

## **Charge of The Legal Aid/Civil Representation Subcommittee**

The Legal Aid/Civil Representation Subcommittee should examine the current pool of data including current surveys and/or resources to determine which areas have the greatest need for legal aid assistance. The Subcommittee should develop recommendations to close or shrink this justice gap.

While the Judicial Branch partners with the bar to provide some pro bono services, the Subcommittee should also consider developing recommendations that would establish partnerships for pro bono services between various non-profit organizations, law schools, and the business community.

Further, the Subcommittee should create concrete recommendations on how to sustain and create new funding structures for legal aid entities.

To help fulfill this charge, the Subcommittee may wish to consider the following:

- 1.) Recommend new and inventive ways to increase funding and resources for legal services in an effort to sharply reduce the gap between services needed and services provided, through fee and fine surcharges, special fees and other methods. Within this goal, it may be appropriate to establish one-year, five-year, and ten-year goals.
- 2.) Examine the issue of a party's right to counsel in civil cases. The Subcommittee shall consider the feasibility of such an endeavor, as well as how this issue has been addressed in other states, including the June 20, 2011 United States Supreme Court decision in [\*Turner v Rogers, et al.\*](#)
- 3.) Recommend and identify best practices in the delivery of legal services and determine the changing legal needs of those unable to afford counsel.
- 4.) Develop goals and strategies to meet the changing legal needs of those unable to afford representation, including addressing existing and proposed court rules, procedures and policies that negatively affect access to justice in Connecticut. This may include proposals such as limited scope representation and limited appearances by attorneys.
- 5.) To help prioritize the areas of the greatest civil legal needs, consider current available research such as the December 2008 survey published by the Center for Survey Research & Analysis at the University of Connecticut, [\*Civil Legal Needs Among Low-income Households in Connecticut.\*](#)
- 6.) Research the need and feasibility of the Attorney General's ability to develop statutory language to help ensure the continued funding of the [\*Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts\*](#) (IOLTA) and Interest on Trust Accounts (IOTA).