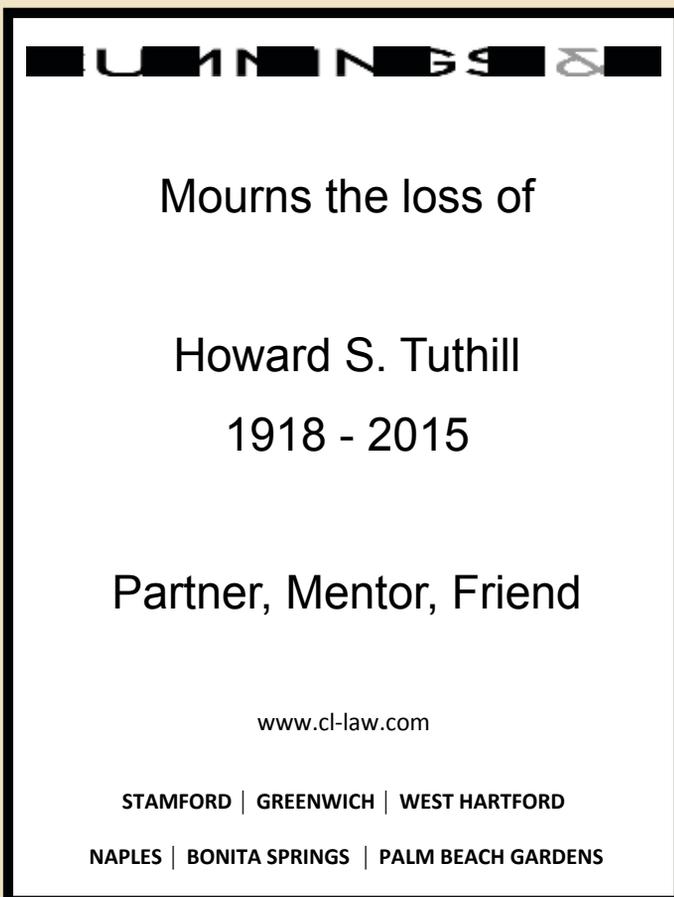
**Edward Wood Dunham** passed away at the age of 61 on May 1. He graduated from Trinity College in 1975 and received his JD from New York University School of Law in 1978. Following law school, he clerked for the Honorable Robert A. Ainsworth, Jr. on the United States Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit in New Orleans. In 1979, he joined the law firm of Wiggin and Dana LLP in New Haven, where he began a successful career as a prominent litigator, later becoming a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. Attorney Dunham became a partner at Wiggin and Dana in 1985. Always actively involved in the management of the firm, he served as chair of the executive committee from 2002 until 2006 and chair of the Litigation Department from 2009 until 2013. He was an active and revered member of the American Bar Association and was a member of the CBA Antitrust and Trade Regulation; Franchise, Distribution & Dealer Law; Intellectual Property; and Litigation Sections.

**John F. Lambert**, of Greenwich, passed away on April 29. Attorney Lambert received an AB from the University of Notre Dame in 1952. Jack graduated from Columbia University Law School in 1956 and then clerked for one year for Connecticut federal district court judge, Hon. Joseph Smith. He joined the trial department of the Greenwich based firm, Hirschberg Pettingill and Strong in 1957. In 1969, Jack and his law partner, Frederick (Ted) J. Coyer, formed Lambert & Coyer, where a substantial dimension of their practice consisted of the advocacy for the intellectual property rights of American cartoonists. Ted passed away in 1990 and Jack joined Bentley Mosher Babson & Lambert where he practiced law until 2014, (including a trial in 2013)—58 years of active membership in the Connecticut Bar in a profession that he loved.

**Loredana Nesci** passed away at the age of 47 on July 22. She received her undergraduate degree from UConn and went on to become a Los Angeles police officer. In 2002, Attorney Nesci earned her JD from Quinnipiac University School of Law. During law school she worked for Spinella & Associates PC in Hartford and, in 2003, she joined Cadden Ivers & Ivers in Meriden. Attorney Nesci returned to California in 2004, where she opened her own practice. In 2013, she began starring in her own non-fiction television show called, *Loredana, Esq.* on Sundance Channel and was known as "The Legal Diva."

**Lewis B. Rome** passed away at the age of 81 on July 1. He earned his BA from UConn in 1954 and his L.L.B. in 1957. He served as Bloomfield's mayor in 1965-1969, where he was also instrumental in the development of the Capital Region Council of Governments as well as securing the town's honor as an All-America City in 1970. Elected to the State Senate in 1970, he was elected Senate Majority Leader by his peers in his second term. He went on to serve as the Senate Minority Leader and in increasing executive leadership roles nationally with the National Conference of State Legislatures. As a legislator, he had spearheaded the founding of UConn's medical school and later served on UConn's Task Force on Athletics. He was appointed by Governor Lowell Weicker to the UConn Board of Trustees where he served as Chairman from 1992-1997. During that time, the school saw unprecedented physical growth and saw gains as a research institution, in the arts, and as a national basketball power in both the men's and women's game. Additionally, The Nutmeg Scholarship program was Attorney Rome's brainchild.

**CL**



UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

Mourns the loss of

Howard S. Tuthill

1918 - 2015

Partner, Mentor, Friend

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