

CLIENT SECURITY FUND COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING
FEBRUARY 22, 2018
80 WASHINGTON STREET
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

MINUTES

Members Participating:

Judge Douglas S. Lavine
Ms. Judith Borden
Judge William H. Bright, Jr.
Attorney Joseph B. Burns
Attorney Margaret I. Castinado
Attorney Courtney M. Chaplin (from 11.A)
Attorney Adele P. Edgerton
Attorney Steven M. Fast (from 11.A)
Attorney John J. Houlihan, Jr.
Attorney Charles L. Howard
Dr. Gary F. Ierna
Attorney Jeanet F. Laskos
Attorney Kirsten Rigney

Staff Present:

Attorney Christopher G. Blanchard

The meeting commenced at 1:30 p.m.

I. OLD BUSINESS

A.) Minutes of Meeting, January 18, 2018

The committee considered a draft of the minutes of the meeting held on January 18, 2018. The committee noted that Attorney Laskos' name was spelled incorrectly in the list of members participating. With that correction, the minutes were unanimously approved as drafted. Judge Bright did not participate in the matter.

B.) Update on Investigator Position

Attorney Blanchard reported that interviews for the vacant investigator's position were held in January, and that a candidate for the position was

recommended to the chief court administrator. If the chief court administrator approves the recommended candidate, it is expected that the individual may be able to start in the position in March of this year.

II. NEW BUSINESS


A.) Practice Book Section 2-77; Recommendation to the Chief Court Administrator Re: Grants In Aid

The committee considered the matter of its obligation set forth in Practice Book Section 2-77 to provide the chief court administrator with a recommendation as to the amount that should be made available from the client security fund for providing grants-in-aid for the purpose of funding the delivery of legal services to the poor. The committee noted that, pursuant to section 51-81d (c) of the Connecticut General Statutes, only those moneys deposited in the client security fund since October 1, 2016, may be used to make such grants. The committee also noted that, since October 1, 2016, the amount of claims paid from the fund and the fund's administrative expenses have exceeded the fund's revenue for the same period. The committee also noted that there is presently only a modest reserve available in the fund against pending claims, which reserve is in jeopardy as a result of the significant increase in the number of claims filed over the past two years. In light of the fact that disbursements from the fund have exceeded revenues during the period in question, and with consideration of the need to maintain the integrity of the fund for its primary purpose, reimbursing client victims of the dishonest conduct of attorneys, the committee determined that it would not recommend a disbursement from the fund for grants-in-aid for this year.

III. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m., with a meeting to consider matters exempt from F.O.I. and confidential pursuant to Practice Book Section 2-76 following immediately thereafter.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher G. Blanchard
Staff Attorney