

## Professionally Speaking

### DEBORAH STEVENSON

Special Public Defender

As Executive Director of National Home Education Legal Defense, LLC, a group that helps protect the rights of parents regarding educational issues, we are pleased to sponsor Connecticut's First Annual Liberty Forum on September 27 and 28 at the Bristol Clarion. We have gathered together top people in their field to discuss how and why many of our Constitutional rights are being eroded, and to provide ways the public can help stop the erosion. Some of those who will be speaking include: Martin Margulies, Constitutional Law Professor, Quinnipiac University School of Law, Robert Levy, Senior Fellow in Constitutional Studies at the CATO Institute, Bert Gall, Senior Attorney at the Institute for Justice, Suzette Kelo and Michael Christofaro, plaintiffs in the United States Supreme Court eminent domain case, *Kelo v. New London*, Jim Gilchrist, founder of the Minuteman Project Jim Babka, President of Downsize DC Foundation, Bob Shultz, President of We The People Foundation, Alan Schaeffer, Executive Director of Separation of School and State, Laurence D. Cohen, Columnist for the Hartford Courant, Dr. Robban Sica, Vice President of CT Health Freedom Coalition, Dr. Katherine Albrecht, Director of CASPIAN (Consumers Against Supermarket Privacy Invasion and Numbering) and co-author of the book, *Spychips* and Susan Kniep, President of Federation of Connecticut Taxpayers Organizations

We hope that **PRESTON TISDALE** will speak at this event about Fourth Amendment Rights issues.

### LINDA J. SULLIVAN

Special Public Defender

Linda J. Sullivan is legal advisor to the Connecticut Pardon Team, Inc., a nonprofit organization founded by her former client Jacqueline Caron, to educate and inform the public about the pardon process in Connecticut. The team also provides support and assistance to people who are applying for a pardon.

The Connecticut Pardon Team, Inc. ([www.connecticutpardonteam.org](http://www.connecticutpardonteam.org)) is a non-profit

organization headquartered in Norwich that provides the information people need to change their lives if they were formerly convicted of a crime, have successfully completed their parole or probation, have made significant steps toward rebuilding their lives, are taking a proactive role in giving back to their communities, and who have remained conviction-free for the term as prescribed by law (3 years for a misdemeanor, 5 years for a felony).

The Connecticut Pardon Team has provided information and education to thousands of individuals since 2004 which has helped them determine their eligibility to apply for a non-inmate pardon.

On July 8, 2008, at a meeting with State Sen. Edwin A. Gomes (D-Bridgeport), Pardon Team founder Jackie Caron and her husband, Pardon Team Executive Director Richard A. Caron. Sr., Pardon Team Legal Advisor Attorney Linda J. Sullivan said "What we have seen in recent years is a whole shifting away in the criminal justice system from rehabilitation to incarceration and retribution," "What the Pardon Team does is shift the focus back toward the rehabilitation aspect, and that has the possibility of transforming people's lives."

### WILLIAM O'CONNOR

Assistant Public Defender, Hartford JD

Usually the news that a client has written to the Grievance Committee is not good news for an attorney. Not so for Bill O'Connor of the Hartford JD. His client's father wrote the Grievance Committee because there is no site for sending letters of appreciation.

The father wrote, "This letter is not really a grievance, but you didn't have a site for appreciation so could you please pass this on to the appropriate person. This letter is to thank Attorney O'Connor for the outstanding work he has done on behalf of my son. He has always been there to answer questions that we had and really was a class A lawyer. If I had went out and spent a million dollars on a lawyer, I would not have got any better representation."