



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF THE
PROBATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

JUDGE JAMES J. LAWLOR
ADMINISTRATOR
ATTORNEY THOMAS E. GAFFEY
CHIEF COUNSEL
HELEN B. BENNETT
ATTORNEY
DEBRA COHEN
ATTORNEY

186 NEWINGTON ROAD
WEST HARTFORD, CT 06110

TEL (860) 231-2442
FAX (860) 231-1055

To: Senate Co-Chair Gayle Slossberg
House Co-Chair Chris Caruso
Senate Ranking Member Judith Freedman
House Ranking Member John Hetherington
Honorable Members of the Government Administration and Elections
Committee

From: Judge James J. Lawlor
Probate Court Administrator

Re: RB 448 An Act Concerning Probate Judges

Date: February 29, 2008

We believe that this matter is of greatest concern to the individual judges who run for the office of probate judge. Our office is entrusted to oversee the elections to be sure that all participants in the process are held to the highest ethical standards. Every four years the judge becomes a candidate and must raise the funds necessary to wage a successful campaign. The Code of Probate Judicial Conduct restricts the practices of the judges in matters of campaign finance and the requirement to conduct the campaign appropriately as not to raise a question of impropriety or impartiality.

Our office pledges to cooperate with the study and offer any assistance we can so a meaningful outcome can be reached.