



# **State of Connecticut Judicial Branch**

## **Phase Two IMPLEMENTATION of THE STRATEGIC PLAN**

**September 2009**

**Public Service and Trust Commission**

*Hon. Alexandra D. DiPentima, Chair*

*Chief Justice Chase T. Rogers*

## **Initiative: Limited English Proficiency**

The Committee on Limited English Proficiency is an ongoing committee that was charged with eliminating language barriers to facilities, processes and information that are faced by individuals with limited English proficiency. These individuals may be impacted in their ability to access the judicial process.

Among the recommendations approved by the Chief Justice for implementation are the Branch's translation of forms into languages other than English, giving precedence to the forms and languages that are used most frequently; expanding the scope of providing telephonic and in-person interpreting outside of the courtroom through the Telephonic Bilingual Service; making the Branch's Internet site more user-friendly for those with limited English proficiency; and using an audio recording for the advisement of Constitutional rights in Spanish, recorded by certified Spanish-language interpreters. In regard to the last recommendation, the Chief Justice expressed the importance of a judge being present when the audio recording is being played to ensure that parties hear and understand the recording. The full Committee report, containing all its recommendations, is available at

[http://www.jud.ct.gov/Committees/pst/PhaseOne\\_Implementation\\_full.pdf](http://www.jud.ct.gov/Committees/pst/PhaseOne_Implementation_full.pdf).

The Committee on Limited English Proficiency has already taken significant steps in gathering information that will help eliminate barriers faced by individuals with limited English proficiency. The Committee will analyze the results of the Branch-wide language assistance survey it conducted and continue its outreach efforts to individuals with limited English proficiency, particularly through the organizations that serve these individuals. Additionally, Branch-wide training on civil rights, national origin discrimination and the services available to

individuals with limited English proficiency has commenced with the judicial marshals and a schedule will be developed to reach all Branch employees.

The Committee has been directed to prioritize its recommendation list and submit it, along with a timetable for implementation, to the Chief Court Administrator by October 1, 2009.

The Committee will also submit quarterly progress reports to the Chief Court Administrator.