



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
JUDICIAL BRANCH

CHAMBERS OF  
BARBARA M. QUINN, JUDGE  
CHIEF COURT ADMINISTRATOR

231 CAPITOL AVENUE  
HARTFORD, CT 06106

**Appropriations Committee Public Hearing  
March 3, 2011**

**Testimony of the Honorable Barbara M. Quinn  
Chief Court Administrator**

Good morning, Senator Harp, Representative Walker, Senator Kane, Representative Miner, and members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Barbara M. Quinn and I am the Chief Court Administrator. Thank you for the opportunity to come before you today to discuss Governor Malloy's proposed budget for the Judicial Branch for the FY 12-13 biennium.

I would like to begin my testimony by noting that for the first time in our collective memory we are not asking for any changes to the Governor's proposed budget. This is attributable to the legislation that was passed last year that fundamentally changed the manner in which the Judicial Branch's budget is presented to the Legislature. I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to once again thank you and the other members of the General Assembly for your support of that legislation.

Under the new legislation, the Governor's recommended budget for the Judicial Branch must incorporate, unchanged, the budget request that the Branch submitted to the Office of Policy and Management. This is a significant change. Until this year, our budget request could be unilaterally altered by OPM. Oftentimes, we did not know what the budget recommendations for the Branch would be prior to the release of the Governor's proposed budget. Our only recourse was to come before this Committee to request additions or changes to that proposed budget.

We now have certainty that the Legislature will see and have the opportunity to consider exactly what the Judicial Branch has determined its budget needs to be. I must note that the new process does not, nor was it ever intended to, provide us with immunity from budget cuts. We

everything possible to ensure that we are providing the best service possible under the circumstances to the people of our state.

I must note that my comments on the Branch's budget do not take into account the concerns that we all share about the proposed \$2 billion in savings associated with state employee wages and benefits and the effect these savings could have on the Branch's staffing and the public we serve. We, like everyone else, hope that the necessary savings can be achieved in a manner that preserves jobs and the important services we provide.

This is an unprecedented time for the state and for the Judicial Branch. We are clearly and unavoidably part of a budget crisis of historic proportions... as employees, as constitutional officers of the State, and as stewards of an independent and inter-dependent branch of government. We appreciate the fact that during these hard times, we had an opportunity to have input into the crafting of the Governor's recommended budget for the Judicial Branch. We are hopeful that by working with the Legislative and Executive Branches we can find ways minimize the impact on the people we all serve.

We will continue to engage our Legislative and Executive Branch partners to be as helpful as possible, and we will advise you of the implications of any proposed budget actions on the Judicial Branch and those we serve. Thank you and I will be happy to answer any questions that you may have.