

**Testimony of Lisa B. Giliberto submitted to the Executive and Legislative  
Nominations Committee  
February 11, 2016**

Good morning Senator Duff, Representative Janowski, Senator Kane, Representative Buck-Taylor and distinguished members of the Committee. My name is Lisa Giliberto, and it is an honor and privilege to be appointed to the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities by Governor Dannel P. Malloy.

My sincere thanks to this Committee for the opportunity to appear before you to speak on my desire to serve on the Commission.

By way of background, I'm a lawyer and a Glastonbury resident. I attended Tufts University as an undergraduate, and obtained my law degree from the University of Connecticut School of Law. From there, I worked for a small, general-practice Hartford law firm, representing a predominantly minority client base in the fields of criminal defense, personal injury, juvenile law, family law and employment law. I moved on to a medium-sized firm representing businesses in the fields of commercial litigation and corporate law, and on to the real estate and commercial transaction department of another downtown Hartford firm.

In 1998, I was appointed as a Human Rights Referee to the Commission, which resulted in the most fulfilling work of my career. I thoroughly enjoyed my time as a member of the first group of Human Rights Referees appointed to clear up the over 20-year-backlog at the agency. We guaranteed a trial date within a year of reaching the Office of Public Hearings, as well as provided parties with an orderly, predictable schedule of settlement conferences, discovery dates and pre-hearing conferences, prior to a trial. I created the first index of our written decisions, giving parties the first-ever opportunity to research precedent within the agency. We also worked hard to establish our independence from the Commission Counsel's Office, avoiding the pervasive impression held by outside parties of an inherent bias toward a party housed in the same building.

It is this prior experience as a Referee which gives me a unique understanding of how part of the agency operates and will prove helpful in evaluating cases that come before the Commissioners for review. But aside from my previous employment in the Office of Public Hearings, I was most proud of my affiliation with an agency charged with promoting the well being of all Connecticut inhabitants. Its mission to eradicate discrimination and ensure equal opportunity for all is a cause I deeply identify with and feel compelled to advance, both as a Commissioner and as a mother of two daughters. Our state is a leader in the civil rights arena, and our agency, under the direction of the Executive Director, Tanya Hughes, the Deputy

Director, Cheryl Sharp, and Principal Attorney Charles Krich, has set ambitious goals for the coming years. It would be an honor to work toward achievement of those goals.

As I was appointed to the position this past November, I was fortunate to be able to attend three meetings, and complete the ten hours of training required by statute. I also had the pleasure to meet my co-Commissioners and would be thrilled to have the chance to further the agency's goals and responsibilities with them.

I would like to thank you for your time and attention and welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you may have for me.