



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION**

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**Testimony of Deborah Fuller  
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing  
April 8, 2011**

**House Bill 6649, An Act Concerning a Model Litigant Policy for Attorneys who  
Represent the State Government in Civil Actions**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony, on behalf of the Judicial Branch, regarding House Bill 6649, *An Act Concerning a Model Litigant Policy for Attorneys who Represent the State Government in Civil Actions*.

We are concerned that this bill will, in essence, provide disgruntled litigants with an additional avenue to file complaints against attorneys representing the state. In particular, it is likely that everyone who files a grievance complaint with the Statewide Grievance Committee against an attorney representing the state in a civil matter will also file a complaint with the "agency or department head" that is responsible, pursuant to lines 12 - 13, to ensure that the agency complied with the model litigant policy.

More importantly, we are concerned that this bill impinges on the Judicial Branch's authority to regulate attorneys and the practice of law. This responsibility is carried out through the Rules of Professional Conduct, which are adopted by the Rules Committee and published in the Connecticut Practice Book. If the conduct sought to be enforced is the appropriate standard for attorneys, it could be considered by the Rules Committee for possible applicability to all attorneys, not to just those representing the state. Making it part of the Rules would provide for greater uniformity of review and implementation.

In conclusion, I urge the Committee not to act favorably on this proposal. Thank you for your consideration.

