

**Minutes of Public Access Task Force
Committee on Access to Court Records
August 2, 2006**

The Committee on Access to Court Records met in the Supreme Court Attorney's Conference Room at 231 Capitol Avenue in Hartford on Wednesday, August 2, 2006 from 2:05 PM to 4:45 PM. Those in attendance: Judge Alander, Dr. Cibes, Judge Clifford, Ms. Collins, Judge Dewey, Judge Lavine, and Judge Ment. The Minutes as distributed were approved.

The next item on the agenda was the review of the committee report. The committee had received an original draft by e-mail. The draft as revised by Judge Alander was distributed at the meeting. By agreement, the committee reviewed the revised draft. The revision contained a specific reference to family financial affidavits in the Executive Summary because it was an issue on which the committee had been unable to reach a decision. On all other issues, there had been a consensus, deferral, or decision by vote. There was also discussion about the option of committee members to file a minority report in addition to the committee report. Ms. Collins requested that the summary of the report include members' names and identifying information.

The committee then went through the Executive Summary, the recommendations, and the policy on access recommended for adoption by the committee. Discussion ensued on the report, and deletions and additions were made. Some of the items discussed included:

- language in connection with the policy on the use of scanners, provided "such use is not disruptive to the office or of the file itself;"
- the deletion of some language in connection with the Judicial Media Committee;
- the inclusion of a recommendation on identity theft, mirroring the language of the Guiding Principles;
- the language of the recommendation about administrative processes to waive copy fees;
- the nature of the recommendations as requiring policy, rule, or statutory changes;
- the final listing of the categorically excluded records; and
- the clarification of the recommendation on alternate incarceration assessments.

The second draft of the Committee Report, incorporating the changes that were agreed upon at this meeting will be distributed in advance of the full Task Force meeting next week.

The committee also discussed what it wanted to submit to the Task Force for the meeting on August 10th. The consensus was that the committee would provide to the full Task Force the Executive Summary, the list of recommendations, and the Policy on Access to Court Records. The remainder of the report, including the listing of the issues addressed, from the first meeting of the Task Force, will be a part of the full report. Judge Ment also asked that the committee be certain to acknowledge its use of the CCJ/COSCA Guidelines in its development of the policy on access. There was a consensus that the committee would not adopt or make recommendations on the commentary that is a part of the CCJ/COSCA Guidelines.

Judge Alander asked that committee members review the pages from 6 through 18 (the sections of the report on methodology, Guiding Principles, and Issues Addressed) and get their comments to him by Monday, August 7th. He will incorporate those comments and get back to the committee with a third draft of the full report by Friday, August 18th.

There was agreement that there is no need for future meetings at this time. Judge Lavine complimented Judge Alander on his work with the committee.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM.