



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

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**Testimony of Deborah J. Fuller
Judiciary Committee
March 13, 2006**

**House Bill 5613, An Act Requiring the Criminal Docket to be Posted on
the Internet**

Good morning. My name is Deborah Fuller and I appear before you today on behalf of the Judicial Branch in opposition to **House Bill 5613, *An Act Requiring the Criminal Docket to be Posted on the Internet***.

The Judicial Branch's biggest concern in posting criminal docket sheets on the website is that some of the defendants whose cases appear on these sheets will be granted entry into a diversionary program, many of which are confidential by statute, or will end up having their cases nolleed or dismissed. However, the information regarding their arrest will have been published on the internet, where it can be viewed worldwide for a very long period of time. As a result, these individuals may suffer negative repercussions despite the fact that they have not been convicted of a crime.

We fully understand that the criminal docket sheets are public and anyone can go into our courthouses and view them. However, this type of availability is very different from the availability of documents that are published on the internet. Due to the sensitive nature of these records it seems reasonable to require that one take the affirmative step of visiting a courthouse to access this information. We believe that having them available at the courthouses, but not on the internet, strikes an appropriate balance. In summary, the Branch is opposed to this bill because we believe that any benefit in terms of convenience to members of the bar and the public is outweighed by the potential harm to people who have not and may never be convicted of a crime.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this input.