

MINUTES
Connecticut Judicial Branch
Law Library Advisory Committee
April 24, 2009

The Connecticut Judicial Branch Law Library Advisory Committee met on Friday, April 24, 2009 at the Quinnipiac University School of Law Library, 275 Mount Carmel Avenue, Hamden, Connecticut in the law library conference room, LL241.

Present:

Hon. Joseph P. Flynn, Chair
Hon. Jon C. Blue
Hon. William J. Lavery
Hon. O. James Purnell, III
Hon. Theodore R. Tyma
Hon. Peter E. Wiese
Ms. Ann DeVeaux
Ms. Darcy Kirk
Atty. William P. Yelenak

Absent:

Atty. William H. Clendenen, Jr.
Atty. Robert Cooney
Mr. Blair Kauffman

Other Attendees

Ms. Faith P. Arkin
Ms. Maureen D. Well
Ms. Claudia Jalowka

The chair of the committee, Judge Flynn, called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

I. Approval of Minutes.

Minutes from the March 13, 2009 Law Library Advisory Committee meeting were approved.

II. A Plan for Implementing a 20% Budget Reduction

Judge Flynn indicated that the 2009 Appropriations JF Report reduced the Judicial Branch funding for equipment from approximately 2.5 million to zero. This funding is used primarily for law library materials, both print and electronic. He stated that if this reduction is not reversed, it will have a crippling effect on law library services. He said that he has spoken to the Chief Justice and the Chief Court Administrator about this problem. He said that Judge Quinn was optimistic that some level of funding would be restored and that she is working to rectify the situation.

Judge Flynn went on to say that Bob Cooney reported that the Bridgeport Bar Association had sent out a notice to its members informing them about the budget cut to the law libraries. The bar president, Richard A. Cerrato, asked that members of the Bridgeport Bar Association contact state senators and representatives to let them know that they opposed this budget cut to law library services.

Judge Lavery suggested that the Advisory Committee proceed on two fronts: 1) to adopt a resolution that would be sent to the Appropriations Committee co-chairs and leaders of the Judicial Branch; and 2) to review the lists of projected expenditures and cancellations proposed by the law librarians. Judge Blue said that the Bridgeport resolution provided a good model and that staff working with Judge Flynn should be authorized to draft a similar resolution. He felt that additional language should be included saying that if judges and lawyers can not access current developments in the law, unnecessary errors will be made.

It was agreed that the resolution should be sent to the chairs and ranking members of both the Judiciary Committee and the Appropriations Committee. The Advisory Committee then unanimously approved sending a resolution to these legislative committees and leaders of the Judicial Branch.

The committee next focused on the plan for implementing a 20% budget reduction. Judge Lavery suggested that subscriptions to law reviews be cancelled. It was agreed that for the less well known law journals, keeping only one subscription current statewide would be sufficient. Ms. Well indicated that in projecting which titles would lapse and which would be retained if the budget was reduced by 20%, the law librarians had to balance space issues, usage and the quality of a publication, as well as whether the title was available electronically. The committee then reviewed the projections for each library and made specific recommendations.

Bill Yelenak offered to contact state and local bar associations to garner support for restoring budget funds to the law libraries. Ms. Well said that she would email him a listing of the Connecticut Council of Bar Presidents. Darcy Kirk offered to contact the local and national associations for law librarians to have them advocate for restoration of the cut funds.

VII. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen D. Well
Secretary