

Minutes
Criminal Practice Commission
Professionalism/Civility Committee
Sub-Committee on CCDLA's submissions to the Judicial Selection Commission and the
Judiciary Committee
Middlesex JD
May 14, 2009
2:00 p.m.

Members in attendance: Hon. James Ginocchio, Co-Chair, Attorney Raymond Hassett, Co-Chair, Hon. Patrick L. Carroll, III, Hon. Richard Damiani, Attorney Kevin Kane, Attorney Joseph D'Alesio, Attorney Ed Gavin, Attorney Jennifer Zito, Attorney Thomas Ullmann

Guest in Attendance: Hon. Alexandra DiPentima

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m.

The purpose of this sub-committee as stated by Judge Ginocchio is to improve the relationship between the bar and the bench regarding the submissions by the Connecticut Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (CCDLA) to the Judicial Selection Commission and the Judiciary Committee.

CCDLA President Ed Gavin and Vice-President Jennifer Zito explained the process for gathering comments from CCDLA members regarding the reappointment of Judges. These comments were given to the Judicial Selection Commission and the Judiciary Committee for the last round of reappointment hearings. This was the first time these submissions were sent to the Judicial Selection Commission and the Judiciary Committee. The CCDLA supports an independent Judiciary but is looking for a voice in the reappointment of Judges.

The process for submissions of comments is as follows:

- Inquiry goes out to members with the current list of Judges coming up for reappointment soliciting any comments, positive or negative. If negative and about a particular incident, a transcript of event would be helpful.
- Submissions come from licensed attorneys who are members of the CCDLA
- Members are encouraged to sign their submission; if not signed the CCDLA knows who made the submission based on the email address
- An affidavit from the CCDLA is filed with the submissions
- Submissions from members are not validated by CCDLA

CCDLA hopes to have the submissions to the Judicial Selection Commission and the Judiciary Committee in a timely manner. A copy of the submissions will be given to the Chief Court Administrator's Office.

There was a short discussion about what the Chief Court Administrator's Office could do with a Judge who has negative comments or complaints against him/her. Options to resolve these issues include the current mentoring program for Judges, education and retraining.

Judge DiPentima was present as Co-Chair of the Judicial Performance Evaluation Program. Revamping the evaluation process of Judges may help with the CCDLA's issues as the desire of the committee is to improve the existing system to evaluate Judges. This includes evaluating all Judges and not just trial Judges. Judge DiPentima invited all to attend the next meeting of her committee on June 4, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. at The Wadsworth Mansion at Long Hill Estate in Middletown.

No future meetings are scheduled at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

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