

CONNECTICUT SUPREME COURT HISTORIAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

FIRST ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

OCTOBER 3, 2005

President Wes Horton called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm in the Supreme Court Courtroom. Board members present included Kit Collier, Greg D'Auria, Tom Groark and Chuck Howard.

Because this was an organizational meeting of potential members, the minutes of the September 15, 2005 meeting were not considered.

Mr. Horton welcomed those who had come to the first organizational meeting and introduced the members of the Board of Directors. He then recognized the efforts of Justice Peter Zarella for initiating the meetings that led to the creation of the Society. Mr. Horton also expressed appreciation to Senator Andrew McDonald, Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, who was unable to attend the meeting for his assistance in the passage of the special act creating the Society. And finally, Mr. Horton expressed appreciation for the efforts of Ralph Eliot, who was active in the organization of the Society and who would have been a member of the Board had he not passed away.

Mr. Horton introduced Chief Justice William Sullivan, who made brief comments welcoming people interested in the Society and expressing support for its creation. A copy of his remarks will be added to the archives of the Society.

Mr. Horton introduced former Chief Justice Ellen Peters who made comments on selected periods in the history of the Supreme Court. Mr. Horton then gave a brief presentation on Justice Park and, in particular, his opinion in *In Re Hall*, 50 Conn. 181 (1882). Copies of this opinion and of the obituary for Justice Park, reported at 68 Conn. 592 (1896) were made available to attendees and will be added to the archives of the Society. Since the remarks by both former Chief Justice Peters and Mr. Horton were not from a prepared text, copies of the video recording of the event made by CTN have been ordered and will be added to the archives. In addition, their comments were recorded on the recording system used by the court, and a copy of the tape has been requested and a transcript of the comments made for inclusion in the archives of the Society.

Mr. Howard then briefly outlined the planned activities of the Society, including the committees proposed by the Board and the membership categories adopted by the Board. Forms were distributed to those in attendance for them to sign up as members and to serve or chair committees. In addition, Mr. Howard solicited suggestions for any other activities for the Society.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm for a reception in the Museum room.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles L. Howard,

Secretary

October 5, 2005

Re: Connecticut Historical Society

Dear Colleague:

I am writing to invite you to become a member of the newly created Connecticut Supreme Court Historical Society. We had our first organizational meeting on October 3rd with welcoming remarks by Chief Justice William Sullivan and brief comments on the Court's history by former Chief Justice Ellen Peters and me. At that time, we also passed out forms for those interested in the Society to become members and to volunteer to work on Committees of the Society. We then had a brief reception, and by all accounts it was a very enjoyable event.

I am attaching a copy of the membership and sign up sheet to this letter in case you were unable to attend the first organizational meeting. We welcome your financial support and your participation on a committee as we begin the work of the Society. We also would welcome any suggestions you have for activities or projects for the Society. Membership forms and checks should be returned to Thomas J. Groark, Treasurer of the Connecticut Supreme Court Historical Society at Day, Berry & Howard, CityPlace I, Hartford, CT 06103.

Thank you for your support.

Wesley Horton,

President