

Opposition to the State's Continued Funding of the Children's Law Center

Members of the Appropriations Committee, please see my below breakdown of the services provided by the Children's Law Center. As you can see they are providing the same service which is provided by the Office of the Chief Public Defender's office. The only difference is the Children's Law Center does it at three times the cost.

- 1. The Children's Law Center (CLC) is providing a redundant service at an inflated cost to the State of CT.**
 - a.* The CLC offers GAL's to represent children's best interest for the indigent population of CT**
 - b.* The CLC represented 699 children or 454 cases in the year 2013 *(a)***
 - i.* Cost → 454 cases\ \$1,067,512 (total 2013 expenses) = **\$2,351.34 a case *(a)*****
- 2. The same service is offered through the Office of the Chief Public Defenders (OCPD)**
 - i.* In 2014 the OCPD had 11,805 Child Protection cases**
 - 1.* Cost → 11,805 cases\ \$9,345,538 or **\$792 a case *(b)*****
 - ii.* The OCPD pays \$55/hour for a GAL**
 - 1.* The cost per OCPD case has dropped by \$35 since FY 2012 *(b)***
- 3. The CLC has collected \$1,223,226.50 *(c)* over the past 3 years from the OCPD (2012-2014 → \$407,742/year)**

i. At \$55/hr. the CLC averages 42.7 hours of time per case
($\$2,351 \div \$55 = 42.7$ hours)

1. The CLC still cost more than the OCPD average
($\$407,742 / 454$ cases in 2013 = \$898/case)

ii. The OCPD receives State funding

1. The CLC receives funding through the
Appropriations committee so this is a form of
double dipping

4. Average salary of the CLC Executive Director Justine Rakich-Kelly

i. 2009 - \$88,706 (*d*)

ii. 2010 - \$87,760 (*d*)

iii. 2011 - \$87,533 (*d*)

iv. 2012 - \$89,650 (*d*)

v. 2013 - \$100,899 – 13% raise from 2012 (*d*)

1. The CLC Board of Directors oversees and approves
all financial decisions of the CLC

a. The CLC Board of Directors have three
members who are affiliated with the AFCC

i. CLC President – Barbara Aaron (*e*)

ii. CLC Secretary – Pamela Magnano (*e*)

iii. CLC Board member – Elizabeth
Thayer(*e*)

2. Justine Rakich-Kelly is also an AFCC member (*e*)

a. Justine's 13% pay increase was approved by
her fellow AFCC business partners

5. CLC wasted spending

a. In 2013 the CLC's program services earned \$424,778 but its
expenses were doubled costing \$870,227 (*a*)

i. The CLC runs a Law Line which costs \$56,000 annually
(*f*)

1. The CLC received 1,337 calls in 2013(g)

a. The cost averages (\$56,000\1,337) \$42/call

b. This has nothing to do with representing children in CT

(a) 2013 IRS 990 form

(b) OCPD [2014 Annual Report](#)

(c) 2.27.2015 FOIA request on total payments made by the OCPD to the CLC's over the last three years

(d) 2009-2013 IRS 990 forms

(e) 2014 AFCC member list

(f) GuideStar-Report-for-Children's-Law-Center-of-Connecticut_02-28-20150621PM.pdf

(g) 2013 Annual Report (page 5) provided to the Appropriations Committee members

All information can be validated at any time. Please contact me with any questions.

Thank you,

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