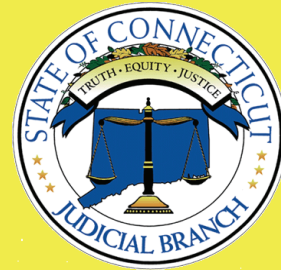


CSSD Chronicle

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CSSD's Stephen Grant and Charles "CJ" Forcier honored for their efforts to end domestic violence in Connecticut

On September 28th, at the Crowne Plaza in Cromwell, the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) hosted the "First 100" Breakfast to honor 100 male leaders who have made significant contributions to end domestic violence in Connecticut. United States Senator Richard Blumenthal formally recognized the "First 100" honorees which included CSSD's Director of Family and Juvenile Services Stephen Grant, New Haven Family Supervisor I Charles "CJ" Forcier, as well as dozens of other Connecticut men from varied backgrounds and professions. Speaker of the House Christopher Donovan, a "First 100" member, was also awarded the "Coalition Crusader" honor for his work to establish the Speaker's Task Force on Domestic Violence.



(L to R) CSSD Family Services Supervisor I Charles "CJ" Forcier; Speaker of the House, Chris Donovan; U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal; CSSD Executive Director Bill Carbone; and CSSD Family and Juvenile Services Director Stephen Grant at the CCADV "First 100" Breakfast.

CSSD Executive Director Bill Carbone was one of many guests on hand to celebrate the men's achievement. "Domestic violence remains one of our top priorities in the Judicial Branch," said Carbone. "We are proud of all of our staff who work hard to assure victim safety and client accountability.

Steve and CJ are two outstanding examples of the great work being done in our communities with respect to domestic violence."

A long history of activism to end domestic violence—In 1986, Steve Grant had been a family relations counselor for only a few years when he was asked to serve on the implementation team for Connecticut's *Family Violence Prevention and Response Act*. Commonly known as the "Tracey Thurman Law," the Act defined family violence, required police to arrest abusers if probable cause existed, and ordered the judicial department to create family violence intervention units.

Serving on the DV implementation team was just one of many opportunities Grant has had during his 32-year career to promote ways to end domestic violence. "It's been exciting to be an agent for change over the years when it comes to domestic violence," said Grant, who is now Director of CSSD Family and Juvenile Services. "There have been many advancements in the DV field since the Thurman tragedy. The Connecticut Judicial Branch has promoted and supported these efforts to end domestic violence on numerous levels, and has fostered an environment in which innovative assessment tools and interventions can be developed." Grant lists CSSD's Domestic Violence Screening Instrument (DVSI-R) as one of the top initiatives in the domestic violence field.

“Research published by the National Center for Disease Control has demonstrated that the DVSI-R is a highly predictive screening instrument for domestic violence,” said Grant. “It is used in more than 11 states and five countries, including several Canadian provinces.”

Grant expressed how proud and appreciative he is of the excellent work done each day by Family Relations Counselors in assessing and supervising highly volatile and complex domestic violence cases. “The Family Violence Victim Advocates also have a vital function and purpose in this process,” Grant said, “and we are fortunate to have a strong partnership with these committed professionals in meeting this enormous challenge. We are also grateful to have such an effective contracted service network that consistently provides exceptional outcomes.” Grant said he was humbled and honored to be among the “*First 100*” and noted there are many others who also deserve to be on the list. “Our work with DV clients is a collaborative effort, and I applaud the efforts of everyone who has made the commitment to end domestic violence. In particular, CCADV deserves recognition for their leadership role in promoting public awareness, developing best practice policies, and spearheading legislative initiatives in this area.”

Grant feels events of recognition, like the CCADV “*First 100*” *Breakfast*, are important to celebrate, yet somberly noted, “The DV-related fatalities in Connecticut in the past several weeks underscores that there is still much more work to be done to change the culture of violence against women.”

A safer New Haven community—Charles “CJ” Forcier has been with New Haven Family Services for over 21 years. For the past nine years, he has been a Family Services Supervisor—overseeing the Domestic Violence dockets in GA 23, New Haven—where he has interviewed thousands of offenders and victims of domestic violence. He has served as an Adjunct Instructor for the CSSD Training Academy and has lectured at numerous community agencies and schools throughout the state around the issue of domestic violence. When Forcier was told he had been selected to be one of the “*First 100*,” he was curious about why he had been chosen. Forcier found out that a colleague, whom he collaborates with on a daily basis (and whom he greatly admires), had recommended him for the award after watching the effective and compassionate way Forcier dealt with DV victims, offenders, and their families at GA 23. When asked about what it meant to be on the “*First 100*” list, Forcier replied, “I am proud to be in the company of such a distinguished list of men whose commitment is making a difference in ending domestic violence. As men, we must stand up and create an atmosphere of intolerance and abhorrence of violence toward women. I am proud to be on this list, but also acknowledge the countless men and women I work with every day who are equally deserving and committed.”

For more information on the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, as well as a complete list of the “*First 100*,” please visit the CCADV website at www.ctcadv.org. For information on CSSD domestic violence programs and services, contact Joe DiTunno, Program Manager at Joseph.DiTunno@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