



# CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR HOUSING MATTERS



Reply to:

## MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2000

**Present:** Linda François, Judith Rothschild, Keith Currier, Richard DeParle, Richard Tenenbaum, Sandra Desrosiers, Raphael Podolsky, Jeffrey Hammer, David Pels, Anthony Brooks, Peter Blasini, Sandra Rodriguez, Houston Putnam Lowry, Joe Wincze.

**1. Preliminary Matters.** Agenda approved and minutes of June 14, 2000 approved.

L. François resigning as secretary, S. Desrosier will take over as secretary next meeting.

**2. Judge Assignment Report.** Bridgeport & New Haven judges reassigned consistent with position of council. Judge Sullivan originally assigned to Hartford but ill and anticipated to be out 6-8 weeks. Judge Beech is filling in.

**3. Housing Court Operations Reports.**

**a. Housing Prosecutors**

i. Public Defenders(PD) - satisfied with the procedure now in place to inform litigants of right to a PD. Notification was not a problem in all courts.

ii. Prosecutor Manual - tabled until job opening for Supervisor for Housing Matters statewide is filled. Position will provide a link between Chief State's Attorney and Housing Prosecutors, decimate policy and coordinate action.

iii. Police Academy Training Curriculum - Tabled until next meeting and new hire. J. Rothschild will forward request to Mr. Murano so new hire will work on it.

iv. Case tracking in GA Courts - System to be able to track criminal housing cases. J. Rothschild is preparing a list of statutes Housing Prosecutors utilize. Hopes to release it to us soon. Up to 60 statutes - 40 generally used. It would be helpful for Housing Prosecutors to be able to recognize them easily. This is another issue for the new supervisor.

v. Other developments -

K. Currier reported that motor vehicle cases are being removed from Norwich and New London and therefore he will be able to concentrate more on Housing and outreach.

**b. Housing Clerks** - Vic Feigenbaum, Hartford clerk of 15 years resigned and is going into private practice. J. Hammer, Bridgeport clerk is acting clerk in Hartford. Clerk position needs to be posted quickly. R. Podolsky will contact Joe D'Alesio to check status of posting.

i. Small claims booklet for magistrates - consensus of committee that no charge required except for interest rates on security deposits. S. Colosanto will send usual memo to magistrates with that information.

Other changes - Security deposit law - maximum \$3500 for small claims effective 10/1, but if doubling damages puts case over threshold, small claims court may still award it. Committee to be reconferred on issue of whether to reprint for this purpose or just do update page.

ii. Hartford Housing Court - phone system continues to be problem. Phones still cutting people off without putting them on hold. Houston will continue to press for a solution.

iii. Pamphlet update - both versions translated but neither printed.

iv. Bridgeport Relocation. Future location still uncertain. Superior Court space adequate if properly moved there. J. Hammer reported that the worst case would be a hasty move to inadequate space. R. Podolsky stated that there is always a risk of bad interim space being made permanent. Council should be a part of early process. Bridgeport facility sub-committee, particulars R. DeParle and I. Hirsh, should make themselves a participant in Judicial Department meetings. If they have a problem getting included, will report to R. Podolsky, who will report it to Joe D'Alesio.

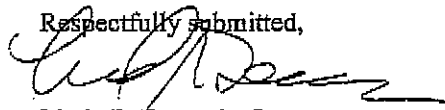
v. Entry of Default Judgments - Consensus of committee that less than 48 hours is not adequate notice of stipulation default affidavit and new language of practice book will allow such notice particularly when hand filing occurs. Discussion of preferable language such as "until second business day, not less than 48 hours". Will revisit issue again in December.

**4. Draft Report.**

Motion made to adopt draft revision. Discussion followed. R. Podolsky directed to make suggested revisions. Council will review changes at December meeting and vote on their adoption.

The Meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.  
next meeting 12/13/00

Respectfully submitted,



Linda P. Francois, Secretary

/advisory/2000/acmin6

**NEXT MEETING**

**2:00 p.m.**

**Wednesday, December 13, 2000**

Connecticut Bar Association  
30 Bank St., New Britain  
(860-223-4400 for directions)