



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION**

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**PRESS ADVISORY:**  
**Supreme Court Briefs To Become Available Online**

Briefs filed in the Connecticut Supreme Court will become available online through a cooperative endeavor between the Connecticut Judicial Branch and the Connecticut Bar Association (CBA).

The Supreme and Appellate courts last month approved a number of changes to the Connecticut Rules of Appellate Practice that cleared the way for the online posting. Paper briefs will continue to be submitted to the court, but all counsel-represented parties in Supreme Court cases must file an electronic version of the brief as well, effective March 1, 2009. Once a case is listed as "ready for assignment," the e-brief will be posted on a website sponsored by the CBA's Appellate Advocacy Committee, at <http://blog.ctbriefsonline.com/>, which also is accessible through the Judicial Branch's website, <http://www.jud.ct.gov/external/supapp/default.htm>

(Please note that cases do not appear on the "ready for assignment" calendar for at least several months after the briefs have been filed with the Court. Among those that have been posted under *March 2009* is a set for *Skakel v. State of Connecticut*, which is scheduled for argument on March 26.)

"I believe that this development will provide members of the bar and the public with much greater access to documents filed at the Supreme Court and further educate people about our appellate court process," Chief Justice Chase T. Rogers said. "In addition, this online access

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will save the users of our courts both time and money.”

She added: “We are pleased to be working with the CBA, and in particular, Attorney Dan Klau, on a project that clearly benefits those we serve.”

Attorney Livia DeFilippis Barndollar, CBA president, said, “This project will serve the bar – CBA members and non-members alike – as well as the public. The CBA is very pleased to have been part of this creative endeavor and thanks the Judicial Branch and Attorney Dan Klau for including the association in the development of this unprecedented resource.”

“The website began last fall as a labor of love by a small group of lawyers with a passion for appellate advocacy,” Attorney Klau said. “I am thrilled that it has evolved so quickly into a collaborative effort with the Judicial Branch, one that we hope will improve public understanding of the appellate process by putting the Supreme Court’s decisions in a fuller context.”

Attorney Klau added: “People who use the website should keep in mind that up until the rules change, submission of briefs to the blog was voluntary, so what had been available was not complete. The rule change, however, will eliminate that incompleteness.”

The Supreme and Appellate courts also have approved an amendment to the Connecticut Rules of Appellate Practice that allows the e-mail filing of motions for extension of time. This change is intended to make the process more efficient for the bar, on behalf of clients, and for the courts.

For more information, please contact Rhonda Stearley-Hebert, manager of communications for the Judicial Branch, at 860-757-2270, or Attorney Klau at 860-522-5175.

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