

You Made Legislative Victories Possible

The 2018 legislative session ended on May 9 and thanks to you, we advanced women's rights and opportunities and the status of women and girls in Connecticut. All your calls, emails, and testimony mattered. Our donors made this push for progress possible—especially your enthusiastic response to the Equal Pay Day matching gift challenge! These legislative victories improving the lives of women and girls are yours.

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Unfortunately, the General Assembly failed to pass several bills that are essential to women's economic success and our state's economy: paid family and medical leave, an increase in the minimum wage, fair workweek scheduling, and enhanced sexual harassment trainings and protections.

2018 Legislative Victories

- ★ **Salary history ban**
- ★ **Protections for victims of domestic violence**
- ★ **Fair treatment of incarcerated women & transgender people**
- ★ **Contraceptive coverage protection**
- ★ **Open enrollment period for uninsured pregnant women**
- ★ **Living wills for pregnant women**

CWEALF won't let up the fight for these legislative issues—because every day, women are forced to choose between their paycheck and caring for a sick child or relative or battling their own illness. Every day, women face harassment at work. Every day, women cannot make ends meet as the majority of minimum-wage workers in our state. With your continued action and support for CWEALF, we can make sure women's priorities are heard loud and clear at the State Capitol. Stay tuned for the full 2018 Legislative Report this summer.



Thank you to everyone who joined us for our first Unhappy Hour to learn how to take action to close the gender wage gap! Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman and Governor Dannel Malloy joined us to show their support for equal pay!

CWEALF organized and led the Time to Act for Women press conference at the Legislative Office Building with our allies and legislators to demand action in 2018 for the well-being and economic success of women in our state.



More than 30 people joined the Campaign for Paid Family Leave's Four-Week Fight for Paid Leave weekly lobby days in April and shared a personal story with their legislators about why paid leave is important for our state! CWEALF leads the Campaign for Paid Family Medical Leave, a coalition of organizations that advocate for the passage and implementation of a comprehensive system of paid family and medical leave here in Connecticut. Learn more at www.paidfamilyleavect.org.

Amanda's Story

As CWEALF's Bilingual Community Advocate, I provide legal advocacy and emotional support for hundreds of women every year during some of the most challenging times of their lives. Dealing with legal issues such as sexual harassment, child support, custody, divorce, or workplace discrimination is overwhelming and expensive. Most of my clients are mothers earning less than \$25,000. Unfortunately, too many low-income women must find their way in the legal system alone.

In the wake of the #MeToo movement, CWEALF has received numerous requests from the media to speak to a client who experienced sexual harassment in the workplace. In April, I sat beside Amanda* as she courageously shared her experience with a reporter from the CT Post. Although it was stressful to talk about it, Amanda shared her story with hope that it would encourage others to speak out and seek help immediately. Amanda never received sexual harassment training at her job as a school bus driver and did not know what to do when she started receiving unwanted

text messages, including inappropriate pictures and calls from her union representative. It went on for months! She felt powerless to stop him and terrified she would lose her job. Amanda's ordeal is not over. She is still coping with fear and depression as a result of the of sexual harassment. Read Amanda's story in the CT Post's article "Two State Bills Tackle Sex Harassment," at cwealf.org/news-events.

Contributions from individual donors make it possible for over 1,300 people to utilize our free and confidential Legal Education services every year. CWEALF bridges the legal justice gap through our Information & Referral phone line and the bilingual advocacy I provide to clients one on one. More women in Connecticut, like Amanda have access to legal justice because of your support.



Nilda Rivera is CWEALF's Bilingual Community Advocate and a proud CWEALF donor.

**Name changed to protect the privacy of our client.*

Sexual Harassment Prevention Training

CWEALF provides state-mandated sexual harassment prevention training for the corporate, academic, and non-profit workplace. The two-hour training includes guidance on best practices for sexual harassment workplace policies. CWEALF trainings are presented by Christine Palm, principal of Sexual Harassment Prevention, LLC. Christine is the former Sexual Harassment Awareness and Prevention (SHAP) educator/trainer for the General Assembly's Permanent Commission on the Status of Women. Christine conducted SHAP trainings for agencies ranging from the State Police to the Department of Administrative Services. Contact Christine Palm to schedule a training at www.sexualharassmentprevention.net/schedule.

Welcome to Our New Board Members

This spring we welcomed Amy Blackwood, Gina Federico, and Judith Rudge to the CWEALF Board of Directors.



"Because women need to do a better job at supporting other women. CWEALF has understood that from the beginning."

- Amy Blackwood,
John J. Driscoll
United Labor Agency



"CWEALF is a thought leader in setting the pace for what women need to succeed in CT and beyond."

- Gina Federico, North
Hartford Partnership for
Community Solutions



"If I can help one woman, one day at a time, I'll spend the rest of my life knowing I've paid it forward to all the women who have shaped and inspired me along the way. I am thrilled and excited to be able to serve."

- Judith Rudge, Comcast



Upcoming Events

The Future is NOW

Join CWEALF for our second annual celebration of Connecticut's young women leaders!

When: Tuesday, June 19, 2018
6:00 to 8:00 pm

Where: Luce Hall, Yale University
34 Hill House Avenue
New Haven

Tickets: \$35 in advance
\$40 at the door

Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and a silent auction featuring work from young women artists in the state. Last year's event sold out!

Purchase your tickets today at www.cwealf.org/advancement-leadership/the-future-is-now.

SAVE the DATE! CWEALF's 45th Anniversary Celebration

One Woman Makes a Difference
Annual Awards Dinner

When: October 2, 2018

Where: Aqua Turf Club
Plantsville, CT

Tickets: On sale this summer!

If you are interested in being a sponsor or a host, contact Brenna Doyle at bdoyle@cwealf.org.

CWEALF's Leadership Circle Members

CWEALF cannot advocate for and empower women and girls in Connecticut without the support of individuals who believe in our mission. CWEALF is a nonprofit organization funded by grants and individual donations. To celebrate our 45th Anniversary year, we are pleased to recognize supporters who donated a total of \$500 or more since July 1, 2017.

Staci Bachman
Anthony Benoit
Lucy & Jim Brakoniecki
Karen Clute
Marybeth Dean
Kathryn Emmett & David Golub
Gina Federico
Ann Jones & Stephen Ramsey
Heidi Lane
Marta Jo Lawrence
Daniel Livingston
Judith Maynes
Tollie Miller
Stephen Nightingale & Vaughan Finn
JoAnn & Zygmon Onacki
Richard & Robin Pearson
Marla Persky
Alice Pritchard & Dana Bugl
Sarah Oldham & Arnold Rutkin
Mary Stewart
Louise Trubek
Sandy Weicher



“ My involvement in CWEALF started me on my journey as a social justice lawyer and a founder of legal organizations. I am so pleased to celebrate CWEALF's 45-year anniversary with so many wonderful and dedicated colleagues. I continue to give to CWEALF for its important voice in elevating women and girls. ”
– Louise Trubek

You can join the Leadership Circle too with a one-time gift or monthly gifts totaling \$500 or more by July 1, 2018. Use the enclosed envelope or donate online at www.cwealf.org.

Shirley Bysiewicz Legacy Society

Shirley Bysiewicz, tenured Professor and longtime law librarian at the University of Connecticut School of Law, was one of CWEALF's founders and the first President of CWEALF. Membership to the Legacy Society is open to those who include CWEALF in their wills and other estate planning. Call Development & Communications Coordinator Meg Dubois at 860-610-6046 if you have named CWEALF in your will or if you would like more information about how to make a bequest.

Stay Connected With CWEALF

Office

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If you do not receive our email updates—sign up at www.cwealf.org to keep informed and ready to act for women and girls!

Online

email: cwealf@cwealf.org

web: www.cwealf.org

facebook.com/cwealf

instagram.com/cwealf

Who We Are

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Catherine Bailey, Deputy Director

Meg Dubois, Development & Communications Coordinator

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Melinda Johnson, Secure Jobs CT Program Manager

Denise Rhone, Legal Education Manager

Nilda Rivera, Bilingual Community Advocate

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Isabel White

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Do You Need Legal Help?

Contact CWEALF's Legal Education Program

Information & Referral Service {Hablamos Español}

Call 860.524.0601 or toll free 1.800.479.2949

Mon–Thurs 9AM – 2PM

Fri 9AM – 1PM

**Visit www.cwealf.org for more information
and resources**