



# Connecticut Legal Services

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Pfizer and Connecticut Legal Services Launch New Pro Bono Collaboration



From left to right: Attorney John P. Casey (Robinson & Cole), Attorney Joanne Lewis (CLS), Attorney Gregg C. Benson (Pfizer), Attorney Amy W. Schulman (Pfizer), Superior Court Judge William H. Bright, Jr.

Pfizer and Connecticut Legal Services (CLS) have launched an innovative and unique collaboration- the Pfizer/CLS Pro Bono Project. This new project will provide legal assistance to vulnerable low-income elders, and provide Pfizer attorneys with an opportunity to participate in community service. “We are very excited about this collaboration, which will serve as a model for future efforts,” says CLS executive director Steven D. Eppler-Epstein, adding “legal aid funding has fallen in recent years, and we are looking for creative ways to deliver the help people desperately need in these hard times. This collaboration will increase the number of vulnerable seniors who get help responding to consumer law pressures, and increase Pfizer’s already-substantial presence in the local charitable community.”

The project will team members of Pfizer’s legal department with CLS staff to help low income elderly clients respond to their consumer law issues and deal with abusive debt collection practices. The project will enhance CLS’ Consumer Law Project for Elders- a consumer hotline for low income people



who are 60 years of age or older. CLS staff will refer fourteen cases per month to Pfizer attorneys, who have already committed to providing legal help through this project. “This project is extraordinary because an entire corporate law department – with support from the corporation itself – is making a commitment to use their talents in a concerted effort to help those who need it the most” says Robinson & Cole Attorney John P. Casey, a member of CLS’ Board of Directors and a driving force behind this collaboration.

Superior Court Judge William H. Bright attended the launch ceremony earlier this month where Pfizer further supported CLS’ efforts on behalf of low-income people by generously donating \$25,000 to the organization.

Connecticut Legal Services is a private, not-for-profit law firm committed to helping low-income people improve their lives by providing access to justice. For over 30 years, CLS has provided free legal assistance to thousands of low-income people across a broad range of civil law areas including housing, disability, public benefits, family, elder, employment, and juvenile.

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