



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

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**Testimony of the Judicial Branch
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing
March 23, 2016**

**S.B. 468, An Act Concerning the Commission on Human Rights and
Opportunities**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch in opposition to Section 2 (j) of S.B. 468, **An Act Concerning the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities.**

Section 2 of the bill would require the Chief Court Administrator to designate judge trial referees whom the Executive Director of the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) could appoint to act as human rights referees and hear certain complaints normally heard by the Commission. Additionally, the bill would allow the Executive Director to appoint judge trial referees to preside at settlement conferences, whenever the total number of complaints that have not been resolved exceeds one hundred. While we understand that the Commission may have a backlog of cases, we feel strongly that this is an Executive Branch function, which judge trial referees should not be handling. Additionally, we are concerned that this would create the need for judges to recuse themselves from any CHRO case that is commenced or appealed to the Superior Court, which could impact case flow.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.