



PRESS RELEASE  
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## **FEDERAL COURT HONORS PRO BONO COUNSEL**

On behalf of the Board of Judges of the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut, Chief U.S. District Judge Michael P. Shea has announced the attorney recipient of the District of Connecticut's 2024 Pro Bono Award, as well as three other attorneys who will receive honorable mentions for their pro bono service to the Court. In addition, the District Court honors the over one hundred attorneys who, as members of the federal bar, have accepted appointment as pro bono counsel in 2023 and 2024. The Court will celebrate the contributions of all these dedicated lawyers at the 12<sup>th</sup> biennial Bench-Bar Conference, to be hosted by the Federal Practice Section of the Connecticut Bar Association at Saint Clements Castle on October 31, 2024.

For outstanding contributions in providing legal services to indigent persons, the recipient of the District of Connecticut's 2024 Pro Bono Award is Attorney Lorey Leddy of Murtha Cullina LLP. Attorney Leddy was appointed as pro bono counsel in 2017 and served admirably for seven years as counsel to more than two dozen prisoners challenging their conditions of confinement. She demonstrated a tireless commitment to the plaintiffs through class certification proceedings and extended settlement negotiations in a difficult case. In doing so, she earned the respect and appreciation of her clients, and the gratitude of the Court for her thoughtful and effective advocacy on behalf of a large group of persons who otherwise would have had to navigate complex legal issues on their own. Chief Judge Michael P. Shea remarked: "Attorney Leddy's extraordinary pro bono service ensured meaningful access to justice for her many clients in need of legal representation. Her years of involvement were instrumental to the just resolution of the case."

Robert Reardon of the Reardon Law Firm, Thomas Gerarde of Howd & Ludorf, LLC, and Joseph Nawrocki, formerly of Day Pitney LLP, now of SouthBank Legal, LLC in Washington, D.C., will each receive honorable mention for their dedication in providing legal services to those in need. Chief Judge Shea noted: "The contributions of these three lawyers were unusually effective and time-intensive, going above and beyond the pro bono commitment we occasionally ask of members of our bar. Their work evened the playing field and enabled their clients to obtain tangible results."

Lawyers have a professional responsibility to provide legal services to indigent members of our community, and performing pro bono civil work when called upon to do so by the court is a requirement of membership in the bar of the District of Connecticut. Under Local Rule 83.10, members of the bar are appointed to represent indigent litigants through the Court's Civil Pro Bono Panel. In general, any member of the bar who has appeared as counsel of record in at least one civil action in this Court since January 1, 2015, is included in the pro bono wheel that randomly selects these assignments.

In 2023 and 2024 to date, 108 attorneys accepted appointment through the Court's Civil Pro Bono Panel, providing full or limited-scope representation to plaintiffs unable to afford legal services. Each of these attorneys will be recognized at the Bench-Bar event on October 31, 2024. The names of the attorneys who served as pro bono counsel are listed on the Court's Pro Bono Honor Roll available on the Court's website: [www.ctd.uscourts.gov/pro-bono-honor-roll](http://www.ctd.uscourts.gov/pro-bono-honor-roll)

The Court's celebration of these lawyers coincides with the American Bar Association's 2024 National Celebration of Pro Bono commemorated in October.

The Court will also recognize Dennis Curtis with the Raymond B. Green Award, and James R. Hawkins, II with the Murphy/Cousins Award for outstanding service on the Federal Grievance Committee and as a para-judicial officer, respectively.

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