You Push For Progress

People like you make it possible for CWEALF to continue learning and growing as an organization.

CWEALF’s mission to advocate for and empower women and girls, especially those marginalized and underserved requires our organization to assess our own values to fulfill this mission.

Your support makes it possible for CWEALF to pursue racial justice training and consultation to address our value of intersectionality. This summer, CWEALF staff and interns participated in a two-day training to continue our work to align our mission and practices through an intersectional lens. The training illuminated CWEALF’s strengths and areas of opportunity in our journey to become an anti-racist and intersectional organization.

We are grateful to you, our partners at RE-Center, and for funding from the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund to support this ongoing effort.

Join Us!

The United State of Women, CT Collective for Women and Girls, and the Governor’s Council on Women and Girls are hosting the first Galvanize Connecticut – a statewide summit on women and girls. Stay informed for tickets and event information at cwealf.org/news-events and on Facebook and Instagram.
Thanks to our supporters like you, Connecticut passed one of the most comprehensive paid family and medical leave programs in the country in 2019! CWEALF created a Connecticut Paid Family & Medical Leave Frequently Asked Questions guide available in English and Spanish for you and Connecticut workers to learn more about the program. This fall, Deputy Director Catherine Bailey and Policy Manager and Director of the Campaign for Paid Family Leave Maddie Granato hosted our “Paid Leave Victory in CT! What Does it Mean for Me?” webinar to answer questions about how the paid leave program will work. You can find the webinar recording and both FAQs at www.cwealf.org/public-policy-advocacy.

The Campaign for Paid Family Leave continues to monitor the progress of the Paid Family and Medical Leave Authority to ensure that implementation of the program is transparent and accessible to all workers in Connecticut.

CWEALF Moderates Equal Pay Discussion with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi

CWEALF staff joined House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Connecticut Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro in September at Gateway Community College in New Haven for an important conversation on the federal Paycheck Fairness Act. CWEALF’s Deputy Director Catherine Bailey moderated the event.
Cooperating Attorney Spotlight: Shanique Fenlator

CWEALF’s Legal Education Information and Referral service (I&R) would not be possible without your support and our partnerships with attorneys across the state. Our Cooperating Attorney Network (C.A.N.) provides a low-cost option for people who are otherwise unable to afford an attorney. We recently interviewed Attorney Shanique D. Fenlator about her experience with C.A.N.

Attorney Fenlator is driven by her personal obligation to be a civil servant, “I consider myself privileged to have earned the title of being an officer of the court, and I take great pride in giving back to those in need. I believe that to whom much is given, much is required.”

Attorney Fenlator is motivated by her commitment to the expression “representation matters.” She is aware that she has a unique position in that she feels able to relate to the clients whom CWEALF supports in ways that other attorneys may not.

“I am an immigrant and a woman; when a client looks at me, I know that they can see themselves. That relatability and the confidence that is created by it is not something that I take for granted.”

Attorney Fenlator’s practice areas are immigration law, landlord-tenant law, and residential real estate law. While in law school, Attorney Fenlator interned for Attorney Peter Berry, who is also a CWEALF Cooperating Attorney. “I saw the impact he had on CWEALF participants, and I was inspired to do the same,” she said.

When first beginning her law practice, CWEALF was instrumental in providing her exposure to a large client base, and as a new practitioner, a large number of Attorney Fenlator’s clients came through CWEALF referrals.

“Since that time, I have used my connections at CWEALF to reach the community and serve in a broader capacity,” she said, adding that she especially enjoys participating in CWEALF workshops and community education programs.
Shanique Fenlater, Continued

“CWEALF supports people who are very often experiencing a stressful and tumultuous event in their lives. To be a source of help to someone during this time is very rewarding.”

We can’t say thank you enough to our Cooperating Attorneys and everyone who makes our Legal Education Program possible. **CWEALF’s free, confidential legal advocacy services are entirely supported by philanthropy - like yours!**

**Attorney Recruitment**

Client demand is high in New London, Hartford, and New Haven counties. Do you know of attorneys or law firms who would join CWEALF to advance justice? Contact Denise Rhone to join our Cooperating Attorney Network at drhone@cwealf.org or (860) 610-6049.

**She Leads Justice**

In the spring of 2019, CWEALF launched the **She Leads Justice Project** with the generous support of our donors and the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

During the early phase of this innovative three-year project, CWEALF is expanding our in-depth bilingual community advocacy services and staff capacity. CWEALF welcomed new Community Advocacy Assistant **Kathleen Maldonado** to the team in June 2019. Kathleen is a resident of Hartford’s Clay Arsenal District, and is an avid member her community. Kathleen has worked with an array of populations and social service issues in the nonprofit sector, including senior citizens, immigration issues, food justice, and youth development. Kathleen is bilingual in English and Spanish.

She Leads Justice empowers women to be leaders in their communities through our Peer Advocacy Program to be launched in early 2020. This program provides former advocacy clients with the tools they need to advocate for their peers in legal and social service systems. The Peer Advocacy Program trains 2-3 Peer Advocates per cohort and provides them a stipend for their participation. This summer, we hosted a roundtable to gather valuable feedback from CWEALF clients about their goals and aspirations for the Peer Advocacy program.

Community Advocacy Assistant Kathleen Maldonado.

Community Advocacy Manager Nilda Rivera (center) with clients from a community roundtable.
Welcome Two New Board Members

We are proud to welcome Karen DeMeola, Assistant Dean, University of Connecticut School of Law, and Heather Reed of Belimo, to the CWEALF Board of Directors.

“It’s exciting to be a part of an organization that intentionally focuses on the intersecting identities of women and girls. The voices of all women and girls in our state need champions to advocate for equity in all forms, including education, employment, housing, and reproductive health. CWEALF is that champion.”

-Karen DeMeola

“I serve on CWEALF’s board because I want to ensure women and girls have equal rights and a voice.”

-Heather Reed

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 have included CWEALF in their wills and other estate planning. Please call Development & Communications Coordinator Meg Dubois at 860-610-6046 if you have provisions for CWEALF in your will, or if you would like more information about how to make a bequest.
One Woman Makes A Difference

Every year, CWEALF honors women who contribute to the advancement of women, girls, and families in Connecticut. Our Maria Miller Stewart Awardees and Champions of Change inspire others through their resilience, hope, innovation, and passion to chart the way forward for gender equity.

2019 Maria Miller Stewart Awardees:

Ella Briggs, 2019 Connecticut’s Kid Governor - for her efforts to elevate LGBTQIA youth issues

Glynda Carr, Co-Founder, Higher Heights for America - for her founding of the only organization in the country to build the political power of Black women

Michelle Duprey, Director, Department of Services for Persons with Disabilities, City of New Haven - for her leadership and advocacy for women with disabilities

Dantaya Williams, VP Human Resources, Commercial Engines - Pratt & Whitney - for her efforts to advance women’s leadership in the workplace

Maria Miller Stewart was a free Black woman in Hartford in 1803 who became the first American-born woman to speak in public at an organized lecture. Stewart spoke out with force on the rights of women.
2019 Champions of Change:
State Senator Julie Kushner and State Representative Robyn Porter for their efforts to pass the paid family and medical leave program!

Thank you to our Champion Sponsor Pratt & Whitney! Thirty percent of the executive leadership team throughout Commercial Engines, Pratt & Whitney and United Technologies Corporation (UTC) are represented by women. UTC is a proud advocate of the Paradigm for Parity, a coalition of business leaders dedicated to addressing the corporate leadership gender gap.

Special thanks to our host committee members, event emcee Kristianna Smith, special celebrity guest Renee DiNino, and all our event volunteers and the hundreds of attendees! All event proceeds make CWEALF’s mission possible.

We are especially grateful to CWEALF’s legal advocacy clients Elva and Mariel for sharing their stories through a video message at the event. Hear their stories at cwealf.org/legal-education.

Advocate Sponsors
Connecticut Education Association
Day Pitney
Eastern Connecticut State University
Goodwin College
I.U.O.E. Local 478
Pratt & Whitney Legal Department

Equality Sponsors
Anne Stanback and Charlotte Kinlock
AFSCME Council 4
Central Connecticut State University

Equality Sponsors, Continued
Comcast
Friends of Girl Scouts
Horton, Dowd, Bartschi & Levesque, PC
Livingston, Adler, Pulda, Meiklejohn & Kelly
Robinson + Cole, LLP
UAW Region 9A CT CAP Council
UConn School of Law
UConn School of Business
UConn Women and Philanthropy
Working Families Party
Stay Connected with CWEALF

Address: 75 Charter Oak Avenue, Suite 1-300, Hartford, CT 06106
Phone: 860.247.6090
E-mail: cwealf@cwealf.org
Web: www.cwealf.org
Facebook.com/cwealf
Instagram.com/cwealf

Staff
Kate C. Farrar, Executive Director
Catherine Bailey, Deputy Director
Meg Dubois, Development & Communications Coordinator
Marisa Feijóo, Research Associate
Madeline Granato, Policy Manager
Kathleen Maldonado, Community Advocacy Assistant
Denise Rhone, Legal Education Manager
Nilda Rivera, Community Advocacy Manager

Board of Directors
Kristiana Sullivan, President
Ashika Brinkley, Vice President
Calvin Price, Treasurer
Tiana Ocasio, Secretary
Staci Bachman
Thomas Calvocoressi
Brenda Choresi Carter
Karen DeMeola
Gina Federico
Leslie Lyte
Marinda Monfilston
Heather Reed

Interns & Volunteers
Nina Alessi
Eliza Allison
Angie Botero
Amy Boulton
Kristina Carvalho
Rachel Catanese
Emily Cretella
Pamela Ellman
Sheree Levine
Mitzie Martin
Shannon Mastrangelo
Theresa McCoy
Wendy Faivre McDonald
Jenny McPherson
Mona Mehrabi
Asha Muralidharan
Kasia Neal
Olanike Orisamolu
Holly Pianka
Chenae Russell
Nicole Sanclemente
Rayann Suite
Leslie Wilper
Yateena Young

Do You Need Legal Help?

Contact CWEALF’s Legal Education Program
Information & Referral Service
{Hablamos Espanol}
Call 860.524.0601
or toll free 1.800.479.2949
Mon- Thurs 9AM – 2PM
Fri 9AM -1PM

Visit cwealf.org for more information and resources