



William H. Clendenen, Jr. is the 92nd president of the Connecticut Bar Association. He is a member of Clendenen & Shea LLC in New Haven. Attorney Clendenen has served clients as a lawyer for over 40 years and has built his reputation trying state and federal court cases. He has argued numerous appeals in the Connecticut Appellate and Supreme Courts, and in the Second Circuit. He services as a Special Master for the U.S. District Court in Connecticut and as an attorney trial referee in the Connecticut Superior Court. Attorney Clendenen is active in local, state, and national bar groups.

Random Reflections on the New Bar Year

As I begin my term as the 92nd President of the Connecticut Bar Association, it is a good time to reflect on where we are as an association and where we are going. My immediate predecessors as president, Kim Knox and Mark Dubois, have given us a robust, active, and meaningful organization fully equipped to meet our future challenges. You, our members, are more engaged in our activities and in our broader client communities than ever.

Our legislative program under the able leadership of the Legislative Policy and Review Committee, and its chair, President-elect Monte Frank, enjoyed one of our most successful sessions in the General Assembly. Of the 45 CBA-approved legislative positions, we were successful on 30 of them, including our opposition to a tax on legal services. Many thanks to our sections and committees; Monte Frank; Bill Chapman, our Government and Community Relations Manager; as well as Bob Shea, our outside lobbyist.

Our finances are in good shape and we received high marks on our latest audit. Our Executive Director Doug Brown and his team continue to improve our online presence and create an outstanding member experience. Over the past year our sections, committees, and association hosted more than 235 meetings, which were attended by over 8,100 of you. Our CLE has been revitalized wherein we presented more than 50 educational programs serving over 2,500 of our members. Our Education Manager, Suzanne Hard, is doing a wonderful job. The staff continues to add new programs, including BarChat and CLE On-Demand. We have increased the online presence of many

of our publications, and have developed a public Member Directory. And, there will be more to come—stay tuned.

On March 23, 2015, your House of Delegates adopted the CBA's first Diversity Policy:

The Connecticut Bar Association is committed to diversity in its membership, officers, staff, House of Delegates, Board of Governors, Executive Committee, Sections and Committees and their respective leaders. Diversity is an inclusive concept encompassing gender, gender identity, race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, age and disability.

We are a richer and more effective Association because of diversity, as it increases our Association's strengths, capabilities and adaptability. Through increased diversity our organization can more effectively address member and societal needs with the varied perspectives, experiences, knowledge, information and understanding inherent in a diverse relationship.

Your new officers are dedicated to making the CBA an open, welcoming, and inclusive organization. A place where there is a welcoming seat at the table for all of you who want to participate. A place where you, our members, can influence and shape the future of the legal profession and our association in Connecticut. We ask all of you to join with your leadership on this journey and continue to improve our association and profession. To be continued. **CL**