

Draft Minutes
Court Security Committee
May 18, 2009

The Court Security Committee met on May 18, 2009 at Riverview Square, 99 East River Drive, East Hartford in room 707.

Members in attendance: Hon. Barbara N. Bellis, Mr. William H. Carbone, Hon. Patrick L. Carroll, Atty. Joseph D. D'Alesio, Atty. Elizabeth R. Duryea, Mr. John T. Edwards, Hon. Brian T. Fischer, Hon. Matthew E. Frechette, Hon. Stanley Fuger, Ms. Jamey L. Harris, Ms. Diane Hatfield, Hon. Barbara B. Jongbloed, Mr. James L. Kenny, Atty. Richard Loffredo, Atty. Michael Ruben Peck, Hon. Susan Reynolds, Ms. Carol Salisbury, Hon. Patricia Swords, Mr. Richard Zaharek, Atty. Jennifer L. Zito.

Not present: Atty. Susan A. Brown, Atty. Herbert E. Carlson, Atty. Melissa Farley, Hon. James P. Ginocchio, Atty. Holly T. Sellers, Mr. Thomas A. Siconolfi, Atty. Robin Smith, Hon. Gary J. White.

The meeting was called to order at 2:15 by Judge Carroll.

1. Judge Carroll welcomed the members in attendance and asked the members to introduce themselves to the group.
2. Judge Carroll introduced Michelle Cruz, the State Victim Advocate. Ms. Cruz provided an overview of the Office of the Victim Advocate, which serves as an independent state watchdog agency protecting the rights of crime victims. Ms. Cruz discussed the need for each courthouse to have a plan in place for victims to know where to go when they come to court. A survey is being developed to be distributed in each courthouse to determine what services and space is currently available. The Office of the Victim Advocate will be developing a pamphlet for each courthouse so that victims will know where to go in the courthouse and who will be serving as their contact person.
3. The minutes from the December 1, 2008 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.
4. Attorney Joseph D'Alesio provided an overview of the Judicial Branch's Security Manual. Judge Carroll informed the committee that a subcommittee will be established to update the manual. Judge Carroll will be contacting individuals to be members of the subcommittee.
5. Attorney Joseph D'Alesio discussed the importance of having local security committee meetings. The membership of the local security committees includes the various stakeholders within the Judicial District. Among other duties, the local security committees are to ensure that the Security Manual is being complied with and that their Judicial District has up-to-date emergency preparedness plans.

6. Attorney Joseph D'Alesio discussed the need to have a statewide Judicial Branch template for fire drills.

7. Attorney Joseph D'Alesio and Mr. William Carbone discussed the security issues that the Judicial Branch faces in relation to non-courthouse locations.

8. The committee discussed issues related to security within the courtroom. A discussion ensued regarding the policy of having water in the courtroom. Judge Carroll indicated that the issue would be looked into further.

9. Ms. Carol Salsbury and Mr. Richard Miele with the Department of Correction discussed the benefits of videoconferencing. A discussion ensued on expanding the use of videoconferencing within the Judicial Branch.

10. Mr. Richard Zaharek distributed a draft survey, entitled "Survey of Courthouse Security." The survey will be reviewed at a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 PM.