



PRO BONO At a Glance

Pfizer and Connecticut Legal Services Launch New Pro Bono Collaboration



From left to right: Attorney John P. Casey (Robinson & Cole); Attorney Joanne Lewis (Connecticut Legal Services); Attorney Gregg C. Benson (Pfizer); Attorney Amy W. Schulman (Pfizer); and 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 provides legal assistance to vulnerable low-income elderly clients and gives Pfizer attorneys 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 that "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 teams Pfizer's legal department with CLS staff to help low-income elderly clients respond to consumer law issues and deal with abusive debt collection practices. It enhances CLS's Consumer Law Project for Elders, a consumer hotline for low-income people who are 60 years of age or older. CLS staff will refer 14 cases per month to Pfizer attorneys, who have

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Message from Ed Heath, Pro Bono Committee Chair

As this is our first quarterly issue for 2011, I am pleased to report that 2010 was another stellar year of pro bono work at Robinson & Cole. As of year's end, we donated over 10,000 hours of pro bono work, with a value of approximately \$3 million. More than one third of our lawyers contributed at least 20 hours of pro bono work, and the average number per lawyer was 39. Being notified that the Pro Bono Partnership had selected us as its 2010 Pro Bono Law Firm of the Year (see below for more details) was a highly satisfying end to 2010. But the numbers tell only part of the story. The real accomplishment is the positive impact that this work has had on our society. It is revealed in the children we protect as they travel through the family court system; the nonprofits we help form, modernize, or weather a particularly rough storm; and the accused whose rights we strive to vindicate.



Robinson & Cole Recognized as Pro Bono Law Firm of the Year

Robinson & Cole was recognized by the Pro Bono Partnership as the 2010 Pro Bono Law Firm of the Year at a reception hosted by United Technologies Corporation on February 28, 2011. Over 100 attorneys from corporations and law firms across the tri-state area (Connecticut, New Jersey and New York) were in attendance.

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's 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's 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.

Veteran Receives Lease Extension



The Connecticut Veterans Legal Center asked Robinson & Cole to assist an Iraq War combat veteran who,

along with his little boy, was being evicted from his Waterbury apartment just before Christmas 2010. Robinson & Cole attorneys William J. Egan and Amanda B. Bosson appeared on behalf of the former Army sniper who was temporarily unemployed and behind on his rent. The attorneys delayed the eviction, negotiated a repayment plan, and worked out a new extended lease with the landlord to allow the veteran to stay at the apartment and to continue to provide for his young son. The landlord was pleased to retain a good man as a tenant, and our client was delighted to be able to stay at the property and to turn his month-to-month lease into an extended lease for his family. Robinson & Cole is pleased that its lawyers, whose litigation and dispute resolution skills benefited this worthy cause, were able to obtain a good result for not only the client, but also for the landlord.



Edward J. Heath (second from right), Partner and Chair of Robinson & Cole's pro bono program, received the honor alongside (from left to right):

Richard S. Hobish, Executive Director, Pro Bono Partnership;
Charles D. Gill, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, United Technologies Corporation;
Priya S. Morgenstern, Director, Hartford Program, Pro Bono Partnership; and
Peter A. Gutermann, Vice President and General Counsel, Pratt & Whitney, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Pro Bono Partnership

The Pro Bono Partnership provides pro bono legal services to nonprofit agencies in Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York. The organization's Hartford and Stamford operations are based in Robinson & Cole's offices in those two cities.

Welcome To Nicole A. Bernabo



The Pro Bono Committee welcomes Nicole A. Bernabo as its newest member. Attorney Bernabo is counsel in the Labor and Employment Practice Group and focuses her practice on public and private sector labor relations, labor and employment law, and related litigation.

2011 PRO BONO COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Kenneth C. Baldwin
Nicole Bernabo
Pamela K. Elkow
Christopher F. Girard
Edward J. Heath
Gregory T. Ligelis
Megan R. Naughton
Christopher S. Pitt