



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION**

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**Testimony of Deborah Fuller  
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing  
February 24, 2006**

**H.B. 5217, An Act Concerning Compensation for Small Claims and  
Motor Vehicle Magistrates and Victim Compensation Commissioners**

Good afternoon. My name is Deborah Fuller and I appear before you today on behalf of the Judicial Branch in support of *H. B. 5217, An Act Concerning Compensation for Small Claims and Motor Vehicle Magistrates and Victim Compensation Commissioners*, which was submitted as part of our legislative package.

Small Claims and Motor Vehicle Magistrates are non-judicial officers who preside over small claims and motor vehicle matters. These attorneys, who are appointed by the Chief Court Administrator to a three-year term, work for the Branch on a per diem basis and are currently paid \$150 per day. This amount is set by statute and has not been increased since 1985. The proposal before you today would increase the compensation to \$200 per day.

The attorneys in these positions hear and decide a large number of small claims and motor vehicle infraction and violation cases, thereby allowing Superior Court judges to be assigned to other matters. They perform a valuable function for the Judicial Branch, and we believe that their compensation should be increased to reflect this.

Victim's Compensation Commissioners hear appeals of award decisions made by the Office of Victim Services, on an as-needed basis. Their compensation has not been raised since 1993.

The cost for these increases is approximately \$138,600 per year, and has not been provided in the Governor's budget. Therefore, we respectfully request that, should the Committee act favorably on this proposal, it be referred to the Appropriations Committee for provision of the necessary funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.