

# Successor named to lawyer program

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WINSTED — Charlene LaVoie, a lawyer and West Hartford native, has been appointed to head the Community Lawyer/Advocate Project of the Shafeek Nader Trust.

She succeeds Ellen K. Thomas, the project's first community lawyer, who held the post about a year in Winchester and Winsted. The appointment is effective June 1.

The trust was founded in honor of the late Shafeek Nader, brother of Ralph Nader, the nationally known consumer advocate who is from

Winsted.

Claire Nader, director of the trust and a sister of Ralph and Shafeek Nader, said the community lawyer helps people work within their governments through education and litigation.

Shafeek Nader was active in community affairs and was instrumental in founding Northwestern Connecticut Community College in Winsted. LaVoie received her law degree in 1984 from the University of Bridgeport School of Law, where she also won the Service to the Community award.

In January 1985 she joined the

legal practice of William M. Laviano in Ridgefield. Her focus included employment discrimination, wrongful termination of employment, civil rights, unfair trade practices, securities and special education.

LaVoie has received an associate's degree from Hartford College for Women, a bachelor's in dental hygiene from the University of Bridgeport and a master's in public administration from New York University.

She has served on the dental hygiene faculty of the University of Bridgeport. She is a member of the American Civil Liberties Union, the

American Trial Lawyers Association and the Women's Trial Lawyers Caucus.