



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

**Judiciary Committee Hearing
on the Judicial Branch Procurement Code
July 7, 2011**

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

Good afternoon Senator Coleman, Representative Fox, Senator Doyle, Representative Holder-Winfield, Senator Kissel, Representative Hetherington and members of the Judiciary Committee. I am here today to talk about the Judicial Branch's Procurement Code, which we submitted to this committee pursuant to section 4e-12 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

This marks the first time that the Judicial Branch has submitted a procurement code to the committee. As members may recall, the requirement that the Judicial Branch develop and submit a procurement code was enacted in 2007, as part of the contracting reform legislation passed that year. The Judicial Branch was given considerable time to develop the code – the deadline for submission was set at February 1, 2011.

After the legislation became law, the Judicial Branch embarked on the process of creating a code. We began with a thorough review of the existing Judicial Branch policies and procedures governing procurement, the Executive Branch's procurement code and the ABA model procurement code. What you have before you today is a code, governing all Judicial Branch procurement that incorporates the best elements of all three. The code is designed to implement the highest standards of contracting, to take advantage of the latest advances in technology and to incorporate the contracting reforms mandated by the Legislature.

The objectives of the code are:

- To establish uniform contracting standards and practices;
- To simplify and clarify contracting standards and procurement policies and practices;
- To ensure the fair and equitable treatment of all businesses and persons who deal with the procurement system;

- To include a process aimed at maximizing the use of small contractors and minority business enterprises;
- To provide increased economy in procurement activities and maximize purchasing value to the fullest extent possible;
- To ensure that the procurement of supplies, materials, equipment, services and construction is obtained in a cost effective and responsible manner;
- To ensure contractor and Judicial Branch accountability; and
- To provide a process for competitive sealed bids, competitive sealed proposals, small purchases, sole source procurements, emergency procurements, special procurements, best value selection, qualification-based selection and the conditions for this use.

The code is truly comprehensive. It covers all agreements between the Judicial Branch and any outside person, firm or corporation for the following:

- Construction and demolition projects;
- Services, including consulting and professional services;
- Acquiring and disposing of all manner of personal property;
- Goods and services; and
- Leases and licensing agreements.

We are confident that this code provides a framework for the Judicial Branch's procurement process that will ensure integrity throughout the process. I urge the Committee to approve the code.

Thank you.