



Office of The Attorney General
State of Connecticut

**TESTIMONY OF
ATTORNEY GENERAL GEORGE JEPSEN
BEFORE THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
APRIL 10, 2015**

Good morning Senator Coleman, Representative Tong and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to support the nomination of the Honorable Chase T. Rogers to be Chief Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court.

Attorneys from my Office appear in Connecticut courts on a daily basis. In a typical year, our attorneys also appear before the Appellate and Supreme Courts in dozens of appeals involving highly complex and important legal issues. Chief Justice Rogers has proven herself to be a skillful, fair, diligent and impartial jurist. That is why she is so highly respected by her peers and those who appear before her.

Chief Justice Rogers also deserves an enormous amount of credit for her vision, work and commitment as the head of the Judicial Branch. Early on in her term, Chief Justice Rogers developed and implemented a broad and far-reaching strategic plan for the Judicial Branch. That strategic plan was borne out of the Chief Justice's keen insight into the profound impact recent societal and technological changes would have on the courts, litigants and the bar. Having anticipated those changes, the Chief Justice developed an extremely detailed and ambitious plan aimed at improving access to the courts, accommodating the changing demographics of our State, improving upon the delivery of services, collaborating with stakeholders who interact with the courts, and ensuring the independence, accountability and impartiality of our courts.

I have witnessed first-hand the Chief Justice's commitment to reaching these goals. Very early on in my first term as Attorney General, Chief Justice Rogers invited me and members of my executive staff to participate in annual meetings with her, the Chief Court Administrator and other members of the Administrative Division of the Judicial Branch. Those meetings have continued to occur each year I have served as Attorney General. The purpose of the meetings is to share information and perspectives about the operations of the courts and my Office and to collaborate on initiatives to improve our respective functions. Those initiatives have included, among other things, the implementation of a comprehensive and effective e-filing system, the adoption of an alternative dispute resolution program and professional development and training opportunities for members of the bar, including lawyers from my Office. The Chief Justice has collaborated regularly with many other stakeholders in an ongoing effort to implement and sustain her strategic plan for the Judicial Branch.

I am extremely grateful to Chief Justice Rogers for her service. I urge the Committee to vote favorably on her nomination.