



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. 471, An Act Concerning Access to Justice

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch regarding S.B. 471, *An Act Concerning Access to Justice*. The Judicial Branch has some concerns with the bill as proposed.

The Judicial Branch currently has a volunteer attorney program similar to the one that this proposal would establish. We have expanded this program, based upon available resources, to many courts across the state. Assistance through this program is available at no charge to parties in family cases, and other matters.

We must also note our concern that legislatively mandating this program and removing much of the Chief Court Administrator's discretion over its administration would significantly impact our very limited fiscal resources.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.