

Testimony before the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee

Testimony of Steven R. Rolnick

March 10, 2016

Good Morning Senators Duff and Kane, Representatives Jankowski and Buck-Taylor and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to seek approval of my re-appointment as an impartial member of the Department of Education's Arbitration Panel. It is an honor and a privilege to be appointed to this important panel. I thank Governor Malloy for having nominated me to this important post and express my gratitude for his confidence in my ability to serve as a member of this panel.

I have been a resident of Connecticut all my life and currently my wife and I live in Hamden, where we have resided for forty years and raised our two grown sons, who both went through the Hamden school system. I was raised in New Haven and educated in the New Haven school system. My undergraduate education was at Clark University in Massachusetts and I was graduated from Columbia University School of Law. I became a member of the Connecticut Bar in 1971. I have been in the private practice of law for the last forty-five years, first as an associate in a New Haven law firm and then in solo practice and as a partner in a small law firm.

I am currently counsel to the law firm of Shapiro and Epstein in Hamden. During my time in law practice I have also been an assistant town attorney and town attorney for the Town of Hamden. I have served as an instructor teaching legal courses at Quinnipiac University and the University of New Haven, Southern Connecticut and Western Connecticut State Universities and have also presented seminars and prepared seminar materials on legal issues for attorneys, municipal officials and boards and commission members.

I served as a Court-Annexed Arbitrator and Factfinder in the Connecticut Superior Courts for twenty years. I am currently Arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association, the American Dispute Resolution Center, a member of the panel of arbitrators for the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, a Hearing Officer for the Connecticut Department of Education and the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood. I have also been a Hearing officer for the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities.

It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve on this panel which performs the vital function of helping to ensure an orderly resolution of contract negotiations between local Boards of Education and the bargaining representatives of their professional staff. I hope that the Committee will recommend my reappointment and permit me to continue to serve the state as a panel member. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.