

Access to Justice Commission  
Workgroup on On-Line Pro Bono Legal Assistance  
May 22, 2014  
2:30 pm  
Tele-Conference  
225 Spring Street, Room 133  
Wethersfield, CT

1. The Workgroup meeting was called to order at 2:33p.m. with the following members in attendance: Attorney Susan Nofi, Chair, Judge William Bright, Attorney Steven Eppler-Epstein, Ms. Claudia Magnan, Ms. Aisha Banks and Ms. Krista Hess.
2. The minutes from the April 24, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved.
3. The Workgroup members and staff reported out on outstanding issues that were discussed at the April meeting. Staff contacted Judicial Branch legal services to obtain an informal legal opinion regarding whether it was feasible or permissible for the Judicial Branch to be the host organization for the administration of the online program. Preliminary concerns expressed by legal services surrounded issues regarding a malpractice policy, lack of precedent for these types of programs to be hosted and administered by a Judicial Branch and the potential for liability for the Branch.

Judge Bright reported to the Workgroup on his follow-up with Attorney Bill Clendenen, Vice-President of the CBA regarding names of potential new Workgroup members from the CBA's Young Lawyers Section (YLS). Attorney Clendenen provided three (3) names for possible inclusion. Attorney Nofi will contact the attorneys and report back to the Workgroup. Attorney Nofi was not able to contact the chairs of the Modest/Moderate Means Workgroup, Attorneys Christopher Nelson and Patricia Kaplan, regarding their support of the online pro bono program, but she will do so and report back at the next Workgroup meeting.

Attorney Eppler-Epstein reported that he spoke with a colleague in Tennessee regarding the online pro bono program and received positive feedback about the program, however, the Tennessee attorney did not think the program should be administered through a legal aid organization.

The Workgroup discussed the option of the Connecticut Bar Foundation (CBF) acting as the online program administrator and host; however, further discussion concluded that the CBF might prefer not to administer programs at this time.

4. The Workgroup agreed to wait to hear back from Attorney Nofi regarding new membership from the private bar before setting another meeting date. Attorney

Nofi and Workgroup staff will report out to the full Access to Justice Commission on Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> regarding the progress of the Workgroup thus far.

5. The Workgroup meeting was adjourned at 2:48p.m.

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