

The Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association  
Welcomes you to its

# Twenty-Eighth Annual Awards Celebration



November 8, 2023

**Keynote Address by  
Maggie I. Castinado, Esq.**

**New Haven Lawn Club**

**New Haven,  
Connecticut**

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Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association

P.O. Box 231018, Hartford, CT 06123  
[www.cthba.org](http://www.cthba.org)



*Twenty-Eighth Annual Awards Celebration*

Honoring

*Keynote Speaker and  
Recipient of the 2023 Achievement Award*  
Maggie I. Castinado, Esq.

*Recipient of the 2023 Community Award*  
The Center for Latino Progress

*Recipient of the 2023 Corporate Award*  
Day Pitney LLP

Wednesday, November 8, 2023  
at 6:00 p.m.

New Haven Lawn Club  
193 Whitney Avenue  
New Haven, Connecticut

**Online Donations to the CHBA Scholarship Fund:  
Text CHBA to 801801**



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November 8, 2023

Dear Friends and Honored Guests:

Welcome to the Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association's Twenty-Eighth Annual Awards Celebration. We are honored to recognize and hear from our former president and the first Hispanic to be elected President of the Connecticut Bar Association, Maggie Castinada. We are also pleased to present our Community Service Award to the Center for Latino Progress, a multiservice non-profit organization that serves individuals and families living in the State of Connecticut. We are also thrilled to recognize Day Pitney as our Corporate Award winner and applaud their commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. It is also our privilege to grant scholarships to the following outstanding law students: Addys Castillo, Christian Aviles, Nayeli Contreras, Rosario Naranjo-Zarate and Sinead Brennan-Gatica.

We also want to thank our Annual Dinner Co-Chairs, Enelsa Diaz and Steven Hernández. They led our Annual Dinner Committee and worked tirelessly to ensure that tonight's celebration is a success. I'd also like to thank Gregory Chase and Marilyn Díaz for leading our Scholarship Committee. The generosity of our sponsors has allowed us to award tens of thousands in scholarship funds to deserving law students over the years. This year we have reached our goal and surpassed it, having raised the most in scholarship funds ever. Please, be sure to donate and thank you for your support!

The last few years have been challenging but also very rewarding. We have experienced significant advances in the practice of law, seen a more representative diversification of the judiciary and promoted a more effective collaboration between different groups and associations. The CHBA and its sister bars, Crawford, CAPABA, SABAC and CIABA have partnered time and time again to lead in important programming, fundraisers and to bring its members together.

We ask that you continue to support our efforts as there is still much work to be done. Please approach me if you see any opportunities for future collaboration.

Thank you for joining us tonight and for supporting our association and our students.

Sincerely,

Charleen E. Merced Agosto, President  
Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association



## **Program of Events**

### ***COCKTAIL RECEPTION***

Live Music By David Giardina

### **Opening Remarks**

By Enelsa Díaz & Steven Hernández, Annual Dinner Committee Co-chairs

### **President's Remarks**

By Charleen E. Merced Agosto

### ***BREAK FOR DINNER***

### **Presentation of 2023 Corporate Award to Day Pitney**

By Kean Zimmerman, Immediate Past President

### **Presentation of 2023 Community Service Award to The Center for Latino Progress**

By Aaron Arias, CHBA Board Member

### **Presentation of 2023 Achievement Award to Maggie I. Castinado & KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

By Marie Bertrand, CHBA Past President & Board Member

### **Presentation of 2023 Scholarship Awards**

By Greg Chase, CHBA Past President & Board Member

### **Presentation of Recognition Award to Kean Zimmerman**

By Charleen E. Merced Agosto, CHBA President

### **Closing Remarks**

By Enelsa Díaz & Steven Hernández, Annual Dinner Committee Co-chairs



## **THANK YOU!**

The Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association would like to offer its deepest gratitude to all those who have contributed to past award dinners and to the CHBA Scholarship Fund.

A special thanks to this year's sponsors:

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## **Margaret “Maggie” Castinado**

*Keynote Speaker & Achievement  
Award Recipient*

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Dedicating her life to public service, Maggie has worked 20+ years as a Public Defender while devoting her time to mentoring young lawyers and students. She serves on the boards of the Connecticut Bar Foundation (7 years), Connecticut Hispanic Bar Assn. (15+ years), Statewide Legal Services (4 years), New Haven Legal Assistance (4 years) and serves on CBF, NHLAA and James Cooper nominating committees. Dedicated to the CBA, currently Maggie is the 100th and First Hispanic President of the Connecticut Bar Association. She also serves on the ABA House of Delegates.

As a young lawyer, she served as the YLS Co-Chair of Diversity and Inclusion committee and Executive Committee, helping to implement the 1st YLS D & I Awards Dinner. She recently served 5 years on the House of Delegates, 1 year on Board of Governors, 2 years Co-Chair of DEI, 5 years on Awards, and 4 years on LPRC committees. Maggie is past president of the CHBA, a James Cooper Fellow, has been a panelist on women in the law, diversity and inclusion, higher education, and career development. In 2020, she received a leadership award from the Hispanic National Bar Association, Region 1. Maggie attended the ABA's Collaborative Leadership Program and the HNBA's Latina Leadership Academy. She served on the HNBA's Latina Commission and attended the ABA's Bar Leadership Institute.

Maggie has been a coach since 2016 for the HNBA's National Moot Court Competition and volunteered for Law Camp since its inception. Maggie commits to meeting the needs of all CBA members by responding to member concerns, ensuring we have a voice in our government and continuing to make CBA a diverse, supportive organization.

Maggie is a tireless advocate for her clients, a leader in promoting diversity and a champion for students. She is a long-standing member of the CHBA Familia!



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## ABOUT

### Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association

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## HISTORY

The founding members of the Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association (CHBA) came together in 1993 from different backgrounds, but with common goals: to enhance the visibility of Hispanic lawyers throughout the state; to facilitate communication and sharing of information and resources among our members; to serve as mentors to new lawyers and law students; and to assist the public and private sectors in achieving diversity in their law firms and legal departments.

Instrumental in the formation of the organization, Toni M. Smith-Rosario, Justino Rosado, and David N. Feliú, from Hartford, New Haven, and Bridgeport, respectively, were the triumvirate of attorneys who initially led the CHBA. The initial Board of Directors included the aforementioned attorneys and Rafael A. Santiago, David Medina, Antonio C. Robaina, Sabino Rodríguez III, Grace A. Caverro, José L. DelCastillo, Sheila M. Prats, Ronald A. González, and Luis Cruz.

## COMMUNITY ORIENTED

Throughout its history, the CHBA has been active in community service. It offers a mentoring program to Hispanic law, college, and high school students, and a scholarship program for law students. In addition, its members are actively involved in numerous local and statewide boards. In the past, CHBA attorneys have examined the treatment of racial and ethnic minorities by the court system and have advocated for the provision of interpreter services in Connecticut.

Our membership and past honorees include over one hundred members, among them recent appointments to the Connecticut state judiciary, the first Hispanic to serve on the Supreme Court, the first Hispanics to serve as judges on the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, the first Hispanic state commissioner, and the first Hispanic to run for Attorney General.



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## **ABOUT**

### **Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association**

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## **CHBA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS**

The CHBA strives to serve its members and the community in a wide variety of ways, including providing networking, business development, referral, mentorship, and award opportunities.

## **CONNECTION AND COLLABORATION**

### **Networking Events**

The CHBA focuses on enhancing professional opportunities for Hispanic attorneys, and it does so in part through events where members can meet each other and others in the legal profession. The CHBA sponsors events such as the Annual Awards Dinner, the CHBA Summer Social for members, their families and friends, and other receptions throughout the state. In addition to social and networking events, the CHBA has organized several panels which focus on employment opportunities in the judiciary, the public sector, private practice, and corporate work. Events open to the public are either free, or offered at a reduced rate, to members.

### **Collaboration**

CHBA members have the opportunity to represent the CHBA in numerous collaborative events and activities. The CHBA is a member of the Lawyers Collaborative for Diversity (“LCD”), which encourages private and public legal employers to set and achieve diversity goals. The CHBA has successfully sponsored a number of events with the LCD, the Hartford County Bar Association, the Connecticut Lawyers’ Group, the George W. Crawford Black Bar Association, the Connecticut Italian American Bar Association, the Connecticut Asian Pacific American Bar Association and the South Asian American Bar Association. The CHBA has also supported activities of the Hispanic Professional Network, the Connecticut Association of Latin Americans in Higher Education, the National Society of Hispanic MBAs, and the Society for Hispanic Engineers.



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## ABOUT

### Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association

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#### **Judiciary**

In April of 2008, the CHBA formed a Judicial Selection Committee to look at ways we can increase the number of Hispanic lawyers applying to become a judge, as well as to increase the number of Hispanic lawyers on state boards and commissions.

We continue to push for a larger number of Hispanic attorneys to be nominated to the bench, to be put on the “list” vetted by the Judicial Selection Commission, and to sit on the state’s Judicial Selection Commission.

*We would like to congratulate Walter A. Menjivar of West Hartford and Jennifer J. De Castro Tunnard, of Ridgefield on their appointment to the bench in 2023!*

#### **Legislation**

CHBA members have the opportunity to shape legislation which affects the legal profession. In the past, the CHBA successfully pursued the passage of legislation to require professional training and standards for court interpreters in Connecticut—an issue of great importance to Hispanics in the state. CHBA members have also sought an increase in the number of qualified court interpreters. In addition, CHBA members actively participated in the Jury Selection Task Force and Hate Crimes Advisory Council.



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## ABOUT

### Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association

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## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

### CHBA Awards

CHBA recognizes annually, at its Annual Awards Dinner, the achievements of those who have made contributions to the Hispanic community. The CHBA has recognized the achievements of our judges, legislators, administrators, business and community leaders, and others who have contributed to the improvement of the status of the Hispanic community in Connecticut and nationally. Members have the opportunity to nominate award recipients, to contribute to the administration of this program, and to help with fundraising efforts.

### Scholarship Program

CHBA sponsors a [scholarship program](#) for law students which has, over the years, awarded thousands of dollars in scholarships. The awards are based on academic excellence and commitment to community service. The Annual Awards Dinner is the primary source of new funding for the CHBA scholarship program. Members have the opportunity to participate in the administration of this program.

### Member Recognition

The CHBA's efforts in the community have been recognized in awards bestowed upon members who have led the organization as officers and directors. Among other awards, our officers and directors have received the following awards: 40 Under 40 Outstanding Alumni of the University of Connecticut; Latino of the Year by the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission; New Leaders of the Law by the Connecticut Law Tribune; the Maria C. Sanchez Community Service Award; the Lawyers' Collaborative for Diversity Annual Edwin Archer Randolph Diversity Award; the Distinguished Service Award from the University of Connecticut Law School Alumni Association; and the Hartford Business Journal's 40 Under 40 Award.



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Mayer Brown salutes the CHBA for its work supporting Hispanic students and advocating for inclusivity in the court system.

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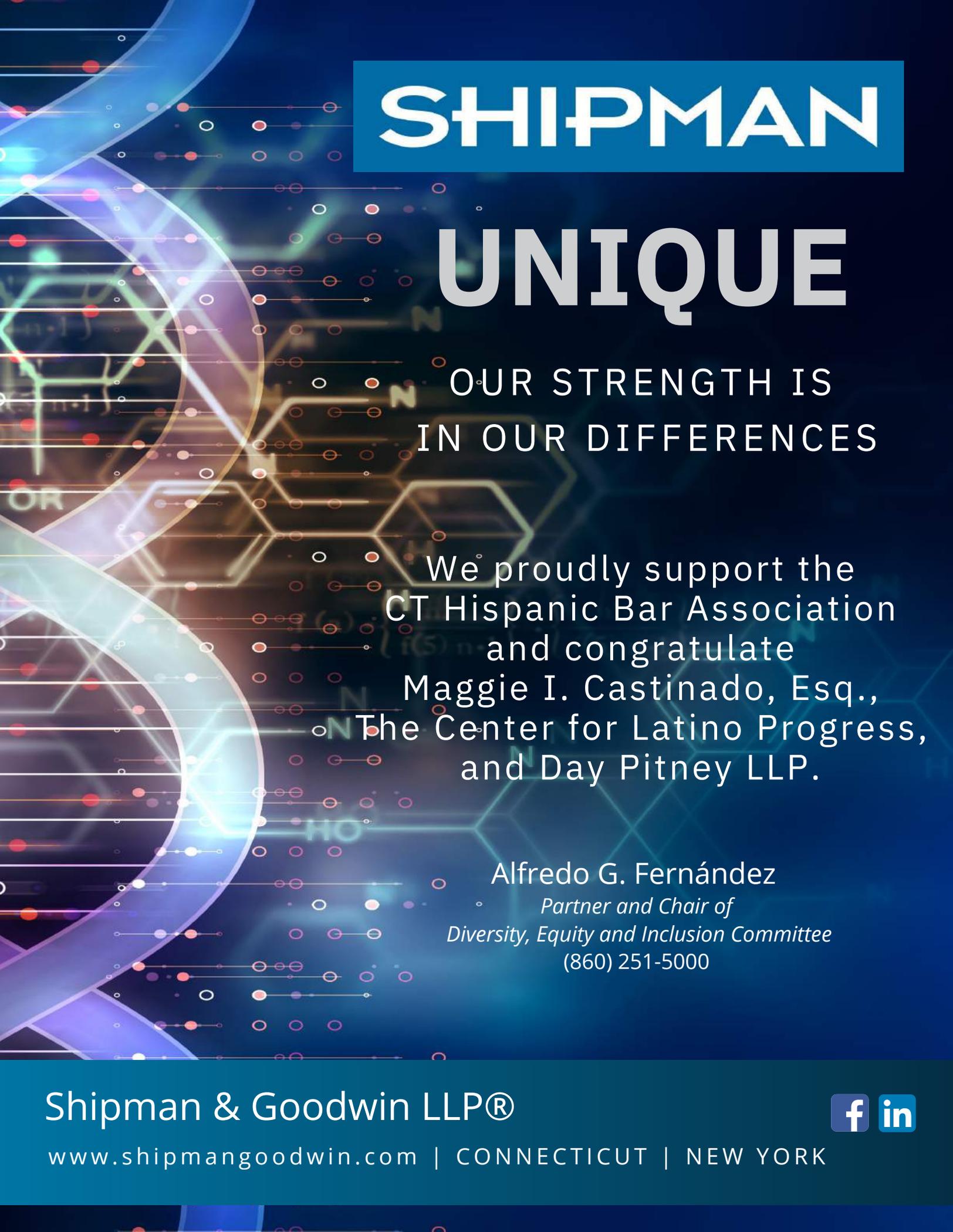
## **Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association's**

mission of enhancing the visibility of Latino/a lawyers throughout the state and applaud all of its efforts to diversify the legal industry in law firms, judiciary and in the government. Congratulations to all of tonight's honorees.

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Congratulations to  
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Attorney responsible for this ad: Joaquin Madry

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We are proud to support the  
**Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association**  
and congratulate all of this year's  
awards recipients.

*Contacts:*

**Virginia E. McGarrity** | vmcgarrity@rc.com | 860.275.8291

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Hinckley Allen is proud to join the Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association in celebrating this year's award recipients for their achievements and commitment to promoting diversity and inclusion.



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*The Connecticut Italian-American Bar Association  
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*Congratulations to Maggie Castinado and the other  
honorees on their awards!*



SABAC is a proud supporter of the Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association and its mission.

**Congratulations to CHBA, 2023 Award Honorees, and congratulations CHBA on a successful 2023 Annual Awards & Dinner!**

The South Asian Bar Association of Connecticut (SABAC) is a 501(c)(6) Non-Profit Organization that was formed in 2004 to serve as a resource to South Asian lawyers and law students for growth, professional development, networking, and community outreach.

***The George W. Crawford Black Bar Association Congratulates the CT Hispanic Bar Association on its Annual Awards Celebration! We also Congratulate all the award recipients!***

**CRAWFORD**

George W. Crawford Black Bar Association



The George W. Crawford Black Bar Association (“Crawford”) is a volunteer state-wide organization of attorneys, judges, law students, and legal professionals in the State of Connecticut.



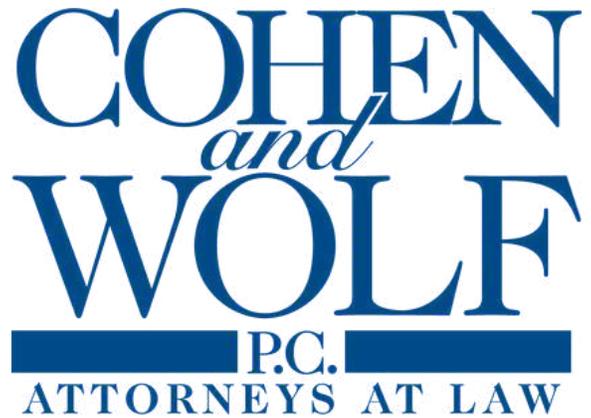
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Congratulations to Our 100th CBA President:

## Maggie Castinado

Keynote Speaker and Recipient of the 2023 Achievement Award

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*Congratulations to Maggie Castinado and the other honorees on their awards!*

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