

**Minutes**  
**Public Service and Trust Commission**  
**Pro Bono Committee**  
**Law Schools Workgroup**  
**June 24, 2013**  
**4:00 PM**

**Teleconference**  
**225 Spring Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Room 206**  
**Wethersfield, CT**

The first meeting of the Public Service and Trust Commission Pro Bono Committee Law Schools Workgroup was held by teleconference at 225 Spring Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, room 206, Wethersfield, CT.

Members participating via telephone: Attorney Susan Nofi-Bendici (Chair), Attorney Mark Dubois, Attorney Timothy Everett, Attorney Dwight Merriam and Attorney Jill Plancher.

At 4:05 p.m. Attorney Susan Nofi-Bendici called the meeting to order.

1. Attorney Nofi-Bendici reviewed the workgroup's charge, which is to study recent changes in law school curriculum in Connecticut and other states and recommend ways to increase and foster pro bono involvement by law school students.
2. The members discussed reaching out to pro bono coordinators at law schools to determine what they do currently with respect to pro bono involvement. The members agreed to contact the pro bono coordinators at the following law schools: Yale, UConn, Quinnipiac and Harvard.

Attorney Everett stated that he is the pro bono coordinator at UConn Law School and that there currently is not a mandatory pro bono program there. He also noted that UConn law students do not receive pro bono credit for their clinical work. He contrasted that with Yale's approach where clinical work is part of the 1<sup>st</sup> year curriculum and may qualify as pro bono service.

The members discussed finding ways for law students to get law school credit for working with lawyer-mentors. The need to determine what impediments, if any, currently exist was noted. In contrast to the approach in Illinois, for example, the CBA mentoring program does not encourage mentors to engage in live client work with their mentee.

3. The Connecticut Bar Association has formed a Task Force on the Future of Legal Education and Standards of Admission, chaired by Judge Kenneth Schluger. It was noted that we should coordinate and share information with this valuable resource for the workgroup and avoid duplication of efforts.

4. New York's mandatory 50 hour pro bono service requirement for applicants for admission to the NY bar, and issues related to implementation, were noted. California is considering adopting a similar rule.

5. A discussion was held regarding ways non-lawyers - including supervised law students - may provide pro bono service, including the supervision of law students. Issues discussed were:

- defining what counts as pro bono service;
- defining what is the unauthorized practice of law vs. permissible non-legal representation;
- The national push to empower non-lawyers to be able to provide representation, as in Massachusetts where non-lawyers assist in housing court; and
- The use of a two tiered bar admission. One proposal noted would permit law students to take the bar after their 2nd year of law school, even if they stay in school for their final year, permitting them to provide legal representation after their second year.

6. A date for the next Workgroup meeting was not set. Workgroup members will share the results of their research and the Chair will determine if an additional meeting will be scheduled prior to the September 19, 2013 meeting of the Pro Bono Committee.

7. The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 pm.