

ANNUAL REPORT

The Animal Law Committee offered a day-long conference with Quinnipiac Law School's Animal Law Society in October 2008 that was entitled "Justice for Animals: The State of the Law in Connecticut." Speakers included Connecticut State Representative Diana Urban; Animal Legal Defense Fund Attorney Dana Campbell; Assistant State's Attorney Joseph LaMotta; American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Attorney Debora Bresch; Jeanne Milstein, Connecticut child advocate; Owen Little, animal control officer; Susan Linker, vice president and director of Connecticut Votes for Animals and CEO of Our Companions Domestic Animal Sanctuary; and Joanne Bourbeau, New England regional director of the Humane Society of the United States. The conference focused on the connection between animal cruelty and human violence and the state of animal protection laws at the national and state levels. The 100 plus in attendance consisted of attorneys, animal protection groups, law students, and the general public. There will be another conference in October 2009 exploring other topics within the area of animal law.

The Animal Law Committee continues to support, along with the House of Delegates, humane education legislation. The legislation is presently entitled, "An Act Concerning a Policy Regarding Dissection in Classrooms." The bill, which requires school districts to excuse a student from performing animal dissection if the student raises a conscientious objection to doing so, will not result in a fiscal impact, as resources for virtual dissection are available free of cost.

The Animal Law Committee supports, along with the CBA, a proposed bill that would allow the court in its discretion to offer counseling for juveniles who have been convicted as delinquent or adjudicated as a youthful offender for animal cruelty to undergo counseling or participate in an animal cruelty prevention and education program.

We have also been active in working with the House of Delegates regarding requests to support certain legislation that concern animal issues. We are also trying to take an active role in furthering education of animal-related issues from a legal perspective by speaking at bar functions (paralegal luncheon) and communicating with organizations regarding animal issues. In addition, we attempt to help individuals identify attorneys who may offer to counsel on animal issues.

APPELLATE ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

DANIEL J. KLAU; KIMBERLY A. KNOX, CO-CHAIRS

PURPOSE

To improve appellate practice through meetings and CLE courses; determine the nature and scope of an appellate certification program; identify the resources and procedures required to maintain such a program; and identify other means to improve the appellate law practice in Connecticut.

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The committee has attracted many new members who met several times throughout the year to discuss all areas of appellate practice. In September, Lynn Tuohy, a former journalist for the *Hartford Courant*, shared her experiences while she was covering some of the high-profile cases in Connecticut. At the November meeting, our members were given a very insightful and informative presentation by Michele Anger, chief clerk of the Connecticut Supreme Court along with Holly Sellers, chief administrative officer; Gail Giesen, chief staff attorney; and John DeMeo, deputy chief staff attorney. Judge Barry R. Schaller was the guest

speaker at the February meeting. In addition, the committee members conducted videotaped interviews of Supreme Court Justices throughout the year. These interviews will be available online.

The committee was also a driving force in instituting the e-filing of briefs in the Supreme Court. Effective March 1, 2009, the Connecticut Supreme and Appellate courts approved a number of changes to the Connecticut Rules of Appellate Practice including online posting. Paper briefs will continue to be submitted to the court, but all counsel-represented parties in Supreme Court cases must file an electronic version of the brief as well. Once a case is listed as “ready for assignment,” the e-brief will be posted on a Web site sponsored by the CBA’s Appellate Advocacy Committee, at <http://blog.ctbriefsonline.com>, which also is accessible through the Judicial Branch’s Web site, <http://www.jud.ct.gov/external/supapp/default.htm>

On April 3, 2009, the Appellate Advocacy Committee co-chaired and co-sponsored the CBA’s Global Perspectives on Appellate Law. This one-day seminar presented by both international and national speakers was conducted in conjunction with members of the ACA. Members of the Appellate Advocacy Committee are also conducting a seminar at the CBA Annual Meeting on “Ten Tips for More Persuasive Writing” and “An Introduction to the New Requirements for Electronic Brief Submission.”

MEMBERS

Erika L. Amarante
Jeffrey Babbitt
Kenneth J. Bartschi
Eric D. Beal
Kathryn A. Calibey
Karen K. Clark
Proloy Das
Thomas J. Donlon
Anne C. Dranginis
Steven D. Ecker
Richard Emanuel
Prof. Timothy H. Everett
John B. Farley
Elizabeth Festa
Barbara A. Frederick
William F. Gallagher
Charles Goetsch
Wesley W. Horton
Sheila A. Huddleston
Ralph W. Johnson, III
Daniel J. Klau
Kimberly A. Knox
Daniel J. Krisch
Margaret A. Little
Frank A. May
Hon. C. Ian McLachlan
Linda L. Morkan
Everett E. Newton
Regen O’Malley
John C. Pitblado
James Ralls
Charles Ray
Mary Beattie Schairer
Barbara Schellenberg
Samuel Schoonmaker, IV
Michael P. Shea
Jack G. Steigelfest

Alinor C. Sterling
Patricia Sullivan
Michael S. Taylor
Louise T. Truax
Richard F. Wareing
Matthew A. Weiner
Harry David Weller
Laura Pascale Zaino
Martin Zeldis

BUILDING DESIGN COMMITTEE

DONAT C. MARCHAND; JAMES F. STAPLETON, CO-CHAIRS

PURPOSE

The Building Design Committee was appointed in December 2006 by then-president Norman K. Janes for the purposes of identifying building renovations to improve the front building entry, create a wall of honor to recognize donors to the Campaign for the CBA Law Center, create a President's Gallery of photos of all past presidents, improve the functioning and efficiency of the member and staff spaces, and upgrade the general building conditions within the CBA Law Center. The committee met on many occasions to discuss the scope of the project, to identify potential architects and construction management firms, and to explore financing options.

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Construction began on the third floor in May 2008. The celebratory "wall-breaking" began prior to the CBA's Law Day event at the New Britain Rock Cats. Staff members who were working on the third floor were moved prior to the celebration to their temporary work space on the first floor.

In late July, staff members who were working on the second floor joined their colleagues on the first floor, and our tenant, ADR Center, moved to their new space on the third floor. We housed 19 staff members in conference rooms downstairs, with others sharing space with first floor staff members.

Renovation work on the second floor was complicated by the need for asbestos abatement. The asbestos was not abated when we originally moved into the building because no work was done to the second floor in 2000. The second floor was finally completed by late October and all staff members who were temporarily located on the first floor were moved up to the second floor. Member service staff members were also relocated at this time due to the impending work on the first floor.

Work on the first floor was substantially completed in late December, and the Member Service Center staff moved to their renovated space on December 30.

Our grand re-opening celebration was held on April 2, 2009. It was a great event highlighted by local dignitaries and musical talent. Thirteen past presidents joined the CBA leadership and staff for the festivities.

The end result of the renovation is that the CBA Law Center is a welcoming building for both members and employees. It is functional and attractive, and will serve the attorneys in Connecticut well for years to come.