



# *2022 Annual Report*

FUNDING ACCESS TO JUSTICE





# 2022 Annual Report of President Timothy A. Diemand and Interim Executive Director Steve Eppler-Epstein

We are pleased to present the 2022 Annual Report of the Connecticut Bar Foundation (CBF). The CBF continued implementing expansion of access to courts and legal services relied on by low-income Connecticut residents facing life crises, and fostered numerous gatherings of lawyers to consider topics of broad legal and social interest.

The **IOLTA/IOTA program** experienced relatively low revenues during 2020 and 2021 as a result of the precipitous drop in the Fed Funds rate at the start of the pandemic. This was countered to some extent by strength in Court Fee Grants In Aid and direct appropriations (Judicial Branch Grants In Aid). The timing was unfortunate, coinciding with a high level of legal need. Fortunately, interest rates have been rising, which has over time started to produce stronger IOLTA/IOLA revenues. We anticipate that IOLTA/IOTA will provide somewhat higher levels of funding for grantees, and increased legal services for people in need, in 2024.

Legal aid services in Connecticut expanded further in 2022 with the implementation of **two new pilot programs** of services being delivered by legal aid programs. The pilots were established by the Connecticut General Assembly, which made funding available, and they are administered by the Connecticut Bar Foundation. The first pilot

expands **access to counsel for residential tenants facing eviction**, as cities and states across the country try to mitigate the destabilization of communities caused by high volume of evictions. The second program increases access to **counsel for low-income survivors of domestic violence seeking to apply for a temporary restraining order**. Both programs have completed their ramp-up and are serving a significant number of low-income clients in the pilot locations.

In 2022 the James W. Cooper Fellows of the CBF presented an extensive programming schedule – some of these virtual, as they had been since the beginning of the pandemic, and some returning to an in-person format. We continued to partner with the Connecticut Bar Association (CBA) to present new webinars in the **Constance Baker Motley Speaker Series on Racial Inequality**. The series included seven virtual events in 2022, which remain available for viewing on the CBF website. The Fellows presented a Symposium on the **10th Anniversary of the original Attorneys of Color Symposium**; a Symposium on the **law of Queer Families**; and the **12th Speziale ADR Symposium** discussing the impact of virtual forums in judicial proceedings. The Fellows began a series of **panels on Human Trafficking**

which continued into 2023. The Fellows also hosted three virtual **Roundtables** over the course of the year, where small groups engaged in thoughtful discussion of timely legal issues.

The **22nd Annual Quintin Johnstone Statewide High School Essay Contest** had another successful year, with many student submissions and gratifying turn-out from the Fellows to read and rank the essays. The Foundation continued its partnership with the **Herbert and Nell Singer Foundation** to administer the Singer Connecticut Public Service Fellowship Program. Two new Singer Fellowships were awarded to new lawyers working in public interest law, and one prior-year Fellow was continued for a second year.

We thank Chuck Howard and Maggie Castinado for their years of dedicated service on the CBF Board. We welcome new board members Hon. Cecil Thomas and Richard Knotek. We recognize Quinnipiac University School of Law, UConn School of Law, Yale Law School, and the CBA for their continuing support of the CBF and its mission. We especially thank the officers and members of the CBF Board, the Fellows, and the wonderful staff for their ongoing work on behalf of the CBF.

## 2022 Board of Directors and Staff

### Officers

Timothy A. Diemand,  
*President*  
Hon. Victoria Woodin Chavey,  
*Vice President*  
Keith J. Soressi,  
*Secretary*  
Stephen L. Lewis  
*Treasurer*

### Board of Directors

Hon. Barry F. Armata  
Margaret I. Castinado  
Arthur T. Corey  
Dean Karen DeMeola  
Edward J. Heath  
Charles L. Howard  
Hon. Joette Katz (Ret.)  
Anika Singh Lemar  
Yamuna Menon  
Margaret Middleton  
Hon. Cesar A. Noble  
Moy N. Ogilvie  
Vincent Pace  
Sonia Pedraza  
Franklin E. Perry  
Hon. Robert A. Richardson  
Namita Shah  
Isabella Squicciarini  
Calvin K. Woo

### Ex-Officio Directors

Dean Jennifer Brown  
Hon. Juliett Crawford  
Dean Heather Gerken  
Dean Eboni S. Nelson  
Hon. Richard A. Robinson  
Keith J. Soressi

### Directors Emeriti

Joseph D. D'Alesio  
Alex Lloyd  
William Logue  
Frederic S. Ury

### Staff

Natalie S. Wagner,  
*Executive Director*  
Steve Eppler- Epstein  
*Interim Executive Director*  
(Start date: February 2023)  
Anne E. Goico  
*Finance Director*  
Tiffany Walton  
*Grants Program Director*  
Damian Humphrey  
*Grants Administrator*  
Stacey Mayer  
*Programs Manager*  
Alaina Underwood  
*Executive Assistant/  
Program Coordinator*



## Who Do You Bank With?

The CBF is grateful for the generosity of our Leadership Banks



The following institutions pay higher interest rates on IOLTA/IOTA accounts to increase access to justice for Connecticut residents who cannot afford an attorney.

Bank of America • The Bank of New York Mellon • BankUnited, N.A. • Capitol One • Flagstar Bank, N.A.  
JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A. • Key Bank • M&T Bank • NBT Bank • New Haven Bank • Peoples Bank  
Santander Bank, N.A. • Sterling National Bank • TD Bank • Thomaston Savings Bank  
Torrington Savings Bank • Washington Trust Company • Wells Fargo • Westfield Bank

The Connecticut Bar Foundation, 31 Pratt Street, Suite 420, Hartford, CT 06103  
860-722-2494 • Fax 860-722-2497 • Email [ctbf@ctbarfdn.org](mailto:ctbf@ctbarfdn.org) • [www.ctbarfdn.org](http://www.ctbarfdn.org)

## 2022 Grants

Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts/Interest on Trust Accounts (IOLTA/IOTA), Court Fees Grants-in-Aid (CFGIA), Judicial Branch Grants-in-Aid (JBGIA), Pro Bono Management Grant (Pro Bono), Singer Fellowship Awards (Singer)

Legal Service Providers	IOLTA/IOTA	CFGIA	JBGIA	Pro Bono	Singer	TOTAL GRANTS PAID
<b>Center for Children's Advocacy</b> provides legal representation and systemic advocacy for children and youth at risk statewide.	\$ 77,996	\$ 350,463	\$ 55,270	\$ 62,732	\$ 27,689	\$ 574,150
<b>Children's Law Center of Connecticut</b> provides representation, as Guardians ad litem or Attorneys for the Minor Child, to children of indigent families who are embroiled in bitter custody disputes in Family Courts statewide.	\$ 32,581	\$ 146,395	\$ 23,088			\$ 202,064
<b>Connecticut Fair Housing Center</b> represents those who have been victims of housing discrimination.	\$ 18,362	\$ 82,513	\$ 13,012		\$ 37,500	\$ 151,387
<b>Connecticut Legal Rights Project</b> represents low-income people with mental health conditions to protect their legal rights in the community and in state-operated hospitals.	\$ 87,272	\$ 392,136	\$ 61,842			\$ 541,250
<b>Connecticut Legal Services</b> provides general legal assistance in all areas of the state except Hartford and New Haven Counties.	\$ 1,207,099	\$ 5,423,842	\$ 855,378			\$ 7,486,319
<b>Connecticut Veterans Legal Center's</b> mission is to lower the legal barriers to housing, healthcare, and income for veterans recovering from mental illness and homelessness.	\$ 25,249	\$ 113,453	\$ 17,892		\$ 56,250	\$ 212,844
<b>Greater Hartford Legal Aid</b> provides general legal assistance in greater Hartford.	\$ 485,851	\$ 2,183,071	\$ 344,286		\$ 37,500	\$ 3,050,708
<b>Lawyers for Children America</b> provides representation to poor and at-risk children in Bridgeport, Hartford, Middletown, New Haven, Rockville, Torrington, and Waterbury Juvenile Courts.	\$ 8,245	\$ 37,043	\$ 5,842			\$ 51,130
<b>New Haven Legal Assistance</b> provides general legal assistance in the Greater New Haven and Lower Naugatuck Valley communities.	\$ 359,722	\$ 1,616,333	\$ 254,906		\$ 75,000	\$ 2,305,961
<b>Statewide Legal Services of Connecticut</b> provides legal services to low-income people, including advice, brief services, self-help, referrals to legal aid providers, pro bono referrals, and community education.	\$ 33,002	\$ 148,289	\$ 23,386			\$ 204,677
<b>Open Communities Alliance</b> provides legal assistance to low-income families facing discriminatory barriers when trying to access affordable housing in resource-rich communities.	\$ 6,863	\$ 30,838	\$ 4,862			\$ 42,563
<b>Integrated Refugee &amp; Immigrant Services</b> helps refugees and other displaced people establish new lives, strengthen hope, and contribute to the vitality of Connecticut's communities					\$ 37,500	\$ 37,500
<b>Technology Grant for CTLawHelp Website</b>	\$ 97,816					\$ 97,816
<b>Legal Services Funding Total</b>	\$ 2,440,058	\$ 10,524,376	\$ 1,659,764	\$ 62,732	\$ 271,439	\$ 14,958,369

### CBF Law School Scholarships

The law school scholarship program, which is based on financial need, began in 1989 when the Connecticut General Assembly passed Public Act 89-196 that authorized the administrator of the IOLTA program, the Connecticut Bar Foundation, to provide funding for these scholarships. The CBF developed plans to implement the program and started funding scholarships in 1990. From 1990 to 2022, the CBF has made equal, annual grants totaling \$4,475,909 to Quinnipiac University School of Law (formerly the University of Bridgeport School of Law), UConn School of Law, and Yale Law School. The CBF is proud of its role of providing financial assistance to hundreds of law school students and helping them to achieve a legal education and become attorneys.



**Janice J. Chiaretto**  
Executive Director  
Statewide Legal Services of Connecticut

Statewide Legal Services of Connecticut (SLS) is always proud to be among the grantees of the Connecticut Bar Foundation (CBF). SLS is the gateway to legal services for thousands of low-income people who seek justice in life-altering civil legal matters such as housing, benefits and family law. We provide empowering, in-depth advice, case referral, technological support to CTLawhelp.org. In addition, we strive to maintain a community presence with collaborative outreach, migrant farm worker relief, and an array of pro bono services. We are especially pleased to be playing a role, under the CBF's leadership and support, in the groundbreaking Right to Counsel in Eviction Defense program. The funding we receive from the CBF is truly indispensable in our ability to serve so many people in concert with this remarkable legal aid community.