



## CHRO ADDRESSES DISCRIMINATORY BULLYING ON RADIO STATION WILI



CHRO Executive Director **Robert Brothers** and CHRO Attorneys **Cheryl Sharp** and **Kimberley Jacobsen** were interviewed by Wayne Norman during a 2 hour morning show on WILI in Willimantic. The focus of the interview was discriminatory bullying and the role the CHRO plays in eliminating discriminatory bullying in schools. The CHRO has been deliberate in its effort to educate the public about this issue and in its mission to stamp out discriminatory bullying in schools.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**\*Police/Community Informational Session**—The CHRO, the African American Affairs Commission, the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission, the NAACP, the Commission on Racial and Ethnic Disparity and the Police Chief’s Association are sponsoring a Police/Community informational session on **March 28, 2012** from 3:00 -5:00 at the State Legislature in Room 2D.

**\*Kids’ Court** essays are due on **April 2, 2012**. Jr. High and High School students are encouraged to write an essay for the Competition. Please email [cheryl.sharp@ct.gov](mailto:cheryl.sharp@ct.gov) for more information. The final Kids’ Court Competition will be held on May 31, 2012 at the State Capitol.

**\*Fair Housing Seminar**--The CHRO and the Governor’s Prevention Partnership will be sponsoring a Fair Housing Seminar on **April 16, 2012** at the State Capitol in the Old Judiciary Room from 12:00-3:00. The flyer is posted at [ct.gov/chro](http://ct.gov/chro)

The Contract Compliance Unit (CCU), with the assistance of the DAS Procurement Services Department, wrote a Request for Proposal (RFP) for securing a consulting firm to perform a statewide disparity study. A statewide disparity study would provide the number of Connecticut based small businesses and small businesses owned by ethnic minorities, women and persons with disabilities (S/M/W/DisBEs) that are ready, willing, and able to contract with the State for goods, services, and construction contracts. The disparity study would also provide current data as to any discriminatory barriers that prevent Connecticut based S/M/W/DisBEs from competitively participating in state issued contracts, as well as suggested methods in reducing such discriminatory practices. Overall, a statewide disparity study would enhance the use of Connecticut’s small businesses and thus its economy. CHRO is currently attempting to regain the funding that was earmarked for the study.

### HIGHLIGHTS

Human Rights Rep. **Chris Gemeasky** was able to negotiate one of the largest settlements in recent history in a case filed in CHRO’s Regional Office. Kudos!

The Office of Public Hearings is fully operational. **Governor Dannel P. Malloy** appointed **Alvin Wilson** as Chief Human Rights Referee and **Ellen Bromley & Michelle Mount** as Referees. Discrimination and whistle blower retaliation complaints are once again being heard at the CHRO.

**The CHRO was awarded a \$39,000 FHAP Partnership grant to work with the Governor’s Prevention Partnership on housing discrimination and anti-bullying**

CHRO has crossed the state spreading the word about anti-discrimination laws. CHRO Attys. Simonetti, Fox, Kent, Jacobsen, Keuler and Sharp participated in one or more of the following outreach activities: the MLK Day Celebration at the Yale Peabody Museum, where thousands converged to hear messages of hope. MLK dreams may be found at [Ct.gov/CHRO](http://Ct.gov/CHRO); Quinnebaug Community College Training on Transgender Rights; A Call to Action: Childhood lead exposure and disparity; and CT Safe Schools Coalition working group. CHRO Atty. Sharp wrote a law review article entitled “Sweet Land of Liberty: Islamophobia & the treatment of Muslims in CT through the lens of the CHRO” for UCONN Law School’s Public Interest Law Journal, & sat on a panel during the One Nation Under Law Conference, held at the law school to raise awareness about the treatment of the Muslim community.