

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
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GOALS & PRINCIPLES WORK GROUP MINUTES

September 16, 2016

Location: Dean's Conference Room at Quinnipiac University School of Law

Present: Task Force Members Judge Michael Albis, Jennifer Brown, Dan Cargill, Senator Eric Coleman, Ted O'Hanlon, Judge Elliott Solomon, Suzy Storey, and Debi Witkin; Invited Guests Krista Hess (CT Judicial Branch) and Jeff Dorman (Quinnipiac Law student assisting the working group)

8:05 AM – Call to order.

Introductions

Dean Brown discussed goals of the working group. Each working group is to submit a brief report to the full task force outlining the expected scope of their sections of the final report.

Members discussed scope of the project.

Dean Brown posed guiding questions for the group, asking about what data may be needed and any recommendations of types of data that can be requested by this working group.

Discussion of next steps; members committed to conduct specified research and provide information to the working group:

- Debi Witkin will provide information created by Connecticut's three primary legal aid organizations regarding their service priorities. She will also provide data on consequences when legal needs are not met in particular areas.
- Judge Solomon will provide information about existing areas of law in which litigants may be assigned counsel in civil matters. He will also provide a compendium on pro bono activities in Connecticut.
- Krista Hess will provide information from Court Service Centers including the number and types of cases processed. She will also provide a cost benefit analysis prepared by New York courts.
- Suzy Storey will provide materials on collateral civil consequences for defendants in criminal matters. She will also provide information about counsel to assist with child welfare matters.
- Judge Albis will provide information from Probate Court, if available, regarding the number and types of cases in which counsel is provided in that court system.
- Ted O'Hanlon will provide information about legislative efforts to increase access to counsel for veterans.

Dean Brown will work with Jeff Dorman to prepare minutes from the meeting and will prepare the bullet point outline for submission to the full task force.

9:34 AM – Meeting adjourned.