



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

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**Testimony of Stephen N. Ment
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing
March 20, 2008**

Senate Bill 694, An Act Concerning Erasure Of Criminal Records

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch in opposition to *Senate Bill 694, An Act Concerning Erasure of Criminal Record*. Passage of this bill will result in significant resource implications for the Judicial Branch.

Section 1 of this bill mandates that erasure of criminal charges be charge specific, rather than applying to an entire case. This would have dramatic repercussions. As members of the Committee may be aware, a high percentage of criminal cases contain a mix of outcomes – such as a conviction on one count, with other counts being nolle. Under current law, this case would not be erased.

Should this bill pass, however, each and every document in the file would need to be reviewed, with references to any “erased” charges being redacted. As each case file contains numerous documents referencing all charges in the case – such as the Information Sheet, the Uniform Arrest Report (UAR), program applications, bond forms, affidavits in support of probable cause, and seized property inventory, just to name a few – the Judicial Branch would require additional staff at each court location to review and “sanitize” each file. Also, it is not clear if this bill would apply retroactively; if so, records kept at the Judicial Branch’s Records Center would be affected, requiring additional staff resources.

The Judicial Branch’s automated systems – such as the Criminal Motor Vehicle System (CRMVS), Centralized Infractions Bureau (CIB), and the Paperless Re-Arrest Warrant Network (PRAWN) – would also be affected, and we would need additional resources to make the necessary conforming changes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.