



# NEW HAVEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

234 Church Street, P.O. Box 1441, New Haven, Connecticut 06506-1441  
TEL (203) 562-9652 FAX (203) 624-8695 www.newhavenbar.org NHCBAinfo@newhavenbar.org

## 2011-2012 OFFICERS

President  
Irene P. Jacobs

President-Elect  
Sung-Ho Hwang

Treasurer  
Robert C. Hinton

Secretary  
Howard K. Levine

Asst. Secretary  
Victor A. Bolden

Asst. Treasurer  
John M. Parese

Immediate Past President  
Charles P. Reed

Executive Director  
Carolyn B. Witt

Testimony of Irene Jacobs  
New Haven County Bar Association  
Judiciary Committee  
March 9, 2012

Good morning Senator Coleman, Representative Fox, Senator Kissel, Representative Hetherington, and the entire Judiciary Committee

My name is Irene Jacobs. I am the president of the New Haven County Bar Association and I am here today on behalf of the Bar Association in support of Senate Bill 31, *An Act Establishing a Commission on Judicial Compensation*.

When you're just out of school and you're applying for a job - if you get hired, you're grateful for whatever you get.

But a practicing attorney who is qualified to be a judge is an accomplished professional who needs to know what is involved in making this major career change. The attorney can read Connecticut General Statute §51-47 and see what the current salary for a judge is in our state. And, as you will hear from others who are testifying today, there are real problems with the dollar amount of the salaries that judges in our state receive. But it's not only the starting salary that experienced attorney needs to know when considering a judicial appointment. This attorney also needs to know how becoming a judge will impact his or her financial future.

The current system simply does not give an attorney who is eminently qualified to serve the state of Connecticut as a judge any way of looking at the job of being a judge and doing financial planning for the future. In establishing a framework of predictable and fair compensation recommendations, the Commission proposed in Senate Bill 31 would provide potential judicial applicants the information every experienced professional needs when considering a major career change.

In addition, the current system does not give our sitting judges any way of looking at the job they have and planning for their financial futures. The Commission's function would not only provide our current judges with the information they need to prepare for their futures, it would provide our judges with the knowledge that the issue of their compensation is going to be addressed by the legislature rather than avoided or ignored.

The New Haven County Bar Association supports Bill 31 because it establishes a system that will encourage qualified attorneys to apply for judicial appointments and that will foster job satisfaction and encourage retention of the talented judges we already have.

Thank you.

*Irene Jacobs*