

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HONORS LAW FIRM

149 Pro Bono Transactions and Counting

BRIDGEPORT, Feb. 24, 2011 – In recognition of more than a decade of pro bono work for Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County, the Bridgeport-based law firm Cohen and Wolf, P.C. will be honored at the organization's 12th annual Hearts & Hammers Gala on Saturday, March 5, 2011.

In roughly the past 10 years, the law firm has handled 149 pro bono transactions for Habitat for Humanity. The 150th is scheduled for March 3, two days before the Gala.

“Cohen and Wolf has been so wonderful to us,” said Ann Stoddart, mortgage and closing specialist for Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County. “No matter how busy their schedules, attorneys there always seem to make time for us. This was certainly the case last spring when the federal tax credits for first-time homebuyers kicked in and families were rushing to take advantage of them. Cohen and Wolf handled over a dozen closings in less than two weeks.”

“Providing assistance to Habitat for Humanity and being able to help many families realize the dream of home ownership is a privilege for the lawyers and paralegals at our firm,” said Atty. David Ball, managing partner of Cohen and Wolf. “Since 1993, it has been a tradition at Cohen and Wolf to perform pro bono work for Habitat for Humanity. We handle many closings per year and commend all of the dedicated staff and volunteers associated with Habitat for all that they do.”

Of the 50 attorneys at Cohen and Wolf, two have been particularly active with Habitat in the past several years: Real Estate Practice group principal, Daniel S. Nagel, who represents commercial real estate developers and investors, and attorney Lauren G. Walters, who has been helping build Habitat homes since high school.

“Many individuals and businesses have been instrumental in enabling hard working, low-income families to purchase a home of their own, but attorneys at Cohen and Wolf play an especially significant role: they assist in home closings, which are always a very special moment in the journey of Habitat for Humanity's partner families,” Stoddart said.

In addition to the home closings, Nagel and Walters often also assist with mortgage re-finances, more so recently as property taxes increase in Fairfield County, leaving new homeowners struggling to make payments.

The formal award presentation and gala will be held at the Hyatt Regency hotel in Greenwich and will include cocktails, an auction, dinner and dancing.

Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are available by contacting the Habitat for Humanity office at 203-333-2642.

About Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County

Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County™ is an independently run, local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, nonprofit ecumenical housing ministry dedicated to eliminating poverty housing wherever it exists. Habitat CFC seeks to build community and improve lives by partnering with low-income families in need of a place to live and with community volunteers and donors to build simple, safe, and affordable neighborhoods. Volunteers, donors, homeowners and staff are people of all faiths. For more information or to make a donation, visit the Habitat CFC website at www.habitatcfc.org or call 203.333.2642. To donate new or used furniture, appliances and building materials, visit Habitat CFC's ReStore's website at www.fairfieldcountyrestore.org or call 203.383.4358.

About Cohen and Wolf

*This year marks Cohen and Wolf's 60th anniversary. The firm began in 1951 with two lawyers, Herbert L. Cohen and Austin K. Wolf, working from a single office in Bridgeport. Since then, the firm has expanded to 50 attorneys across **Bridgeport, Danbury, Westport and Orange**. Attorneys at Cohen and Wolf represent a diverse assortment of individuals, businesses and municipalities, handling their personal and professional legal needs, from matters involving litigation, corporate and securities law, real estate, land use and zoning, to family law and estate planning. Additional information is available at www.cohenandwolf.com.*

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