

## CBA LPRC POSITION REQUEST FORM

The CBA Pro Bono Committee Law **position request** is as follows:

- 1) Proposed legislative or regulatory concept: SB 377 – An Act Concerning Access to Legal Counsel for Children in Immigration Proceedings. Section 1 provides that the Judicial Branch establish and administer a legal aid program to provide legal counsel to an eligible respondent in proceedings related to removal, or family reunification/placement with a sponsor, or applying for temporary or permanent status. Section 2 establishes a task force to study (1) the unmet legal needs of indigent state residents subject to removal proceedings, and (2) the mechanisms available in the state to deliver and pay for legal representation.
- 2) Explanation and rationale for advancing this position: This bill will provide more pro bono opportunities for attorneys in Connecticut. The Pro Bono Committee has unanimously supported similar bills in the past.
- 3) Is draft regulation, legislation or proposed bill included? Yes.
- 4) What is the date of any legislative hearing, if known? Public hearing was held on March 9<sup>th</sup>.
- 5) Was this position previously approved by the CBA? If so, when does/did it expire? This bill is substantively similar to SB 654, which the LPRC re-authorized in September 2019.
- 6) Is the CBA section or committee seeking to join a previously approved CBA section or committee position?
- 7) Potential or actual CBA opposition from another CBA section or committee? None anticipated.
- 8) Strength of section position (including process and results of section vote taken on issue):  
Unanimous support.
- 9) Fiscal impact (on the state): paragraph (c) provides that for the fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2020, the Office of the Attorney General, utilizing transfer invoices, shall remit eight hundred thousand dollars to the Judicial Branch from moneys received by the Office of the Attorney General in connection with the settlement of any lawsuit to which the state is a party. Moneys remitted to the Judicial Branch shall be used for the provision of legal counsel to eligible respondents, as provided in subsection (b) of this section.
- 10) Are you seeking “fast-track” approval?<sup>1</sup> No.

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<sup>1</sup> A “fast track” recommendation will be submitted to the House of Delegates (HOD) or Board of Governors (BOG) at its next scheduled meeting (or, if between meetings of the HOD or BOG and during the legislative session, to the Executive Committee), and is warranted only when the Legislative Policy & Review Committee concludes that further analysis and study is unnecessary and where there is legitimate time pressure to address pending legislation.