

2011

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The Connecticut Bar Foundation  
Annual Report



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Ralph J. Monaco



Front row (l-r): Peter Arakas, Doreen Fundiller-Zweig, Sandy Klebanoff, Timothy Fisher, Jeremy Paul, Andrea Barton Reeves, Hon. Raymond Norko, Livia Barndollar Back row (l-r): Robert Langer, Norman Janes, James Sicilian, Don Liu, Louis Pepe, Ingrid Moll, Brad Saxton, Bruce Peabody, Joseph D'Alesio, Ralph Monaco, Liz Drummond, Anne Goico

## Report of President Timothy S. Fisher and Executive Director Sandy Klebanoff

We are pleased to present the 2011 Annual Report of the Connecticut Bar Foundation. During the year, the Foundation continued to experience both positive growth and great challenges in this difficult economic environment.

Funding for legal services from Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts, Judicial Branch Grants-in-Aid, and Court Fees Grants-in-Aid have not kept pace with the increasing needs of low-income people for legal assistance. Connecticut's legal aid programs help victims of domestic violence, children with disabilities, elderly people facing collection agencies and nursing home problems, tenants facing homelessness as a result of the foreclosure actions against their landlords, people with disabilities seeking federal support, and many more legal problems. These programs have lost 22.40% of legal aid lawyers since 2008, and those staff members who remain have taken cuts in their benefits, numerous unpaid furlough days, and made other sacrifices. The need for legal services is at an all time high during these very difficult economic times, and the Foundation continues to work with the Executive Branch, the Legislative Branch, and

the Judicial Branch, as well as lawyers and banks to identify new and increased revenue.

The James W. Cooper Fellows continue to plan and implement Foundation programs. In addition to the Limited Scope Representation and the Judicial Independence Symposia held at Quinnipiac University School of Law, the Fellows supported the Truancy Intervention Project expansion, the Juries and Justice Symposium, the Russian Rule of Law project, and the development of the Connecticut Innocence Fund. The annual essay contest provides high school students with an opportunity to explore issues pertaining to the rule of law and was named in honor of Yale Law School Professor Quintin Johnstone.

Our thanks go to the James W. Cooper Fellows who continue their commitment to the Foundation's mission through increased financial support and involvement in Fellows' projects. We are grateful for the work of the 33 members of the Fellows and Education Program Committee (FEPC), and the leadership, enthusiasm, and dedication of Fellows Chair Dean Brad Saxton and FEPC Chair Bill Logue are an inspiration to all.

The number of people volunteering on Foundation activities continues to increase. Our special thanks go to Peter Arakas, Andrea Barton Reeves, William Clendenen, Professor Jeffrey Meyer, Judge Raymond Norko, Tim Shearin and Judge Jonathan Silbert for serving as chairs of these activities, and to the numerous participants who made these programs so successful. We also thank the Quinnipiac University School of Law for hosting our programs, and we express our gratitude to all Board members for their continuing commitment. We thank Hugh Macgill, Toni Smith-Rosario, Kate Stith, and Bill Trachsel for their service on the board and welcome new board members Larry Fox, Doreen Fundiller-Zweig, and Joe Santos. We also thank Chief Justice Chase Rogers, the Judicial Branch, and the leadership of the Connecticut Bar Association for their support of the Foundation and legal services.

And finally, we convey our sincere appreciation to the outstanding Foundation staff for their tireless efforts, valuable contributions, and dedication during this period of increased activity.

## Grants

### Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts/Interest on Trust Accounts (IOLTA/IOTA) Judicial Branch Grants-in-Aid (JBGIA), Court Fees Grants-in-Aid (CFGIA)

Legal Services Providers	IOLTA/IOTA	JBGIA	CFGIA	GRANTS PAID
AIDS Legal Network for Connecticut provides legal assistance to low-income people with HIV/AIDS	\$ 27,200	\$ 9,286	\$ 52,930	\$ 89,416
Center for Children's Advocacy provides legal advice to poor children statewide	\$ 86,800	\$ 29,643	\$ 168,921	\$ 285,364
Children's Law Center provides representation to poor children in Hartford, New Haven, Tolland, and Windham Counties	\$ 49,200	\$ 16,799	\$ 95,749	\$ 161,748
Connecticut Fair Housing Center represents those who have been victims of housing discrimination	\$ 51,600	\$ 17,621	\$ 100,418	\$ 169,639
Connecticut Legal Rights Project represents low-income people in state psychiatric hospitals and after discharge	\$ 176,400	\$ 60,235	\$ 343,291	\$ 579,926
Connecticut Legal Services provides general legal assistance in all areas of the state except Hartford and New Haven counties	\$ 1,981,600	\$ 676,652	\$ 3,856,390	\$ 6,514,642
Greater Hartford Legal Aid provides general legal assistance in greater Hartford	\$ 855,200	\$ 292,026	\$ 1,664,304	\$ 2,811,530
Lawyers for Children America provides representation to poor children in seven of the eight counties in Connecticut	\$ 23,200	\$ 7,922	\$ 45,149	\$ 76,271
New Haven Legal Assistance provides general legal assistance in New Haven County	\$ 682,800	\$ 233,157	\$ 1,328,796	\$ 2,244,753
Statewide Legal Services of Connecticut provides intake for low-income people and offers self help, brief service, and referrals to the other legal services in the state	\$ 66,000	\$ 22,539	\$ 128,444	\$ 216,983
Cy Près Technology Grant				\$ 86,188
<b>Legal Services Funding Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,365,880</b>	<b>\$ 7,784,392</b>	<b>\$ 13,236,460</b>

### Cy Près Technology Grant

The Foundation received \$72,517 in funding for legal services from cy près awards during 2011. Combined with cy près awards received in 2009 and 2010, the Foundation was able to award a grant to maintain and improve the website [www.ctlawhelp.org](http://www.ctlawhelp.org), developed by the Connecticut Network for Legal Aid, a group of IOLTA grantees.

### 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.



In light of the precipitous drop in funding from IOLTA revenues, which historically had been a cornerstone of funding for Connecticut's legal services organizations, it has become increasingly important to fill in the gap from other funding sources. A cy près award can serve as such a source and can make an enormous difference in our state's legal services organizations' ability to advocate on behalf of Connecticut's vulnerable and low-income residents.

**Ingrid L. Moll**, Chair  
Grantmaking Committee



## Greater Hartford Legal Aid, Inc. (GHLA)

After B's wife gave birth to premature triplets, B asked his employer for time off to care for the babies when they came home from the hospital. The employer refused to allow B to take time off, and B was forced to leave his job in order to help care for his medically fragile infants. After B's claim for unemployment benefits was denied, his GHLA attorney won benefits on appeal under the state's new "quit to care for" law.

## Lawyer's for Children America, Inc. (LFCA)

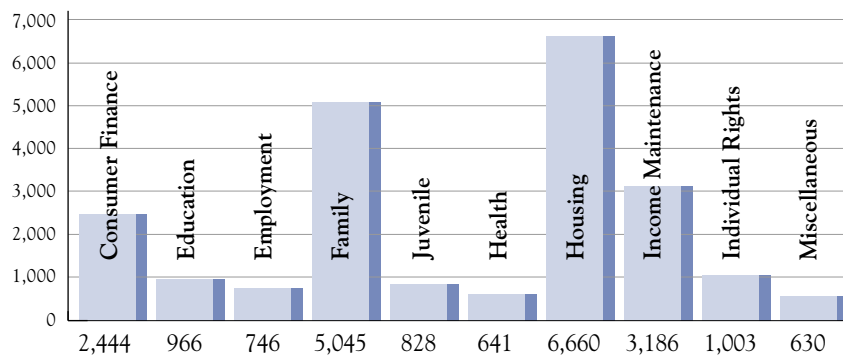
When the police responded to a report of a street fight, they found

5-year-old Ty caught in middle of a violent dispute between his parents. More disturbing, however, was the discovery that Ty had a black eye. His mother claimed her uncle accidentally hit Ty, but she could not explain why she did not call the police when it happened or why she failed to take him to an emergency room. DCF took immediate temporary custody of Ty, and his LFCA volunteer attorney began working to find Ty the best possible placement.

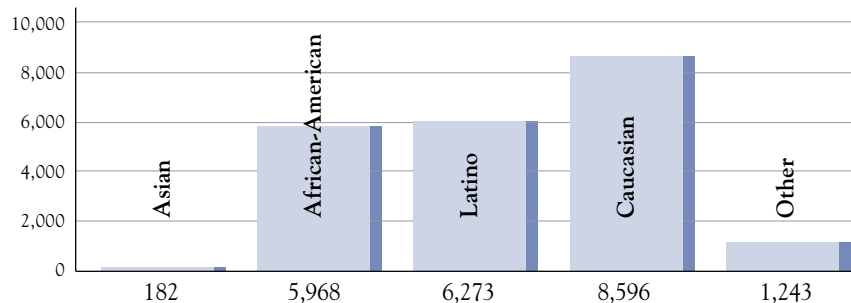
Fortunately, Ty's father agreed to care for him while his mother sought drug treatment. Due in large measure to the LFCA volunteer's efforts, Ty is doing well in his father's care, and the parents' relationship is cordial enough to allow Ty regular visits with his mother.

### Cases Opened by Legal Services Grantees

CASES BY TYPE  
22,149 Cases



CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS  
22,262 Clients



## James W. Cooper Fellows Activities

### Oral History of Connecticut Women in the Legal Profession Project

Thirty-three women have been interviewed since the inception of the Oral History Project in 1999. Karyl Evans, a documentarian, has completed 12 web-based videos of the interviewees of which 6 are on the Foundation's website, [www.ctbarfdn.org](http://www.ctbarfdn.org). Additional videos will be produced in the future.

#### Committee Members

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### Truancy Intervention Project

The goal of the Truancy Intervention Project is to provide help to keep middle school-aged children in school through the intervention of attorney volunteers who serve as advocates and role models for the children. The Project is funded primarily through grants from the American Savings Foundation and Newman's Own Foundation with supplemental support from the Connecticut Bar Foundation and

the New Haven County Bar Foundation. Invaluable support to the Project has been provided by Connecticut Legal Services, New Haven Legal Assistance, The Children's Law Center, and the Connecticut Bar Association. The Project continues to have a strong presence in the New Britain School System while it is seeking to establish a toe-hold in New Haven. The Truancy Intervention Project of Connecti-

cut, Inc. is now incorporated as a non-stock corporation.

#### Committee Members

Livia D. Barndollar, Chair  
Peter Arakas  
Steven Eppler-Epstein  
Howard Klebanoff

#### Mentoring Program

The program pairs seasoned attorneys with new lawyers for a one-year program during which the new admittees are mentored and counseled on the many issues and

challenges confronting every lawyer during his or her first year in the profession. The program operates in Hartford, Tolland, New Haven, and Windham Counties.

#### Committee Members

Louis R. Pepe, Chair  
Patricia R. Kaplan  
Howard Klebanoff  
William H. Prout, Jr.  
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Stephen E. Ronai  
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## High School Essay Contest



**Front row (l-r)** William Logue; Andrea Barton Reeves; Connecticut Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Christine S. Vertefeuille; Dean Brad Saxton; Runner-up Christopher Beadle, Stamford High School; Statewide Winner Paulina Jones-Torregrosa, South Windsor High School; Connecticut Supreme Court Justice Flemming L. Norcott, Jr.; Peter Arakas; Timothy S. Fisher. Runner-up winner Nicholas Kivalanka, East Lyme High School is not in the picture.

The 2010-2011 statewide high school essay contest topic, "Is Out of School Out of Bounds?" dealt with the issue of bullying. The contest generated participation by thirty-eight schools. Over one-hundred-twenty Fellows judged the seventy-

seven entries. The winner received a \$3,000 savings bond and the two runners-up received \$1,500 savings bonds for educational use.

#### Committee Members

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## James W. Cooper Fellows Activities



Hon. Chase T. Rogers with Hon. Linda K. Lager

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## Limited Scope Representation Symposium



M. Sue Talia, Keynote speaker

A symposium, co-sponsored by the Connecticut Bar Association, was held October 28, 2011. Discussion included rule changes to allow lawyers in Connecticut to undertake a limited representation with the assurance of the right to withdraw following conclusion of the scope of their agreed representation. Often referred to as "unbundled services," this practice is allowed in most states. The keynote speaker was M. Sue Talia of the law offices of M. Sue Talia, Danville, CA.

### Participants

Mark Dubois, Geraghty & Bonnano  
Karen M. Duffy,  
Law Offices of Karen M. Duffy, Springfield, MA  
Timothy S. Fisher,  
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Karen M. Duffy

## James W. Cooper Fellows Activities



(l-r) Andrew McDonald, Comm. Joette Katz, Rep. Gerald Fox, Sen. Eric Coleman, Hon. Peter Zarella, Hon. Chase Rogers, Wesley Horton



Dean Martin Belsky,  
Keynote speaker



(l-r) Prof. Jed Shugerman, Hon. Alan Nevas,  
David Rosen, Hon. Alvin Thompson



(l-r) William  
Clendenen and  
Tim Shearin

### Judicial Independence Symposium

The symposium “Judicial Independence: A Crisis or Business as Usual?”, co-sponsored by the Connecticut Bar Association, took place on November 18, 2011 and explored the risks to impartial courts and the means to protect judges from unfair criticism after unpopular decisions. The keynote speaker was Dean Martin H. Belsky of the University of Akron Law School.

#### Co-Chairs

William H. Clendenen, Jr.  
James T. Shearin

#### Participants

William H. Clendenen, Jr., Clendenen & Shea, LLC  
Hon. Eric D. Coleman, Senate Co-Chair, Judiciary Committee  
Hon. Gerald M. Fox, III, House Co-Chair, Judiciary Committee  
Keith Bradoc Gallant, President, Connecticut Bar Association; Day Pitney LLP  
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Hon. Chase T. Rogers, Chief Justice, Supreme Court  
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Professor Jed Shugerman, Harvard Law School  
Hon. Alvin W. Thompson, United States District Court  
Hon. Peter T. Zarella, Associate Justice, Supreme Court

## Connecticut Innocence Fund

In partnership with Community Partners in Action, the Foundation sponsors a program to provide short term financial assistance to newly released exonerees. A revolving fund has been created to make bridge loans to exonerees upon their release from prison after proof of innocence, pending their awards of compensation from the State. A reception to benefit the Fund was held by the CBA Paralegals Committee.

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## Annual Reception



*Hon. Jonathan Lippman,  
Keynote speaker*



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Service Award recipient*



*Prof. Hugh Macgill, Distinguish-  
ed Service Award recipient*



*Prof. Kate Stith, Distinguished  
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## **IOLTA LEADERSHIP BANKS**

(as of June 2012)

The Connecticut Bar Foundation recognizes the following banks for their continued support of the IOLTA program. During this time of historically low interest rates, these banks have volunteered to pay a net yield that is higher than the yield they are required to pay on IOLTA. In the current economic climate, low-income people need legal services more than ever. The Leadership Banks have maintained this community investment which helps legal aid lawyers provide legal services for low-income households in crisis throughout Connecticut.

### Leadership Banks

- Berkshire Bank - CBT Region
- First Niagara Bank, N.A.
- Hudson Valley Bank, N.A.
- Salisbury Bank & Trust Company
- Savings Bank of Danbury
- Sovereign Bank New England
- Start Community Bank
- TD Bank, N.A.
- Thomaston Savings Bank
- Torrington Savings Bank
- Washington Trust Company

If you bank at a Leadership Bank, we thank you; if not, we urge you to choose a Leadership Bank to improve access to justice in Connecticut.