

land use commissioners approximately four times a year at different locations in the state. The legal workshop for Commission members is entitled “Legal Requirements and Procedures of Land Use Decision Making.” Richard Roberts and Ken Slater have chaired the committee organizing the speakers and the legal materials, and Mark Branse has contributed outline materials for these seminars.

Our section is also assisting the Department of Environmental Protection with its educational programs for local inland wetlands officials. In particular, section attorneys are addressing the topics of disqualification, conflict of interest, and local ethics codes.

#### **From the Chair**

Thanks to the lawyers who spoke at our monthly meetings: Attorney and Representative Brendan Sharkey; Bob Fuller, Chris Smith, Ira Bloom, Dwight Merriam, Joe Williams, Mark Branse, all of whom provided “Tips for Lawyers in the Land Use Practice” in a joint meeting with the Young Lawyers Sections; Attorney Dwight Merriam for his presentation of the annual “ZiPLER Awards” at our holiday gathering; Attorney John Fallon, Brian Stone, Marjorie Shansky, and David Wrinn in addressing the *Finley v. Inland Wetlands Commission* Supreme Court decision; Attorney Tom Cody at our April meeting on stormwater management; Attorney Bob Sitowski and Marjorie Shansky discussing Green Building regulation at our May meeting and the June CBA meeting. Thanks also to Dwight Merriam for organizing the third annual Property Rights seminar and the seminar “A Lawyer’s Guide to Reviewing Real Estate Appraisals.” Finally, thanks to the attorneys who prepared outlines in the Advanced Land Use CLE Seminar and the Wesleyan seminar for local land use officials: Timothy Bates, Robert Sitowski, Mark Branse, John Bradley, Jr., Ira Bloom, Matthew Ranelli, Dwight Merriam, Robert Fuller, Michael Zizka, Gregory Sharp, Kenneth Slater, Chris Smith, Brian Smith, Joseph Capossela, Austin Wolf, Janet Brooks, and Jane Friedman.

## **PUBLIC UTILITY LAW SECTION**

**STEPHEN J. HUMES, CHAIR**

#### **PURPOSE**

The Public Utility Law Section was established to address matters of substantive law involving the regulation of public utilities as well as administrative aspects of practice before the Connecticut Department of Public Utility Control (“DPUC”). The section’s continuing goals are: (1) to promote communication among members of the bar involved in public utility law, (2) to promote an exchange of ideas relating to the practice of public utility law, (3) to provide a mechanism for education of the bar and the public on utility matters, and (4) to seek opportunities to improve the public utility regulatory process.

#### **ANNUAL REPORT**

##### **Officers**

Stephen J. Humes, Chair

Michael Kozlik, Vice Chair

Scott Myers, Secretary

Lee Hoffman, Treasurer

Burt Cohen, Legislative Liaison

## **Meetings**

November 19, 2008: The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative: Background, Current Status, and Going Forward Expectations and Issues.

January 27, 2009: Honorable Richard Roy, co-chair, Environment Committee; Honorable Edward Meyer, Assistant Majority Leader, co-chair, Environment Committee; Honorable John Fonfara, Deputy Majority Leader, co-chair, Energy and Technology Committee; Honorable Vickie Orsini Nardello, committee co-chair, Energy and Technology on 2009 Legislative Update

February 19, 2009: Gina McCarthy, Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, re: Annual Address to the Environmental Law Section

March 26, 2009: DPUC Commissioners Amalia Bzdyra and Kevin DelGobbo. In addition, former DPUC Commissioner Anne George accepting gesture of section appreciation and recognition of years of service as DPUC Commissioner.

# **REAL PROPERTY SECTION**

**EDWARD S. HILL, CHAIR**

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Real Property Section is to promote the educational and professional objectives of the Connecticut Bar Association within the field of real property law. The section provides a forum at executive committee and section meetings throughout the year for the exchange of information and ideas relative to real property issues, concerns and transactions, both residential and commercial. The section also welcomes consideration and discussion of issues related to conveyancing, mortgages, land use, title insurance, and other matters of interest to the real estate bar.

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

The Real Property Section, one of the largest and most active sections in the Connecticut Bar Association, presented a series of programs at its monthly meetings to provide professional development to its members. The monthly meeting programs dealt with: features of sustainability: green buildings and green development, consideration of the Uniform Assignment of Rents Act, an overview of Public Act 08-176 (“An Act Concerning Responsible Lending and Economic Security”) dealing with lending practices and mortgage foreclosures, market forecasts for residential and commercial real estate, issues relating to re-sales of moderate income and affordable housing units, a primer on short sales (sales of residential property where the sales price is less than the mortgage), and an introduction to civil collaborative law as another alternate dispute resolution method.

The Legislative Committee made up of Matthew Cholewa and Edward Rosenblatt monitored legislation of interest to real estate attorneys and led discussions and evaluations of proposed legislation including proposals to deal with the unauthorized practice of law, sales taxes on legal services, and changes to the Common Interest Ownership Act.

The section voted to award a prize of \$1,500 each to a law student from the University of Connecticut School of Law and one from Quinnipiac University Law School.