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Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence Recognizes Robinson+Cole

Firm honored for creating pro bono project that assists domestic violence victims seeking restraining orders

HARTFORD, CT (November 19, 2015) – The Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) recognized Robinson+Cole with its Lawrence and Shirley Bostrom Pillars of Change Award at the First 100 Plus Awards Ceremony on November 6, 2015. The firm was honored for establishing the Domestic Violence Restraining Order (DVRO) Program, which provides pro bono representation to victims of domestic violence. Robinson+Cole partner Edward J. Heath accepted the award on behalf of the firm.



Pictured from left to right at the CCADV's First 100 Awards Ceremony are Robinson+Cole lawyer Kenneth C. Baldwin, Dan Mullin of Verizon Wireless, CCADV Board Chair David Bogan, Attorney General George Jepsen, Robinson+Cole lawyers Edward J. Heath and Eric D. Daniels, and Stephen Jewett of McDowell Jewett Communications. All are wearing purple ties in support of the Domestic Violence Awareness campaign.

Additionally, Robinson+Cole partner Nuala E. Droney was among the individuals honored in this year's First 100 Plus class. Originally designed to recognize men for their efforts in trying to prevent domestic violence and helping victims, this year's class is the first to also recognize women. Attorney Droney was recognized for her long-running leadership of the firm's DVRO Program and her efforts to organize similar programs statewide with other law firms.

The firm's DVRO Program was established in 2012 when Robinson+Cole reached out to the Connecticut Superior Court, Connecticut Legal Services, and New Horizons Domestic Violence Services to find ways to aid victims of domestic violence. The DVRO program gives victims of domestic violence, who otherwise would not be represented, access to attorney advice and help in navigating the court system. Since 2013, Robinson+Cole lawyers have represented victims of domestic violence in applying for *ex parte* restraining orders and extending those orders at contested family court hearings.

The DVRO Program has proved successful from the beginning, earning recognition in 2013 from both Connecticut Legal Services and the CCADV, who recognized six Robinson+Cole lawyers in its First 100 class that year for their work in the program. Now that it is firmly established, Robinson+Cole is working to encourage other firms to start their own programs.

On November 2, Robinson+Cole hosted a groundbreaking training session for more than 35 lawyers interested in representing victims of domestic violence seeking restraining orders in Connecticut. The session, co-sponsored by the Connecticut Bar Association/Young Lawyers Section, encouraged lawyers at other firms to model their own pro bono programs after Robinson+Cole's DVRO Program. It featured presentations by the Honorable Elizabeth A. Bozzuto of the Connecticut Superior Court, Greater Hartford Legal Aid, CCADV, and Robinson+Cole. Attendees included attorneys from other major law firms, in-house corporate counsel, and Judicial Branch Court Operations.

About Robinson+Cole

Robinson+Cole is a service mark of Robinson & Cole LLP, an Am Law 200 firm with 200 lawyers in nine offices serving regional, national, and international clients, from start-ups to Fortune 500 companies. Since 1845, Robinson & Cole LLP has expanded to meet the changing needs of clients. The firm represents corporate, governmental, and nonprofit entities, as well as individual clients, in a wide range of matters, including corporate; business and insurance litigation; tax and tax-exempt; finance; public finance; land use, environmental and utilities, and real estate; health law; labor, employment, and benefits; intellectual property and technology; privacy and data security; and government relations. For more information, please visit www.rc.com.

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