



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION**

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**Testimony of Stephen N. Ment  
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing  
March 16, 2009**

**Senate Bill 732, An Act Concerning The Sentencing Of Drunken Drivers**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Judicial Branch in regards to Senate Bill 732, *An Act Concerning the Sentencing of Drunken Drivers*. This bill would, in part, give the court discretion to sentence a defendant convicted of driving under the influence, in certain circumstances, to house arrest, subject to global positioning system (GPS) monitoring and continuous monitoring for alcohol consumption.

While the Branch is supportive of GPS utilization, it is important to observe that it is not without its shortcomings. Topographical, meteorological, and other real world issues often result in far less accuracy and consistency due to signal loss, tracking errors, equipment problems and reliance on cellular technology for receipt of monitoring information. Furthermore, it is not a substitute for direct supervision by probation officers; rather, it is a complimentary tool that helps officers do a better job.

To that end, we note that this proposal would impact our Court Support Services Division (CSSD) as it would require more intensive offender monitoring and supervision than would otherwise be the case. Therefore, should the Committee act favorably on this bill, we would ask that it be referred to the Appropriations Committee to determine whether additional resources would be necessary for its implementation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.