

# **ADMINISTRATIVE LAW SECTION**

**MICHAEL KURS, CHAIR**

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the section is to consider administrative law matters and to promote the objectives of the Connecticut Bar Association within the field of administrative law.

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

The Administrative Law Section has enjoyed an active year of meetings and legislative efforts and looks forward to the culmination of the 2008-2009 year at the Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Bar Association where we will host a program that offers topics of interest for both newly minted and experienced lawyers.

At our first meeting of the new year, the section heard from the Honorable Henry S. Cohn, presiding judge of the Tax and Administrative Appeals Session of the Superior Court. The Honorable Cristine A. Vogel, Commissioner of the Connecticut Office of Health Care Access, spoke to the section's attendees at our second meeting. Members of the Health Law Section joined us to hear from Commissioner Vogel. Attorney Donna Buntaine Brewer, Section Chief, Public Hearing Office of the Connecticut Department of Public Health, addressed our section and members of the Health Law Section who joined us at our final meeting of the year.

The section championed two legislative efforts. We continued our support of a demonstration project that would give Connecticut the opportunity to see how an Office of Administrative Hearings might further the goals of affording participants in administrative hearings due and fair process. On March 16, 2009, the Government Elections and Administration Committee held a public hearing on Senate Bill 1117, An Act Establishing a Demonstration Project for an Office of Administrative Hearings. On March 25, the committee amended and favorably reported the bill. It is presently pending further action on the Senate calendar. The CBA Administrative Law Section is continuing to work with key lawmakers, including Senator Gayle Slossberg, co-chair of the GAE Committee, and is proposing additional changes to the bill to improve the bill's chances of success during the 2009 legislative session.

The section also supported House Bill 5960, An Act Concerning the Posting of State Agency Regulations on Agency Web Sites. The bill would give lawyers and the public Web access to an agencies regulations. This is the first year in which the section gave its support to the legislation. The proposed enactment was referred to the Government Administration & Elections Committee. The committee did not raise the bill for a public hearing.

The section's program at the Annual Meeting is "Different Perspectives on Administrative Agency Proceedings and Procedures." The program will offer insights on different aspects of representation of clients before administrative agencies in a variety of matters and settings. The program will include segments by the Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection, the Honorable Jerry Farrell, Jr.; the Honorable Joyce Krutick Craig, U.S. Administrative Law Judge (ret.); Attorney Ross Garber of Shipman and Goodwin LLP, former chief counsel to Governors Rell and Rowland; and Attorney Louis B. Todisco, of Murtha Cullina LLP, member of the section's Executive Committee.