

Minutes
Public Service and Trust Commission
Pro Bono Committee
July 7, 2011

The Pro Bono Committee met on Thursday July 7, 2011, at 2:00pm in the Attorney's Conference Room, 231 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT.

Those in attendance: Hon William Bright, Chair, Attorney Timothy Johnston, Attorney Steve Eppler-Epstein, Attorney Norman Janes, Attorney Livia Barndollar, Attorney Gregg Benson, Attorney Jeffrey Eglash, Attorney Ed Heath, Attorney Ian Lodovice and Hon. Brian Mahon participated by phone.

There was one member of the public in attendance.

Meeting was called to order at 2:07 pm.

1. The Committee voted to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2011 meeting with the following corrections. Attorney Heath and Attorney Benson abstained.

- Under the report of the Logistics subcommittee, Judge Bright was incorrectly referenced as the Chair of the Logistics subcommittee. Attorney Barndollar is the chair of the Logistics subcommittee.
- The minutes were corrected to reflect the Committee's specific discussion to ask Governor Malloy to provide closing remarks at the Summit.

2. The Committee discussed the progress to date on planning the pro bono Summit and reviewed the draft program outline prepared by Attorney Eppler-Epstein dated 7/7/11. The Summit program will commence at 9:00a.m. with welcoming remarks by Judge Bright who will then introduce the keynote speaker, Chief Justice Rogers. The Committee agreed that it would be beneficial if Justice Rogers recognized the contributions of the CBA in her opening remarks and made specific reference to all they do to support pro bono efforts in Connecticut.

The substance of the Summit will be divided into several segments punctuated by a break at the middle of the program and a box lunch with the legal service providers and possible closing remarks by Governor Malloy. The program will begin with a discussion on Access to Justice and the importance of providing representation to low-income people who would otherwise not benefit from the assistance of competent counsel.

After the Access to Justice segment of the Summit, there will be a panel discussion with the managing partners from two of Connecticut's large law firms, Robinson & Cole and McCarter & English and a senior representative from the CBA, Barry Hawkins, Brad Gallant or Ralph Monaco, as well as corporate counsel panelists from three of Connecticut's large corporations, moderated by Judge Bright. The managing partners from Robinson & Cole, McCarter & English were discussed as potential panelists as they have been active in providing pro bono services. On

the corporate side, the corporate counsel from UTC, GE and Pfizer were discussed as panelists as they have demonstrated a commitment to pro bono service and they provide broad geographical representation of the state. The Committee then discussed having Esther Lardent and Eve Runyon from the Pro Bono Institute introduce the panel of managing partners and general counsel after they talked about the role of the Institute, why pro bono service is good business and how best to recognize and encourage pro bono work.

In addition, the Committee discussed the importance of having the panelists focus on pro bono opportunities for transactional attorneys that do not require court appearances and do not involve confrontational issues such as guardianships in Probate Court, or counseling victims of domestic violence.

After a short break in the program from 10:30am to 10:45am, Attorney Norman Janes will provide a brief overview of malpractice coverage for projects and the importance of defining the scope of representation. Attorney Janes will also discuss some of the stumbling blocks that need to be addressed.

The second panel discussion of the Chief Administrative Judges of Civil, Family and Juvenile and/or some Administrative Judges will address what the Judicial Branch can do to make performing pro bono work easier for attorneys. The panel will address systemic issues as they apply to pro bono service and will address such issues as how to reduce the cost of pro bono service, limited appearances, authorized in-house counsel and ways to recognize and reward individual attorneys for their pro bono contributions. The Committee agreed that meaningful recognition for pro bono service might mean something different to attorneys from large firms versus attorneys from small firms, and some consideration should be given to this difference. This panel discussion will also leave time for an interactive discussion between the panelists and the attendees.

The next segment of the Summit will include a demonstration by Attorney Jan Charetto of the legal services website, the pro bono portal and an overview of the pro bono catalog. Through use of the pro bono portal, Attorney Charetto will demonstrate to the attendees how to find pro bono information, make contacts, learn about training opportunities and sign up for pro bono opportunities. The attendees will learn how to create a direct link to the portal by placing a short cut for the link on the desk top of their office computer.

The final piece of the Summit program will be a presentation by Attorney Steve Eppler-Epstein of pro bono opportunities and examples. After careful consideration, the list of pro bono programs that will be highlighted at the Summit has been narrowed down to the following four programs:

- A. SLS - The staff of Statewide Legal Services will describe both case referrals and pro se clinic opportunities. Through individual case referrals, there are a broad range of opportunities in different areas of the law that are very effective in assisting the target population. Through the use of pro se clinics, self-represented parties can come in to meet with a pro bono attorney to discuss their specific situation and seek assistance.
- B. Connecticut Veterans Legal Center (West Haven) – Due to the large numbers of veterans, this is a population who is in need of services and there are a number of legal issues surrounding veterans and their needs.
- C. Day Laborer Wage Clinic (Stamford – Connecticut Legal Services)
- D. Foreclosure Legal Assistance (New Haven Pilot – New Haven Legal Assistance and Judicial Branch)

These programs will be highlighted in the pro bono catalog that will be distributed to the Summit invitees in advance. The Committee discussed including a sign up sheet or a perforated page in the catalog that asks the attendees to sign up for a particular program or programs. In addition, contact information for each of the programs such as email addresses will be included in the catalog.

Judge Bright indicated that the formal invitations for the Summit will likely be mailed out in the beginning or middle of August. The invitation will provide a summary of the Summit program agenda including keynote speakers and panelists and possible closing lunch time remarks by Governor Malloy. For logistical purposes and timing the mailing of the Summit invitations and the pro bono catalog, both by regular U.S. Mail, may need to be bifurcated.

In preparation for the next meeting, Judge Bright asked the committee to think about setting up preparatory sessions to work with the various panelists of in-house counsel, managing partners and judges).

Judge Bright and the Committee took questions about the Committee's discussion from the member of the public in attendance.

3. The next meeting of the Pro Bono Committee will be held on Thursday, August 11, 2011 at 2:30 p.m. at 231 Capitol Avenue in the Attorney Conference Room.

4. The meeting was adjourned at 3:06p.m.