



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PRESS ADVISORY:**

**Judges, Legal Community Gather to Brainstorm How to Best Help Those  
Who Cannot Afford Legal Representation**

Judges and attorneys will gather at a first-ever summit that is intended to not only encourage lawyers to volunteer their services to assist low-income individuals, but to provide them with the resources to do so.

The *Pro Bono Summit* will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 5, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Legislative Office Building, 300 Capitol Ave., Hartford. More than 100 attorneys have signed up for the program, and the media is welcome to attend. The goal of the summit is to provide more information to attorneys as to the ease in doing pro bono work, as well as opportunities for training, and to answer questions about concerns like malpractice insurance.

Chief Justice Chase T. Rogers, a longtime supporter of pro bono service by attorneys, is the keynote speaker. Governor Dannel P. Malloy is scheduled to make closing remarks at 12:50 p.m. Other speakers include: Judge William Bright, chair of the Branch's Pro Bono Committee and organizer of the event; Attorney Sheila Hayre, of New Haven Legal Assistance; Attorney Esther Lardent, president and CEO of the Pro Bono Institute; and Attorney Eve Runyon, director of corporate pro bono for the Pro Bono Institute.

"This is among the Judicial Branch's most significant initiatives over the past several years and is particularly timely considering the impact the economy is having on so many lives,"

**(MORE)**

## **2-2-2-2 Summit**

Chief Justice Rogers said. “The fact is that many individuals are unable to afford legal representation when they’re faced with life-altering dilemmas – foreclosure, for example. Our courts have recognized that they must be part of the solution, and the summit on October 5<sup>th</sup> is a huge benefit to the entire court system and the people it serves.”

The Chief Justice also thanked Judge Bright, other participants and the entire legal community for all that they did to help organize the summit.

“It’s indisputable that pro bono service is the right thing to do,” she said. “Now the challenge is in providing the means by which attorneys may find out more about what resources and opportunities are available.”

Topics that will be covered are: the importance of representation to low-income people who otherwise would be unrepresented; why pro bono service is good business; and what a broad pro bono program can accomplish. In addition, the summit will include panel discussions among judges, law firms and corporate counsel.

For further information, please contact the External Affairs Division at 860-757-2270.

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