

# The Connecticut General Assembly

## Task Force to Improve Access to Legal Counsel in Civil Matters

Co-Chairs:

William H. Clendenen, Jr. / Timothy Fisher



c/o Judiciary Committee, Room 2500  
Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

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### MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, August 25, 2016

8:00 AM in Room 2D of the LOB

The meeting was called to order at 8:13 AM by Chairman, Tim Fisher

The following committee members were present:

William H. Clendenen, Timothy Fisher, Judge Michael Albis, Brian Austin, Catherine Bailey, Jamey Bell, Jennifer Brown, Liza Andrews for Dan Cargill, Senator Eric Coleman, Katherine Flaherty, Monte Frank, Susan Garcia Nofi, Robert C. Hinton, Daniel S. Jo, Walter A. Menjivar, Judge Ingrid Moll, Edward V. O'Hanlan, Anthony Shannon, Tim Shearin, Judge Elliot N. Solomon, Susan O. Storey, Cecil Thomas, Alvin Wilson, Deborah R. Witkin, Judge Glenn A. Woods, Perry Zinn Rowthorn

The following committee members were absent:

Mayor Dan Drew, Judge Gerald Fox, III, Jason Fragoso, Senator John Kissel, Representative Rosa Rebimbas, Michael J. Wishnie

Task Force members introduced themselves along with members of the staff and the public.

Bill Clendenen and Tim Fisher commented on the goals and outlook for the task force.

Tim Fisher outlined the next month of task force business. The task force will break into working groups and reconvene for the next full task force meeting on September 30<sup>th</sup>. That meeting will be based on the written reports of the working groups.

Tim Fisher then announced the chairs of the four working groups.

- Goals and Principals – Jennifer Brown
- Dismantling Barriers- Michael Wishnie
- Dealing with Demand- Gerald Fox
- System Alignment- Tim Shearin

Bill Clendenen announced that a select group of law students will be working with each working group. He also urged each group to be practical.

Tim Fisher explained the responsibilities of each working group. A document was distributed to task force members explaining each group. The task force then discussed thoughts and questions on the various responsibilities of the working groups and the long term vision for the task force.

Tim Fisher asked the task force if there was a benefit to conducting public hearings and the matter was discussed by the task force.

Deb Blanchard, the Judiciary Committee Administrator, then gave a brief overview of Freedom of Information Requirements and meeting rules for working groups.

A draft list of working group membership was announced by the Tim Fisher and discussed by the task force. Changes were made to the draft list and Tim Fisher promised to circulate the final list.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 AM.

Adam Skowera  
Committee Clerk