

Connecticut Judicial Branch
Commission on Access to Justice
Self-represented Parties Subcommittee

January 23, 2012

1:00p.m.

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:45 p.m. Judge Norko extended his apologies for the delay in commencing the meeting.
2. The minutes of the November 14, 2011 meeting of the Self-represented Parties Subcommittee were unanimously approved.
3. The subcommittee discussed their independent reviews of the court guides from other states and talked about the positive and negative aspects of each of them. The subcommittee agreed that Maryland's guide was the best overall publication and agreed to use Maryland as a base upon which to structure Connecticut's guide. The subcommittee discussed the specific aspects of the other guides such as Texas and Massachusetts and agreed to incorporate several of the features from each into Connecticut's guide.

The subcommittee also discussed creating a video for staff in addition to the guide. The video would portray hypothetical scenarios of court staff interacting with self-represented parties and would offer commentary on appropriate and inappropriate responses and reactions. The video would also stress the importance of listening and being empathetic to self-represented parties who often come to court under less than ideal circumstances.

4. The next meeting of the Self-represented Parties subcommittee will be held on April 23, 2012 at 1:00pm.
5. The meeting was adjourned at 2:10p.m.