



*Joint Meeting of Members of the Judiciary
Committee and the Rules Committee*
Supreme Court Courtroom
231 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT
September 17, 2013
3:00 p.m.

MINUTES

In attendance: Rep. Al Adinolfi, Judge Jon Alander, Judge William Bright, Jr., Judge Marshall Berger, Judge Henry Cohn, Sen. Eric Coleman, Judge Kari Dooley, Sen. Paul Doyle, Justice Dennis Eveleigh, Rep. Daniel Fox, Rep. Gerald Fox, Rep. Auden Grogins, Sen. John Kissel, Sen. Edward Meyer, Rep. Tom O’Dea, Rep. Rosa Rebimbas, Rep. Matt Ritter, Judge Robin Wilson and Judge Robert Young.

The meeting began at approximately 3:04 p.m.

1) Welcome and introductions

Justice Dennis Eveleigh provided welcoming remarks and invited the attendees to introduce themselves, which they did.

2) Overview of recently-enacted rules

Justice Eveleigh provided an overview of the recently-enacted rules and discussed, in particular, the rules permitting Limited Scope Representation (LSR). Justice Eveleigh believes that the newly-adopted rules permitting LSR represent the most significant practice book change that the judges approved at their annual meeting. He explained that it took three years to get to this point. Justice Eveleigh discussed the influx in the number of self-represented parties in the court system and that by allowing limited scope representation, attorneys will be able to provide some assistance to clients who would otherwise be unable to afford to hire an attorney.

LSR will allow attorneys to file limited appearances for specific court events or proceedings. For example, an attorney could be retained to argue one motion and then have no further involvement in the case. The newly adopted rules establish a pilot program, which will take place in 2 or 3 court locations. If the program is successful, the goal is to implement it statewide.

3) Overview of the matters that are pending before the Rules Committee of the Superior Court

Justice Eveleigh reported that the first meeting of the Rules Committee for this term took place on the previous day. As many of the controversial topics such as LSR and mandatory continuing legal education were taken up last term, the pending items are more technical in nature. For example, the Connecticut Bar Association had previously requested rules changes to allow for specialization in the areas of elder law and social security disability law. At yesterday's meeting, however, the CBA Vice President asked that these items be tabled, to allow the CBA to consult further with its members.

4) Overview of legislation affecting the courts to be introduced in the General Assembly

Rep. Gerald Fox reported that it is too early to discuss upcoming legislation, as the General Assembly will not convene for the 2014 Legislative Session until February 5, 2014.

Justice Eveleigh asked if the Sentencing Commission's 2013 proposals, particularly the proposal concerning the review of lengthy sentences imposed on juveniles, will be considered during the 2014 session. Rep. Fox responded that oftentimes proposals take more than one year to be passed.

5) Discussion

At this point in the meeting, legislators asked questions on topics that included the following: the process by which rules are adopted; the effect that the recent increase in court fees has had on the number of cases filed; whether the Judicial Branch needs additional judges; when E-Filing will be available for family cases; the qualifications for fee waivers; and access to courts for non-documented residents.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:44 p.m.