

**MINUTES**  
**Connecticut Judicial Branch**  
**Law Library Advisory Committee**  
**January 18, 2012**

*(Approved by Law Library Advisory Committee at May 23, 2012 meeting.)*

The Connecticut Judicial Branch Law Library Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, January 18, 2012 at the Supreme Court, 231 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut in the Attorney Conference Room.

Present:

Hon. Douglas C. Mintz, Chair  
Hon. James W. Abrams  
Hon. Jon C. Blue  
Hon. William H. Bright, Jr.  
Atty. Adam J. Cohen  
Ms. Ann DeVeaux  
Atty. Virginia C. Foreman  
Ms. Darcy Kirk  
Hon. Theodore R. Tyma

Absent:

Atty. William H. Clendenen, Jr  
Mr. Blair Kauffman  
Hon. William J. Lavery  
Atty. William P. Yelenak

Other Attendees

Chief Justice Chase T. Rogers  
Hon. Patrick Carroll III  
Mr. Joseph D. D'Alesio  
Mr. James Vogel  
Mr. Anthony DiBenedetto  
Ms. Faith P. Arkin

Judge Mintz chaired the meeting and called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

**I. Approval of Minutes.**

Minutes from the April 21, 2011 Law Library Advisory Committee meeting were approved. Judge Mintz and Judge Bright abstained from the vote.

**II. Future of Law Libraries**

Judge Mintz introduced the Chief Justice who opened the discussion about the future of the law libraries. Chief Justice Rogers stated that it would be hard to envision a strong Judicial Branch without a strong law library. The Chief Justice noted that her vision as to the future was unclear and that she asked the Committee members to explore ways to move forward including looking at other state courts and the National Center for State Courts. Judge Mintz acknowledged the valuable service the librarians provide by helping parties present in court, particularly in providing guidance to self-represented litigants. Several members discussed the increasing number of self-represented parties and the

service provided by the law librarians in helping them through the legal process. The bar and judges were also recognized as users of library resources. Ideas discussed included providing video links through computer terminals to librarians in locations where there was not an available librarian; e-mail chat; exploring the use of internships with Law Schools, and virtual libraries. Certain underlying principles were highlighted by some members: there is a need to have human interaction, need to validate resources, and there is always a place for the printed word. Recognizing that there are limited resources, the committee was challenged with designing a law library “on a blank piece of paper” for discussion at the next Committee meeting.

### **III. Law Library Operations.**

Faith Arkin reported on the current operations of the Law Library. Faith Arkin provided a budget overview: the FY 2010-2011 budget was \$2,085,438 and has been cut in half for the current fiscal year; 9 libraries are funded at \$50,000, 2 funded at \$90,000, and one funded at \$115,000, and \$250,000 has been budgeted for on line legal resources. Faith Arkin recognized the outstanding leadership and direction provided to the law libraries by Maureen Well, who retired on October 1, 2011 with 38 years of state service. The Branch is in the process of filling the position internally. Also, Faith Arkin noted that since June 2009, there has been a 45% reduction in staff, and as a result of the staff levels, the Hartford Law Library is closed two days a week and the Waterbury Law Library is closed one day a week. Vacations, personal leave time and sick time require either the closing of a library or keeping it open unstaffed. Procedures have been implemented to keep patrons apprised of how to obtain law library services when a library is closed or unstaffed. Furthermore, Faith Arkin highlighted a number of initiatives developed and implemented by the Law Libraries including but not limited to the “Self-Represented Parties Video Information Series” on the website, a Tip Card for the Self-represented, outreach programs to new and experienced members of the bar, and presentations to various public libraries.

### **IV. Wireless Access**

James Vogel, Deputy Director, Network and Systems Services, Information Technology Division presented information on “Wireless Internet Access in the Courts” and distributed a handout. Jim Vogel introduced Anthony DeBenedetto, from his unit, and discussed the types of wireless communication options (Wi-Fi and Cellular) and the three types of possible configurations (3G/4G connection to the Internet, Wi-fi connection to the Judicial network and Wi-fi connection directly to the Internet – both in-house provided and outsourced). Jim explained the requirements for each type of connection and advantages and disadvantages of each of the possible configurations. Furthermore, Jim noted the “rough costs” for the possible configurations. Jim’s presentation concluded with the recommendation that the Information Technology Division would evaluate the use of an Internet Service Provider to provide Wi-fi services. Several members noted that it appears the “cellular” may be winning now as the solution for providing wireless access.

**V. Law Library Minimum Collection Standards.**

Judge Mintz suggested that this item be tabled; it was moved, second, and accepted.

**VI. Future Meetings and Adjournment.**

The next meeting of the committee will be scheduled for April and the committee will begin looking at various “models” of future law libraries. Thereafter, the committee will meet on a quarterly basis. The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Faith P. Arkin