

CBA Hosts 2015 Connecticut Legal Conference

On June 15, the CBA held its annual Connecticut Legal Conference at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford. As the largest single day CLE offering in Connecticut, the event brought together over 1,000 attorneys, judges, paralegals, and other legal professionals from throughout the state to learn, connect, and collaborate. The day kicked-off with a networking breakfast, which included alumni receptions for Cornell, Quinnipiac, and UConn Law schools, giving attendees the opportunity to connect with colleagues and classmates before heading in to the day's first education session.

Over 50 CLE seminars were offered across 15 tracks with topics ranging from legal issues involving same-sex marriage and divorce to modern-day slavery to medical marijuana regulation as well as practice management programs on successful legal marketing, ethics and social media, and the paperless practice.

The CBA Annual Luncheon Meeting marked the halfway point of the day and began with remarks from Chief Justice Chase T. Rogers. Following, special guest speaker Eduardo M. Peñalver, the Allan R. Tessler Dean and Professor of Law at Cornell Law School, offered remarks on the importance of diversity and inclusion in the legal profession. The awards portion of the luncheon in-

cluded the presentation of the 2015 Charles J. Parker Legal Services Award to Debra C. Ruel of Rome McGuigan PC and the Edward F. Hennessey Professionalism Award to Albert "Al" Zakarian of Day Pitney LLP. Also recognized during the luncheon were members of the bar admitted in 1965 and judges taking senior or referee status. The luncheon concluded with the installation of the new CBA officers for the 2015–2016 bar year.

Immediately following the final session of seminars, an evening reception was held for all attendees to mingle with colleagues and discuss the day's events as well as the year to come over cocktails, an assortment of appetizers, and a live performance by "Eight to the Bar."

The CBA would like to thank all those who helped make the Connecticut Legal Conference a great success—the attendees, the exhibitors, and the sponsors, particularly Platinum sponsors LexisNexis and Webster Bank; Gold sponsor Kronholm Insurance Services; and Silver sponsors Citrix ShareFile, Jaguar Hartford, and LawPay.

Visit ctlegalconference.com for more photos and to hear what attendees had to say about the event. **CL**



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The CBA's 92nd President



William H. Clendenen, Jr. is a member of Clendenen & Shea LLC in New Haven. He was born in New London and resides with his

family in Madison. Since obtaining his law degree from Catholic University, Attorney Clendenen has served clients as a lawyer for over 40 years and has built his reputation trying state and federal court cases. He has argued numerous appeals in the Connecticut Appellate and Supreme Courts, and in the Second Circuit. Attorney Clendenen serves as a Special Master for the U.S. District Court in Connecticut and as an attorney trial referee in the Connecticut Superior Court. Additionally, he is active in local, state, and national bar groups.

In addition to being an officer of the CBA, he is a member of the Federal Practice and Consumer Law Sections. He is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, an invitation-only organization comprised of experienced trial lawyers who have mastered the art of advocacy and whose careers have been marked by the highest ethical standards, professionalism, and civility. He is also a fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers (membership limited to 500 trial lawyers under age 70 in the U.S.), a life fellow of the American Bar Foundation, and a sustaining life fellow of the Connecticut Bar Foundation and holds membership in the Academy of Court-Appointed Masters, American Bar Association, American Association for Justice, Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association, and the New Haven County Bar Association. He has received awards from both New Haven Legal Assistance Association, Inc.—where he began his career—and the Connecticut Bar Foundation for his efforts to expand access to justice for Connecticut's economically disadvantaged. **CL**



1. Chief Justice Chase T. Rogers 2. CLC Exhibitor TriNet explained to an attendee how they can take the responsibility for HR-related tasks and functions in order to help firms focus on growth 3. Incoming President William H. Clendenen, Jr. presented Mark A. Dubois with a special presidential gift 4. Karen Dowd and Kenneth Bartschi presented their annual review of appellate cases in Connecticut 5. Cornell, Quinnipiac, and UConn Law Schools held Alumni Breakfast Receptions 6. President-elect Monte E. Frank moderated the seminar "Advancing the Legal Profession through Diversity and Inclusiveness" with speakers Justice Richard A. Robinson, Will J. Aseltyne, Dean Eduardo Peñalver, Namita Tripathi Shah, and James T. Shearin 7. CLC exhibitor FindLaw, Thomson Reuters 8. Immediate Past President Mark A. Dubois, Asker A. Saeed, and Matthew D. Gordon 9. CLC Gold Sponsor John Kronholm of Kronholm Insurance Services

Seminar Highlights

Are We There Yet? Marriage and Divorce Equality for Same-Sex Couples

In this seminar, Attorneys Megan Freed and Leslie Jennings-Lax discussed the timeline of legislation and events regarding Marriage and Divorce Equality for same-sex couples. From the first case for the LGBT community on the Adoption of Baby Z in 1999 to the overturn of DOMA in 2013, the complexities, legislation, and future regarding same-sex couples were outlined.

Identifying and Combating Modern Day Slavery

“Human trafficking isn’t how it looks in the movies—anyone can be a trafficker.”

Did you know there are over 300 active files of identified children of human trafficking in Connecticut? And that one out of every six young people who run away from home are lured into sex trafficking? The legislation, identification, and prevention strategies of human tracking were a few of the hot topics discussed in this seminar.

To view a video of this seminar, visit ctbar.org/CLEOnDemand.



The Mysteries of Medical Marijuana Regulation

Connecticut is one of 23 states to legalize medical marijuana. An overview of the plant for medicinal purposes, ethical implications, work place issues, and legislation that made the whole program possible was discussed by four panelists in this topical seminar. The future and long-term goals as well as economic considerations rounded off the intriguing conversation.



10. The Annual Luncheon Meeting gathered over 500 attendees **11.** William H. Clendenen, Jr. with 50-year awardee Richard Bieder **12.** Reception entertainment was provided by the band, “Eight to the Bar”



13. Mark A. Dubois and Debra Ruel **14.** Mark A. Dubois and Albert “Al” Zakarian **15.** Mark A. Dubois installed the 2015-2016 Connecticut Bar Association Officers: President William H. Clendenen, Jr.; President-elect Monte E. Frank, Vice President Karen DeMeola, Treasurer Sylvia K. Rutkowska, Secretary Christine Jean-Louis, and Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Emily Graner Sexton **16.** CLC exhibitor Amicus Creative Media **17.** and **18.** After the final seminar, attendees had an opportunity to connect with each other while enjoying appetizers and cocktails.

Eduardo M. Peñalver Addresses Diversity at CLC Annual Luncheon



Cornell Law School dean, Eduardo M. Peñalver, had one clear message to the over 500 attendees at the June 15 Connecticut Legal Conference Annual Luncheon: diversity matters. The Allan R. Tessler Dean and Professor of Law’s speech outlined the importance of this topic to the legal profession, emphasizing that “A diverse community brings new ideas and different perspectives,” and produces an overall more effective community.

Dean Peñalver advised that a lack of diversity in Connecticut’s legal community could put the state at a competitive disadvantage compared to other states and industries. “We must keep up with changing demographics of the country and the world,” he said, emphasizing the importance of diversity in the legal field as well as throughout all professions and aspects of society. However, the question remained—how can the Connecticut legal community become more diverse and inclusive?

This topic was further explored during the “Advancing the Legal Profession through Diversity and Inclusiveness” seminar immediately following the luncheon, in which Dean Peñalver was a member of the panel along with Justice Richard A. Robinson, William J. Aseltyn, Namita Tripathi Shah, and James T. Shearin with Monte E. Frank as moderator. The program addressed strategies for building diversity and inclusiveness in law firms, and the benefits that result.

One suggestion Dean Peñalver offered as to how the Connecticut legal community could become more inclusive was to “Look towards universities, offer internships to high performing students before they make it to the large markets [such as New York or Massachusetts].” Seminar attendees noted that it isn’t just about finding diverse lawyers, it’s about retaining them. “It’s all about cultural competency. Have a diverse office, not just diverse people,” an attendee offered.

Panelist William J. Aseltyn, Senior Vice President and General Counsel at Yale-New Haven Hospital, considers diversity “an organizational value” that he has made a priority in the hospital since assuming the position in 2007. While Aseltyn has not yet reached his diversification aspirations at Yale-New Haven, he sagely advised that the goal should never be given up on. In a similar vein, Dean Peñalver prides Cornell on its commitment to diversity, characterizing it as “part of the institution’s identity.”

Although the process of becoming diverse and inclusive may be difficult and time consuming, the day’s events reiterated that achieving diversity is not just a temporary goal, but a cornerstone that creates an identity for individual firms and the profession as a whole.

To view a video of this seminar, visit ctbar.org/CLEOnDemand. **CL**