



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

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Testimony of Stephen N. Ment
Government Administration and
Elections Public Hearing
March 10, 2014

House Bill 5481, An Act Establishing The Central Office
Of Administrative Hearings

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch in regards to section 8 of House Bill 5481, *An Act Establishing the Central Office of Administrative Hearings*.

Section 8 of the bill enumerates agencies, offices and commissions - including the Judicial Review Council (JRC) - that could have their hearings conducted by the new Central Office of Administrative Hearings, with appeals of their decisions taken to the Superior Court. The Judicial Branch is opposed to the inclusion of the JRC in the bill.

As members of the Committee may be aware, Connecticut's constitution vests the power to discipline judges in the Supreme Court and the JRC. Under the current framework, appeals from the JRC go directly to the Supreme Court. This bill, which would give the new Central Office of Administrative Hearings and the Superior Court a role in the judicial disciplinary process, is inconsistent with the aforementioned constitutional provision and would infringe upon the constitutional authority of the Supreme Court and JRC in matters of judicial discipline.

Therefore, we would respectfully request that the reference to the JRC in line 260 of the bill be deleted. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.