



## PUBLIC SERVICE AND TRUST COMMISSION

### *Committee on Alternatives to Court Appearances*

#### Statutes and Rules Analysis Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

January 29, 2009

Those in attendance:

Atty. Jennifer Robinson, Chair

Hon. David Borden

Hon. Emmet Cosgrove

Atty. Joseph Del Ciampo

Atty. Nancy Porter

The subcommittee on Statutes and Rules for the Committee on Alternatives to Court Appearances met on Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor at 100 Washington Street, Hartford.

The meeting was called to order at 11:12 a.m. by Justice Borden. As the first order of business the minutes for the meeting held on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009 were unanimously approved by subcommittee members.

The subcommittee members discussed some of the proposed recommendations for Video Conference (VC) and Teleconference (TC) in Civil and Family that they feel the committee will not dispute. The subcommittee also acknowledged that some civil short calendar is presently heard using VC. To further increase the use of VC/TC technology the Statutes language should be changed by removing the word "incarcerated".

The subcommittee discussed an e-mail received by Atty. Robinson from Scott Hartley regarding the use of TC in short proceedings and the thought of having interpreters using this technology from a central office. Also discussed was the interpreter service used by the medical field and possibly adapting a similar model. Attorney Del Ciampo informed subcommittee members that judicial presently has the Language Line Service used in Clerk's Offices but the service is very expensive. Subcommittee members discussed looking at statutes and practice book rules that pertain to interpreters and build in provisions for the use of TC.

The subcommittee agreed to wait on discussing the recommendations as it relates to their charge until the full committee approves the Purposes Subcommittee recommendations. Once approved, the subcommittee will begin to draft the recommended rules with the goal of keeping it open for future technology.

The subcommittee discussed recommending a general provision with specific items that permit the use VC/TC unless it is specifically prohibited. These recommendations will ultimately be given to the Rules Committee for drafting.

The subcommittee identified statutes and rules with the word “appearances” or “present” as being interpreted as being physically in the courtroom which is a barrier that would ultimately have to be changed by the Rules Committee to allow further use of VC/TC technology.

The subcommittee discussed proposing a pilot program in possibly two or three Judicial Districts to see on a case-by-case basis if the technology can be used. This will provide Judicial with a sense of what works and does not work and alleviate the fears people might have about the VC/TC technology. Based on the success of the pilot program, Judicial can extend the program to all the other court locations like they did for the camera in the courtroom program.

The next meeting will be schedule after the full committee has approved the Purposes Subcommittee recommendations.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.