

CONNECTICUT BAR FOUNDATION

Serving the Bench, Bar, and Connecticut Citizens since 1952

Issue 4, Spring 2016



2016 Legislative Update

The Connecticut Bar Foundation's (CBF) top legislative priority was overwhelmingly approved by both chambers of the General Assembly and signed into law by the Governor on May 17, 2016. Public Act 16-26, An Act Concerning Funding of Legal Services for the Poor, increases certain court filing fees and directs the increased revenue be used to fund legal services for the poor. In addition, the bill expands the permissible uses of the Client Security Fund to include grants to CBF for this same purpose from moneys deposited into the fund on or after October 1, 2016. The CBF is grateful for the continued support it receives from all three branches of the state government, the Connecticut Bar Association (CBA), and to everyone who contacted their state senators and representatives to urge support of the bill.

The CBF also supported a legislative priority of the CBA and its president, William H. Clendenen. The General Assembly passed Senate Bill 426, An Act Creating a Task Force to Improve Access to Legal Counsel in Civil Matters, brings together legal and government leaders to examine the impact that the lack of access to counsel in civil matters is having on the ability of state residents to secure essential human needs. Known also as the Civil Gideon bill, the task force comprises 38 members, including but not limited to the Chief Justice, the Attorney General, the co-chairs and ranking members of the Judiciary Committee, judges, lawyers, mayors, the deans of the three in-state law schools, the presidents of the CBA, the affinity bar associations and the CBF, several state agency commissioners, representatives from community and non-profit organizations, and the Executive Directors of several legal aid programs.

The task force must submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the Judiciary Committee no later than December 15, 2016.

Connecticut Innocence Fund

In March, 2016, the CBF received a loan repayment of \$19,200 from exoneree Miquel Roman. At the same time, Rosemarie Paine, who represented Mr. Roman, and her law firm, Jacobs & Dow, LLC., made a very generous donation of \$25,000 to the Connecticut Innocence Fund. "Jacobs and Dow recognizes the important role The Connecticut Innocence Fund performs in helping exonerees transition from incarceration to community and our donation reflects our firm's commitment to help those cleared of wrongdoing return to productive and meaningful lives," said Attorney Paine. The CBF and the Community Partners in Action wish to recognize and thank Attorney Paine and Jacobs & Dow for this substantial gift!

Foundation Briefs

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Their generous support
helped make our event
a great success!

Upcoming Event

Quintin Johnstone 2015-2016
High School Essay Contest
Award Ceremony
June 1, 2016 3:30 p.m.
Connecticut Supreme Court

To register to attend, contact
ctbf@cbf-1.org

Looking Ahead: James W. Cooper Fellows Programs

The Diversity Symposium, which the Fellows are co-sponsoring with the CBA, has been postponed and will be re-scheduled for date to be determined. Planning is currently underway for the third Judge Mark R. Kravitz Symposium (chaired by James I. Glasser of Wiggin and Dana LLP) and the Tenth John A. Speziale Alternative Dispute Resolution Symposium (co-chaired by Charlie A. Pillsbury of Quinnipiac University School of Law and Dwight H. Merriam of Robinson & Cole LLP). Both are expected to be presented in 2017.

Building a Foundation for the Future



GRANTMAKING AND GRANT ADMINISTRATION

Many consider the CBF's grantmaking and grant administration processes to be among its most important functions. In the first of a two-part series intended to inform how the CBF makes and administers grants, this article focuses on the practices and procedures the CBF employs to make grant decisions.

How the CBF gets its revenue to make grants. The judges of the Superior Court have designated the CBF to administer the interest on lawyers' trust accounts (IOLTA) program. State law requires IOLTA revenue to be used to provide funding for (1) the delivery of legal services to the poor by nonprofit corporations whose principal purpose is providing legal services to the poor, and (2) law school scholarships based on financial need. In addition to IOLTA, the CBF receives and administers funds for making grants to legal aid providers from several other sources: Interest on Trust Accounts (IOTA), Court Fees Grant-in-Aid (CFGIA), Judicial Branch Grant-in-Aid (JBGIA), Cy Pres awards and donations.

The grant application process. Every July, the CBF advertises that it is accepting grant applications from eligible organizations. In early August, the co-chairs of the CBF Grantmaking Committee (GMC) and CBF staff meet with the Executive Directors of its current grantees to review application requirements and revenue projections for the upcoming grant year. The meeting provides an opportunity for grantees to ask questions and seek clarification of the process. The grant application deadline is typically set for a date in mid-September.

Immediately after the application deadline has passed, CBF staff review the applications submitted to determine whether the applicants meet the statutory eligibility requirements and also whether each application contains the required information. The applications are forwarded to the GMC with staff notes. After reviewing the applications, the committee members meet, discuss the applications, and draft written questions for each applicant to address during its grant application interview. Grantee interviews are scheduled over two days in October. When the interviews are completed, the GMC deliberates and makes grant recommendations to the CBF Board of Directors (Board) based upon the information submitted by grantees, the interview, and the projected monies that will be available to grant during the following year.

Grant decisions. The co-chairs of the GMC present the committee's recommendations to the Board at its November meeting. The Board may accept, reject or modify the recommended grant awards. Grantees are notified immediately following the November meeting of the awards for the following calendar year.

The Foundation's grant administration process will be examined in the next issue of the CBF Newsletter.

Congratulations

Congratulations to the winners of the CBF James W. Cooper Fellows 2015-2016 Quintin Johnstone Essay Contest! The statewide winner is Kyle M. Adams of Coginchaug Regional High School, Durham, CT. The runners-up are Michaela Cohen of Greens Farms Academy, Greens Farm, CT, and Stephanie M. Walsh of the Academy of Information Technology & Engineering, Stamford, CT. Fellows are invited and encouraged to attend the Awards Ceremony at the Connecticut Supreme Court on Wednesday, June 1, 2016 at 3:30 p.m.

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Annual CBF Board of Directors Meeting, March 17, 2016

The CBF Board of Directors and guests, including CBA President William Clendenen, State Rep. Susan Johnson, and many Executive Directors and staff members from Connecticut civil legal aid organizations, paid tribute to former CBF Board member, past CBA President, and past Executive Director of Connecticut Legal Services and Statewide Legal Services Norman K. Janes. Judge William H. Bright bestowed upon Norm a plaque from Chief Justice Chase T. Rogers and the Connecticut Judicial Branch recognizing his many contributions to the efforts to provide access to justice to low-income people. Rep. Johnson presented Norm with a Proclamation from the General Assembly and letter from Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman, both recognizing Norm's life long commitment to providing legal services to Connecticut's vulnerable and low-income population.

The Board also honored members Joseph D. D'Alesio and Fredrick S. Ury for their long and outstanding service to the CBF, and voted to retain their skills, knowledge and service as Directors Emeriti.

Above from left to right: Bill Clendenen and Norm Janes; Rep. Sue Johnson and Norm. Below: Steven Eppler-Epstein, Jacqueline Janes & Norm



Introducing the CBF Access to Justice League



The "Official"
Access to Justice League
T-Shirt



On May 14, 2016, the world was introduced to the Access to Justice League (ATJL), comprising runners and supporters from various Connecticut legal aid providers and the CBF. "Running for Truth, Equality and Justice for All," ATJL participated in its first race event, the Hartford County Bar Foundation (HCBF) 2016 Joseph J. Cassidy Memorial 5K Road Race. ATJL helped raise money to benefit the HCBF and also banked over \$118 for the CBF's IOLTA fund through T-shirt sales. It also took home an impressive trophy as the winner of the team with the most registered runners! Team members on hand for this glorious day were: Erica Basoli, Jamey Bell, Gilbert Bonafe, Kelly Bonafe, Chris Donovan, Liz Drummond, Kathy Flaherty, Susan Nofi, Don Philips, Sandra San Emeterio, Gina Teixeira, and Jim Valentino. Plans are in the works for a future run later this year. If you are interested in learning more about the Access to Justice League, please contact Don Philips at don@cbf-1.org.

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Building a Foundation for the Future