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**Robinson & Cole Helps Students in New Britain and New Haven
Head to School with Tools for Learning**

HARTFORD, CT (August 31, 2012) – Robinson & Cole LLP employees along with the help of some caring friends donated 25 backpacks stocked with school supplies to the Truancy Intervention Project of Connecticut, which benefits children in grades 5 through 8 attending New Britain and New Haven public schools.

Alaine Doolan, a senior associate in Robinson & Cole’s Business Transactions Practice Group, and the firm’s R&C Cares Program, which organizes volunteer activities for employees, coordinated the drive to collect backpacks, supplies and monetary donations. Doolan initiated the backpack program and named it B.E.E. The Best. “B.E.E.” stands for “Backpack for Excellence in Education.”

“One excuse from kids is that they don’t go to school because they don’t have supplies,” Doolan said. “I wanted to eliminate a reason for them not to go to school. The backpacks are crammed with pencils, notebooks, binders, erasers, calculators – everything they need to start school.”

The Truancy Intervention Project is a program of The Children’s Law Center, which provides legal advocates to children in contentious family court cases. The project is an intervention to divert the filing of a Family with Service Need petition, which provides a basis for responding to the needs of children exhibiting unlawful behavior. The project assigns volunteer lawyers to mentor middle-school age children who are experiencing problems with school attendance. The goal is to provide students with an adult role model demonstrating consistent interest in the child’s school attendance. The project is a member of the Connecticut Pro Bono Network.

Doolan has served as a volunteer lawyer in the Truancy Intervention Project for four years. “All these kids need is someone to care about them,” she said.

Volunteer lawyers will present a backpack to their mentee student during their first meeting for the new school year. Doolan said, “I hope the backpacks help form a bond, and kids say to themselves, ‘This person does not even know me and already has something for me.’”

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