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For Immediate Release**

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**CONNECTICUT BAR FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES TWENTY-FIRST ESSAY CONTEST AND
CELEBRATES WINNERS FROM THE ESSAY CONTEST'S TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY**

The Connecticut Bar Foundation James W. Cooper Fellows program is currently sponsoring its twenty-first Annual Quintin Johnstone Statewide High School Essay Contest. The annual contest is open to high school students at all public and private schools statewide and invites students to prepare an essay on a timely topic in the law that is relevant to students. The Fellows award the contest winner and two runners-up cash prizes of \$2,000 and \$1,000 respectively. This year's topic, "Imitation or Intimidation," asks students to consider whether similar art projects, with very different messages, involve the allowable use of imitation or if the message in one is a form of intimidation in violation of school district policy. Submissions are evaluated by panels that include state and federal judges, law school professors and practicing attorneys. Further information on the Connecticut Bar Foundation James W. Cooper Fellows Quintin Johnstone Essay Contest can be found on the Foundation's website, www.ctbarfdn.org. The deadline for entries for the 2020-2021 contest is February 22, 2021.

The Essay Contest Award Ceremony is usually held at the Connecticut Supreme Court. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, special video tributes to the 2019-2020 winners were recorded by

Supreme Court Senior Justice Christine Vertefeuille, 2019-2020 James W. Cooper Fellows Chair, Daniel A. Schwartz, of the law firm Shipman and Goodwin, and CBF Executive Director Natalie S. Wagner. The videos are available on the Connecticut Bar Foundation's website.

Rachel Coppinger, a junior at Simsbury High School, was the statewide winner of the 2019-2020 contest. The two runner-up prizes were awarded to Kelly Fox, a senior at Westhill High School, and Nathan DiSalvo, a junior at Portland High School. Natalie Wagner, Executive Director of the Connecticut Bar Foundation, noted that the winning essays "reflect thoughtful, well written presentations of a controversial topic."

Rachel Coppinger of Simsbury, Connecticut, has received the following honors: first place winner of the Connecticut statewide DAR Christopher Columbus Essay Contest for the second year in a row, third place winner in the Federal Bar Association National Essay Contest and she was a runner-up in the 2018-2019 CBF James W. Cooper Fellows Quintin Johnstone Essay Contest. In addition, Rachel actively participated in the following at Simsbury High School: the Simsbury Girls Crew Team, and Robotics Team. Last year she received her black belt in Tang Soo Do, a Korean Martial Art. She plans to continue her education after high school in the field of engineering.

Kelly Fox of Stamford, Connecticut, has received the following honors: The Abilis Peter Bloomer Citizenship Award, Ellen Camhi Memorial Scholarship for Public Service, Connecticut Drama Association (CDA) Honorable Mention in Acting Award and CDA

Monologue Competition Winner. In addition, Kelly actively participated in National Honor Society and Spanish National Honor Society at Westhill High School. Kelly held various positions with the Stamford Education for Autism Buddies Club and helped coordinate local efforts for political campaigns. She participated in the Lee Strasberg and Theatre Institute Young Actors Program and the Creative Center for the Youth Musical Theatre Program at Wesleyan University. She plans to attend Emory University in the fall.

Nathan DiSalvo of Portland, Connecticut, is in the top 5% of his class, and has been recognized for achievement in English, Spanish, chemistry, advanced algebra, engineering design, U.S. history, physical science and global studies. He received the Service Leadership Award, Portland High School Exemplary Student Award, and Xerox Award for Innovation and Information Technology. In addition, Nathan actively participated in the following at Portland High School: Robotics, Greenhouse Club, National Honor Society, Stage Crew, Track and Field, and Basketball. Nathan plans to study engineering in college.

The Connecticut Bar Foundation, established in 1952, is a non-profit organization that administers the Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts and the Interest on Trust Accounts programs for the benefit of legal services agencies and for law school scholarships based on financial need. It also administers the Judicial Branch Grants-in-Aid and the Court Fees Grants-in-Aid programs for legal services organizations. The Connecticut Bar Foundation James W. Cooper Fellows Program was established in 1995. The Fellows promote a better understanding of the legal profession through the sponsorship and production of a diverse

array of programs and projects, which seek to improve the legal profession and the administration of justice in Connecticut. Quintin Johnstone was a professor at Yale Law School before his death in 2014. Professor Johnstone served as president of the Connecticut Bar Foundation from 1987-1991, participated in a variety of Fellows Projects for many years, and was a longtime member of the Fellows Education and Program Committee, which helps to organize the annual Essay Contest.