

CHRO'S INFORMATIONAL SESSION KICKS OFF IN HARTFORD

The CHRO held an informational session on September 29, 2010 at the Legislative Office Building. The purpose of the session was to explain the CHRO's complaint process to the general public and to answer frequently asked questions about the complaint and public hearing processes. During this past year, the CHRO has been committed to providing more education and outreach to communities that are starved for information about how to protect their civil and human rights. CHRO's Executive Director, Robert J. Brothers, Jr. commented that, "it is imperative that the citizens of Connecticut have access to our agency and know that the CHRO is relentlessly working to meet its mission of eliminating discrimination, even in the face of deep budget cuts to the agency." The informational session featured Human Rights Attorneys (HR Attys.) A. Simonetti, K. Jacobsen, R. Fox, C. Sharp, and R. Zamlowski, Manager E. Carrasquillo, Exec. Dir. R. J. Brothers, Jr. and Referees J. Allen Kerr, Jr., J. P. FitzGerald, T. C. Austin, Jr. and D. M. Wilkerson Brilliant. The panel was rounded out by private practitioner, Cynthia Jennings. HR Attys. M. Keuler and D. Kent were available during the session to respond to individual questions from attendees regarding discrimination and to take complaints. Improvisations were performed by HR Attys. and HR Rep. Ron Simpson. The public Q & A yielded questions ranging from how settlement negotiations work at public hearing to whether affirmative action plans are used during investigation. The session drew the attention of Affirmative Action Officers, private attorneys, the NAACP, the CT Puerto Rican Forum and the general public. **Senator Edith Prague** dropped in and had information gathered from the session. The informational session

was broadcast live by CT-N. Those unable to attend, but interested in the information that was provided, can go to <http://ct-n.com/ondemand.asp> and check CT-N's broadcasting schedule. The CHRO will be holding informational sessions throughout the state in the upcoming months. An informational session will be held in Waterbury in November and in Bridgeport in December. Stay tuned.

HOUSING HELP



On Wednesday September 15, 2010 Michelle Dumas Keuler, HR Atty. spoke at the Institute of Real Estate Management's ("IREM") luncheon held in Wallingford. IREM is an organization of real estate management professionals who gathered on that day to learn more about Connecticut Fair Housing law. Michelle spoke to approximately 50 attendees about the Commission on Human Rights in general and about fair housing law in particular. After her presentation, several participants asked insightful questions regarding various fair housing related situations.

CHRO Rep. Dori Bruce was invited to a housing forum in Waterbury on September 14th, 2010 by Monica Fore

from New Opportunities Waterbury. The event, which was well attended, offered an opportunity for Dori to spread the message about the Commission and its enforcement of housing anti-discrimination laws. She also had a chance to exchange ideas with other practitioners regarding some of the issues and obstacles that housing law enforcement presents. Dori was bombarded with questions but responded with the grace of a life long housing guru.

STAND DOWN



Connecticut veterans in need had access to dozens of vital social outreach services during "Stand Down 2010" on Friday, September 10, at the State Veterans Home campus in Rocky Hill. CHRO staff participated in Stand Down and provided literature, Commission posters and complaint forms to Veteran servicemen and women in need. The primary concern of the Veterans who approached the CHRO's booth at this event was housing. HRO Rep. D. Carter, Housing Supervisor, R. Zamlowski, Capital Region Manager, Epi Carrasquillo and HR Atty. C. Sharp, at different points and times, provided critical information to Veterans who were seeking assistance with housing.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

Employment Settlements during investigation

September \$229,798.83

Housing Settlements during investigation

September \$16,750

OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

For the 2010-11 fiscal year which began on July 1, 2010, the human rights referees have conducted twenty-nine (29) conferences, four (4) default hearings, and three (3) public hearings. The referees also ruled on seventy (77) motions. The total settlement figure for discrimination cases for the fiscal year to date is \$46,500.00. These settlement figures do not include the dollar amounts for settlements in confidential agreements nor does it include the dollar amounts in whistleblower agreements.