



CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR HOUSING MATTERS



Reply to:

NEXT MEETING

2:00 p.m.
Wednesday, December 15, 1999

Connecticut Bar Association
101 Corporate Place, Rocky Hill

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 22, 1999

Present: Linda François, Cynthia Teixeira, Vic Feigenbaum, Suzanne Colosanto, Morris Czaczkes, Elaine DeNigris, Sandra Desrosiers, Ivan Hirsch, Richard Tenebaum, Joe Wincze, Raphael Podolsky, Jessie F. Bennett, David Pels, David Page, Richard DeParle, Jeff Hammer, Carolyn Comerford, Heriberto Villafone, Beth Duffy, Edmond O'Garro.

1. Preliminary Matters. The meeting was called to order at 2:08 p.m. The minutes of March 16, 1999 were approved.

2. Housing Court Operations Reports.

a. Housing Prosecutors (J. Bennett)

i. New prosecutor hired. Discussion held regarding Community Service sentences in Housing Court v. Community Court. J. Bennett feels Housing Court requires longer hours of service.

b. Housing Clerks (S. Colasanto)

i. S. Colasanto reported that the New Britain Courthouse Clerk's Office is to receive the extra window recommended by the council.

ii. New Developments - no report.

iii. Computer Issues - Clerk's Offices will be getting new computers within (1) year. After they arrive, they will implement a new Housing Session program which will be more user-friendly. Once that is implemented, it will be put on the web for general access.

iv. Pamphlets - Tenants Guide is still in translation. Rights and Responsibilities will be translated once the new English version is completed. Raphael will try to speed process as there are no Spanish pamphlets currently in circulation.

v. Magistrate Book - Committee reviewed the current edition. Only the interest rate needs updating, therefore it is not worth re-printing at this time. S. Colasanto reported that when she gives seminars to the magistrates, she will include the new rates. When we do a new edition, we will flag changes up front.

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C. Housing Specialists. (C. Teixeira)

i. ~~Hartford~~ mediation clinic has proven highly successful in Small Claims Court. Planning remains underway to extend the clinic to other courts.

ii. Computers - Housing Specialists do not currently have computers for their separate use for stipulation, etc. The council resolved to recommend that each Housing Specialist receive a computer with network access. H. Lowry was designated to contact judicial. R. Podolsky will discuss with H. Lowry.

3. Judicial Appointments. All three housing court judges reappointed.

4. Old Business - none.

5. New Business

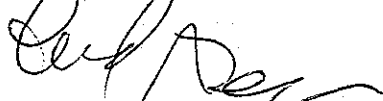
i. Hartford Telephone System - New sonitrol system results in hang-ups. V. Feigenbaum is working on it. Will keep chairman informed.

ii. Code Enforcement - Discussion of current law regarding when code violations are a defense to eviction and regarding Payment into Court system. Discussion also held regarding possible under-utilization of this process. Constant outreach deemed desirable.

Meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Next meeting date: December 15, 1999, at 2:00.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda P. François, Secretary