



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

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**Testimony of Judge William J. Lavery
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing
April 4, 2007**

**Senate Bill 1269, An Act Concerning the Quality of Legal Representation
of Children and Youth in Juvenile Matters**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of **Senate Bill 1269, *An Act Concerning the Quality of Legal Representation of Children and Youth I Juvenile Matters***. The Judicial Branch urges the Committee to act favorably on this proposal.

This proposal would facilitate the improvement of the quality of legal representation for children and indigent parties in court proceedings. We strongly support this goal. It is impossible to overestimate how important adequate, competent legal representation is to the children and families that that come before the court. As the Committee is aware, the primary reason that the Commission on Child Protection was created two years ago was to address the inadequacies of the existing system of representation. We are very impressed with the progress that the Commission and the Office of the Chief Child Protection Attorney have made since their inception. This funding provided in this bill will allow further progress to be made.

Thank you.