

CLIENT SECURITY FUND COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING
APRIL 21, 2011
14 WEST RIVER STREET
MILFORD, CONNECTICUT

MINUTES

Members Participating:

Judge Douglas S. Lavine
Attorney Patricia R. Beauregard
Attorney Robert S. Bello
Attorney Jonathan Bowman (from I.B)
Attorney Maureen Dewan
Mr. Stephen J. Grasso
Attorney John J. Houlihan (from I.B)
Judge Alfred J. Jennings, Jr.
Ms. Johanna Kimball
Judge Leslie I. Olear
Attorney J. Adrian Rebollo
Mr. David J. Sullivan (from I.B)
Attorney Harry Weller (from I.B)

Staff Present:

Attorney Christopher G. Blanchard
Ms. Kristy Tiede

The meeting commenced at 2:05 p.m.

I. OLD BUSINESS

A.) Minutes of Meeting, February 17, 2011

The minutes of the meeting of February 17, 2011 were unanimously approved as drafted.

B.) Client Security Fund Fee – Consideration of Amount of Fee

The committee considered and discussed whether the amount of the client security fund fee should be reduced, in light of information provided by Attorney Blanchard regarding pending claims and the amount currently available in the fund to pay claims. The committee discussed the increasing gap between pending claims and the amount available in the fund, as well as the need to maintain a substantial

reserve in the fund in order to continue to fully pay meritorious claims. The committee also discussed the need to ensure that any change to the fee would not adversely impact the Lawyers Assistance Program. Given the current balance available in the fund, and as it appears that a substantial reserve would still be maintained even if the fee were reduced to \$75.00, the committee directed Attorney Blanchard to draft a memorandum supporting such a reduction in the fee for the committee's consideration at its next meeting.

II. NEW BUSINESS

A.) General Assembly Raised Bill No. 6605

The committee took note of the text of the General Assembly's raised bill number 6605, which would have required attorneys to purchase professional liability insurance, and would also have required the Judicial Branch to set up procedures whereby attorneys who were unable to afford such insurance could obtain a loan from the client security fund for purposes of obtaining it. Attorney Blanchard reported that after the agenda and materials were forwarded to the committee, the bill was substantially amended, and the loan provision in the bill was removed.

B.) Lawyers Assistance Program Spending Cap Calculation for 2011

The committee took note of the annual calculation of the amount from the client security fund that will be made available to the Lawyers Assistance Program during 2011, as provided by the Judicial Branch's Fiscal Administration office. A total of four hundred ninety-one thousand, four hundred and eighty-three dollars and fifty-seven cents (\$491,483.57) will be made available to the program in 2011.

C.) Quarterly Report of the Client Security Fund Committee, October-December 2011

The committee took note of the quarterly report prepared for the Executive Committee of the Superior Court for the last quarter of calendar year 2010.

D.) Client Security Fund Committee Annual Report

The committee took note of the annual report prepared for the Chief Justice and members of the Executive Committee of the Superior Court for calendar year 2010.

- E.) Statewide Grievance Committee v. Rebecca L. Johnson, Memorandum of Decision dated March 3, 2011.

The committee took note of the court's memorandum of decision in the matter of Statewide Grievance Committee v. Rebecca L. Johnson, denying the respondent attorney's application for reinstatement to the bar in part because of the respondent's failure to fully reimburse the client security fund for amounts paid from the fund to former clients.

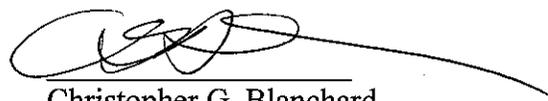
- F.) Meeting By Video Conference

The committee discussed the possibility of holding future meetings by video conference, using equipment currently available in a number of court locations. Attorney Blanchard was directed to ascertain the feasibility of conducting one of the committee's fall meetings by video conference.

III. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m., with a meeting to consider matters exempt from F.O.I. and confidential pursuant to Practice Book Section 2-76 following immediately thereafter.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher G. Blanchard
Staff Attorney