

**Brody Wilkinson PC**

Law firm partnered with the Fairfield Museum to support a program called "Our Nation's Generations 2012." Students from The Unquowa School in Fairfield paired up with kids at New Beginnings Family Academy in Bridgeport to take walking tours on which they explored Bridgeport's architectural, cultural and industrial history. The students worked with writers, photographers and others to document their findings, which are now on exhibit at the museum.

**Murtha Cullina**

Hartford law firm hosting free business breakfast seminar on debt financing that will feature a guest speaker from the banking community. Registration is required for event to be held Feb. 21 at 8 a.m. Contact [klipsy@murthalaw.com](mailto:klipsy@murthalaw.com).

**UConn TV Station**

College's student-run station apologizes after airing a video sketch that parodies a female student using a campus phone to report an attempted rape. In the skit, the phone malfunctions and calls the woman offensive names.

## A Lawyer, A Lexus And Reality TV

We're thinking that very few of you have ever considered underwriting a reality TV show. Here's another reason to resist that temptation.

A few years back, Greenwich patent lawyer Dwight Renfrew reportedly invested \$580,000 in a reality show that was to feature an aspiring fashion designer and her beau, a professional poker player. The designer was Long Islander Rebecca Kudryavsky, whose acting bonafides include hosting a public access TV show called "Are You A Star Or Just Bizarre?"

But the project stalled. Kudryavsky said the lawyer became jealous when she got married. The lawyer claimed his investment had been "used fraudulently" and "misappropriated." Bottom line: Renfrew filed a lawsuit, and then dropped it.

The dispute was well-chronicled in the New York tabloids last fall. The latest twist comes from silive.com, a State Island news site. It reports that Kudryavsky was among those arrested last week in what New York prosecutors are calling an insurance fraud sweep. One alleged scam involves a luxury Lexus SUV that Kudryavsky reported stolen last May.

Except it hadn't been stolen. The Lexus had been leased, with attorney Renfrew as the co-signer. When Kudryavsky fell behind on the payments, he reportedly reclaimed it in November 2010. In fact, police realized it hadn't been stolen when they stopped it on Manhattan streets last August and found the lawyer legally behind the wheel.

"People shouldn't go down that path.... It's not worth the trouble," a New York police captain said last week. He was talking about insurance fraud, but he may as well have been talking about involvement with reality TV.



The state Judicial Branch and the Connecticut Bar Association have won the American Bar Association's Law Day 2011 Outstanding Activity Award. The Law Day theme was "The Legacy of John Adams from Boston to Guantanamo," and Connecticut events included a reenactment of closing arguments at the Boston Massacre trial (above) and a state Supreme Court ceremony. Elizabeth Gilson, who has represented Guantanamo Bay detainees, gave the keynote address, and Manny Margolis, who passed away last summer, was honored for his lengthy career as a civil rights lawyer.

## Powerball Win Bankrupts Friendship

Here's the lesson: Don't gamble with friends. Even if you're on the same side.

Consider the case of Armando Martins, a drywall installer from Trumbull, and Nino Nascimento, a Bridgeport mason. The buddies used to meet for lunch at a Bridgeport restaurant, where they would buy Powerball tickets twice a week.

The partnership was simple. "We agreed that Nuno would decide how many tickets he wanted to buy, and I would then give him one-half of the cash," Martins stated in a lawsuit. "We agreed that we would share any winnings on a 50-50 basis."

One day in February 2009, Nascimento reportedly asked for \$75. Martins had only \$74, though it's unclear if that dollar made a differ-

ence in what followed. What's now indisputable is that one of the tickets Nascimento bought that day was a \$1 million winner.

According to the *Connecticut Post*, Nascimento hid the good news from his friend. But word spread in the local Portuguese community, and Martins confronted him. At first, Nascimento claimed his bounty had come from selling property in Portugal. Only later did he acknowledge winning the lottery; at one point he offered Martins a paltry \$370 cut.

Martins just said no and pursued a lawsuit, which was recently settled. Under terms of the deal reached before Superior Court Judge Barbara Bellis, Martins will get the lion's share — \$630,000 before taxes — while Nascimento is left with \$370,000.

The *Post* said neither man would comment, but that Nascimento's wife made it clear she was not happy with the outcome. Now that's something we would have bet on. ■

**Go Figure****350**

Number of pro bono hours volunteered by associates at Waterbury-based Carmody & Torrance in 2011, the firm announced last week. The associates hooked up with Statewide Legal Services and other organizations to represent clients in security deposit recovery and other civil litigation. They also held legal clinics for self-represented parties.

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