



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
JUDICIAL BRANCH

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

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Testimony of Stephen N. Ment  
Government Administration and Elections Committee  
Public Hearing  
March 8, 2010

Senate Bill 30, An Act Concerning Legislative And Judicial Records And  
Concerning The Freedom Of Information Act Exemption From  
Disclosure For Preliminary Drafts and Notes

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch in opposition to Section 1 of Senate Bill 30, *An Act Concerning Legislative and Judicial Records and Concerning the Freedom of Information Act Exemption from Disclosure for Preliminary Drafts and Notes*. Section 1 of the bill would make the State Librarian responsible for the books, records, papers and documents of the Judicial Branch.

The Judicial Branch opposes this bill because it encroaches on our authority – found in statute and Practice Book – to determine the manner in which our records are maintained. Furthermore, the bill conflicts with C.G.S. 51-36, which specifically grants the Chief Court Administrator with broad power to retain, reproduce, destruct and dispose of court records.

In addition, there are myriad Practice Book provisions pertaining to the retention and destruction of files and records. A detailed schedule exists that lists virtually every case type – such as administrative appeals, contracts, and dissolution of marriage – and sets forth specific guidelines for how long each must be retained.

Given that section 1 of the bill conflicts with other statutory provisions and the Practice Book, we would respectfully request that this section either be deleted in its entirety, or that the reference to the Judicial Branch be removed.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.