



## PRO BONO At a Glance

### **Attorney Jean E. Tomasco Provides Counsel to Integrated Health Services, Inc.**



Jean E. Tomasco, labor and employment counsel in the Hartford office, provided critical legal advice to Integrated Health Services, Inc. (IHS) with regard to urgent concerns about the performance of one of its employees. Located in East Hartford, Connecticut, IHS provides school-based health services to children who have no health insurance and no relationship with any health care providers. Ms. Tomasco gave important advice on developing appropriate policies to help the client better address similar situations in the future.

Attorney Tomasco provided her legal services through the Pro Bono Partnership, allowing IHS to conserve its resources to focus on its mission to deliver health care to children in need.

### **Connecticut Bar Association Honors Pro Bono Chair Edward J. Heath**



Robinson & Cole litigation partner and chair of the firm's Pro Bono Committee, Edward J. Heath, received the 2012 Pro Bono Award from the Connecticut Bar Association

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### **News from the Pro Bono Partnership**

On June 15, 2012, the Superior Court judges of the State of Connecticut adopted changes to the Connecticut Practice Book and the Connecticut Rules of Professional Conduct that permit authorized house counsel to undertake pro bono representation. The pro bono work is permissible if the work is performed in connection with a legal aid society or a state bar association, or if the work is in collaboration with a lawyer admitted to practice in the State of Connecticut. The changes will be effective on January 1, 2013.

The partnership is particularly grateful for the important role that board members Brackett Denniston and Mark Nordstrom played in successfully advocating this change. Mr. Denniston is senior vice president and general counsel of GE, and Mr. Nordstrom is senior counsel, labor and employment law, of GE. In addition, the partnership is grateful for the five years that Priya Morganstern, the partnership's Hartford Program, devoted to bring about this change. We also recognize the invaluable leadership played by Chief Justice Chase T. Rogers and Judge William Bright.

for his work in 2011. Mr. Heath was presented the award at the Connecticut Bar Association's annual luncheon on June 11, 2012, at the Connecticut Convention Center, along with four other deserving honorees. Connecticut Governor Dannel P. Malloy was the keynote speaker at the event.

The Connecticut Veterans Legal Center nominated Mr. Heath for his tireless work on behalf of the center's clients. In particular, he has helped save several veterans from eviction and foreclosure and led the firm's pro bono efforts to support veterans.

Mr. Heath has encouraged other R&C attorneys to assist in pro bono matters, making the firm a reliable and responsive resource for the center and the veterans it serves. As he explained, "As proud as I am of this award, I take far greater pride in our firm's commitment to the cause of helping needy veterans, often recovering from homelessness and mental illness, overcome legal obstacles relating to housing, health care, and income. Since the Veterans Center's founding in early 2009, I have seen firsthand the differences that my colleagues, across practice lines, have made. This award reflects the good work of many of my colleagues, including Maria Ackley, Keane Aures, Brad Babbitt, Ken Baldwin, Amanda Barry, Nicole Bernabo, John Casey, Bill Egan, Chris Girard, Ted O'Hanlan, Megan Naughton, Virginia McGarrity, and Rhonda Tobin."

## **Greater Boston Legal Services Honors Robinson & Cole Associates**

The associates in Robinson & Cole's Boston office received a group award at an event on June 21, 2012, for 100 percent participation in the 2012 Associates Fund Drive of the Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS). [Environmental](#) and [utilities](#) associate [Karla L. Chaffee](#) and [land use](#) associate [Timothy C. Twardowski](#) led the firm's participation.

The 2012 drive raised more than \$315,000, which exceeded the amount raised in 2011, enabling the GBLS to retain four full-time family law attorneys to provide legal service to low-income domestic violence survivors. The GBLS provides free legal assistance and representation on civil matters to hundreds of

Following is the new language:

Amend Rule 5.5 (d) of the Rules of Professional Conduct by deleting subparagraph 1 and inserting the following:

(1) The lawyer is authorized to provide pursuant to Practice Book Section 2-15A and the lawyer is an authorized house counsel as provided in that section;

Amend Practice Book Section 2-15A (c) by adding a new subparagraph 5 that reads:

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this section, an authorized house counsel may participate in the provision of any and all legal services pro bono publico in Connecticut offered under the supervision of an organized legal aid society or state/local bar association projects, or of a member of the Connecticut bar who is also working on the pro bono representation.

## **2012 PRO BONO COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

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- Kenneth C. Baldwin
- Nicole A. Bernabo
- Pamela K. Elkow
- Christopher F. Girard
- Edward J. Heath
- Gregory T. Ligelis
- Megan R. Naughton
- Christopher S. Pitt

the neediest residents in Boston and 31  
surrounding cities and towns.

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