



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

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Testimony of Stephen N. Ment
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing
March 6, 2015

**House Bill 6924, An Act Increasing The Amount Of Damages That May
Be Claimed In A Small Claims Action**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch regarding **House Bill 6924, An Act Increasing the Amount of Damages That May Be Claimed in A Small Claims Action**. This bill would raise the jurisdictional limit of small claims actions to \$10,000, and establish a two-tiered entry fee.

Earlier this session, a representative of the Judicial Branch met with the proponent of the bill to discuss this well-intended proposal. While the Judicial Branch does not object to an incremental increase of the jurisdictional limit of small claims actions from \$5,000 to \$7,500, the Branch cannot support an increase to \$10,000 at this time, in part because of the lack of appellate review of these matters. We believe that it would be fair to say that the proponent was comfortable with the increase to \$7,500 as well.

The Branch has no objection to the creation of a two-tiered entry fee, depending on the amount of the claim.

Should the Committee take action on this bill, we would therefore respectfully request that the jurisdictional limit be raised to \$7,500, in lieu of the \$10,000 as proposed in the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on this bill.