



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SPEAKS OUT



Executive Director **Robert J. Brothers, Jr.** has his hands full during this Legislative Session. The Session is in full swing and there are multiple bills that the Agency is monitoring. Director Brothers commented that “CHRO staff and management have been very busy during this legislative session providing testimony on various proposed bills that would potentially affect the way in which the CHRO conducts its business.” The Director indicated that he is “thankful for the support the Agency has received from stakeholders, the Governor’s office and the Legislature.”

LEGAL UPDATE



Principal Attorney **Charles Krich** and CHRO Attorney **Michelle Dumas Keuler** travelled to New York on February 10, 2011 to attend the **Public Interest Law Career Fair** at New York University. Over 200 employers participated in the event. CHRO interviewed several law school students from various New York

and Connecticut law schools including NYU, Columbia, Cornell, St. Johns and UCONN. Attorneys **Krich and Keuler** interviewed students for the legal department’s summer internship program—**Training the next generation of Civil Rights Attorneys.** Both Attorneys were honored to discuss the work of the CHRO with a broader audience.

IN THE COMMUNITY

On February 17, 2011 Executive Director **Robert J. Brothers, Jr.**, Legislative Liaison **James O’Neill** and CHRO Attorneys **Cheryl A. Sharp** and **Alix Simonetti** celebrated Black History Month at the State Capitol. CHRO staff attended the unveiling of the website for the **CT Freedom Trail** where **Governor Dannel Malloy** spoke about the importance of the Trail to Connecticut. **Senator Toni Harp, Deputy President Pro Tempore** also addressed the audience of legislators and community organizers and was joined by the Executive Director of the Connecticut Commission on Culture

and Tourism, **Karen Senich.**

CIVIL RIGHTS DOCUMENTARY



CHRO Attorneys **Kim Jacobsen** and **Cheryl Sharp** were front and center for the screening of a documentary film about the CHRO held at Wesleyan University on February 20, 2011. **Professor Jacob Bricca** taught a Documentary Advocacy course at Wesleyan this past semester and allowed two Wesleyan seniors, **Zuleikah Hester** and **Steven Koch** to work on a documentary about the CHRO and Civil Rights. The film will be used for training purposes and future screenings will occur after additional editing is done to the film to include additional Complainants the agency has assisted and other stakeholders who have utilized the CHRO. The final version of the documentary is set to be released by early May. The CHRO extends a special thanks to the Wesleyan students and to Professor Jacob Bricca.

CONTRACT COMPLIANCE

Contract Compliance Unit **Supervisor Alvin K. Bingham** joined a vast group of Connecticut area leaders, as well as, a multitude of ethnic minority business leaders at the Legislative Office Building on March 7, 2011 in support of **House Bills 5474, 5877, and 5974.** These

three bills seek to require the State to fund and conduct a statewide disparity study that would determine the availability of Connecticut Small Businesses ready and able to work on state funded projects. The bills also seek to require the disparity study to set separate supplier diversity goals for small businesses owned by women, ethnic minorities and persons with disabilities. Currently, the law groups small businesses owned by women, ethnic minorities, and persons with disabilities into one minority category, thus requiring them to compete for inclusion into the small 6.25% minority supplier diversity goal.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS



For the fiscal year to date (July 1, 2010 to February 28, 2011), the referees have conducted one hundred **(112) conferences**, four (4) default hearings, and four (4) public hearings that totaled thirteen (13) trial days. Thirty-five (35) discrimination cases have been certified and thirteen (13) whistleblower retaliation cases have been filed. Thirty-one (31) discrimination cases and eleven (11) whistleblower cases have been closed. The total amount awarded via final decisions in discrimination cases is **\$140,473**; the total amount awarded in whistleblower cases is **\$177,917**; and the total settlement figure for discrimination cases is **\$70,000**. The settlement amount does not include the amount for settlements in confidential agreements.

The referees submitted written and verbal testimony at the Program Review and Investigations Committee's public hearing in general support of (and with suggestions to) SB 1087, An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Program Review and Investigations Committee Concerning Whistleblower Complaints.

REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT

CONTACT INFORMATION

CAPITOL REGION

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WEST CENTRAL

PHONE: (203) 805-6530
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SOUTHWEST REGION

PHONE: (203) 579-6246
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COMMISSIONER'S CORNER



Commissioner Dawn Niles was approved by the General Assembly's Executive and

Legislative Nominations Committee on February 17, 2011 as a CHRO Commissioner with a term ending on July 13, 2011. Commissioner Niles was nominated by Senate President pro tempore Donald E. Williams on May 6, 2010 to fill a vacancy. Her confirmation awaits action in the State Senate.

UPCOMING EVENTS



2011 Civil Rights Conference for the District of Connecticut

March 16, 2011

Quinnipiac University Law School
8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

CHRO Fair Housing Workshop

April 6, 2011

State Capitol
Rm. 310

3:00-5:00 p.m.

Kids Speak

April 26, 2011

State Capitol

The Old Judiciary Room
9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Stand Against Racism

April 29, 2011 @ CHRO's four Regional Offices in Hartford, Waterbury, Norwich and Bridgeport
9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Transgender Lives Conference

April 30, 2011

UConn Health Center
Farmington, CT

The Central Office of the CHRO is now located at 25 Sigourney Street, 7th fl., Hartford, CT 06106.