

Proposed Testimony: Barbara Bellis,

Nominee- Judge Member, Judicial Review Council

Good Morning Senator Duff, Representative Janowski, Senator Kane, Representative Buck-Taylor and members of the Executive and Legislative Nomination Committee. My name is Barbara Bellis, and it is truly an honor to appear before you today. I would like to thank Gov. Malloy for nominating me to the Judicial Review Council and this committee for the opportunity to appear before you to speak to my desire to serve on the Judicial Review Council.

I am presently assigned to the Fairfield Judicial District where I am the Administrative Judge, the Presiding Judge for Civil Matters, and the judge for e-filing. For my first four years on the bench, I primarily handled criminal cases; for the past eight years, I have been assigned to civil. I helped the branch roll out e-filing first in civil cases and most recently in family cases by going to each judicial district and providing the judges with hands-on instruction. Also, in addition to teaching newly appointed judges e-filing as part of their pre-bench orientation, I have trained the new judges on domestic violence since 2005. Some of the committees I presently serve on are Civil Commission, and the Judges Advisory Committee on Electronic Filing. I am an active speaker for the Judicial Branch Speakers Bureau. I have sat on numerous panels for various organizations

including the area of mediation, trial practice, domestic violence, women in the law, and e-filing. I mediate civil cases from courts throughout the state, particularly medical malpractice cases. I handle the asbestos docket which I have done since 2010. I have been appointed by the Chief Justice to serve on numerous three judge panels with respect to attorneys' applications for readmission to the bar as well as a three judge panel for a probate court employee termination. In my role as the civil presiding judge for a large district, I have been handling all the attorney discipline cases for the Judicial District of Fairfield for the last five years, and have had occasion to reprimand and suspend attorneys and accept attorney resignation including resignations where attorneys have permanently waived their right to apply for readmission in the future. Handling attorney misconduct and discipline cases as well as readmissions to the bar involves reviewing a significant amount of materials and determining the appropriate sanction, if any.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the citizens of the State of Connecticut, and I would be grateful for the opportunity to serve the citizens as a member of the Judicial Review Council, which I believe to be an extremely important entity. Just as I believe in attorneys being held accountable for their conduct, I believe that we judges should likewise be held accountable. I am prepared to take on the challenging role of reviewing and investigating the complaints filed with the judicial review counsel in a fair, faithful and efficient

manner, and I am hopeful that you will give me the opportunity to serve. I thank you for your time and attention, and I would be happy to answer any questions that you might have.

Statement of Barbara Bellis
Judiciary Committee
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