



# ONONDAGA COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION BAR REPORTER

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## Bousquet Beams, Community Wins

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#### MISSION :

To maintain the honor and dignity of the profession of law, to cultivate social discourse among its members, and to increase its significance in promoting the due administration of Justice.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

CLEs   Business Valuations & Divorce	11/7
Veterans Day - Office Closed	11/10
CLE   HIPAA HITECH	11/14
CLE   Supreme Court Practicum	11/21
Holiday Reception	11/30



# Bousquet Distinguished Among Peers

By: Carrie Chantler

They say a good party creates a temporary youthfulness. And even though there were no goofy hats or silly games, the 142nd Annual Dinner brought the fun Thursday, October 26th.

More than 200 OCBA members and special guests attended the event at the Marriott Syracuse Downtown where together they recognized Laurence G. Bousquet, Esq., the 2017 Distinguished Lawyer.

Bousquet was nominated by his colleagues for the bar association's highest honor due to his dedicated volunteer service to the business, educational, arts, and cultural landscape of the City of Syracuse.

Considered the biggest night of the bar association's calendar, the merriment is many months in the making and was accomplished this year by the Nominating and Annual Dinner committees, Bousquet Holstein's Director of Marketing and Public Relations Jan Quitzau, and the OCBA staff.

Toes couldn't help tapping to the sounds of the Skan Jam Kicks Band, OCBA's nearly in-house, jazz combo. On the keys was OCBA Executive Director Jeff Unaitis who traded eights with U.S. Federal Magistrate Judge David Peebles, on trumpet, and fellow band mates Andy Peebles on bass and Jim Laratta on drums.



The party vibe amped up during a cocktail reception as folks congratulated guest of honor Bousquet, who was accompanied by his wife Lauri and son Chris (see photo).

Surrounded by friends, family and colleagues, Bousquet also greeted last year's Distinguished Lawyer, and his good friend, Susan Horn, Esq. as well as Ruger Award recipient, Hon. Norman A. Mordue.

The event, partially dependent on corporate patronage, experienced a banner year with an influx of sponsorships by law firms and organizations happy to support this annual favorite (see sponsors, page 7).

Aaron Ryder welcomed attendees and introduced the evening's program. The Annual Dinner Chair was later joined by OCBA President Jim Murphy.

"I hope you enjoy tonight's event and the rare opportunity it provides to eat and drink with your friends, colleagues and adversaries," said Murphy, after recognizing the many OCBA volunteers who tirelessly contribute to the bar association.

Inspiration was delivered by Carrie Berse, president of the Crouse Health Foundation, who sang the National Anthem and LeMoyne College Student Success Coach and Resident Chaplain Elizabeth Scanlon who provided a stirring invocation.

Special guest New York State Bar Association President Sharon Stern Gerstman also spoke to the assemblage. Gerstman briefly enumerated state bar association offerings, said hello to her OCBA colleagues and

asked the lawyers to contemplate their commitment to the legal profession.

"My challenge to all is to be the instrument of social change that many of us went to law school to become," she said.

Social change is at the center of Bousquet's work on behalf of the eight community organizations in which he's currently active.

A longtime volunteer, the Syracuse native has served as past president, or board member, of six other Syracuse influencers, including: Hiscock Legal Aid Society, Onondaga Citizens League, and the Everson Museum of Art.

Phil Bousquet, a member of Bousquet Holstein, introduced his brother, with whom he's practiced law for 28 years. Phil pointed out his sibling's long list of leadership roles is not only indicative of his love for Syracuse, but of his passion for the rule of law: "What distinguishes Larry – is the WAY that he served these great causes, all of which serve the people of Central New York. Larry doesn't just show up. He shows

# *Bousquet Distinguished Among Peers*

up, he rolls up his sleeves, and he gets to work. He loves the thrill of the complex problem. He prods, questions, and grinds on a problem until he can break it into pieces that can be analyzed, worked through, and solved.

And all that prodding and grinding is framed and informed by the law. Larry studies it until he sees its shape and purposes. He opens the books, reads the Code and the regs and the rulings. He reads on. And he reads on some more. He makes sure he understands how it works, and more importantly, why the rules are what they are. And then he brings that understanding of the “how” and the “why” to the table, to grind and fit the parts and pieces back together into a solution. That is some kind of lawyering, my friends.”

Bousquet is a master at finding solutions by first seeking consensus among stakeholders to affirm their assent and back it up in public, said his brother.

“Consensus-based decision making is not based on a vote, or on fiat or mandate. It is based on principle – the idea that shared values and common interests lead to lasting outcomes,” Phil said. “He is always willing to do that hard work, no matter the context.”

And then it was time for the guest of honor, in his signature modest tone, to address his audience.

“Whatever I accomplished during the past 37 years, in the practice of law and in our community, has been largely due to the company that I’ve had the pleasure and honor of keeping,” Bousquet said.

He discussed significant early-career relationships and how his parents worked to assure him and his brother were exposed to the law and its honorable practitioners.

“My parents provided a great example of good citizenship and community involvement – they loved the great and talented people they came to know and the causes they championed, whether it was the Visiting Nurses Association, the Junior League, or Planned Parenthood,” he said.

Mentors proved important, such as Eddie Green, Esq., formerly of Green & Seifter, who hired Bousquet at age 28 and to whom he’d later hand over his firm.

“Eddie provided an interdisciplinary practice, gave

us the opportunity to imagine a new kind of law firm, had confidence in us, and was passionate in his belief that is ‘one generation’s obligation to plant the trees under whose shade future generations will rest’,” said Bousquet. “I’m proud that that commitment to community is one of the core beliefs of our firm today, as it has been from the inception.”

Bousquet thanked many colleagues, singling out Lowell Seifter, general counsel for St. Joseph’s Hospital Health Care, along with Robert Weiler “who joined us on faith and friendship over 30 years ago and who has been the intellectual core of our firm ever since.”

He mentioned, in gratitude, in addition to his wife Lauri and son Chris, colleagues Gary Grossman and Steve St. Amour, as well as his fellow firm partners and staff “...an extraordinary, energetic, diverse, brilliant,

**“Whatever I may have been able to accomplish during the past 37 years, in the practice of law and in our community, has been largely due to the company that I have had the pleasure and honor of keeping.”**

inquisitive, and dedicated group who make coming to work every day a joy.”

As for his prodigious community involvement, the relentless civic volunteer offered the following.

“Let me explain why the privilege and honor that I have had to be involved with so many extraordinary organizations is fully congruent with my perception of the role of the attorney in the Community.

“After all, the law is simply the Community’s most profound expression of how we seek to govern ourselves. It is the covenant that we make to each other about how we will conduct our affairs.

“And we, as lawyers, have a unique relationship to the Law. We ‘think like lawyers,’ which, in its best version, means that we dig deep to understand the nuance and complexity, and ultimately, the truth of the facts before us; we are dedicated to understanding the law – its history, its meaning, and how it has been applied – and

# Bousquet Distinguished Among Peers

we're adept at applying those principles to the facts to achieve a just outcome; no small objective."

He spoke of the role and responsibility lawyers have to serve "those who exist on the fringe of our Community as individuals for whom those things that we hold self-evident are not readily accessible."

As "guardians and gatekeepers of the law," Bousquet emboldened listeners to provide access to justice and the legal system for poor and indigent citizens.

"Over my career I have had the great privilege to work with a broad array of community organizations, but I can think of no better example of the role of the attorney in the Community than the work we do as a profession providing counsel and comfort to those who cannot afford legal advice in matters that impact the essentials of life," he said.

Bousquet is the Board of Directors Chair of the Volunteer Lawyers Project of Onondaga County which began as an OCBA program in 1991, but went solo in 2012 with a staff of one and a \$45,000 budget. Today, the agency provides legal services to more than 3,500 clients, benefitting 8,300 community members, accomplished by a nine-member staff, a pro bono panel of 500 local attorneys, 201 law students and an annual budget of \$800,000.

He likened VLP's Executive Director Sally Curran's moral courage and determination of his hero, Robert Kennedy.

Within an arm's reach, on a daily basis, Bousquet can remind himself of Kennedy's impact. On his desk's pullout shelf, since he began to practice law, is taped a photo of the former U.S. Attorney General.

Bousquet remembered to dinner guests Kennedy's Affirmation Day's speech at the University of Capetown:

"It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current to sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

Collaboration toward such goals requires trust, Bousquet concluded, not only among colleagues and clients, but also when working within organizations to raise the community's capacity to assess, improve and contribute.

"So in the end, I thank you for this recognition, and I dedicate it to those who work at the legal services

organizations of our community, whether shepherding the work of and providing training to volunteer lawyers, or directly providing services, and to all of you who volunteer your time so that those who live in poverty can share the basic freedoms that the covenant of our community should provide."

## VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT OF ONONDAGA COUNTY, INC.

### Volunteer Lawyers Project Wants You!

#### Here's who to contact:

**Samantha Aguam: (315) 579-2579**

Eviction Defense, Elder Law & Disability,  
Unemployment Insurance

**Herve Comeau: (315) 579-0178**

Immigration Law

**Dwayne Comer: (315) 849-9234**

Community Needs Assessment Survey

**Sally Fisher Curran: (315) 579-2576**

Non-profits, LGBTQ

**Bethanie Hemingway: (315) 579-3991**

Talk to a Lawyer Clinics

**Mary John: (315) 579-2574**

Family Law

**Cheryl Jones: (315) 930-3505**

Community Economic Development

**Deb O'Shea: (315) 579-2577**

Eviction Defense Programs

**Lanessa Owens: (315) 579-0177**

New Start Program – Reentry Assistance

**John Powers: (315) 565-4547**

Veterans and Military Services Members

**Laurie Rolnick: (315) 930-3506**

Homeless Advocacy & Prevention





## Bachar and Cohen Join Bousquet Holstein PLLC



Syracuse, NY - Bousquet Holstein PLLC is pleased to announce that Lisa K. Bachar has joined the law firm as Director of Human Resources. She is responsible for all human resource policy formulation, planning, organization, direction and evaluation of human resources activities.

She will guide and manage the provisions of Human Resources services, policies, and programs for the firm. Lisa has been involved in HR for a majority of her career, most recently at Barclay Damon where she was the Regional Office Director and HR Generalist. Lisa is an active member of the Society for Human Resources Management. She is a graduate of Columbia College and resides with her family in West Monroe, NY.



Syracuse, NY - Bousquet Holstein PLLC is pleased to announce that Rebecca R. Cohen has joined the firm's Immigration and Business Practice Groups. She practices business and family immigration law, with a focus on O-1 extraordinary ability artist and athlete visas, and

EB-1 green card petitions. She also concentrates her practice on dual citizenship matters.

Prior to joining Bousquet Holstein, Rebecca served as Associate Director, Corporate and Foundation Relations at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. She has also served as Deputy Director of Development for the Reach Out and Read National Center in Boston, and as an attorney at the Ottinger Firm PC in New York City. Rebecca developed additional experience in the areas of labor and employment law, and securities and antitrust class actions, while practicing at various New York City law firms.

Rebecca earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Brown University, and her law degree from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. Rebecca was born and raised in Syracuse, and has returned after living in Providence, New York, and Boston. She cares deeply about her community, and was recently elected to serve a three year term on the Fayetteville-Manlius Board of Education, a school district where she attended school from grades K-12. She previously served on the board of the Jewish Community Center of Syracuse.

## Natalie Hempson-Elliott Chosen to Receive 40 Under Forty Award

Syracuse, NY - Bousquet Holstein PLLC is proud to announce that Natalie P. Hempson-Elliott, an attorney at the firm, has been chosen to receive the CNY Business Journal 40 Under Forty Award.

Nominees were judged based on their business accomplishments, community involvement, and their leadership role in Central New York. Awards will be presented to the forty winners at a recognition event on November 16th at the SRC Arena.

Natalie serves as an Associate Attorney at Bousquet Holstein in the Business Transactions and Real Estate Practice Groups. She has a range of experience working with diverse clients in business and corporate matters, financing, not-for-profit organizations, commercial real estate, residential sales, and mergers and acquisitions. Natalie is a graduate of Syracuse University College of Law and Hobart and William Smith Colleges. She serves on the Board of Directors for Vera House and Contact Community Services, and volunteers her time at the Say Yes Legal Clinics of the Onondaga County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyer Project.

### TERENCE A. LANGAN, P. C.

34 Years Experience

Florida and New York Estate Administration

New York Commercial Real Estate

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**REFERRALS WELCOME**