



Eliminating discrimination through Enforcement, Education & Advocacy

SUPREME COURT JUSTICE RICHARD PALMER, SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE JULIETT CRAWFORD AND A DISTINGUISHED PANEL OF JUDGES SELECT WINNERS OF THE 2011 CONNECTICUT KIDS' COURT COMPETITION SPONSORED BY THE CHRO



1st Place H.S. Finalist **Brandon Parris** engages the panel

Parents, students, teachers, administrators & community leaders alike were captivated on Tuesday, May 24, 2011, as twelve high school and middle school students came to the state capitol to discuss issues of equality, diversity, discrimination, housing and bullying. Judging the 2011 Competition was Supreme Court Justice **Richard N. Palmer**, Superior Court Judge **Julieta L. Crawford**, **Ndidi Moses**, Asst. U.S. Atty., **Raheem Mullins**, Assistant State's Attorney, **Jeanne Milstein**, CT Child Advocate, **Diane Kaplan deVries**, Project Director of

CCJEF, **Lisa Tregoning**, Program Manager, The Governor's Prevention Partnership, and **Dr. William Howe**, Educational Consultant for Civil Rights and Bullying, Gender Equity & Multi-cultural Education, State DOE. Audience members and the judging panel alike were impressed with the level of skill demonstrated by the students as well as the youths' passion and dedication to the subject matter. The student finalists spoke candidly about discrimination and bullying in their schools and communities and offered suggestions for increasing understanding and

respect between people of different backgrounds. After delivering their speeches finalists were questioned based on their topic. Finalists **Brandon Parris**, **Ronald L. Blair** and **Kitson Brown** took top high school honors while finalists **Avery Casasanta**, **Monique McClain** and **Nicole Cohen** took middle school top honors. CHRO Attorneys **Kimberly Jacobsen**, **Alix Simonetti** and **Cheryl Sharp** moderated the event. Kids' Court was founded by Attorneys **Cheryl A. Sharp** and **Rae Thiesfield Vann** in 1993.

LEGAL UPDATE

Two CHRO Attorneys argued before the Conn. Supreme Court in the same week. On Monday May 16, 2011, **Attorney Robin Fox** argued that a security deposit guarantee is a lawful source of income in Arnold v. Fovil. Three days later on May 19, 2011 **Attorney Michelle Dumas Keuler** argued that a relator has a right to intervene in a case where they are the party in interest in CHRO v. Litchfield Housing Authority--a housing election case filed in Court by the CHRO.

The state of CT was awarded a **\$15,000** civil penalty in CHRO v. Sullivan Associates a case being litigated by **CHRO Attorney Cheryl A. Sharp**, in the New Haven Superior Court.

CHRO INTERN HEADS TO THE HOUSE FLOOR



DJ Arnold on the house floor

Representative Anthony D'Ameilo introduced CHRO Legal Intern **DJ Arnold** to state legislators on the floor of the House of Reps. DJ Arnold is the Editor-in-Chief of the Public Interest Law Journal at Boston University and is working with the CHRO full-time this summer with a special focus on juvenile rights and educational equity.

IN THE COMMUNITY
On May 17, 2011, CHRO Attorney Cheryl A. Sharp provided anti-bullying training to the Council for Children in Crisis.

LEGAL'S INTERN PROGRAM IS IN FULL SWING

CHRO's legal department has taken on a full-time staff of six interns from around the New England area. **Betsy Walters** is a 3L at UConn School of Law, **DJ Arnold** is a 3L at Boston University School of Law, **Gabe Murchison** is a Sophomore at Yale University, **James Hunsberger** is a 2L at Georgetown University Law Center, **Jonathan Pike** is a Senior at Trinity College, and **Theresa Gilbertson** is a 3L at Duke University School of Law. The interns work under the supervision of CHRO Attorneys and will be researching and writing in the area on novel civil rights issues, performing mediations, assisting with cases at public hearing, and organizing community education and outreach programs.

CONTRACT COMPLIANCE

The Contract Compliance Unit (CCU) has been meeting with various Construction Managers At Risk (CMR) that have been awarded state funded projects in the amount of 20 million dollars or more. These meetings are aimed at guiding the CMRs through the process of breaking out the project into several trade packages, and requiring those awarded such packages to make good faith efforts to solicit & employ S/M/W/DisBEs. Such a process allows S/M/W/DisBE's to *actually* work on these multi-million dollar state funded projects and not be precluded from participating due to the barrier that any company awarded a state funded project over \$500,000.00 must be prequalified by DAS. The CCU believes this process is good for CT's small businesses.