



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SPEAKS OUT



The state legislature has been the second home for the Executive Director of the CHRO **Robert J. Brothers, Jr.** He remarked, "this session has been very challenging for the CHRO, as there are multiple bills that will affect the way the CHRO conducts its business. Once the legislature votes on the bills and, if the new legislation is passed, training will be provided on the new law."

## LEGAL UPDATE

The legal department has four cases currently pending on the Supreme Court calendar. Two of the cases raise housing issues— CHRO ex rel. Arnold v. Forvil and CHRO ex rel. Kilby v. Litchfield Housing Authority and the other two cases are employment cases in which the CHRO has filed amicus briefs.

The legal department bids farewell and good luck to its interns from two different Universities and two different law schools who served this past semester.

## CHRO ATTORNEYS HAVE A PRESENCE AT THE CIVIL RIGHTS CONFERENCE SPONSORED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

The U. S. Department of Justice held its first annual **Civil Rights Conference** at Quinnipiac Law School on March 16, 2011.



**CHRO Attorneys Cheryl A. Sharp and Michelle Dumas Keuler** were invited to speak at this conference that featured a heartfelt presentation by the father of **Matthew Sheppard**, the young college student who was fatally attacked because of his sexual orientation. Attys. Sharp and Keuler provided information about the CHRO's complaint and public hearing processes to a capacity crowd. Atty. Sharp served on the Americans with Disabilities Act

panel and the anti-bullying panel. Attorney Keuler was called on to answer questions about the state protections for alleged victims of housing discrimination, during the panel discussion on Housing. Exec. Director Brothers, Referees Thomas C. Austin, Jr., Donna M. Wilkerson Brilliant and J. Allen Kerr also attended. **U.S. Attorney David Fein's** Office and Assistant U.S. Atty. **Ndidi Moses** have recently forged a partnership with the CHRO on several outreach projects and civil rights cases aimed at addressing illegal discrimination.

## IN THE COMMUNITY

Despite the deep cuts to the CHRO over the past five years, the CHRO has a renewed commitment to educating the public about the services that the Agency provides. The CHRO is focusing its efforts on outreach across the state. The latest event which focused on **anti-bullying** was held in Windham. The event was well attended, garnering the attention of the Mayor of Willimantic and many public officials and parents. **Exec.**

**Director Brothers & CHRO Attys. Keuler, Fox and Sharp** were accompanied by **Commissioners Norton and Niles, Lisa Tregoning** from the GPP and **Ndidi Moses**. Information was also provided about how parents and schools can work together to protect students from bullies.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**CT Fair Housing Seminar**  
May 5, 2011  
9:00-5:00

**Kids' Speak**  
April 26, 2011  
**State Capitol**  
The Old Judiciary Rm.  
9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

**Stand Against Racism**  
April 29, 2011 @ CHRO's  
Four Regions  
9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

**Transgender Lives Conference**  
April 30, 2011  
UCONN Health Center  
Farmington, CT  
9:00-5:00

**Kids' Court**  
May 24, 2011  
**State Capitol**  
The Old Judiciary Rm.  
5:30-7:30

## PUBLIC HEARING

In this fiscal year (fy) 8/1/10 to 3/30/11 the referees have conducted 129 conferences, 5 hearings in damages, and 5 public hearings. 42 discrimination cases have been certified and 15 whistleblower retaliation cases have been filed. Thirty-three discrimination cases and 14 whistleblower cases have been closed. The settlement figures for discrimination cases this fy total **\$80,000.00**. These figures do not include confidential amounts. The total awards via final decision in a discrimination case is **\$140,473**.