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**Junior League of Hartford Member Christiana N. Gianopulos
Honored by Connecticut Women’s Education and Legal Fund**

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT (October 19, 2011) – Junior League of Hartford Past President Christiana N. Gianopulos was honored by the Connecticut Women’s Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF) as one of four “Women Making a Difference” on October 4, 2011. Tiana earned CWEALF’s *Maria Miller Stewart* award for her professional dedication to civil rights and her personal efforts in developing the potential of women.

“The truth is that Tiana is one of those rare individuals who, having seen that there is inequality and discrimination in the world, has used her precious free time to make a difference,” said Anne Stanback, former Love Makes a Family executive director and past *Maria Miller Stewart* awardee, when she introduced Tiana at the awards dinner.

Tiana opened her remarks at the awards celebration with a Harriet Beecher Stowe quote that she said resonates with her as the daughter of a structural engineer, “women are the true architects of society.” But, even architects need training and guidance to succeed. Tiana believes in mentoring and creating volunteer leadership opportunities for young women on non-profit boards to pave the way for the next generation of societal architects.

“I stand before you tonight thanks to the architects of the Junior League of Hartford, who welcomed me here, fresh from Mount Holyoke in 1983,” said Tiana in her acceptance remarks. “...[they] taught me about this city, trained me in community project development, challenged me to take risks in my volunteer career and in the process convinced me to adopt their mission as my own. This is why I remain committed to [the Junior League’s mission of] promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.”

Tiana has been making a difference in the lives of Connecticut women and girls through her volunteer and professional leadership for nearly 30 years. A trust and estate lawyer at Day Pitney LLP, she has held many leadership roles in non-profit organizations and is an active “hands-on” volunteer. Her leadership roles have included president of the Junior League of Hartford, chair of the Board of Trustees of the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, trustee of Hartford College for Women, co-chair of the Advisory Board of the Connecticut Women’s Hall of Fame, president of the Mount Holyoke Club of Hartford, and board member of the Love Makes a Family Foundation, Planned Parenthood of Connecticut, Asylum Hill, Inc., Rebuilding Together with Christmas in April Hartford, the Connecticut Valley Girl Scout Council, the Shelter for Women, and WORKS/Laura Glenn Dance Company. Tiana is also a longtime pro bono intake lawyer at the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut.

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At the awards reception from left to right:
 Carolyn Hoffman
Junior League of Hartford past president
 Wendy Avery
Junior League of Hartford president
 Christiana N. Gianopulos
Junior League of Hartford past president and Maria Miller Stewart awardee
 Sarah Thrall
Junior League of Hartford president-elect
 Ann Thomas
Junior League of Hartford past president



Pictured from left to right:
 Anne Stanback
former Love Makes a Family executive director and past Maria Miller Stewart awardee
 Christiana N. Gianopulos
Junior League of Hartford past president and Maria Miller Stewart awardee
 Alice Pritchard
CWEALF executive director

Celebrating 90 Years of Service - The Junior League of Hartford

The Junior League of Hartford, Inc. is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable. For 90 years, the League has researched current community needs and developed and implemented targeted community service projects to address those needs. This year, the League celebrates the anniversaries of its programs The Clothes Horse, Souper Sustainers, Links & Laughter, The Backpack Program, and Freshplace. For more information, visit www.jlhartford.org.

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