Committee on Judicial Ethics
Teleconference
Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Members present via teleconference: Justice Barry R. Schaller, Chair, Judge Linda K. Lager, Vice Chair, Judge Robert J. Devlin, Jr., Judge Francis X. Hennessy and Associate Professor Jeffrey A. Meyer. Staff present: Martin R. Libbin, Esq., Secretary, Viviana L. Livesay, Esq., Assistant Secretary.

MINUTES

I. With all members present, Justice Schaller called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Although publicly noticed, no members of the public attended.

II. The Committee unanimously approved the draft Minutes of the March 2, 2010 meeting.

III. The Committee considered Judicial Ethics Informal Opinion 2010-07 concerning whether a Judicial Official may provide a letter of recommendation to his/her former private practice secretary to attend a graduate program at a college. This Committee has previously advised that a Judicial Official who has personal knowledge of an applicant, who was not a relative, could serve as a reference or provide a letter of recommendation in the following circumstances: an existing court employee applying for another position within the Judicial Branch (JE 2008-01); a former legal research/law clerk applying for a position with the Attorney General’s Office (JE 2008-03); a current Judicial Branch employee applying for a position in the Judicial Official’s judicial district, where the judicial official was neither an administrative, assistant administrative or presiding judge (JE 2008-26); an employee of a former business client applying to law school (JE 2009-22) and a student seeking admission to a preparatory school (JE 2009-37). Based upon the information provided, including that the Judicial Official has personal knowledge of the individual seeking admission to the graduate program and the person is not a relative of the Judicial Official within the meaning of the Code or C.G.S. § 51-39a, the Committee unanimously determined that the Judicial Official may provide a letter of recommendation, either on Judicial Branch or personal stationery, but must indicate that the recommendation represents the personal opinion of the Judicial Official.

IV. The meeting adjourned at 9:34 a.m.