

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

CONNECTICUT POLITICS

The November elections resulted in an 18-18 split between Democrats and Republicans in the state Senate, and a reduced margin of 79-72 for the Democrats in the House. The state government will be challenged during the 2017 session to address a **budget deficit** that is forecast to be \$3 billion for the two-year cycle that begins in July of 2017. As usual, we will be on guard for changes to the tax code and other legislation that might adversely impact broadcasters.

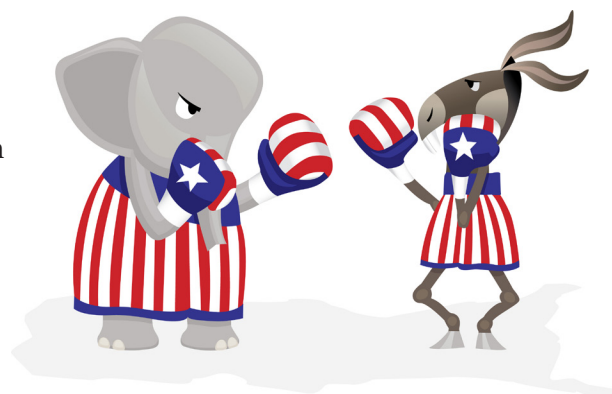
The CBA is building a coalition of supporters to propose an **anti-SLAPP bill** during the 2017 legislative session. SLAPP suits bog down our court systems, cost time and money, and silence the voices that need to be heard. Twenty-nine other states have similar legislation on the books and we hope to add Connecticut to that list.

FEDERAL POLITICS

With Republicans in control of both houses of Congress, the federal government will be considering **comprehensive tax reform**. Broadcasters will have to be watchful for anything that could adversely impact the industry, particularly the treatment of advertising deductions. Other prominent issues include ompensation for the **re-packing of the spectrum** and the multi-faceted attack on **music licensing**. When the new Congress convenes we will again be soliciting support for the "Local Radio Freedom Act", which strives to retain the status quo for broadcasters in their licensing of music.

KNOW YOUR LEGISLATORS

An important part of our 2017 **advocacy efforts** will be NAB's annual State Leadership Conference in Washington, DC, which will include visits to Capitol Hill and the FCC. Legislators like to hear from their constituents and constituents like to hear from their legislators. We encourage you to meet with your federal, state, and local representatives whenever possible. We would be glad to join your meetings and provide talking points about current issues.



CONTACT THE CBA

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Visit ctba.org today to stay up-to-date with your Association!

LBS RETURNS

We've received favorable reviews for the weekly sales ideas provided by Gary Moore and his team at Local Broadcast Sales. We plan to continue this member benefit in 2017.



"On-Demand Broadcast Sales Training and Revenue Development *That Works!*"

CBA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

We raised over \$4,000 in our inaugural scholarship auction this year, which will help fund our 2017 scholarship program. The 2017 application period will open in late December and close on Friday, March 17th. WFSB-TV's Klarn DePalma will lead our 2017 scholarship fund-raising efforts. Your help in promoting this program is greatly appreciated. It provides needed tuition assistance to Connecticut students and provides education and training for future broadcasters.

CIVICS EDUCATION IN CONNECTICUT

This election cycle has raised the issue of civics education in America and we want to let you know about three opportunities for broadcasters to become involved in civics education right here in Connecticut:

-The Connecticut Foundation for Open Government will launch a project entitled "**Introduction to the Concept of Free Speech**" during National Sunshine Week, March 12-18, 2017. The goal of the project is to introduce high school and college students to the intersecting rights of free speech, a free press, academic freedom, and democratic governance. Ten teams of presenters will pilot the program in classrooms and other education venues.

-**Connecticut's Old State House** has announced that it is once again open to the public! Connecticut history is on display at 800 Main Street in downtown Hartford for school groups (K-12) and members of the general public.

Visit www.ctoldstatehouse.org for hours, news, upcoming events and information on Old State House School Programs.

-The **National High School Mock Trial Championships** will be staged in Hartford between May 11-13, 2017. Civics First, a non-profit organization dedicated to law education in Connecticut, will organize the event, which will feature state champions from the entire country competing for the national championship.

Please let us know if you'd like additional information about any of these programs.



CBA ANNUAL CONVENTION

This year's event was held at Quinnipiac University and featured keynote speaker **FCC Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel**. Sales presenter Kennen Williams got stellar reviews, as did FEMA's Jeff Hugabonne and Manny Centeno for their session on emergency preparedness. NAB Executive VP Curtis LeGeyt joined Patrick McCabe and Eric Kemmler is providing a legislative update. And NAB's Chief Technology Officer Sam Matheny talked about the future of broadcast technology and NAB's "Pilot" incubator. We had two engaging sessions about journalism that included panelists from the CBA, the CT Society of Professional Journalists, and Quinnipiac, including pollster Doug Schwartz. **We welcome any and all suggestions for the 2017 event!**



OPIOD ABUSE CRISIS

Connecticut is not immune to the opioid abuse crisis in the U.S., which affects people from all walks of life. The CBA has decided to join the effort to inform and educate Connecticut residents about where and how to get help. We will be rolling out PSAs that direct people to the state of Connecticut's opioid abuse web site and 24/7 hotline (DrugFreeCT.org/1-800-563-4086). We will be circulating the PSAs in the weeks ahead and ask that you to lend your air to this cause.

CBA COMINGS... AND GOINGS....

It was announced at the annual meeting that the following members of the board of directors were elected to **new three-year terms** to run 2017-2019:

-KLARN DePALMA, WFSB-TV

-JENNIFER PARSONS, WZBG-FM

-ANDY RUSSELL, HALL COMMUNICATIONS

-MARION THORNTON-ANDERSON, GOIS BROADCASTING

It was also announced that **ESPN's Amy Klein** had been elected to the board as the Associate Member Director for a three-year term that will run from 2017-2019. Ms. Klein replaces **ESPN's Nell DeVane**, who had served as Associate Member Director since 2009. Prior to joining ESPN, Ms. Klein worked at the FCC and on Capitol Hill. We're sorry to see Nell go, but we're glad she's leaving us in good hands.

-Chair Kathy Browne announced the retirement of **Past Chair Don DeCesare**, owner and President of WLIS/WMRD, from the CBA board. Chair Browne thanked Don for his years of service on the board, particularly in the area of government relations. She also noted his singular contributions to the journalism seminars at the annual convention, as well as his contributions to the inaugural CBA Hall of Fame.

WTNH-TV's Mark Higgins is now GM of Media General's WSPA-WYCW in the Greenville-Spartanburg, SC/Asheville, NC market. Best of luck to Mark with those CBS and CW affiliates!

NEW ABIP CYCLE

2017 starts another cycle of FCC-related inspections. The CBA has engaged Bob Shotwell of Spectrum Investigative Services to conduct ABIP inspections. And the CBA will subsidize these inspections by paying for 50% of the total cost of \$500 per station. CBA Vice President Mike Rice will be in touch to schedule inspections with your stations.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM *THE CBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS!*

Kathy Browne (Chair)
CBS Radio

Steve Rabb (First Vice Chair)
FOX 61

Steve Honeycomb (Second Vice Chair)
iHeartmedia

Sulma Avenancio (Secretary)
Univision

Andy Russell (Treasurer)
Hall Communications

Don DeCesare (Past Chair)
WLIS/WMRD

Klarn DePalma
WFSB-TV

Jennifer Parsons
WZBG-FM

Marion Thornton-Anderson
Gois Broadcasting

Kristin Okesson
Connoisseur Media

Nell DeVane
ESPN

George Lombardi
WSHU

Susan Tully
NBC Connecticut

Brenda Mulero
Telemundo

Ray Andrewsen
WQUN

Pablo Colon
WCUM