

**James Joseph Connolly, Ph. D.**

**Licensed Psychologist**

**758 Broad Street Extension**

**Waterford, CT 06385**

Testimony in Favor of the Reconfirmation of Chase Rogers as

Chief Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court

(Judiciary Committee Hearing on April 10, 2015)

Senator Coleman, Representative Tong and Honored Members of the Judiciary Committee:

As a forensic psychologist who frequently provides evaluations and testimony in both the civil and criminal state courts of the State of Connecticut, I want to add a clear endorsement for Chief Justice Chase T. Rogers in her reconfirmation hearing before your committee. Chief Justice Rogers has made substantial progress in opening up the operations of the courts of this state to public scrutiny. She has been especially solicitous concerning the rights and needs of self-represented parties. Chief Justice Rogers also has an ambitious agenda for reform of the Family Courts, which deserves not to be lost in what the Hartford Courant has termed the “dozens of people who are expected to converge on the Legislative Office Building” to oppose her reconfirmation.

The blustering accusations of a small cohort of angry and misguided disgruntled litigants may make it difficult for you to hear and appreciate the particular reform proposals that Chief Justice Rogers has proposed for the Family Courts of this state. That would be unfortunate, because she has proposed several beneficial changes in the Family Courts. The Chief Justice has proposed using a single judge from the start to the finish of divorce cases, expanding the number of Family Relations personnel to assist with both pre-judgment and post-judgment child custody issues, and providing expedited divorce procedures for couples who do not have children. Far from being insensitive to the needs of Connecticut families going through divorce, Chief Justice Rogers has suggested important changes that could reduce the time of the divorce process and the pain that family members experience during it. She richly deserves your support re-confirmation as Chief Justice.

James J. Connolly, Ph. D.

April 8, 2015