

Minutes
Public Service and Trust Commission
Self-represented Parties Workgroup
May 26, 2010

The Self-represented Parties Workgroup met on Wednesday, May 26, 2010, at 3:30pm in Room 204 at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, CT.

Those in attendance: Hon. Elizabeth A. Bozzuto (Chair) by phone, Hon. Raymond Norko (Chair), Hon. Henry S. Cohn, Attorney Jeffrey Mickelson, Attorney Johanna Greenfield, Ms. Krista Hess and Ms. Roberta Palmer.

Meeting was called to order at 3:40pm.

The minutes of March 31, 2010 meeting were approved.

ADR Program – Roberta Palmer

Judge Norko welcomed Roberta Palmer, Manager of Mediation for Foreclosures. Roberta Palmer offered her services as a resource to the committee and their plans to promote and expand the ADR program.

Judge Norko shared with the committee the Bar Foundation's plans for an ADR symposium October 15, 2010. Included in the agenda will be ADR in criminal courts and perhaps in the juvenile courts. This topic will spark further research to determine its feasibility. Judge Norko extended an invitation to Roberta Palmer to share her insights in developing these proposals.

Krista Hess and Roberta Palmer will work together to create a marketing strategy for existing mediation programs, including court annex mediation, with plain language materials for non-judicial locations. The committee agreed and approved. Krista Hess will present a proposal at the next meeting.

Unbundling Proposal

At the meeting with the Chief Justice in January the following information was requested:

- Unbundling and the effect on attorneys and parties
- Statistics from the volunteer attorney program
- History on the adoption and revision of rule 1.2c and the comment
- Survey of COSCA to see how unbundling is handled in other states
- Forms (received from Judge Cohn)

The committee has not yet made a final decision on whether to focus the unbundling pilot project in the area of foreclosures or family law. Krista Hess will work with Judge Cohn to begin drafting the committee's unbundling proposal; however, final statistical figures relating to the volunteer attorney program will not be available until the end of July when

the pilot ends. The committee hopes to have its unbundling proposal finalized by September to present to Chief Justice Rogers and the Chief Court Administrator.

Judge Norko raised the question of starting another round of the volunteer attorney program in the Hartford court in September with the possibility of selecting an additional court location such as Waterbury. Judge Bozzuto was in agreement and would be willing survey the attorneys in Waterbury on the program. The committee unanimously approved another round of the volunteer attorney program in the Hartford court beginning in September.

Greeter Program

Greeter program is highly successful and the committee unanimously agreed to expand this program to other court locations, preferably ones that do not have Public Information Desks.

Other Items

Instructions for the grouping of the forms and the scripts for the videos have been sent to Judge Munro for her review and approval.

Judge Robaina will be recording the Spanish version of the Family Support Magistrate's Advisement of Rights on June 8th, after which a pilot site can be discussed.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, June 30, 2010 at 3:30pm.

Meeting adjourned at 4:26pm.