



CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR HOUSING MATTERS



NEXT MEETING
2:00 pm
Wednesday, September 22, 1999
Connecticut Bar Association
101 Corporate Plaza
Rocky Hill
Call 860-721-0025 for directions

MINUTES OF JUNE 16, 1999

Present: Linda François, William Haslun, Liz Casey, Cynthia Teixeira, Sheila Shanklin, Joseph Zibhideo, Brian J. Cameron, Vic Feigenbaum, Suzanne Colosanto, Morris Czaczkes, Paul A. Rosow, Elaine DeNigris, Karin Nigol, Sandra Desrosiers, Ivan Hirsch, Richard Tenebaum, Joe Wincze, Raphael Podolsky, Jessie F. Bennett, David Pels, Charles M. Valentin, Sr., Richard DeParle, Houston Putnam Lowry.

1. Preliminary Matters. The meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m. The minutes of March 10, 1999 were approved.

2. Housing Court Operations Reports.

a. Housing Prosecutors (J. Bennett)

i. Many criminal damages cases being instituted. So far all have pled out because they were blatant fact situations. At least half the defendants were pro se. All advised of their rights by the judge. R. Podolsky raised concerns about whether defendants are discouraged from applying for a public defender before there is an actual determination of ineligibility.

b. Housing Clerks (S. Colasanto)

i. S. Colasanto reported that in the New Britain Courthouse, the ability to do customer service is severely compromised by the size of the paper/speaking slot. In the Hartford courthouse there is still no space for private negotiations. S. Colasanto will report back on efforts to modify the two facilities.

ii. English - Spanish Booklets - S. Colasanto reported that the Tenant's Guide has been sent to the Chief Court Interpreter's office for translation. The english version is complete. The Rights and Responsibilities booklet has been delayed. The text needs to be approved by Joe Delcampo's office. The Landlord's Guide is updated but will not be translated.

iii. Computer issues - V. Feigenbaum reported that all computers are being replaced as a result of y2k. The Hartford Web project is delayed until next year. There will be different links to download available forms.

iv. Bridgeport Sheriff - There has been a sheriff in Bridgeport Housing Court since February. They are trying to get an office on main floor for easy access. Discussion re: wording of new P.A. 157 amendment to 52-57.

v. Magistrate evaluation - R. Podolsky wrote reporting we will not be proceeding further with magistrate evaluations but asking that Housing Clerks be consulted on re-appointments. S. Colasanto reported that clerk's

input is being sought and advice taken. I. Hirsch stated that our magistrate booklet should be reviewed for consistency with current law. Committee to review booklet prior to October magistrate training appointed as follows: I. Hirsch, R. Podolsky, S. Colosanto, S. Desrosiers. R. Podolsky will mail a copy of proposed changes to committee. If there is unanimous agreement the changes will be made.

2C. Housing Specialists. (C. Teixeira)

A mediation clinic with Yale is being considered

3. 1999 Legislation

a. Discussion of new legislation: 1.) new account deals with U+O disclaimer when combining federal forms and gives an example. 2.) Some changes to time frames for mobile home evictions. 3.) P.A. 99-157- Changes time frames for delays after filing motion for judgment for failure to appear. More denials of matters on papers will be allowed without calendaring them. 4.) Statute on fees for service of process "desexified". Discussion re: whether this changes the law on merits. 5.) Housing Authorities allowed to refuse to accept applicants with history of alcoholism. 6.) Discussion re: new tax credits for corporate rehab of historic buildings.

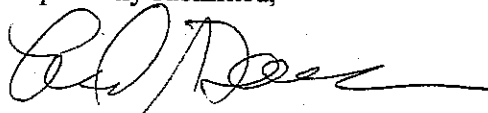
4. New Business

Next judicial assignment recommendations due for Fairfield County.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Next meeting date: September 22, 1999, at 2:00 .

Respectfully submitted,



Linda P. François, secretary