

COMMERCIAL LAW AND BANKRUPTCY SECTION

ROBERT E. KAELIN, CHAIR

PURPOSE

The purpose of this section shall be to promote objects of the State Bar Association of Connecticut within the field of commercial law and bankruptcy.

ANNUAL REPORT

We have been holding consecutive monthly meetings since September on a variety of bankruptcy and commercial law topics. We held a meeting in October on “The 10 Most Helpful, Interesting, or Funny Tidbits From Your Chapter 7 Trustees” presented by several Connecticut Chapter 7 Trustees (Thomas C. Boscarino, Esq., Richard M. Coan, Esq. and Roberta Napolitano, Esq.).

We held our annual holiday party in December that was very well attended and in January had Judge Weil present to the section on recent updates in the Circuit. In February, we brought in speakers from William Blair & Company to speak on the timely topic of “Challenges in the Retail Sector: Can Retail Companies Emerge from Bankruptcy in Today’s Environment.” In March, we were able to have a very prominent and nationally recognized speaker, Robin Phelan, a partner with the Firm of Haynes Boone out of Dallas, Texas, present to a packed room. Attorney Phelan is the contributor to several major treatises on bankruptcy and has testified before both the Congressional Bankruptcy Review Commission and the United States Congress on insolvency matters. Attorney Phelan has recently participated in a program sponsored by the United States Department of State and the United Nations to develop model cross border insolvency provisions and participated in a White House program to improve the United States bankruptcy system.

In April, we had Erin Dorman, Head of Workouts at Webster Bank, present on forbearance agreements, also a timely presentation given the economy and the desire for banks to work with borrowers. We are ending our year this month with a sneak preview of the annual updates on commercial law, business bankruptcy law, and consumer bankruptcy law.

We are also working on a full-day presentation this coming September on Fraudulent Conveyance Law.

CONSTRUCTION LAW SECTION

ROBERT J. O’BRIEN, CHAIR

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Construction Law Section is to bring together those CBA members practicing in the construction law field to discuss the current issues affecting this practice area, to educate that membership on the legal issues affecting those rapidly developing topics, and to foster relationships between those practicing attorneys and the members of the construction industry.

ANNUAL REPORT

In 2008 and 2009 the Construction Law Section continued its tradition of providing informative programs to both its members and the construction industry at large. On November 5, 2008, the section sponsored a presentation in association with the Construction Management Program at Central Connecticut State University. Members of the section served as panelists and explored various issues dealing with the important subject of getting paid on construction projects. The dinner meeting was attended by students from the CCSU program, representatives from various sectors of the industry, and a number of lawyers from the section. The presentation was well-received and the section looks forward to future collaborative efforts with CCSU.

Several years ago, the section established a scholarship fund at CCSU for the benefit of students in the Construction Management Program. The section is pleased to note that, by recently providing an additional contribution to the existing fund, it has enabled the University to make awards to two students each academic year rather than one.

Through the efforts of various members of the section's executive committee the section's annual Case Law Summary has once again been assembled and made available online for the section. This important and very useful compendium summarizes Connecticut court decisions issued as well as legislation enacted during the previous year affecting the construction industry. On May 15, 2009, the section presented a seminar at the CBA Law Center in New Britain intended to coincide with the release of this year's Summary. The panelists discussed the significant court rulings and legislative initiatives from 2008. This annual presentation has become a valuable source of information for Connecticut attorneys whose practices involve virtually any aspect of construction law.

The section is also pleased to be an active participant in the slate of programs to be presented at the CBA's Annual Meeting on June 8, 2009 at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford. Working in conjunction with members of the Planning and Zoning Section, members of our section have developed a program that will explore the challenges and opportunities for lawyers and clients in the emerging field of "Green Building Construction." It promises to be an insightful and practical discussion of the myriad of issues faced by practitioners in this area of the law.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SECTION

JUDITH ROSSI, CHAIR

PURPOSE

The purpose of this section shall be to promote objects of the State Bar Association of Connecticut within the field of the administration of criminal justice.

ANNUAL REPORT

The Criminal Justice Section is charged with monitoring the entire spectrum of the administration of criminal justice, including the rules of criminal procedure; and to work for improvements in the criminal justice system of this state.

The section met eight times between the end of August 2008 and the end of May 2009. This year we varied the meeting dates from the previously fixed date of the third Thursday of every month, because we realized that our meetings were often in conflict with those of other organizations to which many of our members belong. We also decided to move some of the meetings to new venues in addition to our old stand-by, the Graduate Club New Haven. We have tried one new location—the Dakota Steak House in Wethersfield, which worked out well.