

**MINUTES**  
**Connecticut Judicial Branch**  
**Access to Justice Commission**  
**October 17, 2019**  
**2:00 p.m.**  
**University of Connecticut School of Law**  
**55 Elizabeth Street, Hartford, CT**

The Access to Justice Commission met on Thursday, October 17, 2019 at the University of Connecticut School of Law in Hartford, CT.

**Members in attendance:** Justice Maria A. Kahn, Judge William Bright, Judge Leo Diana, Judge Gerald Harmon, Atty. Joseph D’Alesio, Assistant Dean Karen DeMeola, Atty. Tais Ericson, Atty. Jennifer Ferrante, Dean Timothy Fisher, Ms. Krista Hess, Atty. Chris R. Nelson, Atty. Moy N. Ogilvie, Dean Brad Saxton, Atty. James P. Sexton

**Members absent:** Deputy Dean Muneer Ahmad, Atty. Edwin Colon, Atty. Jan Chiaretto, Atty. Patricia Cruz Fragoso, Ms. Dawn LaValle

- I. **Welcome:** Justice Kahn welcomed the Commission members and thanked Dean Fisher, Assistant Dean Karen DeMeola, Attorney Mark Schreier and Attorney Ferrante for facilitating a visit by Attorney Fred Rooney at today’s meeting. Appreciation was also extended to Dean Fisher for hosting the meeting and the reception for Attorney Rooney at the school.
- II. **Review/Approval of the Draft Minutes from the February 26, 2019 meeting:** The draft minutes were approved.
- III. **Update on Access to Justice Commission Membership:** Justice Kahn reported that Judge Ingrid Moll has stepped down as co-chair of the Commission to focus on several other projects. Justice Kahn thanked Judge Moll for all her work with the Commission. A welcome was extended to Dean Saxton who was appointed Interim Dean at the Quinnipiac School of Law and will be serving as the school’s representative on the Commission. Existing and new Commission support staff were introduced.
- IV. **Update from the Workgroup on Libraries and ATJ:** Ms. Hess reported that the Working group is creating a public relations campaign to highlight the legal resources available through public libraries and the courts. A one to two minute public service announcement, emphasizing the court related resources at local libraries, will be produced in multiple languages and broadcasted across several mediums. A poster and brochure advertising available resources will also be created.
- V. **Update from the Workgroup on Video-Conferencing and ATJ:** Ms. Hess reported that the Working Group discussed ways to expand the use of video conferencing in the core operations

of the civil and family sections of the Superior Court. Effective January 1, 2020, a rule change expands the use of video-conferencing in dispositive hearings to include participation by witnesses and other non-parties. Brief meetings and interactions between attorneys, clients and the court will be ideal candidates for video conferencing. Increasing the use of video conferencing will help accommodate appearances in a more affordable manner. Additionally, the use of this technology could provide a greater reach of services to remote locations.

- VI. **Update from the Workgroup on General Pro Bono:** Judge Harmon reported on the continuing need for pro bono work in Connecticut. The Working Group is pursuing an updated survey to capture the current pro bono involvement by the bar. Judge Harmon thanked his co-chair and Working Group members for their continued diligence, noting that the Group has been meeting regularly to design and draft surveys, letters, and charts for review by the Commission in order to find the most effective way to adequately gauge the bar's involvement with pro bono activities. Judge Bright provided a historical perspective of the current Judicial Branch pro bono survey that is included with annual attorney registration, highlighting its benefits and limitations.

**Update from the Law School Workgroup:** The Law School Workgroup submitted a proposal to expand their Workgroup's Charge to include the ability to provide the Commission with relevant research into access to justice related best practices. Justice Kahn will review the proposal and take appropriate action.

- VII. **Future Access to Justice Commission Initiatives:** Justice Kahn shared the new proposed initiatives received and encouraged members to continue submitting ideas for future initiatives.
- VIII. **New Business/New Items:** No new business or items were discussed.
- IX. **Schedule Next Meeting:** The Commission will meet again in late January 2020 or early February 2020 in the New Haven area. The meeting date and location will be provided once confirmed.
- X. **Presentation by Attorney Fred Rooney:** Attorney Fred Rooney, pioneer of the legal incubator program, provided an in-depth and engaging history of the program, its successes, its challenges and future outlook.
- XI. **Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m. for Attorney Fred Rooney's presentation.