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THE CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER OF CONNECTICUT

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www.clcct.org

SUPPORT OUR WORK
www.clcct.org/support



Welcome Fatima Lobo to the CLC Board of Directors

Fatima Lobo was first introduced to The Children's LAW Center as a young attorney while getting her start in the Hartford area after graduation from the UConn School of Law. Today, she heads her own firm, Lobo & Associates, LLC., in Manchester.

"I love the practice of law," Fatima remarked. "It's one of the best professions. Over the years, I have come to appreciate CLC's attorneys and its other resources. Their social worker, Nikki Silva, is wonderful. Since I first became aware of the organization 30 years ago, it has grown not only in the geographical area it serves but also in how many children it represents. In addition, the expansion of services under the modest means program is providing services to families that were falling through the cracks. I don't know how CLC does some of the work that they do. I personally do not have the temperament to be a Guardian Ad Litem – and those who know me will tell you that," she said laughingly.

Fatima has supported the CLC Gala for the last several years by generously donating vacation stays in properties that she owns in Maui, Hawaii as auction donation prizes. She now chairs the Committee.

"Laura Post [Immediate Past President of

the Board of Directors] and Justine Rakich-Kelly [Executive Director] really put on a full court press for me to join the Board," Fatima commented. "It didn't really take much. I was honored to be asked and I happily agreed."

"There is nothing better than a child-oriented charity in my opinion and CLC has always been my choice," Fatima stated. "My goal in being on the Board is to spread the word and have other people think of CLC year-round, not just in conjunction with the annual gala. My goal is not only to raise more funds now but also to secure recurring sources for years to come. For example, I'm trying to build awareness for people to include CLC as a beneficiary in estate planning. If people who believe in CLC committed just 1% of their estate to CLC, the cumulative effect would be significant."

Fatima is also passionate about making people feel welcome. "I'm Portuguese. So, I love to travel. I love to cook. I love entertaining," she expressed. ♥

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Birdies for Charity exceeded our goal!

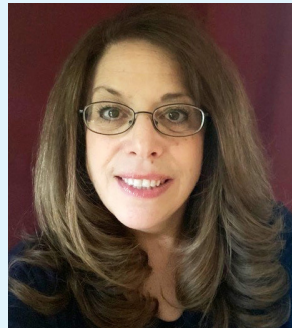
THANK YOU for your generous support, and the support of Travelers and Webster Bank through the Birdies for Charity program.

The Children's LAW Center partnered once again with the Travelers Championship Birdies for Charity program. Through this fundraising initiative, CLC received an additional 15% bonus on every dollar raised, thanks to the program sponsor Webster Bank. Your donations will go even further in helping to create a safe and stable environment for children whose parents are in conflict. This means your generosity is a direct contribution to our Legal Representation Program, Families in Transition and The Children's LAW Line. ♥

Staff News

HELLO

Gina Marcantonio, Director of Development



Gina is a development consultant with over 30 years of nonprofit experience providing organizational and fund development solutions to nonprofits. She knows firsthand the challenges nonprofits face and has provided organizations with various innovative solutions that help build organizational capacity with favorable growth and retention. She has a Master's in

Nonprofit Management & Philanthropy, is President of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) Connecticut Chapter, an AFP Master Trainer and teaches various classes on fundraising and board development within the nonprofit sector. Welcome, Gina! ♥

GOODBYE

Victoria Hotham, Professional Assistant

Victoria just completed her Master's in Social Work at Springfield College and has been hired by The Life Workshop, Inc. to pursue her career in social work. Congratulations and thank you, Victoria! ♥



Save the Date for our Annual Gala! Thursday, November 21, 2024

Please join us as we celebrate Building Bridges to Brighter Futures for children and families. The evening includes cocktails, music, dinner, and live and silent auctions.

Farmington Gardens
999 Farmington Avenue (Rte. 4), Farmington, CT
5:30PM - 8:30PM

STAY TUNED:

- Look for more information on our website, www.clcct.org, or follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter! @childrenslawct #childrenslawct
- For sponsorship opportunities and auction item donations, please email gina@clcct.org or call 860-232-9993.

The Children's LAW Line: A Free Resource from CLC

When parents and children are involved with the courts and other agencies, it can often be overwhelming; not only because of the unknown but also because of the emotions that come with what is at stake – the children. The Children's LAW Line is a free, easily accessible resource where Children's LAW Center attorneys assist callers on a variety of issues. There is no charge for the program and no income requirement, so anyone can call. If CLC attorneys are unable to help a caller, then referrals are made to more suitable resources.

"The LAW Line is one of our least-lauded programs but it is one of the longest running and also has the highest customer satisfaction," said Executive Director, Justine Rakich-Kelly. "After our last caller survey, 86% of callers found the advice they were given to be very helpful or helpful. Considering that some people call with issues that go beyond the help a hotline can provide, we think this is an amazing percentage."

The Children's LAW Center promotes the program on its website but also does a yearly mailing of tear-off flyers to local community agencies, courts, libraries, and other resources to help connect people with the service.

"We definitely see an uptick in calls after a new batch of flyers has been distributed but many of our calls are referred by the Department of Children and Families as well as Connecticut's 2-1-1 Infoline. I think it speaks to the value of our program that state-funded agencies such as these are referring people to the LAW Line as a reliable resource," said Deputy Director, Randa Hojaiban.

People utilizing the LAW Line call with a myriad of issues ranging from very straightforward questions such as what forms to file to start a court action, to much more complex issues such as those that arise with long-running custody cases or other issues including emancipation and grandparents' rights.

"Some callers reach out with one-time questions while others have used the LAW Line as an ongoing resource. We have one caller, Trisha, who has called 19 times over the last 18 months. She calls at every stage of her court case for additional guidance," stated Rakich-Kelly.

Trisha's first call was straightforward, asking how to modify a court order. As the calls progressed, more details emerged regarding her child. Trisha has a three-year-old son who is autistic. His father lives in New York and the temporary court order that went into place had the child spending alternating weeks with each parent; not the greatest schedule for a three-year-old, particularly one with an autism spectrum disorder. This information led to more nuanced discussions about subjects such as child development, how to present evidence in court, and what to expect at a hearing or trial.



Trisha's concern for her child's emotional well-being is palpable, and attorneys often discuss how to address that concern in the context of creating a parenting plan that includes both parents.

"Trisha has gotten advice from every staff attorney at least once but – not only that – she has gotten the emotional support needed along the way. This can often be even more helpful than the advice itself," stated Rakich-Kelly.

The LAW Line program has seen some changes over the last four years.

"Calls used to be answered in real time when we had an office full of attorneys. After the world shut down, we had to make adjustments – asking callers to leave a message and having attorneys call them back. This, unsurprisingly, reduced the number of callers we actually connected with. Now, we are moving toward a hybrid model that will have calls answered as they come in and assigned to attorneys directly, even attorneys who continue to work remotely or are only in the office part-time," Rakich-Kelly continued. ❤️

The LAW Line can be accessed at 860-232-9993, x301.

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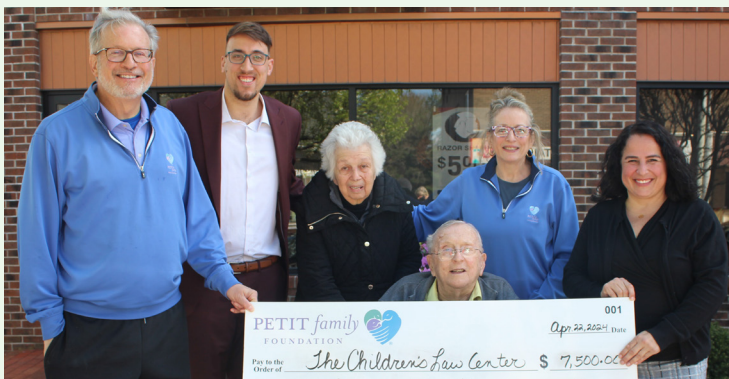
Community Partners



On January 25, Main Street Community Foundation held the Women & Girls Fund Annual Meeting & Grantee Reception to celebrate the accomplishments of the fund and the organizations it supports. This event gathers together donors, community members, and nonprofit partners to celebrate the grants awarded in the annual grant cycle which benefit programs serving women and girls in Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington, and Wolcott. The Children's LAW Center is grateful to have received \$5,000 for our Legal Representation program for girls in the New Britain Family Court.



On May 17, CLC staffers Margaret Bozek, Alex Puzone and Justine Rakich-Kelly participated in a clean-up day with the Hartford County Bar Association, along with Katherine Dudak and Matthew Hallisey, at Hartford's South Park Inn.



The Children's LAW Center is honored by the continued support of the Petit Family Foundation for our Legal Representation Program. This support enables us to continue to serve the state's neediest children in complicated divorce and custody cases. L – R: Dr. William Petit, Jr., President, Petit Family Foundation; Alex Puzone, CLC; Barbara Petit and William Petit, Sr.; Hanna Petit Chapman, Vice President, Petit Family Foundation; and Randa Hojaiban, CLC. ❤️

Ways to Support CLC!

MATCHING GIFTS

Many employers offer matching gift programs encouraging employees to contribute to charitable organizations. Most of these programs match your gift dollar-for-dollar! Simply obtain a form from your employer, complete your portion of the form, mail (or email) it to gina@clct.org, and we'll take care of the rest!

STOCK

Maximize your impact without having to write a check! Donating stock allows you to avoid capital gains. CLC's DTC #0226 (through New England Financial) Account Name: Children's LAW Center of CT Account Address: 30 Arbor Street, Hartford, CT 06106 Tax ID# 06-1381700

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS (DAFS)

Make a grant request from your donor-advised fund (DAF). CLC is a tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization; Tax ID# 06-1381700.

BEQUESTS

Should you wish to remember CLC in your will, we encourage you to give the following language to your estate attorney: "I give, devise, and bequeath all the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate, or \$___ (specific amount), or ___% (percentage), to The Children's LAW Center, 30 Arbor Street, S-208, Hartford, CT 06106."

It's easy to donate anytime on our website at www.clct.org

For additional ways to donate through planned giving, please contact our Development office at gina@clct.org or 860-232-9993, x313.



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