



Attorney Timothy Grady, Class of '97

Attorney Timothy J. Grady's passion for his role as a patient advocate has led him from a career as a RN that began in 1991 working with HIV-positive, drug-dependent and behaviorally disruptive patients to his current career as a partner and trial lawyer with Halloran & Sage LLP, a law firm with offices across Connecticut as well as a branch in Washington, DC.

Grady, who has been a member of the firm for nine years, focuses on medical malpractice defense of physicians, nurses and allied health care professionals, as well as health care agencies and institutions.

Grady, who earned his bachelor's degree from Charter Oak in 1997, describes his career in nursing as "serendipitous." "As far back as I can remember, I wanted to be a lawyer," he said. "A career in nursing was never in my plan."

He had been working for the CT Department of Children and Youth Services (now the Department of Children & Families) as a children's mental health worker at Riverview Children's Hospital in Middletown, CT, and the program changed from a residential model to a medical model. Grady was offered a position, and went on to earn his associate

degree in nursing. Later in his nursing career he worked in the emergency department at Yale-New Haven Hospital, which provided welcome challenges. "Trauma was the most exciting to me," Grady said. "It's probably the area of nursing where a nurse has the most responsibility and autonomy, as well as the opportunity to make a huge difference in the life of a patient."

By the time Grady came to Charter Oak to complete his bachelor's degree, he had two associate degrees – in human services and nursing – and was a full-time, stay-at-home dad, who was also working three 12-hour night shifts a week. Charter Oak's flexibility was paramount to completing his degree, which allowed him to go on to law school and pursue his career as a lawyer.

"Charter Oak allowed me to develop my own program and get my undergraduate degree completed in a way that was both expeditious and meaningful," he said. "I was also given the latitude to focus on the courses I wanted to take, and could take them where I wanted to take them."

U.S. News Ranks Charter Oak State College among the Best Online Bachelor's Programs

In a recently released report, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked Charter Oak State College within the top 15 best online bachelor's programs available in 2013. The distinction is one of three awards the college has received recently for its programs and services to students.

U.S. News evaluated several factors to rank programs, including graduation rates, faculty credentials and support services available remotely. Charter Oak State College President Ed Klonoski said of the distinction, "No longer are we higher education's best kept

secret. The word is getting out that Charter Oak offers students affordable, flexible and workforce-relevant degree programs that rank us among the best of our peer institutions."

Grady went on to get his law degree from Quinnipiac University in 1994, and was recently named partner at Halloran & Sage. His experience as a nurse – particularly in the emergency department – has been integral to his success as a lawyer. "I like to say that as an ED nurse, I helped keep the docs out of trouble, and as a lawyer, when they into trouble, I help them get out," he said.

"The skill set I developed in the emergency department is extremely helpful in my work defending physicians and other health care providers in medical malpractice actions and before the DPH," he said. "My clients appreciate that I'm a nurse, that I know what they go through day to day and that I speak their language."

(NOTE: If you are interested in sharing your success story with your fellow alumni, please contact Nancy Taylor – Charter Oak's Assistant Director of Alumni Relations – and let her know. She can be reached via email: nataylor@charteroak.edu, or by telephone: 860-515-3863). ❁

The methodology behind the selections included a weighted system to compare colleges. Student Engagement (50%), Faculty Credentials and Training (25%) and Student Services and Technology (25%) comprised the three main areas of comparison.

❁