

CONNECTICUT SUPREME COURT HISTORIAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

SECOND OPEN MEETING

February 16, 2006

President Wes Horton called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m. in the Supreme Court Courtroom. Board members present included Kit Collier and Greg D'Auria.

Because this was an organizational meeting of members and potential members, the minutes of the January 23, 2006 meeting were not considered.

Mr. Horton noted for the membership and potential members that the Society's first "Annual Meeting" is scheduled for May 16, 2006 at the New Haven Lawn Club. The guest speaker will be Professor Akhil Reed Amar of the Yale Law School. Mr. Horton also noted that the Society's first advertisement had appeared in the Connecticut Law Tribune.

Jeff White, co-chair of the Programs committee, after thanking Mike Shea, Karla Turekian, Molly LeVan and Jonathan Weiner for their efforts, proceeded to introduce Judge Jon C. Blue.

Judge Blue proceeded to give a talk about judicial tenure in Connecticut history. Specifically, Judge Blue discussed how, in Connecticut, judges had originally been elected to one year terms. Later, judges were appointed to serve during "good behavior" until the mandatory retirement age of 70. Finally, in 1856, Connecticut's citizens voted to amend the State Constitution to provide for eight year terms for judges, the same terms to which judges are presently appointed. Judge Blue discussed the reasons he could glean from the historical record for such change in tenure.

Mr. Horton then dispensed with the Treasurer's and the Secretary's reports, except to note that the Society presently has \$4600.65 and 82 registered members.

Michael Besso of the Publications committee reported that the committee is already actively planning to publish a journal at sometime during 2006. The committee's efforts are focused on both the substantive content and the mechanics of putting out such a journal.

Barbara Heck of the Archives committee was unable to attend, and therefore Judge Alexandra DiPentima of the Appellate Court reported that the committee's next meeting would be held on February 24, 2006, at which time Ms. Heck, a professional archivist, will begin to describe for the novices on the committee how and what they can do to advance the committee's pursuits.

Mike Shea, co-chair of the Programs committee, thanked Melissa Farley of the Judicial Branch for her efforts in bringing together today's program. Mr. Shea went on to reiterate the committee's excitement about the Annual Meeting in May, featuring Prof. Amar, and the committee's ambition to hold a Fall program of some sort. Ideas for such a program are welcome. He announced that the committee's next meeting would be on March 3, 2006, in the Appellate Court's Lawyers' Lounge.

John Farley of the Fundraising/Membership committee described the Society's need for money to finance its publication and archival efforts. Mr. Farley also described for the membership the need for people with expertise and contacts in the business and giving community to assist him with the work of this committee.

Greg D'Auria announced that through the efforts of Jonathan Weiner and Melissa Farley, the Society now has an operational website: ctsupremecourthistory.org. Information on the website is continually being updated, but Mr. D'Auria, Mr. Weiner and Ms. Farley are looking for ideas and help in building the site's content.

Mr. Horton thanked everyone for attending this meeting, and especially thanked Justice Peter Zarella for his efforts leading to the creation of the Society, as well as his continued support of all of the Society's activities.

There being no further business, Mr. Horton adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m. for a reception in the Museum.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory T. D'Auria
Asst. Secretary/Treasurer