

ConnecticutLawTribune

Meet Peter Dreyer, Whose Star Is on the Rise in Connecticut Law

By Emily Cousins

June 17, 2025

Peter Dreyer, managing partner at Silver Golub & Teitell, was named the new president of the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association. He plans to strengthen membership and to expect the unexpected.

In 2001, Dreyer joined the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association, and he quickly understood the value and importance of the organization.

"It was an opportunity to learn from, really, the best trial lawyers in the state," Dreyer said. "It's like a thousand-member law firm. They all do similar work you do, and so it's a place for mentorship; it's a place for collaboration; and it's a place for continuing growth as a lawyer."

Soon after he became involved with the group, he joined the membership committee. Over the years, he moved up to the chairman of the committee, then the Board of Governors, and now, the president.

Dreyer said he wanted to take on the role of president of the CTLA because he saw opportunities for growth, and possibly be an addition to the history of "incredible leaders" at the organization.

He said he wants to strengthen membership and utilize his experience as managing partner to take on any challenges as they come.



Courtesy photo

Peter Dreyer, partner with Silver Golub & Teitell.

"There is a lot going on in the law that requires law firms to adapt," Dreyer said. "One of the big responsibilities as CTLA president is to make the organization useful for its members."

In the age of quickly developing technology, such as artificial intelligence, Dreyer said it's important for firms to keep up with the quickly changing landscape of many professions.

"I think preparing people, bringing in outside experts, educating them on best practices, is incredibly important," Dreyer said. "Also, law firms are small businesses, and our members are under the same

cybersecurity and fraud threats that target all sorts of other businesses and industries.”

Alinor Sterling, partner at Koskoff Koskoff & Bieder and the previous CTLA president, said she is excited to see how Dreyer develops his goals for membership.

“During my presidency,” Steling said, “there was a lot of focus on bringing law students into the organization and tightening our connection with law schools. I know he’s going to build on that, but I know that he also has plans to involve our membership in sort of all of the things that the organization is doing.”

Sterling said the CTLA is in good hands, as Dreyer is known for his excellent leadership.

“He knows when to listen and he knows when to talk,” Sterling said. “He cares a lot about the organization and its goals. He’s creative. He thinks hard about what contributions different people in the organization can make, and he enables people to contribute in those ways.”

Angelo Ziotas, partner at Silver Golub, joined the firm around the same time as Dreyer. Ziotas said he noticed immediately how “smart and prepared” Dreyer was.

“He was one of those guys who, at the time he joined the firm, there were a lot of partners and different people who would give you projects as a new associate, and we always described him as kind of the unicorn,” Ziotas said. “He was juggling projects from seven or eight partners, and always seemed to get it done perfectly.”

From a young age, Dreyer was “fascinated by law and advocacy,” and was drawn “to the idea of fighting injustice in the courtroom.” His parents’ passion for service also inspired him to become an attorney. Dreyer’s father was a physician, and his mom was a graduate school professor who taught teachers how to teach children with dyslexia and other learning disabilities how to read.

“Being a trial lawyer actually combines all of that for me,” Dreyer said. “I get the opportunity to stand up for individuals and their families against

powerful institutions, and I get to help people who can’t fight for themselves. In the vast majority of cases, I am able to improve people’s lives in the work that I do.”

After graduating from UCLA School of Law, Dreyer said his first significant job was at the Bronx District Attorney’s Office in 1997. At the time, it was the fifth-largest prosecutor’s office in the United States, consisting of 400 lawyers battling 80,000 felony indictments a year.

“It was a place where you were thrown in from day one to fast-paced trial work in a very challenging environment,” Dreyer said. “I tried my first case in that office the second week I was there.”

In the three years Dreyer worked for the District Attorney’s Office, he presented hundreds of cases to the grand jury and tried dozens of cases.

“In a very short time, I got as much experience as a younger lawyer could possibly imagine getting,” Dreyer said. “That set me on track to where I am now.”

Dreyer then joined Silver Golub & Teitell. “It’s not unlike the DA’s office,” Dreyer said. “People come to us looking for help. We investigate their cases and try to hold people accountable for the wrongs they’ve done.”

While Dreyer and the firm cannot take every case, he said every phone call is meaningful, and even inquiries that don’t turn into lawsuits can lead to families getting answers. He is proud of the cases that have led to tangible change, not just to help their clients, but the public in general.

“I’ve handled and the firm has handled many cases that have led to safety reforms that, in all likelihood, made us all safer and prevented future tragedies,” Dreyer said. “These would be cases where we discovered there were problems in the health care system or within industries that would have gone either unnoticed or uncorrected.”

In a recent medical malpractice case that resolved favorably for a young woman, Dreyer said his client became permanently disabled from her injuries and

was unable to get the medical care and therapy she needed. She had to live in her parents' basement.

"We built a case that couldn't be defended, and the case settled," Dreyer said. "I received an email from her. She has her own place now. She's getting all the treatment that she could possibly need from high-quality providers. And she was out on a walk, and she had a genuine smile on her face. That was really rewarding."

When Sterling has observed Dreyer working on cases, she said she has been consistently impressed with his "command of the material."

"He does what a great trial lawyer does," Sterling said, "which is that he prepares extensively and thoughtfully, and then he brings all that knowledge to bear."

In one of the first cases Dreyer tried at Silver Golub, Ziotas said he still often sends the transcript of an examination of a defense expert in a medical malpractice to young lawyers as a "textbook" and "perfect" example that led to a great result in the suit.

"He controlled the witness and got everything that he needed to get while perfectly following the rules of evidence," Ziotas said. "It's not an easy thing to do. He was able to keep the expert in line and get the concessions that he needed to. The reason I always send the transcript to young lawyers is that he did it without asking an objectionable question. Those of us who try cases all the time, sometimes we get carried away and then ask questions in ways that are objectionable. Peter just never does that. He's level-headed. He always keeps his head on his shoulders."

With the experience Dreyer has built over the years, he often advises young lawyers to ask questions.

"When I was new in the Bronx DA's office, I was asking questions every day, all day to anybody who would listen," Dreyer said. "As a young lawyer, you don't know anything. You don't know what you don't know, and the only way you're going to get experience and knowledge is by not being afraid to ask questions."

Experienced lawyers will also have a variety of answers to the same question. But there is a misconception among some young lawyers that the best way to find an answer is to research something on their own. "If you're asking a question, that means you're thoughtful and you're smart and you want to learn," he said.

Something that new and seasoned attorneys are worried about is the threat to the rule of law, including Dreyer.

"The rule of law, which for my entire lifetime up until this year, was a sacred concept," Dreyer said. "It has been under attack in a way and in ways that we've never seen before. ... If we don't have the rule of law, what I'm concerned about is not just what that does to my profession, it's what it does to this country. One of our greatest strengths is our rule of law. You can go to court and vindicate your rights if you have a dispute. In many countries, that is not true."

But Dreyer is confident the rule of law will withstand the attacks.

"I think this is a test of the rule of law, and I think we're going to pass that test," Dreyer said. "At our core, the principle of upholding the rule of law. It will prevail, because there are so many of us who have dedicated our lives to ensuring that the rule of law in the United States will always be preserved. I can't imagine another way this could go."