

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
April 23, 2010

Robert L. Genuario
Superior Court Judge Nominee

**Testimony Regarding Experience for Consideration for Appointment to Superior Court
Bench**

Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor, Senator Kissel, Representative O'Neill and distinguished members of the Judicial Committee, my name is Robert Genuario. I would like to thank Governor Rell for nominating me and thank the members of the Judiciary Committee for holding this hearing.

While I have spent a considerable amount of my adult life holding public office including a decade on the Norwalk Board of Education (3 years as Chairman); 14 years in the State Senate (including 2 as Chairman of the Appropriations Committee), and 5 years in my present position as Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, I would like to begin by speaking for a few moments about my career as a lawyer.

I graduated from Villanova School of Law in 1977 and was employed for a year as a law clerk for the Superior Court Judges of Fairfield County. In that capacity I worked directly for numerous Superior Court Judges. My primary responsibilities included researching and writing memorandum of law relating to issues that came before the court.

Subsequently, I was hired as associate of the firm of Keogh, Candee and Burkhart. My responsibilities included handling various aspects of civil litigation, preliminary motions, trial preparation, conducting and responding to discovery requests, assisting at trial and the trial of cases. The firm handled both plaintiffs' work and defense work. While my work primarily involved civil litigation, I also was involved in general practice work such as real estate closings, drafting of wills and servicing the needs of small businesses. Among the most significant matters I was involved in during my time with Keogh, Candee and Burkhart was participating in the trial of two cases in Federal District Court involving the defense of arson against the plaintiff's claim for fire insurance proceeds.

After about five years, I and two other Norwalk Lawyers formed the firm of Busek, Kavarensky and Genuario. The firm was a general practice firm. My representation of clients included civil and criminal litigation, transactional matters for small businesses, real estate closings as well as the drafting of wills and probate proceedings. At one point I argued a case in the United States Supreme Court. Within a few years I began representing Action Housing, a non-profit affordable housing developer. During the next decade or so, Action Housing developed over 200 units of affordable home ownership housing. I represented it with regard to all aspects of the projects from zoning proceedings, financing matters to end closings.

As a result, I began to develop a degree of expertise in land use issues such as zoning hearings , inland wetland work and redevelopment projects. I represented national companies (e.g. Costco, Stop and Shop) seeking local counsel. I also represented local developers, businesses, individuals and neighborhood associations. My work included land use appeals to the Superior Court, Appellate Court, and Connecticut Supreme Court.

At the same time I continued in servicing clients who needed the assistance of a general practitioner. I ended my practice in January of 2005 when I accepted my present position.

I am grateful for the many opportunities that I have had in both the public and private sector. I have learned much but the most important lessons I have learned are the simplest to remember; work hard, listen well, and be honest.

I will do my best to answer any questions you have about my experiences or other matters.