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Connecticut Bar Association Provides Election Day Assistance

Connie Fraser

The Connecticut Bar Association has partnered this election season with the Secretary of the State for the "Secretary's Legal Assistance Project," building a list of volunteer attorneys who will be "on call" and deputized for the November 6, 2012 Election Day as representatives of the Secretary of the State.

100 attorneys have volunteered to serve on Election Day. The volunteer attorneys will assess any situations that may arise at a polling place and will communicate only neutral facts to the Secretary of the State. For example, a candidate's supporter might call the Secretary's office claiming "they are turning voters away from Main Street School." In fact, these voters may be in the wrong voting location either because of the new redistricting or other miscommunication. The Secretary cannot effectively assist people if they get "spin" from a candidate supporter instead of the facts. The attorneys in this project will be called to visit the poll in question, vet the situation, and contact the Secretary's office with the available facts.

The attorneys who have volunteered have also participated in a mandatory training program offered by the Secretary of the State prior to Election Day. The attorneys involved are representatives of Connecticut's local bars and specialty bars, the Connecticut Bar Foundation, and the George W. Crawford Black Bar Association, Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association, Connecticut Asian Pacific American Bar Association and the South Asian Bar Association of Connecticut.

"We are pleased to assist the Secretary of the State's office in this important role on Election Day," Kimberly A. Knox, CBA President-Elect, said. "This team of attorneys will provide needed support in monitoring issues at the polls in a neutral manner, upholding the right to vote for all citizens."

The Connecticut Bar Association is a professional association committed to the advancement of justice, the protection of liberty, and to safeguarding the dignity of the legal profession.

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