

NEWS FROM OUR HOUSE

The Children's LAW Center of Connecticut • Protecting Children & Strengthening Families



Children's
LAW
CENTER

30 ARBOR STREET
Hartford, CT 06106

Tel: (860)232-9993
Web: www.clcct.org

[DONATE NOW »](#)

Visit us at
www.clcct.org/support

Tyrone's Journey

For the entirety of 9 year old Tyrone's life, his mother has struggled with addiction. Although she has attended a number of treatment programs, her successes in recovery did not last. Many of her relationships were violent—Tyrone feared for his life, even running away from home to a police station to seek safety. Although he had previously spent two years in foster care and never had a relationship with his biological father, that changed when his mother was discovered on the streets, high on PCP. At that point, Tyrone's father became more present in his life and sought to gain custody, claiming that the mother was the reason for his absence in Tyrone's life in the first place.



An attorney from The Children's Law Center spoke with Tyrone, who was reluctant to provide any substantive information. He noted that when he tells people things about his home life, his mother always finds out and gets upset, so it's better for him to stay silent. Tyrone, who had recently been diagnosed with Oppositional Defiant Disorder, Generalized Anxiety Disorder, and ADHD, simply stated that he felt sad all the time.

Faced with a Department of Children and Families (DCF) removal from his mother's home, the CLC supported Tyrone's placement with his father, who had been having positive supervised visitation sessions and appeared committed to parenting Tyrone. Initially, things seemed to be going well. While it looked like it would take some time to adjust to the new living situation, both Tyrone and his father were putting in the effort to make things work. Unfortunately, this did not last. Tyrone's father became verbally abusive and extreme in his reactions to Tyrone's behavior, breaking Tyrone's belongings and forcing him to sleep on the floor. Both CLC and DCF continued to try and work with Tyrone and his father, but again these successes were not long-lasting. It had reached the point where it was necessary to remove Tyrone from his father's home.

Since then, Tyrone has been living with his maternal great aunt. Three of his cousins also live there, and it's a lively household. Tyrone continues to have complaints about his living situation, but they are typical for a child his age: his aunt is strict, he has to follow rules and there are chores he has to do. Tyrone's father again has disappeared from his life and his mother continues to work towards sobriety.

Although the outcome of this case is not ideal, it is the best possible outcome for Tyrone at this point in time. He is able to live in a safe, stable, happy home with his great aunt while also maintaining a relationship with his mother. Once his mother achieves sustained stability, Tyrone will be able to expand that relationship with the potential to move back in with her. This case could have resulted in Tyrone being injured, being placed in foster care once again, or with the termination of parental rights. Instead, Tyrone maintains a relationship with his mother while living in a safe, happy home with his aunt.

Imagine 2016: Another Successful Gala!

A good time was had by 300+ guests on December 4th, 2016, at our 2016 *Imagine Gala*, held at the Hartford Golf Club. The event honored Sandra and Aaron Gersten for their leadership in the community and their tireless efforts on behalf of the Children's Law Center.



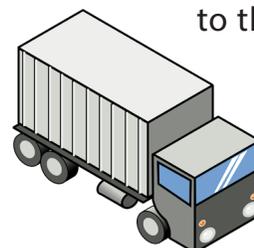
SAVE THE DATE:

CLC's Annual Gala will be held November 30th

We're excited that the Children's Law Center's annual Gala will be held at a new venue this year, The Delamar. The Delamar is West Hartford's newest luxury hotel, located in Blue Back Square. Put November 30th, 2017 on your calendar and help us celebrate as we kick off our year-long **25th Anniversary Celebration!**

We're Moving!

In May, CLC is moving, but we're not going very far! We'll still be at 30 Arbor Street, moving to the 2nd floor.



Welcome to our newest Board Member, Gaurav Patel!

The Children's Law Center has added Gaurav Patel, a distinguished member of the community, to our Board of Directors.



Gaurav Patel has over 12 years of experience in business development, customer relationship management, human resources, and talent acquisition with startups, Fortune 500 Companies, and small businesses. Prior to working at SS&C Technologies, Gaurav was the Client Relations Manager for Act Consulting where he developed sales procedures, oversaw onshore and offshore teams and was responsible for sourcing new business and managing the talent acquisition process. Gaurav previously held roles at Kelly Engineering, a division of Kelly Services (Fortune 500), where he was principally involved in talent acquisition and human resources. During his spare time, Gaurav enjoys golf, community involvement, and family time.

Hellos and Farewells at the CLC



Rosalie Roth, our Director of Development, and **Emily Gilbert**, our Marketing and Development Associate, have recently left us to join different ventures. Rosalie has taken a position with The Mark Twain House and Emily has relocated to Virginia. We wish them both the best and know that this isn't goodbye-- it's just "see you later!"

With goodbyes come hellos! We welcomed **Deb Shulansky**, our new Director of Development, and **Abby Woodhouse**, our new Marketing and Development Associate, in January.

Deb Shulansky is a graduate of Suffolk University School of Law and a graduate of the University of Rochester, cum laude. Prior to joining CLC, Deb served as Director of Community Outreach and Support at the Brain Injury Alliance of CT. She taught elementary school art at Renbrook School and has worked as a legal consultant to Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities and as an Administrative Attorney with the Department of Banking. In her spare time, Deb can be found playing with clay at her pottery studio.



Abby Woodhouse is a graduate of Skidmore College. There she completed her thesis "Trauma at the Hands of Community Service Professionals: The Secondary Victimization of Sexual Assault Victims by the Medical and Legal Systems." Prior to joining CLC, Abby worked at Provide, Inc. as their Online Engagement Officer and Online Media Assistant. As a sophomore in college, Abby interned at CLC as our Outcome Measurement Coordinator and is thrilled to return to the organization in this new role.

Kicking Off 2017!



Celebrating Rosalie and Emily at Savoy in West Hartford before they head off to new ventures. We are so grateful for all they've done for the CLC!



CLC was chosen to play in Hartford's Brackets for Good Tournament. Pictured are Deb and Abby at the tournament's rally!



We held a LuLaRoe fundraiser at our offices. Lots of fun, laughter, and cute clothing, all to support CLC.

Board of Directors:

Robert Madden, *President*
Tim Buckley, *Vice President*
Jonathan Fink, *Treasurer*
Pamela Magnano, *Secretary*

Kelly Frye Barnett
Mark Boxer
Sandra Gersten
Ian McLachlan
Christine Miller
Gaurav Patel
Patricia Pheanious
Patrick Proctor
James Russell
Elizabeth Thayer
Jovanni Valentini
Maureen Zavatone

CLC Staff:

Justine Rakich-Kelly
Executive Director
Randa Hojaiban
Deputy Director
Deb Shulansky
Director of Development
Aisha Roche
Staff Attorney
David Coughlin
Staff Attorney
Artila Lubonja
Staff Attorney
Monique Ryan
Staff Attorney
Kathryn Phillips
Staff Attorney
Nicole Silva
Staff Social Worker
Abby Woodhouse
Development Associate
Brooke Garcia
Administrative Professional



The staff got together to celebrate our Staff Social Worker Nicole Silva, who is expecting a baby boy in this month! Congratulations, Nicole!



Children's **LAW** CENTER

30 ARBOR STREET
Hartford, CT 06106

Tel: (860)232-9993
Web: www.clcct.org

Connect with us!

Online at www.clcct.org



Non-Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
HARTFORD, CT
PERMIT #3418

YOUR SUPPORT WENT A LONG WAY IN 2016!

Because of your incredible support for CLC,
we were able to serve:

554 children in **386 families** through our
Legal Representation Program

81 children in **51 families** through
Families in Transition

1781 children through **1,225 calls** to the
Children's Law Line

Ways to Help!

You Shop. Amazon Gives! Did you know that when you shop through AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to us if you select Children's Law Center as your charity? It's easy, free, and the same as shopping on Amazon.com. Sign up at Smile.Amazon.com, designate CLC as your charity, and start shopping now!

Employer Matching Gift Program: Don't forget to check with your employer when making a gift to CLC. Many companies will match your gift up to 100%!

Support CLC without even thinking about it! Set up a monthly, recurring donation of any amount – simply visit our website at www.clcct.org and click on **DONATE NOW** on our home page. Choose the Recurring Payment option & type in your monthly amount.