

**Minutes**  
**Public Service and Trust Commission**  
**Pro Bono Committee**  
**November 15, 2013**

The Pro Bono Committee met via tele-conference on Friday, November 15, 2013 at 8:30am at 225 Spring Street, Room 206, Wethersfield.

The following Committee members participated in the call: Honorable William J. Bright, Jr., Chair, Attorney Steve Eppler-Epstein, Attorney William Clendenen, Attorney Mark Dubois, Attorney Jonathan Shapiro, Attorney Edward Heath, Attorney Dwight Merriam, Professor Timothy Everett, Attorney Timothy Johnston, Attorney Sylvia Rutkowska, Attorney Jill Seaman Plancher, Attorney Lester Arnold, Attorney Norman Janes, Attorney Sara Sia, Attorney Susan Nofi-Bendici, and Attorney Sharon Dornfeld.

1. The Pro Bono Committee meeting was called to order at 8:33a.m. by Judge Bright. Judge Bright explained that the task before the Committee was to vote to authorize Judge Bright on behalf of the Committee, to request that the Judicial Branch send notification to all attorneys who have retired pursuant to Rule 2-55 which becomes effective January 1, 2014. The provisions of Rule 2-55(e) provide, *“An attorney who has retired pursuant to this section may engage in uncompensated services to clients under the supervision of an organized legal aid society, a state or local bar association project, or a court-affiliated pro bono program.”*

The Committee discussed the benefits of making the retired attorneys aware of the new rule as it relates to pro bono service and also the benefit of including information about the pro bono portal so retired attorneys are aware of the opportunities available to them. In addition, suggestions were made to also provide information to the retired attorneys about malpractice insurance, the exemption for payment of the Client Security Fund fee and the Occupational Tax. The Committee felt that all three of these issues were important to retired attorneys who were considering pro bono work under the new Rule.

The issue regarding use of the retired attorney’s juris number for filing appearances was raised. Specifically, whether an attorney who had retired under 2-55 and was performing pro bono work under 2-55(e) would use their individual (retired) juris number when filing an appearance or if they would use the firm/legal aid juris number of the entity with supervisory authority. Staff for the Committee would refer this matter to Judicial Branch Legal Aid for clarification.

2. The Pro Bono Committee unanimously voted to authorize Judge Bright to request that the Judicial Branch send notice to the retired attorneys under 2-55 of the provisions of the new rule, available pro bono opportunities and information regarding malpractice insurance, Client Security Fund and the Occupational Tax.

3. Attorney Edward Heath asked if a copy of the proposed Cy Pres rule could be sent to the Committee. Judge Bright agreed to provide a copy to the Committee.
4. The meeting adjourned at 8:46a.m.