

## **Minutes**

### **Connecticut Judicial Branch**

#### **Access to Justice Commission**

#### **Subcommittee on Legal Aid/Civil Representation**

**February 8, 2012**

**2:00 pm.**

**95 Washington Street, Courtroom 321  
Hartford, Connecticut**

The Subcommittee on Legal Aid/Civil Representation met at 2:00 p.m. on February 2, 2012 in Courtroom 321 at 95 Washington Street, Hartford, CT.

Committee members in attendance: Judge William Bright, Co-chair, Attorney Steven Eppler-Epstein, Co-chair, Dean Jeremy Paul, and Roberta Palmer.

The meeting was called to order at 2:09 p.m. by Judge Bright.

The members unanimously approved the draft minutes from the December 20, 2011 meeting

The members began the meeting with a discussion about models for the delivery of services within the courts with an emphasis on access to justice issues. Could it be more effective to divide the divorce docket into cases where legal representation is not necessarily needed and those where it is? This led to a broad discussion about limited scope representation, the likelihood of the rules being changed and the various objections raised throughout the bar.

The subcommittee thought it might be interesting to explore the issue of nonappearing parties in court cases. Why do they not appear and what are the causes for their nonappearance?

Dean Paul raised the possibility of making access to justice issues part of a review process for possible changes in substantive law. The members discussed having an access to justice representative as part of the legislative process so that the effects that any potential changes in law may have on people's access to justice could be raised and considered.

The members briefly discussed the purpose of the Access to Justice Commission and its role. Members questioned whether the legal community should be thinking about legal

representation in a different way and what the committee's role might be in promoting these ideas.

The subcommittee's next meeting will be held on March 27, 2012 at 2:00 pm. via telephone conference.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 pm.