

Draft Minutes

Connecticut Judicial Branch Access to Justice Commission

June 13, 2011

2:00

231 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut

The newly established Connecticut Judicial Branch Access to Justice Commission met on Monday, June 13, 2011 in the courtroom of the Supreme Court at 231 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

Committee members in attendance: Judge Raymond R. Norko (Chair), Atty. Faith P. Arkin, Judge William H. Bright Jr., Deputy Atty. Gen. Nora R. Dannehy, Atty. Steven D. Eppler-Epstein, Atty. Eric George, Atty. Johanna Greenfield, Atty. Barry C. Hawkins, Ms. Rhonda Stearley-Hebert, Ms. Krista Hess, Chief State's Atty. Kevin T. Kane, Ms. Aileen Keays, Ms. Sandra Lugo-Gines, Dean Jeremy R. Paul, Ms. Yanira Rodriguez, Judge Elliot N. Solomon, Chief Public Defender Susan O. Storey, Ms. Maureen D. Well, Atty. Herman Woodard Jr.

Also in attendance: Chief Justice Chase T. Rogers, Chief Appellate Court Judge Alexandra D. DiPentima, Deputy Chief Court Administrator Patrick L. Carroll III.

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Judge Norko.

1. Judge Norko welcomed the members of the Commission and asked each member to identify themselves and their affiliation or area of expertise. The Commission includes representatives from various Branch committees established under the Public Service and Trust Commission to address areas identified by stakeholders, including people with limited English proficiency; those with disabilities; representatives of the legal aid community; the academic and business communities, and constitutional officers.
2. Judge Norko next introduced Chief Justice Rogers, who thanked the members for volunteering to serve on the Commission and their willingness to explore, identify and recommend ways in which the Branch and its partners can improve access to justice for all people.
3. Judge Norko thanked the Chief Justice and introduced Chief Judge DiPentima, who is chair of the Public Service and Trust Commission. Chief Judge DiPentima identified many of the initiatives begun as a result of the Public Service and Trust Commission's Strategic Plan implementation, and wished the members well.
4. Judge Norko and members, who were provided information about the PSTC initiatives as well as the Commission's charge, discussed in broad terms what the Commission will be looking at in the coming months. Judge Norko also noted that the Branch's Pro Bono Committee, which is chaired by Judge Bright, will be

conducting a Pro Bono Summit on October 5, 2011 at Quinnipiac Law School. The Summit will bring together members of the bar and provide opportunities for attorneys to identify areas in which they can provide pro bono publico legal services to people of low and moderate income who have unmet civil legal needs.

5. The next meeting of the Access to Justice Commission was set for September 26, 2011, with an agenda to come. Judge Norko asked the members, based on their areas of expertise, to begin developing ideas for how access to justice can be increased.
6. The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.