



Advisory Commission on
Wrongful Convictions
Minutes
May 17, 2005

Attorney Conference Room
Supreme Court Building

Minutes

Attendees: Judge Michael A. Mack, Professor James M. Adcock, Attorney James W. Bergenn, Attorney Michael Dearington, Attorney Melissa A. Farley, Thomas E. Flaherty, Representative Michael P. Lawlor, Chief Robin Montgomery, Timothy Palmbach, Attorney James F. Papillo, Attorney Judith Rossi, Attorney Hope Seeley, and Attorney Gerard A. Smyth, along with University of New Haven students

- I. Judge Michael Mack, Deputy Chief Court Administrator, welcomed the members. The members introduced themselves at Judge Mack's suggestion.
- II. A presentation was given by University of New Haven students on how to analyze a "wrongful conviction case" using the examples of the case of *State v. Seri*.

Representative Michael Lawlor provided some background about the role of the educational institutions in assisting the Commission. He explained that the purpose of the presentation is to discuss the role of the Commission in reviewing a case such as *State v. Seri*.

The students did not talk with all sides; they did not make recommendations. They reviewed many documents in the civil suit that is pending.

Members reported that this was a great case to bring to the Commission and that the case may identify some training issues.

Another member reported that he sees a lot of things that went wrong with the case, but not any universal truths based on this case.

The case was described by Attorney Bergenn as a "perfect storm," where everything went wrong.

III. The Commission approved the proposed Mission Statement and By-Laws. (Please see attached.)

IV. Chief Robin Montgomery asked whether the Commission should pursue the Seri case.

Representative Lawlor suggested having a meeting in the summer to provide questions to the students for them to answer about the case.

V. The next meeting will be held the third week in September in the Attorney Conference Room, in Hartford at 231 Capitol Avenue. Members will be notified about the date of the meeting.