The Connecticut Bar Foundation received $341,085 from the Bank of America settlement of claims relating to the bank’s involvement in residential mortgage-backed securities. Use of these funds was restricted to “foreclosure related legal assistance” and “community redevelopment legal services.”

The CBF Board of Directors awarded the following grants:

- Connecticut Fair Housing Center: $152,217
- Connecticut Legal Services: $52,217
- Connecticut Veterans Legal Center: $22,217
- Greater Hartford Legal Aid: $67,217
- New Haven Legal Assistance: $42,217

On Friday, November 13, 2015, the CBF James W. Cooper Fellows is presenting an exciting and timely symposium: “The Mentoring of New Lawyers: Challenges, Rewards and Best Practices.” Experts from statewide lawyer mentoring programs in Illinois, Ohio, South Carolina and Georgia—experienced in both mandatory and voluntary mentoring programs—will join with the leaders and graduates of our own Connecticut-based mentoring program in a stimulating discussion of lessons learned, successes achieved, and the present need to help our new colleagues transition from studying the law to practicing it. This is a can’t miss program for experienced attorneys, new lawyers, law firms large and small, and law school administrators and students. As always, there is no charge for this symposium. To register or obtain additional information about the symposium, please contact the CBF at 860-722-2494, by email at ctbf@cbf1.org or visit www.ctbarfdn.org.

Plans for the 16th annual Quintin Johnstone Essay Contest are underway. The topic for this year’s contest is “Minors and Medical Decisions.” Essayists will take on the role of a legislative intern who is asked to draft a memorandum that may include a legislative proposal to the General Assembly’s Judiciary Committee discussing whether the legislature should pass a law recognizing the “mature minor” doctrine discussed but not decided by the Connecticut Supreme Court in the 2015 decision In re Cassandra C. Stay tuned for further updates on the essay contest.

The James W. Cooper Fellows Program was created by the Connecticut Bar Foundation in 1994. The purpose of the Program is twofold: to promote a better understanding of the legal profession and the judicial system among the citizens of Connecticut, and to address matters concerning the legal profession and administration of justice in Connecticut, including the structure, organization, and challenges. Nomination to the Fellows program is evidence of professional distinction and membership comprises such outstanding judges, lawyers and law teachers as are nominated by the Fellows and approved by the Board of Directors.

This year, the Fellows Nominating Committee will recommend a diverse group of over 50 potential new Fellows to the Board for approval. The Board will consider and act on the committee’s recommendations at its meeting on November 18, 2015.

The CLT selected Life Fellow Lee D. Hoffman as the 2015 Attorney of the Year. Congratulations to Tim, Dwight, Lee and all the James W. Cooper Fellows on receiving these well-deserved awards!

Leadership Bank Spotlight: Thomaston Savings Bank

Thomaston Savings Bank (TSB) is a Charter Member of the CBF Leadership Bank program. It’s continued commitment to provide the highest rate on IOLTA accounts helps make a difference for the most vulnerable individuals in our communities who need civil legal assistance.

“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

TSB is a state chartered mutual savings bank, incorporated in 1874. It is a full-service Connecticut community financial institution with ten branches located in New Haven, Litchfield and Hartford counties. An 11th branch is scheduled to open in Bristol in early 2016. The Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation, Inc., established in 1997, helps to ensure that charitable needs within its community can continually be met well into the future.

2016 Budget and Projected Revenues

The Board of Directors will consider and act on the 2016 proposed budgets (Foundation and legal services) at its November 18th meeting. Primarily due to a steady decrease in court filings and continued flat interest rates, revenues for grants to legal aid providers in 2016 are projected to decline drastically in 2016.

Under the leadership of CBF President Tim Shearin and with guidance from the CBF Long Range Planning Committee, efforts to secure new, sustainable sources of funding are currently underway. Mr. Shearin and others have met with state government officials and more meetings are being scheduled to discuss several proposals and concepts for funding civil legal aid. In addition, the CBF is exploring new bank products that could supplement IOLTA funds and staff is meeting with bank representatives to explore other mutually beneficial opportunities. The Foundation continues to work with leaders of its strongest supporter, the Connecticut Bar Association, on a variety of prospects to help the Foundation and grantees meet the needs of low income residents.

Leadership Banks

We extend thanks to our Leadership Banks that pay the highest rate on IOLTA and IOTA balances and generously waive service fees. Please consider using a Leadership Bank for your IOLTA accounts!

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- Start Community Bank
- Thomaston Savings Bank
- Torrington Savings Bank
- Washington Trust Company
- Westfield Bank

Building a Foundation for the Future