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**Testimony of
Douglas J. Monaghan, Chair
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In SUPPORT of

**SB 192, An Act Concerning Finalizing Adoptions
by the Superior Court for Juvenile Matters**

**Select Committee on Children
February 28, 2012**

The Connecticut Bar Association (CBA) Child Welfare and Juvenile Law Section **supports** passage of SB192. According to statistics of the Department of Children and Families (DCF), nearly 50% of adoptions occurring in the Probate Courts of Connecticut result from termination of parental rights petitions filed in the Superior Court for Juvenile Matters (SCJM). Because the SCJM does not currently have jurisdiction to hear such petitions, DCF is required to file petitions for adoption in the appropriate Probate Court in the event they succeed in the TPR case. DCF statistics inform us that it takes approximately one year to finalize an adoption from the date of termination of parental rights.

The proposed legislation would allow DCF to file petitions for adoptions in the SCJM where the court already has significant information about the case. The proposal to allow adoption petitions to be filed in the SCJM in such TPR cases will reduce the time from termination to adoption thus facilitating more efficient permanency for children which is the intent and requirement of the Federal Adoption and Safe Families Act.