

ANNUAL REPORT

During the past year, the Standing Committee on Professionalism undertook an exciting new venture when it was invited by The Honorable Chase T. Rogers, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, to assist the Judicial Branch in the implementation of one of the objectives of the Branch's newly adopted Strategic Plan; i.e., enhancing civility and decorum in the courtroom. The joint effort began with the appointment of The Honorable Alexandria DiPentima to the Standing Committee on Professionalism and will continue with the appointment of a trial judge to the standing committee to give it the benefit of that perspective. The Branch and standing committee will cooperate and collaborate on the standing committee's programs, such as its Annual Bench/Bar Professionalism Symposium, its work to introduce professionalism to law students, and its pursuit of a mentoring program for new admittees to the bar.

On a related front, in recognition of the recent undertaking by law schools to include the teaching of professionalism in their curricula, the standing committee invited the law school deans from the four area law schools to a "summit meeting" to discuss how the standing committee might assist with or participate in that effort. The chief justice, recognizing the importance of teaching law students this subject before they even enter the profession, indicated her support of the conference and her intention to attend. The conference will be held this spring or early fall.

Finally, on November 7, 2008, the standing committee once again presented its signature event—the Annual Bench/Bar Professionalism Symposium. This year the program was presented in conjunction with the Hartford County Bar Association and featured a plenary session on major issues affecting professionalism today, the usual breakout discussion sessions for civil, criminal, family, juvenile, probate, and business lawyers, and an inspiring keynote luncheon address by Justice Richard N. Palmer.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the standing committee members for their ongoing work to enhance professionalism, and for the full support for that endeavor the Standing Committee has always received from the Judicial Branch.

UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF LAW COMMITTEE

CARL M. PORTO, CHAIR

PURPOSE

The Unauthorized Practice of Law (UPL) Committee continues to receive inquires, complaints, and requests for information regarding what constitutes the authorized practice of law in the State of Connecticut. As previously indicated, when appropriate, the committee issues written "informal opinions," which are now available on the CBA Web site.

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Now that the Definition of the Practice of Law (Superior Court Rules, Chapter 2, Section 2-44a), the Authorized House Counsel Rule (Superior Court Rules, Chapter 2, Section 2-15a) and a modified version of Section 5.5 of the Rules of Professional Conduct (multijurisdictional practice) have been adopted, one focus of the committee has been the various proposed amendments to Section 51-88 of the Connecticut General Statutes, which concerns itself with the unauthorized practice of law in Connecticut. There have been several proposed bills to amend the statute. Most of these contain a provision that elevates the unauthorized practice of law to a felony, as opposed to the current misdemeanor penalty for a violation of the statute. There are also other proposed changes to the statute, which are currently subject to judicial and

legislative review, some of which differentiate the penalty for the unauthorized practice of law based upon certain conduct and professional standing. There are also changes to the Rules which have, in some cases, been adopted and others that are under consideration. The committee has been, and continues to be, involved in these issues.

Another focus of the committee is the Internet, and in particular Web sites that offer services that may constitute the unauthorized practice of law in Connecticut. A special task force has been created by President Barndollar, chaired by former CBA President Lou Pepe, to review these Internet Web sites and determine what action, if any, should be taken by the CBA. The task force and the UPL Committee will combine their efforts in this regard.

As I have previously indicated, the business of the UPL Committee continues to be active, and I again wish to thank all of the committee members for their time, effort, and hard work.

WOMEN IN THE LAW COMMITTEE

ALICE A. BRUNO; STACY SMITH WALSH, CO-CHAIRS

PURPOSE

The Women in the Law Committee (WILC) offers an opportunity and forum for CBA members to network, explore ideas, raise concerns, broaden their knowledge, and educate others, both about issues impacting our legal community generally, and the experiences of women in the profession particularly. The committee is unique in that, for the last two years, it has joined seamlessly with its Young Lawyers Section counterpart, the YLS WILC, in planning and programming. The two committees hold joint meetings and co-sponsor events, working in conjunction with each other to expand the reach and impact of each, and to build a continuum of leadership.

The WILC co-chairs welcome any and all CBA members to join its efforts and activities. The WILC is also hopeful that its membership roster will increase significantly over the next one to two years as we continue to develop meaningful programming for attorneys in the Association and across the state.

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The WILC has focused its programming in four areas: regular committee meetings, special events, Annual Meeting programs, and continuing the work of the CBA Task Force on the Future of Women in the Legal Profession by continuing to strive for implementation of the Best Practices for Gender Equity at legal employers across Connecticut.

Meetings

The committee holds its meetings at varying locations during the year to accommodate members and guests from different geographic areas. The meetings feature topics of interest for women attorneys. This year, our committee meetings were held in New Britain and Hartford. In November, we featured a discussion of the Best Practices program and how to implement it, as well as solicited ideas for future programming. In March, we hosted a discussion group in Hartford on the book *She Wins, You Win: The Most Important Strategies for Making Women More Powerful* and moderated a lively discussion of the way gender can influence power and professional relationships.

Special Events

The Committee hosted (or will be hosting) several special events this year: