

**Bench-Bar
Centralized Small Claims Subcommittee
Access & Quality of Service**

**Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2008 – 2:00 p.m.**

Members in Attendance:

Honorable James W. Abrams, Honorable Clarence Jones, Attorney Nancy L. Kierstead, Attorney Stacey Manware, Attorney Elaine Braffman, Attorney Adam Olshan, Attorney Robert L. Peat, Attorney Raphael Podolsky and Attorney Sarah Poriss

Welcome & Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order and the committee began to review the master list of issues for the subcommittee.

Discussed:

Possible addition to the proposed magistrate script for the addition of “hospital language.”

The fact the defendant may have access or be eligible for free or reduced price legal services.

Magistrate canvas of settlements referred to Attorney Podolsky and Attorney Olshan for a report back at the next subcommittee meeting—awaiting recommendations.

Magistrate Checklist referred to legal subcommittee and closed in this committee.

Website revisions suggested—more prominent placement of small claims forms grouped together.

Frequently asked questions revisions reviewed and adopted.

Recommended the use of the Interpreter’s Oath CGS 1-25 for cases in which friends or relative of parties are asked to interpret.

Strike “debt is too old” language from answer.

Unanimous approval for prohibiting bank account executions while wage executions are in effect. (Currently a practice of the small claims office).

Recommended the creation of a forms committee out of the larger Bench-Bar Committee to consider changes to the execution and answer forms as well as the development of a form to file for a complaint against a magistrate.

Topics to Revisit:

Answer form revisions—whether or not the current form is sufficient.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Recorder: Attorney Stacey Manware, Deputy Director