

CONNECTICUT SUPREME COURT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

Board of Directors Meeting – January 11, 2016

President Wesley Horton called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. in the Supreme Court Lawyers Lounge. Others present were: Jeff Babbin, Mike Besso, Kathy Calibey, Judge Cohn, Greg D'Auria, John Farley, Chuck Howard, Judge Huddleston, Molly LeVan, Don Rogers, Barbara Schellenberg, Jon Weiner, Jeff White, Mike Widener, and Justice Zarella.

Atty. Howard moved the approval of the minutes of the Board's October 13, 2015 meeting. Atty. Calibey seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

Atty. D'Auria moved acceptance of the Treasurer's Report dated January 11, 2016 (attached). Atty. Calibey seconded the motion and the Treasurer's Report was approved.

President Horton noted the passing of Chief Judge Judith Kaye of the New York Court of Appeals, and gave a brief remembrance. Chief Judge Kaye had given an address at one of the Society's Annual Dinners, which was very well received. Atty. Calibey moved that President Horton send a letter of remembrance on behalf of the Society. Atty. Howard seconded the motion and it was approved.

President Horton noted that on April 30, 2016, the Old State House would again hold its "History Day in Connecticut" contest for high school students. The Society in the past has sponsored prizes for this event. Atty. Howard moved that the Society fund two \$500 prizes this year and invite the award winners of our prizes to attend the Society's annual dinner this Spring. Prof. Rogers seconded the motion and it was approved.

Atty. White reported for the Programs Committee that Professor Sharon Murphy would be the speaker at the Society's Annual Dinner this Spring at the Hartford Club (see attached report dated January 5, 2016). A brief discussion followed about Travelers perhaps sponsoring the talk in some fashion, and that perhaps there would be some representatives of Travelers at the dinner.

Atty. Besso reported on the status of the Journal, as provided in his e-mail dated January 10, 2016 (attached).

President Horton noted that Atty. Besso had expressed a need to step down from his leadership position on the Journal's Board of Editors, which all of the Board understood and honored. (See

attached letter from Michael Besso dated January 10, 2016, attached) Atty. Besso will remain on the Board. President Horton voiced the appreciation of all of the Society's directors and members for Mike's tireless efforts in getting the Journal off the ground at the Society's inception, and in agreeing to reassume leadership of the Journal when Judge Huddleston took the bench. The Journal became immediately -- and has remained -- an unfaltering contributor to the Society's mission, as well as simply a great example of legal scholarship. Atty. LeVan moved the Board for applause, which Atty. D'Auria seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Widener reported on the Archives Committee's attempts to secure the Society's permanent records in one place. (See e-mail dated January 8, 2016, attached) A discussion followed about the availability of records and where some may be found. Further discussion will follow among Board members.

Atty. White then moved acceptance of the Long Range Planning Committee's report (attached). Atty. Weiner seconded the motion, which was then approved. President Horton then led a discussion of the report, and potential action items, including: (1) amending the by-laws prior to the Annual Meeting; (2) leading the Law Day activities going forward (note: Kim Knox agreed to chair these efforts); and (3) expanding the Society's relationship with CT-N and State Library.

As to the Law Day activities, Justice Zarella provided his thoughts on the benefits to the Society if it becomes involved with the event. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved for the Society to lead the Law Day activities going forward.

There was also an extended discussion regarding the recommendation to add *ex officio* board members. Several potential outside groups were discussed. Professor Rogers mentioned that the Society may wish to collaborate with organizations such as the Association for the study of Connecticut History. Judge Farley also pointed out the importance of increasing the diversity of the membership. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to direct Atty. Howard to draft proposed by-law changes.

Justice Zarella complimented the entire Long Range Planning Committee on their efforts.

Atty. Howard announced that he will be stepping down from the Board after the Annual Meeting.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

TO: Connecticut Supreme Court Historical Society Board
FROM: Program Committee
DATE: January 5, 2016
RE: Committee Report January, 2016

The fall meeting of the Society was held on Tuesday, October 13, 2015, at Quinnipiac University School of Law. The speaker was Hon. Jon Blue, who discussed his recently published book THE CASE OF THE PIGLET'S PATERNITY. The Society provided refreshments for approximately thirty Society members and law school students and faculty who attended. Dean Jennifer G. Brown welcomed the Society to the law school.

The annual meeting of the Society will be held on Thursday, May 12, 2016, at the Hartford Club. The speaker will be Professor Sharon Murphy of Providence College who will discuss "Murder, Suicide, and Insurance Fraud in 19th Century New England." Professor Murphy has received a number of awards for her research and publications related to 19th and 20th century social, economic, and business history in the United States.

Professor Murphy was recommended to the committee by Judge Cohn, who has authored an article with Adam Tarr that will be published in the next volume of the Quinnipiac Law Review. Wes Horton's review of Judge Blue's book will also appear in that volume. Molly LeVan has been in touch with the editor of the law review to secure reprints of those articles or possibly sufficient copies of the volume for those who attend the annual meeting. It has been suggested that the editors-in-chief of Connecticut's three law schools be invited to attend the annual meeting as guests of the Society.

Given the topic of the annual meeting, Jeff White reached out to Elena Gervino of the Travelers to determine whether the insurance company would "partner" the annual meeting. The Travelers has agreed to provide some type of "support."

MSL/

DAuria, Gregory T.

From: Michael Besso <michael.besso@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 10, 2016 3:35 PM
To: Wesley Horton
Cc: Zarella, Peter; Fish, Jr., William S.; White, Jeffrey J; choward@goodwin.com; DonRogershistorian@yahoo.com; BSchellenberg@cohenandwolf.com; Weiner, Jonathan; jbabbin@wiggins.com; LeVan, Molly; ccollier07@aol.com; Cohn, Henry; mike.widener@yale.edu; kcalibey@riscassidavis.com; DAuria, Gregory T.; Sheila.Huddleston@jud.ct.gov; bfrederi@travelers.com; krisch@halloran-sage.com; john.farley@jud.ct.gov
Subject: Re: Committee Reports
Attachments: cschs board directors memo 10jan16 resignation.doc

All,

Regarding the Society's journal, I am still (slowly) working on finalizing for publication our Volume 8, which will feature two interesting and excellent essays: one on Governor Wolcott and the 1818 Constitution (Blue and Cohn); and the other on an interesting story about Twain and Hamersley (Collier).

Also, I will share that I called Wes last week to inform him that I intend to step down as the Editor and need to leave aside, at least for now, my Society duties. (I attach my letter of resignation.) In 2008 when I left the editor's position it was to work on other scholarly projects; and I was happy to return to the post when Judge Huddleston had to step aside. Now, however, I leave for family reasons -- all good, but demanding nonetheless.

Michael Besso

On Fri, Jan 8, 2016 at 2:14 PM, Wesley Horton <Wes@hortonshieldsknox.com> wrote:

Attached are the reports of the program committee and the executive committee for next week's meeting at 2:00 pm. I have not received anyone else's report.

I'm sad to report that Judith Kaye, our speaker from several years ago, died yesterday. There is an excellent obituary in the New York Times.

Wes

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Widener, Michael" <mike.widener@yale.edu>
To: Wesley Horton <Wes@hortonshieldsknox.com>
Cc:

Connecticut Supreme Court Historical Society



January 10, 2016

Wesley W. Horton
President
Connecticut Supreme Court Historical Society
P.O. Box 230639
Hartford, Connecticut 06123-0639

Dear Wes,

I hereby submit my resignation as Editor of *Connecticut Supreme Court History*, from the Board of Editors, and from the Board of Directors, effective upon the publication of Volume VIII (2015) of the journal. I expect that the duties to complete the 2015 volume will last mere months, at most, but I would like you to have my resignation on record now so that the Society can work toward the selection of a new Editor. Please be assured that I will work with the new Editor to ensure a smooth transition toward the preparation of future volumes.

I thank you and Board of Directors for giving me a second opportunity to serve as Editor. I regret to confess, however, that I feel as if I have not fulfilled the expectations that I had upon my return to the position as Editor. The reason is one that I am sure you will appreciate – family. I do wish the best for the Society's continued progress and growth.

Sincerely,

Michael Besso

DAuria, Gregory T.

From: Widener, Michael <mike.widener@yale.edu>
Sent: Friday, January 08, 2016 9:56 AM
To: Wesley Horton
Subject: Archives Committee, Connecticut Supreme Court Historical Society

Wes, I am pleased to report that the Connecticut State Archives will provide a home for the Society's archival records. I am awaiting more detailed information from Lizette Pelletier, the State Archivist, and will report to the board at Monday's meeting.

MIKE WIDENER
Rare Book Librarian & Lecturer in Legal Research
Lillian Goldman Law Library, Yale Law School
P.O. Box 208215, New Haven, CT 06520-8215
Phone: (203) 432-4494
<http://library.law.yale.edu/rarebooks>
Yale Law Library - Rare Books Blog:
<http://library.law.yale.edu/blogs/rare-books>

From: Wesley Horton [<mailto:Wes@hortonshieldsknox.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2015 12:48 PM
To: Zarella, Peter; Fish, Jr., William S.; White, Jeffrey J; choward@goodwin.com; DonRogershistorian@yahoo.com; BSchellenberg@cohenandwolf.com; Weiner, Jonathan; jbabbin@wiggin.com; LeVan, Molly; ccollier07@aol.com; Cohn, Henry; Widener, Michael; kcalibey@riscassidavis.com; gregory.dauria@po.state.ct.us; Sheila.Huddleston@jud.ct.gov; Michael.besso@gmail.com; bfrederi@travelers.com; krisch@halloran-sage.com; john.farley@jud.ct.gov
Subject: Connecticut Supreme Court Historical Society

Dear Justice Zarella, Board Members, and Committee Chairs:

I would ask that all officers and committee chairs submit a report of their doings to me shortly after the first of the year. I hope to see all of you at the meeting on January 11th at 2:30pm in the Lawyers Lounge. It will probably be a longer meeting than usual as we discuss the Long Range Planning Committee Report.

Happy Holidays,

Wes

To: Board of Directors – Connecticut Supreme Court Historical Society

From: Long Range Planning Committee
Jeff White (Chair)
Hon. Peter Zarella
William Fish
Charles Howard
Donald Rogers
Barbara Schellenberg
Jonathan Weiner

Date: December 2, 2015

Subject: Report and Recommendations

In April, 2015, Connecticut Supreme Court Historical Society President Wesley Horton appointed a Long Range Planning Committee that was charged to review the Society's first ten years in existence, and make recommendations for its future endeavors. The Committee was chaired by Attorney Jeff White and comprised of the following members: Justice Peter Zarella, Donald Rogers, Ph.D., and Attorneys William Fish, Charles Howard, Barbara Schellenberg, and Jonathan Weiner. The Committee met on four occasions; Justice Zarella and Jeff White also met separately with Connecticut State Librarian Kendall Wiggin.

The Committee presents this Report to the Board of Directors for its consideration. The unanimous recommendations of the Committee are provided herein and in summary form on the last page of this Report.

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Review of the Society's First Ten Years of Existence

The Committee discussed at length the "history" of the Society to date. Both strengths and challenges were identified as noted below:

1. Strengths

- The Society's current programming is excellent. The Annual Dinner is now considered a major event in the Connecticut legal community that attracts excellent speakers.
- The Society's Journal is extremely well produced in both form and substance.
- The Society is in a strong financial position through dues and sponsorship revenue, and is well managed by its current officers and Board members.

- The existing Board and membership are engaged in the work of the Society, as exemplified by the strong attendance at the Society's Annual Meeting.

2. Challenges

- The Society has become overly dependent on a few Board members who do the vast majority of its work.
- The Society's governance structure has been static.
- The Society is perceived in the legal community as primarily a Hartford-based appellate lawyers' organization; it is not a significantly recognized organization in the non-legal academic community or by the historical community locally or nationally.

B. Comparison With Other Societies

The Committee commissioned a review of the activities of fifteen (15) other state supreme court historical societies with the goal of identifying possible new areas of focus. The memorandum describing these activities is submitted along with this Report. Generally speaking, the Society's activities are consistent with those of other societies. The following trends were noted:

- Six of the fifteen societies have compiled "oral histories" of prior justices of their state's highest court. The oral histories consist of interviews that are either video or audio recorded and sometimes transcribed. The interviews vary in length and subject matter, generally covering biographical information and experiences from the bench.
- Most of the societies have a major annual event, which may be a dinner, lecture, conference or meeting.
- Most of the societies publish an annual or semi-annual newsletter.
- Some societies have educational programs that reach out to schools and the public.
- Some of the societies hold special events, such as reenactments of significant cases, black-tie dinners and other presentations.

C. Vision For Society In The Future

The consensus of the Committee is that the Society should dedicate the next stage of its existence to expanding its reach beyond the Connecticut appellate bar. As noted below, many of the recommendations seek to bridge that gap by creating partnerships with organizations that have similar or complementary interests, such as CT-N, the State Library/Museum, law schools, colleges/universities, bar associations, historical organizations, etc.

II. SOCIETY GOVERNANCE

A. Overview

The Committee discussed issues concerning the composition of the Board (including adding new members and whether term limits are necessary and/or desirable). The Committee does not recommend any action at this time with respect to term limits, and believes that such issues can be addressed as necessary by the Nominating Committee.

B. Recommendations

1. Amend By-Laws To Add Ex Officio Board Members

The Committee believes that it would be advisable to create ex-officio board positions for institutions that share common ground with the Society. The goal of this change would be to expand the Society's reach beyond the Hartford appellate community to organizations that have strong connections with educators, academia, etc. For instance, the Committee believes it would be advisable to invite the four local law school deans to join the Board (or appoint a designee). In addition, similar invitations might also be extended to key historical associations (such as the Association for the Study of Connecticut History), the Connecticut Bar Association, CT-N, and the State Library. Finally, the Committee believes that it would be beneficial to seek an ex-officio member from the CBA/YLS (Young Lawyers Section) and possibly from the current Connecticut Supreme/Appellate Court law clerks.

2. Further Strengthen The Board Committee Structure

The Committee recommends that the Board consider adding additional committees (both standing and ad hoc) as described throughout this report. These committees would be responsible to do more of the "work" of the Society. Further, the Committee recommends that the Society continue to build its relationship with the CBA/YLS (Young Lawyers Section) and also permit and encourage non-board member involvement in committees.

III. PUBLICATIONS

A. Overview

The Committee engaged in extensive discussions about the opportunities to continue to strengthen and expand on the publications offered to the Society's membership and the public at large. The Committee agreed that the Society's Journal is a valuable resource that should continue to be supported. Given the specialized knowledge involved in its operation, the Committee believes it may be prudent for the President to appoint a separate long range planning committee to discuss the future needs of the Journal.

B. Recommendations

In an effort to better communicate the important history of the State's Supreme Court and publicize the work of the Society, the Committee recommends the following actions with respect to publications:

1. The Creation of An Award/Prize Program

Create and award three yearly cash prizes for the best original articles or essays on Connecticut Supreme Court history and/or Connecticut legal history submitted by (1) lawyers, academic scholars or independent researchers, (2) graduate and law students, and (3) undergraduate students, with the award conditioned on the publication of the winning articles in the *Journal of Connecticut Supreme Court History*, which will retain the copyright and reproduction rights. The purpose of this award program is to attract highly worthy articles for the Journal from a wide range of new writers, and to increase the Society's visibility in the academic community. Although the program's specific requirements would need to be developed by an Awards Committee to be appointed by the President, this Committee recognizes that the Society would need to (1) widely publicize the prizes among the bar, graduate and professional schools, and undergraduate institutions to solicit entries, and (2) establish yearly prize committees to select the winners, with the understanding that an enlarged Journal editorial staff will appraise, either independently or in conjunction with the prize committees, winning articles for publication-worthiness. Although the Committee makes no formal recommendation as to the value of the prizes, the Committee discussed the possibility that the top prize could be as much as \$5,000.

2. Add a Regular Book Review Feature to the Journal

The Committee believes that it would be helpful to review books written on legal history topics regularly and include those in the Journal, perhaps having the Journal editor appoint a book review editor to solicit and edit such reviews. For instance, Judge Blue's recent book would have been a good candidate for such recognition.

3. Establish An E-Newsletter To Be Distributed Through The Judicial Branch Listserv

The Committee thought that it would be helpful for the Society to publish a less formal newsletter that could be distributed periodically. Justice Zarella reported that the Judicial Branch would likely agree to distribute the newsletter to all attorneys who are registered for Judicial Branch e-services.

4. Update the Society's Website

The Committee recommends that the President appoint a taskforce or committee to review and update the content on the Society's website. In particular, the Committee recommends that the website feature the text of speeches and lectures that have been sponsored by the Society, thereby making them available to a wider audience and further highlighting the activities of the Society.

IV. PROGRAMMING

A. Overview

The Committee believes that our current Fall Program and Annual Meeting are well received and should be continued in their present form. Recognizing the existing commitments of our volunteers, the Committee does not advocate for a significant expansion of program offerings at this time. The Committee does suggest that the Programs Committee consider repeating programs in different areas of the State so that they are available for wider audiences.

The Committee proposes the following recommendations for consideration of the Board.

B. Recommendations

1. Expand the Society's Relationship with CT-N

The Committee met with Paul Giguere, who is the executive director of CT-N. Mr. Giguere expressed enthusiasm about building a stronger relationship with the Society both in terms of programming through CT-N, and also through CT-N's management of the Old State House. Further details about this discussion is contained in the October 20, 2015 Minutes of the Committee, which is submitted along with this Report.

The Committee recommends the following steps to expand this relationship:

1. Consider the appointment of Mr. Giguere to the Board of Directors as an ex officio member.
2. Appoint a liaison from the Board to the Old State House for consideration of joint programming, including the lunchtime lecture series and possible re-enactment of famous oral arguments;
3. Discuss the Society's creation of original content in the form of 101-level introductions to legal history that could be broadcasted in schools via CT-N.

2. Expand the Society's Relationship with the State Library/Museum

Justice Zarella and Jeff White met with Kendall Wiggin, the Connecticut State Librarian, about expanding the Society's relationship with the State Library and Museum. Mr. Wiggin welcomed this discussion.

Accordingly, the Committee recommends the following steps:

1. Consider the appointment of Mr. Wiggin to the Board of Directors as an ex officio member.
2. Invite Mr. Wiggin and/or his staff to make a presentation to the Board about the resources of the State Library that may trigger future program ideas.

3. Develop joint programming (including during the State Library's existing "Thursday at Noon Lectures") that could take advantage of the many significant artifacts in the Museum collection.
4. Consider holding an upscale event in the State Museum (N.B. it is likely that the ban on alcohol could be lifted for such an event).

3. Coordinate Law Day Activities at the Connecticut Supreme Court

Justice Zarella reported that the Society has the opportunity to organize the Supreme Court's Law Day observances in 2016 and moving forward. The annual event would still be hosted at the Supreme Court, but the Society would be charged with planning its content each year. The content of the Law Day program typically accords with the themes suggested annually by the American Bar Association. The Committee unanimously supported the Society's acceptance of this responsibility.

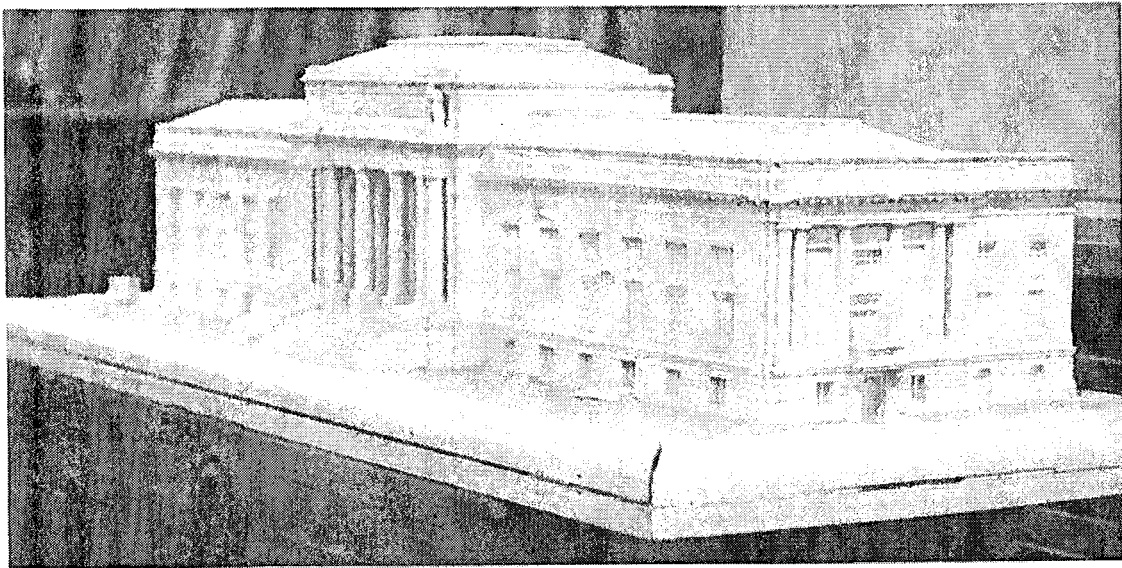
The Committee recommends that the President appoint a Law Day Committee that can work with the Judicial Branch to transfer responsibility to the Society for the 2016 Law Day.



V. PRESERVATION

The Committee discussed the importance of preserving significant artifacts that tell the story of Connecticut legal history. While the Committee has no formal recommendation in this regard, it suggests that the Board consider expanding the archives committee chaired by Michael Widener to include designees from the State Library/Museum and the Judicial Branch.

Further, the Committee believes that it would be prudent to develop a "standard operating procedure (SOP)" with respect to the handling of artifacts. For instance, Justice Zarella informed the Committee of an opportunity to restore three significant portraits of U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justices that are owned by the Judicial Branch. In addition, the Society may wish to restore a wood/plaster model of the Supreme Court Building (possibly, circa 1907) that is in a state of disrepair. A picture of the model is below.



VI. PROPOSED ACTION ITEMS FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. Amend the Society's By-Laws to create a new category of ex officio board members so that the Nominating Committee can consider the possible additions referenced below and throughout this report;
2. Create an Award/Prize(s) for original scholarship on Connecticut Supreme Court history and/or Connecticut legal history to be published in the Journal as implemented by an Awards Committee to be appointed by the President;
3. Recommend to the Publications Committee that a regular book review feature be added to the Journal;
4. Recommend to the Publications Committee that an E-Newsletter be created;
5. Consider the appointment of Mr. Paul Giguere, Executive Director of CT-N, to the Board of Directors as an ex officio member;
6. Appoint a liaison from the Board to the Old State House for consideration of joint programming, including the lunchtime lecture series and possible re-enactment of famous oral arguments;
7. Discuss the Society's creation of original content in the form of 101-level introductions to Connecticut legal history that could be broadcasted in schools through CT-N;
8. Consider the appointment of Mr. Kendall Wiggin, Connecticut State Librarian, to the Board of Directors as an ex officio member;
9. Invite Mr. Wiggin and/or his staff to make a presentation to the Board about the resources of the State Library that may trigger future program ideas;
10. Request that the Programs Committee consider holding an upscale event in the State Museum;
11. Approve the Society's acceptance of responsibility for planning the Supreme Court's 2016 Law Day Observance, and appoint a committee to plan that event.
12. Appoint a taskforce or committee to review and update the content on the Society's website.
13. Request that the Archives Committee consider the creation of a "standard operating procedure (SOP)" with respect to the handling and/or restoration of artifacts, such as the portraits and wood/plaster model referenced in the report.

Connecticut Supreme Court Historical Society
Financial Accounting
As of 1/11/16

OPENING BALANCE (as of 10/08/15):	\$ 64,375.54
REVENUE:	
Membership - Transfer from PayPal Account 01/08/16	48.25
Membership - Pending Deposit 01/11/16	5,200.00
	<u>5,248.25</u>
EXPENSES:	
Quinnipiac University/Fall Meeting Held 10/13/15 - Food, 10/26/15	592.02
	<u>592.02</u>
OTHER:	
ENDING BALANCE:	<u><u>69,031.77</u></u>