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The Connecticut Bar Foundation
Annual Report

2015 Connecticut Bar Foundation Board of Directors and Staff



Front row (l-r): Liz Drummond, James Sicilian, Ralph Monaco, Jennifer Brown, Margaret Castinado, James (Tim) Shearin, Doreen Fundiller-Zweig, Don Philips, William Logue, Peter Arakas, Timothy Diemand ~ Back row (l-r): Katilyn Carling, Anne Goico, Hon. Janet Hall, Krista Hess, Hon. Ingrid Moll, Timothy Fisher, John Logan, Norman Janes, Moy Ogilvie, Hon. William Bright, William Clendenen

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Alex Lloyd
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Staff

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(through 5/15)

Annual Report of President James T. (Tim) Shearin and Executive Director Don Philips

2015 was a year of transition, celebration and challenges for the Connecticut Bar Foundation (CBF). After serving twenty years as the CBF's Executive Director, Sandy Klebanoff retired on May 1. During Sandy's tenure, the CBF introduced the James W. Cooper Fellows Program which led to an unprecedented growth in CBF programs and projects. On May 6, 2015, over 200 Fellows and guests paid tribute to Sandy and celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Fellows at the CBF Annual Meeting and Fellows Reception. The CBF hired Don Philips to succeed Sandy as its Executive Director.

Celebrating twenty years of service and support to the CBF and the Connecticut legal community, the James W. Cooper Fellows continued its tradition of offering extraordinary and historic programs throughout the year. Led by Bill Logue and Dwight Merriam and working

with members of the Fellows Education and Program Committee and sub-committees, the Fellows produced three very successful symposia in 2015. Roundtables continued in 2015 with three well-attended and thought provoking programs conducted throughout the state. In addition, over 100 Fellows served as judges for the annual Quintin Johnstone Essay Contest.

The Connecticut Innocence Fund, sponsored by the CBF in partnership with Community Partners in Action, received its first loan repayment in June, 2015, and is now a step closer to attaining its goal of becoming a self-sustaining and continuous source of financial assistance to exonerees.

The History of Connecticut Women in the Legal Profession project was jump-started in the fall when Ann Rubin of Carmody Torrance Sandak Hennessey LLP secured from

her firm a commitment to provide \$20,000 to support the project. Ann joined Hon. Susan A. Peck as the project's co-chair.

In September, the CBF Board of Directors unanimously approved a diversity policy, expressing the CBF's long held belief that diversity and inclusion increases the CBF's strengths, capabilities and adaptability and enhances the CBF's effectiveness in accomplishing its mission.

One of the most persistent challenges facing the CBF has been securing adequate funding for civil legal aid providers. IOLTA revenue continued to fall in 2015 and revenue from court fees declined for the second consecutive 12-month period. As a result of these trends, the Board of Directors projected \$2 million less in total revenue for 2016. CBF leaders continued to meet with key

members of all three branches of government to discuss possible new sources of funding for civil legal aid and to seek collaborative solutions to the ongoing funding crisis.

We thank Bob Langer and Norm Janes for their respective service on the board and welcome new board members Timothy A. Diemand and Krista Hess. We express gratitude to Quinnipiac University School of Law, the University of Connecticut School of Law, Yale Law School, and the Connecticut Bar Association for their support of the CBF and its mission. We wish to thank the officers, members of the Board, and the Fellows for their generous financial support of and commitment to the mission of the CBF. Finally, we thank the CBF staff for its commitment, devotion and work on behalf of the CBF: Liz Drummond, Anne Goico, Katilyn Carling, Gina Casella, and Melissa Lauretti.

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2015 Grants

Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts/Interest on Trust Accounts (IOLTA/IOTA) Court Fees Grants-in-Aid (CFGIA), Judicial Branch Grants-in-Aid (JBGIA) Bank of America Settlement Grants (BOA)

	IOLTA/IOTA	CFGIA	JBGIA	BOA	TOTAL GRANTS PAID
Legal Services Providers					
Center for Children's Advocacy provides legal representation and systemic advocacy for poor children statewide.	\$ 53,965	\$ 351,401	\$ 41,875		\$ 447,241
Children's Law Center provides representation to poor children in Hartford, New Britain, New Haven, Tolland, Waterbury, and Windham Judicial Districts.	\$ 26,568	\$ 173,003	\$ 20,516		\$ 220,087
Connecticut Fair Housing Center represents those who have been victims of housing discrimination.	\$ 21,456	\$ 139,672	\$ 16,444	\$ 152,217	\$ 329,789
Connecticut Legal Rights Project represents low-income people in state psychiatric hospitals and after discharge.	\$ 73,716	\$ 480,008	\$ 57,193		\$ 610,917
Connecticut Legal Services provides general legal assistance in all areas of the state except Hartford and New Haven Counties.	\$ 1,000,910	\$ 6,517,555	\$ 767,423	\$ 57,217	\$ 8,343,105
Connecticut Veterans Legal Center provides legal assistance to veterans.	\$ 3,288	\$ 21,393	\$ 8,603	\$ 22,217	\$ 55,501
Greater Hartford Legal Aid provides general legal assistance in greater Hartford.	\$ 399,015	\$ 2,598,240	\$ 305,933	\$ 67,217	\$ 3,370,405
Lawyers for Children America provides representation to poor children in Bridgeport, Hartford, Middletown, New Haven, Rockville, Torrington, and Waterbury Juvenile Courts.	\$ 9,625	\$ 62,677	\$ 7,381		\$ 79,683
New Haven Legal Assistance provides general legal assistance in New Haven County.	\$ 313,025	\$ 2,038,304	\$ 240,000	\$ 42,217	\$ 2,633,546
Statewide Legal Services of Connecticut offers brief service and self help for low-income people as well as providing intake and referrals to the other legal service agencies in the state.	\$ 32,125	\$ 209,184	\$ 24,632		\$ 265,941
Technology Grant \$81,275	\$ 81,275				
Legal Services Funding Total	\$ 2,014,968	\$ 12,591,437	\$ 1,490,000	\$ 341,085	\$ 16,437,490

Law School Scholarships

Quinnipiac University School of Law, the University of Connecticut School of Law, and Yale Law School each received \$10,000 from the Connecticut Bar Foundation's IOLTA Law School Scholarship Program to provide scholarships to Connecticut law students demonstrating financial need.



Thomaston Savings Bank's distinction of being a Leadership Bank is a testament to the strong partnership we have formed with the Connecticut Bar Foundation and area law firms. Our mission of being a responsible neighbor and giving back to the communities we serve aligns well with CBF's, which is to ensure that the State's legal system is available to all regardless of power or resources.

Stephen L. Lewis,
President & CEO, Thomaston Savings Bank

2015 Cy Prés Awards

The Foundation is pleased to report it was the recipient of three separate cy prés awards in 2015 totaling over \$81,000. The awards directly benefited the civil legal aid organizations which receive grants from the Foundation.