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ACC Connecticut

NEWSLETTER

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Celebrating our Chapter's Acheivements

2024 Silver Award Chapter of Distinction

ACC-CT was awarded the Silver Award 2024 as a Chapter of Distinction. The award recognized the chapter's leadership, their efforts to build community, adopt ACC's best practices for chapters, deliver outstanding programs, and engage a diverse group of in-house counsel in the Connecticut region.

Chapter Achievement Award

ACC-CT was awarded a Chapter Achievement Award in 2025 for the Best Membership Strategy for small chapters for our programing of "Legal Minds Meet Local Flavors." The program plans local lunches for ACC-CT members. The lunches have successfully served to boost engagement of current members, increase new membership, foster networking, and strengthen connections among in-house counsel in a relaxed, informal setting.

Accepting the Achievement award on behalf of the chapter at the ACC annual meeting were Gayle Wintjen, Elena Antonetti, Jason Hamilton, and Ella Johnson pictured with Vita Richardson (left) and Christina Gonzalez (right)

Pro Bono Corner

New Rule Grants MCLE Credit for Pro Bono Service

By: Priya Morganstern - Pro Bono Partnership CT Program Director and Pro Bono Consultant to ACC-CT Board

In a very positive development, Connecticut has approved a new rule that grants minimum continuing legal education (MCLE) credit for certain pro bono work. The new rule went into effect on January 1, 2026.

The rule allows attorneys to satisfy some of the required hours of CLE by providing uncompensated legal services to clients unable to afford counsel, if the attorney does it through a pro bono program administered by an approved organization. Approved organizations include Connecticut nonprofits that provide legal representation to clients free of charge; state, local, or affinity bar associations in Connecticut; or a Connecticut state or federal court. Attorneys can receive one hour of credit for every three hours of uncompensated legal services, up to a maximum of six hours during a calendar year.

Attorneys interested in providing pro bono legal services can learn about pro bono opportunities by visiting www.ctprobono.org. You can also contact legal aid organizations and state, local, and affinity bar associations in Connecticut and visit www.CTbar.org/probono. ACC-CT has worked closely for many years with Pro Bono Partnership, which is an approved program for MCLE purposes, and which specializes in finding pro bono service opportunities for in-house attorneys. You can find volunteer opportunities through the partnership here: https://probonopartner.org/attorneys-volunteers/volunteer-opportunities/ or reach out to information@probonopartner.org

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Engagement with the Pro Bono Subcommittee of the CT Judicial Branch's Access to Justice Commission

Several Members met in January with the Honorable Judge Elizabeth Stewart, Chair of the Pro Bono Subcommittee of the Connecticut Judicial Branch's Access to Justice Commission. Judge Stewart is interested in hearing from in-house attorneys about their experiences with pro bono services. The subcommittee has been conducting listening sessions this year in an effort to hear from different members of the bar about how it can increase the level of pro bono engagement by Connecticut attorneys.

Interested in helping ACC-CT increase its pro bono activities? If so, please reach out to a board member, we are looking for an enthusiastic volunteer to help lead the effort.