

JUDGES' ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON E-FILING
May 19, 2009
MINUTES

The Judges' Advisory Committee on E-filing met at the attorney conference room at the Superior Court for Juvenile Matters, 60 Housatonic Avenue, Bridgeport, CT on May 19, 2009 at 9:30 AM.

Committee members in attendance: Hon. Barbara N. Bellis, Hon. Marshall K. Berger, Jr., Hon. Patrick L. Carroll III, Attorney Joseph D. D'Alesio, Hon. Arthur A. Hiller, Hon. Aaron Ment, and Hon. Barbara M. Quinn.

Staff members in attendance: Ms. Elizabeth Bickley, Attorney Nancy L. Kierstead, Attorney Daniel B. Horwitch, Attorney Alice H. Mastrony and Attorney Janice R. Calvi.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM.

- Welcome – Attorney Joseph D. D'Alesio welcomed the members of the committee.
- Continued discussion on Policy Issues - Attorney Calvi provided a summary of the scope of the project thus far as recommended at the May 5th meeting. In addition, Attorney Calvi described the national increase in foreclosure actions and its affect on the court staff in terms of processing paperwork. Fiscal year 05- Fiscal year 09 there has been 142% increase in foreclosure actions statewide. Foreclosures make up 30% of civil docket. Currently, court staff scan and code case initiation documents on foreclosure matters in order to make them electronic and available to appearing parties who can access e-filing. 99.9% of foreclosure matters are filed by attorneys and could be e-filed by those attorneys. Of that, 67% are filed by 2 law firms (Hunt Leibert Jacobson & Bendett & McHugh). Therefore it was recommended and approved that it be mandatory for attorneys to electronically file foreclosure matters absent an exclusion from EServices. It was noted that none of the firms filing the bulk of foreclosures have an exclusion from EServices.
- Attorney Calvi proposed that the mandatory requirement coincide with the implementation of certain technological changes which would enhance web and system performance. Ms. Bickley agreed and elaborated on the need for IT to secure such technology prior to any mandate for electronic filing. Thus, the committee in a unanimous vote endorsed the mandatory electronic filing for property matters as soon as IT has procured the necessary technological enhancements, most likely summer '09.
- Attorney Nancy L. Kierstead continued the discussion from the May 5th meeting regarding the survey of non-coded items located in court files and suggested ways to capture said items electronically as recommended by a joint survey of staff

from 2003 and 2009. This discussion was finalized and staff members will draft the final documentation for approval by the full committee. In addition, members of the committee will work with staff to draft a “scanning work-sheet” for the clerk’s offices in order to establish a uniform practice of dealing with items not traditionally filed in the file, i.e. letters to the court, etc.

- Attorney Joseph D. D’Alesio briefly described the need to begin working on the paperless courtroom piece of the project and recommended that a work group be established to come up with recommendations for the full committee. The committee in a unanimous vote endorsed Attorney D’Alesio’s recommendation and charged him with establishing said work group.

The meeting was adjourned at 12 noon. The next meeting is scheduled for 2:00 PM on June 24, 2009.