



CHRO CO-SPONSORS A POLICE-COMMUNITY INFORMATIONAL SESSION

CHRO, AAAC, LPRAC, APAAC, the Police Chiefs Association and the NAACP joined forces and held the first of four police-community informational sessions at the state Capitol to address the issue of racial profiling. More than 50 Police Chiefs and high ranking law enforcement officials listened attentively to the speakers from the co-sponsoring agencies and from Northeastern University's Institute for race and justice. CHRO Attorney Cheryl Sharp was among

the panelists. She spoke to the audience about the harmful effects of racial profiling and some of the legal consequences and exposure to liability for departments that engage in profiling. The general public was relieved to hear about the protections available. The law enforcement community was open to hearing the concerns of the community and committed to protecting public safety in a fair and equitable manner.

EQUALITY, JUSTICE & FAIRNESS—THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Although the Office of Public Hearings (OPH) has been functioning since mid-December, it is now officially back in business. Earlier this month the General Assembly confirmed **Governor Dannel P. Malloy's** appointment of three new Human Rights Referees—**Attorneys Ellen Bromley, Michele C. Mount and Alvin R. Wilson, Jr.** Wilson, the **Chief Referee**, emphasized the role of the Referees—**independent and impartial adjudicators of complaints filed with OPH.** "The cases before us are de novo. They receive a fresh look under a rigorous and rule bound process. Our job is to ensure that parties have their opportunity to be heard, so that we can apply the law to the facts and render decisions that are fair, just and equitable." **Referee Mount** said, "Adjudication is a Serious Undertaking". She described the valuable service that the Office of Public Hearings provides the residents of the state of Connecticut. She was clear about OPH's role—"OPH eases the burden on the Superior Court system. We are triers of evidence, fact finders and decision makers-impacting parties' lives with a final decision that is appealable to the Superior Court." While OPH is the adjudicatory arm of the agency, there is a deliberate focus on mediation. Referee Mount said, "I love the settlement work..." **Referee Bromley** added, "OPH institutionalizes settlement conferences facilitated by Referees with consistent expertise in the subject matter area." Referee Bromley highlighted the value of the administrative process in resolving issues of discrimination because "the process offers both Complainant and Respondent the legal expertise to resolve issues between them in an environment likely to be more comfortable for the parties than a proceeding in Superior Court." The new Referees are serious about their charge and are no strangers to issues of equality. Wilson comes to OPH from the Governor's Office; Bromley served for 12 years as the Social Services Coordinator dealing with housing and human rights in the City of Stamford and Mount is a former Town Council member, former Dir. of Bridgeport Legislative Affairs and the proprietor of Mount Associates, LLC.

Referees Wilson, Bromley & Mount



UPCOMING EVENTS

- ***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
- ***Transgender Lives Conference**--The conference will be held at the UCONN Health Center in Farmington Connecticut from 8:00-5:00.
- ***Kids' Court**-- The final Kids' Court Competition will be held on **May 31, 2012** at the State Capitol.



Wallace, Gov. Malloy & Lt. Gov. Wyman
Wallace, Andrews & U.S. Sen. Blumenthal

HOUSING HELP--CHRO Investigator and Fair Housing Unit member, Dori Bruce works hard to settle housing cases. In a recent case, where a Complainant was dealing with serious medical issues, a settlement was crafted that allowed Complainant to receive **\$25,000** in cash and have close to **10,000** in arrearages waived. Also, the landlord drafted a reasonable accommodation policy which was reviewed by the CHRO.

The **Contract Compliance Unit (CCU)** provided technical assistance to a Construction Manager and many subcontractors working on a **\$20 million dollar project** at Southern Connecticut State University in Danbury. Participants were trained on the Contract Compliance requirements-- including goals and good faith effort.

The NAACP celebrates "100 Years of Civil Rights Activism" in the U.S. West Central Regional Manager, Pekah Wallace, was recognized as one of "The 100 Most Influential Blacks in Connecticut," by the NAACP Connecticut State Chapter Convention in December 2011.