

50 MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE

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By Hartford Mag Staff

Influence. Everyone wants it, these people have it.

Some of the names on our 2012 list have appeared are members of the media, and because we work for a media company, we opted not to include media and here in previous years, a mark of their continued importance in our community. Others are making their first appearance, new faces on the Greater Hartford scene



that we expect to see more of in years to come. Selecting our 50 Most Influential was an extensive process. We solicited nominations from our readers and asked people in the know for their suggestions, then gathered our editorial committee to bandy about names until we had our list. Because we at Hartford Magazine news personalities whose job, one might say, is to shape public opinion. Also eliminated were elected officials and those who are engaged in public relations and lobbying, because again, those professions have built-in influence, and we were looking for those whose influence comes as a result of their words and actions, not as part of their jobs. Even without those categories, we had plenty of people in the mix. Here are the ones that rose to the top.

MARTHA STONE

In late October, Martha Stone was ecstatic about new test data showing that Hartford students who go to regional magnet and suburban schools outperform Hartford

students in the regular Hartford school system by wide margins. It shows, she says, that magnet schools are achieving integration and that Hartford students are “soaring academically.” Stone is the founder and executive director of the Center for Children’s Advocacy, which spurred the first-time release of the test results. She was also one of the plaintiff’s lawyers in the Sheff vs. O’Neill desegregation case. Her advocacy center is a nonprofit law office working to protect children who fall through gaps in services for special education, mental health, juvenile justice and abuse. Stone oversees legal representation for hundreds of Connecticut children out of various offices, some in schools and hospitals. She has been a civil rights attorney for more than three decades, a foster care litigation specialist for Children’s Rights in New York and legal director of the Connecticut Civil Liberties Union. She recently led the effort to reform the juvenile status offender system. She received her bachelor’s from Wheaton College and her J.D. and L.L.M. from Georgetown University.

