Daniel Dilzer

OPENING STATEMENT

Good afternoon Chairman McDonald, Chairman Lawlor and members of the Judiciary Committee.

My name is Daniel Dilzer. It is a great honor and privilege that I sit before you here today as a nominee to the Workers' Compensation Commission. I'm especially grateful to Governor Rell for nominating me and for her confidence in me and my ability to serve the citizens of this great State.

I was born and raised in the New Britain, graduating from St Thomas Aquinas in 1984. I then went to Central Connecticut State University and earned a Bachelor of Arts in History in 1989. From there I went to the University of Bridgeport School of Law (now known as Quinnipiac University School of Law), and served as Associate Editor of the Law Review. I graduated with a Juris Doctor Degree in 1992, *cum laude*.

I have resided in the Town of Berlin for the last 10 years with my lovely wife Hibeh and our two children: Jeremy, age 13 and Maia age 10. Over the years I have coached soccer, basketball and middle school mock trial.

I was admitted to the Connecticut Bar in 1992 and to the Federal Bar in 1994.

I have been in private practice since 1993 in New Britain. In 1994-1995 I served as an Executive Aide to the Mayor Linda Blogoslawski of New Britain, while practicing law as a solo practitioner.

I have been with my partner Raul Davila since 1999. I handle real estate, landlord tenant, personal injury, family, civil and criminal defense. Over the past few years I have handled several significant criminal matters and have tried most all types of cases to conclusion before a court or jury, including criminal cases where the defendants have been charged with crimes ranging from misdemeanors to murder.

Over the past sixteen years I have had the honor to serve New Britain and later Berlin on various Boards and Commissions, including Charter Revision, Board of Ethics, The New Britain Housing Authority and various Regional Boards. I have accepted *pro bono* referrals from Connecticut Legal Services.

Since 2000, I have had the honor of serving as a Victims Compensation Commissioner where I hear matters involving claimants who were denied benefits by the Office of Victim Services. Over the years I have heard approximately 150-200 claims.

Almost all of the claimants who appear before me at the Victims Compensation Commission represent themselves. I have conducted every hearing with an open mind and have strived to treat every claimant with compassion, respect and the utmost fairness. Given that they usually appear *pro se*, I also take special care to ensure that their claims are fully made and articulated.

I hope to bring the skills that I use as a Victim Compensation Commissioner to the Workers' Compensation Commission. I will continue to focus on the law and facts before me and render decisions that are fair and impartial.

If given the opportunity by this Committee, rest assured that I will strive to reach a fair result within the confines of the law and to continue to treat those who come before me with compassion and respect.

I thank you for your time and stand ready to answer any questions you may have.