

CSSD Chronicle

State of Connecticut Judicial Branch
Court Support Services Division
Friday, January 22, 2016



Family Services Staff Among CCADV's First 100 Plus Honorees

On November 6, 2015 at the Hartford Marriott Downtown in Hartford, the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) hosted the *First 100 Plus* breakfast and awards ceremony to honor those who have made significant contributions to end domestic violence in Connecticut.

CCADV created the *First 100* in 2011 as part of a plan to get more men involved in the issue of domestic violence. This year was the 5th Annual Awards Ceremony and the first to recognize the efforts of women in the area of domestic violence prevention.

Connecticut's Attorney General George Jepsen formally recognized this year's honorees which included Senators, State's Attorneys, a Congresswoman, clergy, and law enforcement personnel. This year's recipients also included JB/CSSD Family Services employees MaryAnn Ried-Gill, Marisol Mejia, and Gail Fisher Brown. The three women join a list of CSSD staff who have received this award in past years including Execu-



Group photo of CCADV's First 100 Plus Honorees for 2015

tive Director Stephen Grant; Deputy Director Joseph DiTunno; Family Services Supervisors Charles Forcier, Maurice Hill, and Michael Del Santo; and Family Relations Counselors Joseph Carroll, Jr., Christopher Colonese, David Waterman and Kevin McCarthy.

MaryAnn Ried-Gill is a supervisor for Family Services in Hartford. She is an integral member of the domestic violence team in the GA-14 criminal court. Ms. Ried-Gill has been a key contributor in formulating the Domestic Violence Docket and establishing the Alert Notification/GPS program in the Hartford Court. Ms. Ried-Gill is recognized as a leader in response to domestic violence matters as well as the point person for collaboration to ensure offender accountability and victim safety.

Marisol Mejia has been a Family Relations Counselor since 2006. Ms. Mejia is a member of the Domestic Violence Docket team in Bridgeport. She has been the primary person assigned to the Bridgeport Alert Notification/GPS program since its inception in 2010. Her current caseload is comprised of the very serious, high risk domestic violence offenders. Ms. Mejia's experience, diligence, and skill are vital to the enhanced response to domestic violence matters in GA2.

Gail Fisher-Brown has 28 years of experience as a Family Relations Counselor working with domestic violence offenders and victims. Ms. Fisher-Brown was instrumental in estab-

lishing the Domestic Violence Docket in New Britain and continues to be the primary Family Relations Counselor assigned to cover this assignment. Ms. Fisher-Brown's expertise in the area of domestic violence issues has been recognized by the Bench, Bar, and other professionals working on the Domestic Violence Docket. She approaches her work with balance, integrity and fairness—always holding her clients accountable while still encouraging their positive change.



**JB/CSSD recipients of the 2015 CCADV *First 100 Plus* award
(L to R) Family Services Supervisor Mary Ann Ried-Gill, Counselor Marisol Mejia, and
Counselor Gail Fisher-Brown**

For more information on the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV), as well as the complete list of the *First 100 Plus*, please visit the CCADV website at ctcadv.org. For more information on JB/CSSD domestic violence prevention programs and services, contact Debra Kulak, CSSD Deputy Director of Family Services at Debra.Kulak@jud.ct.gov.

The CSSD Chronicle is a regular publication of information and news about the Court Support Services Division. Questions or comments on this edition, or suggestions for future articles, can be directed to Linda.Grzeika@jud.ct.gov