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MESSAGE FROM JOHN KANE, DIVERSITY PARTNER

I want to give a big thank you to the Diversity Committee, the Women's Committee, and everyone at Robinson+Cole who made our second Summer of Service program a success. R+C made a difference with a wide variety of local organizations, some we had assisted last year and some we assisted for the first time. Once again, the feedback about the program from R+C volunteers and our partner organizations has been excellent. Fall is the time for many organizations to host their annual events, and we are proud to sponsor those hosted by affinity bar associations and other organizations working to increase diversity and inclusion in the legal profession, including the Connecticut Asian Pacific American Bar Association, the Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association, and the South Asian Bar Association of Connecticut, among others. In addition to our external activities, the Diversity Committee is identifying and setting goals for 2015. As always, if you have any thoughts or ideas on how our Diversity Committee can better serve the needs of the firm, please do not hesitate to contact me or another member of the committee.



DWIGHT MERRIAM CO-AUTHORS BOOK ON GROUP HOMES

Land use lawyer Dwight H. Merriam co-authored the book *Group Homes: Strategies for Effective and*

Defensible Planning and Regulation, published in May 2014 by ABA Book Publishing. Along with Brian J. Connolly, land use lawyer of Otten Johnson Robinson Neff & Ragonetti in Denver, Colorado, Mr. Merriam discusses discrimination against people with disabilities in the area of housing. The authors began writing this book on the 25th anniversary of the passage of the Fair Housing Amendments Act, enacted to give those with disabilities protection in finding fair and equal housing opportunities. They discuss the legal obligation to provide fair housing for people with disabilities as well as the practical policy reasons for doing so. To find out more about the book, please click [here](#).

HARTFORD LAWYERS PRESENT EDUCATION LAW PROGRAM TO UHART STUDENTS

Hartford lawyers Gregory R. Faulkner, Edward J. Heath, Nicole H. Najam, and Kathleen E. Dion presented to a class of University of Hartford doctoral students on July 30, 2014. The students are candidates in the university's Doctorate in Education Leadership program. The session's purpose was to provide an overview of higher education law, including hot topics and possible pitfalls. The class, "Education Law: When to Call Outside Counsel," covered a variety of legal issues that the students may confront in administering at institutions of higher learning. Topics ranged from contract drafting and negotiating to investigations and employment. Please click [here](#) to view the session's outline.

HARTFORD LAWYER ELECTED TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CHURCH HOME OF HARTFORD INCORPORATED

Bradford S. Babbitt, chair of the Business Litigation Group, has been elected to the Board of Directors of Church Home of Hartford Incorporated (CHHI), a charity affiliated with the Episcopal Church in Connecticut that was formed in 1876 to provide shelter for the aged and infirm. Today, CHHI owns and operates Seabury Retirement Community, providing unparalleled housing and health care services to 340 residents on 66 acres in Bloomfield, Connecticut. Seabury set the standard for an active retirement community when it was built in 1992 and has continued to achieve that standard as it has expanded to include assisted living, skilled nursing, and memory care services.

VIRGINIA MCGARRITY ELECTED SECRETARY OF STOWE CENTER BOARD

Employee benefits lawyer Virginia E. McGarrity has been elected as secretary of the Board of Trustees of the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center. Author of the antislavery novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, Harriet Beecher Stowe helped change our country's impression of the divisive issue of slavery. Her life has served as an example of how one person can make a significant difference. The Stowe Center "preserves and interprets Stowe's Hartford home and the Center's historic collections, promotes vibrant discussion of her life and work, and inspires commitment to social justice and positive change."

Ms. McGarrity has been a member of the Stowe Center's Board of Trustees since January 2013.

ROBINSON+COLE VOLUNTEERS ASSIST LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS IN SUMMER OF SERVICE

From June through August, Robinson+Cole lawyers and staff headed out of the office to volunteer with 11 different nonprofit organizations based in Boston, Hartford, New York, Providence, and Stamford in the firm's second annual Summer of Service. In total, they spent more than 270 hours assisting with activities such as beautifying parks, organizing distribution centers, and serving food. This is the second year the firm has run the program, continuing Robinson+Cole's history of actively giving back to the community while also fostering teamwork and camaraderie among our lawyers and staff whose work might not give them the opportunity to interact on a day-to-day basis.

B.E.E. THE BEST - BACKPACKS FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

B.E.E. the Best - Backpacks for Excellence in Education had another successful start to the school year. The program, created by Robinson+Cole lawyer Alaine C. Doolan and now in its fourth year, collects backpacks stocked with school supplies for children who participate in the Truancy Intervention Project, a program of the Connecticut Pro Bono Network. The Truancy Project matches attorney volunteers with students from the New Britain school system who are experiencing problems with school attendance. One excuse students use for not going to school is that they do not have a backpack or

supplies. Volunteers serve as advocates and role models for each of their students. Robinson+Cole lawyers and staff pitched in to donate 30 backpacks.

ROBINSON+COLE LAWYERS NAMED “NEW LEADERS IN THE LAW”

The *Connecticut Law Tribune* recognized Robinson+Cole lawyers Britt-Marie K. Cole-Johnson, Sorell E. Negro, Brian D. Nichols, and Keisha S. Palmer as New Leaders in the Law. They are among 60 attorneys, all under age 40, recognized in the *New Leaders in the Law 2014 Yearbook* and were honored at an awards dinner on November 6. The *Connecticut Law Tribune* received more than 300 award nominations, and honorees were selected based on examples of their legal work, pro bono efforts, and community involvement.

ROBINSON+COLE ANNOUNCES ANNUAL COMMUNITY SERVICE AND PRO BONO AWARDS

The firm recognized four lawyers for their initiative and outstanding dedication to the community at a reception celebrating the firm’s summer legal intern program on August 7, 2014. The Community Service Awards went to Thomas P. Cody and Britt-Marie K. Cole-Johnson, and the Pro Bono Awards went to Peter R. Knight and Evan J. Seeman.

LAW STUDENTS WELCOMED DURING ROBINSON+COLE SUMMER FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The firm welcomed the following summer fellows as part of the 2014 Robinson+Cole Summer Fellowship Program for law students: Miecha Ashley, Isis Irizarry, Milan Moore, and Ashley Randall from the Hartford office and Jorge Ghazal from the Providence office.

ROBINSON+COLE SPONSORS CAPABA ANNUAL DINNER

Robinson+Cole was a sponsor of the Connecticut Asian Pacific American Bar Association’s (CAPABA) 2014 Annual Dinner on October 2, 2014. Firm lawyers Steven L. Elbaum, Brian C. Freeman, Kelly A. Frye, Jessica A.R. Hamilton, John H. Kane, Jona Kim, and Dwight H. Merriam attended the event along with Marnie Rubin. CAPABA is the only association focused on all Asian Pacific American attorneys in Connecticut.

ROBINSON+COLE SPONSORS SABAC ANNUAL DINNER

Robinson+Cole was a sponsor of the South Asian Bar Association of Connecticut’s (SABAC) Annual Dinner on October 28, 2014. Firm lawyers Kelly A. Frye, Sandra Marin, Joey Lee Miranda, and Keisha S. Palmer attended the event. SABAC, a member organization of the North American South Asian Bar Association (NASABA), serves as a resource to South Asian lawyers and law students, offering mentoring, networking, and community outreach.

UPCOMING DIVERSITY EVENTS

Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association’s Annual Dinner on November 20, 2014

DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

[Patrick M. Birney](#) | [Antionette D. Bishop](#) | [Britt-Marie K. Cole-Johnson](#)

[Amanda S. Eckhoff](#) | [John H. Kane, Chair](#) | [Peter V. Lacouture](#) | [John B. Lynch Jr.](#)

[Richard Martinez II](#) | [Virginia E. McGarrity](#) | [Kristopher I. Moore](#) | [Keisha S. Palmer](#)

[Marnie J. Rubin](#) | [Edward J. Samorajczyk Jr.](#) | [Evan J. Seeman](#) | [Howard K. Shafer](#)

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