



Schedule of Events

9:00-9:30	Arrival, registration, light breakfast
9:30-9:45	Welcome/Opening Remarks
9:45-10:15	Votes for Women: Connecticut Woman Changing Democracy
10:15-10:45	Voting in Connecticut Today
10:45-11:15	Lunch
11:15-11:45	Breakout Session: Grassroots Advocacy/Lobbying
11:45-12:15	Full Group Reporting Session
12:15-1:00	Taking the Next Step
1:00-1:15	Wrap-Up/Pledge/Program Evaluations



Presenters



Scott Bates currently serves as Deputy Secretary of the State and has served in leadership roles at the state, national, and international levels in policy development and government for over twenty-five years.

After September 11th, Bates became the first Senior Policy Advisor to the U.S. House of Representatives Homeland Security Committee and led a team that produced a dozen reports on homeland security issues ranging from border security to bioterrorism. He then served as President of the Center for National Policy, a Washington D.C. think tank focusing on topics of national security. Bates has also taught at the National Defense University in Washington D.C., University of Indiana School of Law, the University of Tokyo, and the University of Pristina. He has been on the ground in every war zone where American troops have fought in this generation. He has worked with elected leaders and activists alike to build democratic institutions and governance structures in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo, Bosnia, Haiti and the Persian Gulf. He has been a featured

speaker on defense issues and international affairs at numerous national and international conferences.

Bates served as Chief of Staff for Congressman Nick Lampson, Counsel to Congressman Jim Turner, and Senior Advisor to Congressman Maurice Hinchey. He was appointed Secretary of the State and Legislative Director for Virginia Governor Douglas Wilder and is credited for the state's ethics reforms and an unprecedented expansion in appointments of women and minorities to state boards and commissions.



Rachel Gary currently serves as Director of Communications and Special Projects for The Sheff Movement, a coalition of parents, students, educators, and community members working to expand awareness about Connecticut's successful voluntary, two-way interdistrict school integration programs and promote improvement and expansion of these programs. Rachel has worked in communications and public relations on behalf of Connecticut non-profit organizations and educational institutions for over 10 years, including Hartford Public Library, University of Hartford, and Wesleyan University, and was a 2010 Fellow with the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism. She is a longtime activist for social and environmental justice, a founding member of the Connecticut Youth Activist Network and a facilitator for Allies for Social Justice and the Connecticut Youth Forum Student Exchange.



Treasurer Denise L. Nappier is the first African-American woman elected to serve as a State Treasurer in the United States and the first African-American woman elected to a statewide office in Connecticut. Elected in 1998 and re-elected in 2002, 2006, 2010 and 2014, Treasurer Nappier is also the only woman to be elected Treasurer in Connecticut history.

Treasurer Nappier's innovative and resourceful leadership has saved Connecticut citizens and businesses hundreds of millions of dollars, and the asset recovery and loss prevention program she established, the first of its kind in Treasury history, has recovered more than \$1 billion. The Nappier Administration has an unsurpassed commitment to invest in Connecticut's citizens and businesses, and an exceptional track-record of doing business with Connecticut-based firms, women- and minority-owned firms, and the next generation of entrepreneurs and professionals in the financial services industry.

Throughout her administration, Treasurer Nappier has served as a catalyst and effective advocate for financial literacy for people across the state, working with the private sector and community- and faith-based organizations to expand financial education programs. She also led efforts to create Connecticut's Individual Development Account program, a matched savings program designed to help working families build a better future by attaining financial goals such as a first-time home purchase. The Hartford native previously served as Hartford City Treasurer for nearly ten years, and as Executive Director of Hartford's Riverfront Recapture.



Emma Pellerin is an Outreach Director at Educators for Excellence. Educators for Excellence's mission and vision speak to Emma's belief in the power of grassroots organizing as well as her own classroom experience. She is most inspired by the solutions-oriented conversations that E4E members and nonmembers alike engage in around action steps that they can take to positively impact their students' lives.

As a native of southeastern Connecticut, Emma's appreciation for public education and the teaching profession came from her mother, a lifelong educator and current elementary school principal in Norwich. She graduated from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts, as a double major in English and political science and went on to teach ninth-grade English at a vocational-technical high school in Baltimore, Maryland.

Emma sought to instill a love of learning and sense of self-empowerment in her students that would help them to realize their own ambitions and, ultimately, "write their own stories." After three years in the classroom, her interest in public policy brought her to work for Hillary for America as an organizer, where she spent the next year working in key primary and caucus states across the country.



Denise Rhone is the Legal Education & Outreach Coordinator at Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF). She joined CWELAF in 2012 and supports their overall Legal Education Program needs. This includes managing CWEALF's Information and Referral (I&R) service, conducting community outreach and education and assisting with grant writing. Additionally, Ms. Rhone coordinates the agency's interns and volunteers and leads the organization's participation in United Way's Volunteer Budget Coaching program.

Ms. Rhone received her B.A. in English from Trinity College and combines her artistic and communications abilities as well as her passion for social justice both in and outside of the workplace. She currently serves as Co-Chair of Young Women Rising, is an active member of Journey Writers, Inc., and volunteers her time to a variety of faith-based initiatives in her hometown, Hartford.



Patricia Russo is a nationally respected leader focused on improving the quality of life for women in Connecticut and the United States. For over twenty-five years she has held numerous leadership positions in public, private, and not for profit organizations centered on women's rights. She has also held leadership positions on federal, state, and local political campaigns.

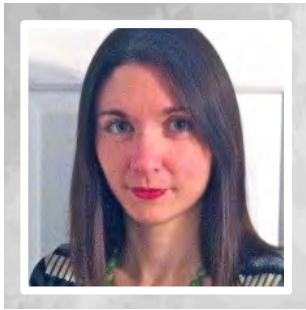
Currently, Patricia serves as Executive Director of the Women's Campaign School at Yale University. The Women's Campaign School at Yale is a nonpartisan, issue neutral political campaign training program for women interested in running for public office, and for women interested in campaign management. Based at Yale Law School, it is a leading program attracting women from the U.S. and internationally. She is also a member of the Council of Women's Health Research at Yale University and chairs its Philanthropy and Communications Committee. Patricia served twenty three years as a member of Connecticut's Permanent

Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW), including eight years as its Chair. She is an honorary member of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women.

Patricia is the founder of the Connecticut Women's Agenda, a state-wide advocacy coalition comprised of women leaders. She is also a co-founder of the Women's Business Development Council of Connecticut, which assists women entrepreneurs. She is a co-founder of the Connecticut NARAL Foundation, which educates and protects women's reproductive rights. She also served on the Board of Trustees of the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame.



Presenters



Meghan Smith is the Communications Director for the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut (ACLU-CT), a nonpartisan, nonprofit membership organization that defends, promotes, and preserves individual rights and liberties under the U.S. and Connecticut constitutions. Her primary responsibilities include managing media relations and communications strategies and developing content that advocates for protecting and expanding individual freedoms and equality. Meghan received her bachelor's degree from Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts. Prior to joining the ACLU-CT, Meghan worked for Catholics for Choice and the Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts. A proud northeastern Connecticut native, Meghan has also served on the Board of Trustees of the AIDS Foundation of Western Massachusetts.



Carolyn M. Treiss was the last Executive Director of the former Connecticut Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, which for forty-three years was the State's umbrella agency for all matters concerning women. Carolyn's passion for women's rights advocacy was sparked after college as a volunteer for NARAL Pro-Choice CT, and her commitment to women's rights grew during a graduate school internship in which she advocated in the Connecticut General Assembly for victims of sexual assault on behalf of Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, now the Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence. Since then, Treiss has served as executive director of NARAL Pro-Choice CT, chief of staff at the state Office of Health Care Access, legislative program manager for the Department of Social Services, and as policy director for the Connecticut Senate Democratic Caucus. She currently serves as Executive Assistant to Commissioner Scott Jackson at the Connecticut Department of Labor. She holds a J.D. from the University of Connecticut School of Law, an M.S.W.

from the University of Connecticut School of Social Work and a B.A. in political science and Russian from Bates College.



Laura Ward is the owner of WardComm Public Relations, LLC. She began her career more than 20 years ago at The Fairfield County Medical Association, a Trumbull, Connecticut-based non-profit trade association with over 1,800 physician members. While there, she oversaw and continually strengthened the Association's governmental affairs program and public relations efforts, serving a dual role as liaison between the Association and Connecticut General Assembly and Association spokesperson. While she has transitioned her career away from the political side of advocacy, Laura continues to speak for her clients on many levels. For the last 10 years, she has been a solo public relations practitioner, at the helm of her own business. A Connecticut native, Laura earned her bachelor of arts degree in public policy from Hamilton College in Clinton, New York. She is a former president of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts. Laura has also been a guest lecturer in public relations writing at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Connecticut.