

CBA LPRC POSITION REQUEST FORM

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

- 1) Proposed legislative or regulatory concept:
An Act Concerning Access to Legal Counsel for Indigent Individuals in Certain Civil Matters Involving Allegations of Abuse, Committee Bill No. 364.
- 2) A plain language explanation and rationale for advancing this position:
This bill would establish a pilot program for counsel for indigents in civil restraining orders under CGS 46b-15. Currently applicants and respondents without sufficient funds lack access to counsel. This bill arises out of the Task Force for Right to Counsel in Civil Matters.

This bill fits squarely within the Pro Bono Committee's mission to facilitate the delivery of competent legal services to the public, particularly those in the greatest need. Although it was not enacted in 2017, having this bill on the CBA's legislative agenda will strongly emphasize the CBA's commitment to expanding pro bono representation. Furthermore, it is likely that we will see similar bills in the future; pointing out that those bills align with the CBA's legislative agenda will increase the chance the HOD will authorize supporting them.
- 3) Is draft regulation, legislation or proposed bill included?
No.
- 4) What is the date of any legislative hearing, if known?
No hearing scheduled.
- 5) Was this position previously approved by the CBA? If so, when does/did it expire?
Yes. Approved by the HOD on June 19, 2017, expired at the end of the 2020 Legislative Session.
- 6) Is the CBA section or committee seeking to join a previously approved CBA section or committee position?
No.
- 7) Potential or actual CBA opposition from another CBA section or committee?
None expected.
- 8) Strength of section position (including process and results of section vote taken on issue):
Unanimous.
- 9) Fiscal impact (on the state):
The Attorney General would have had to deposit up to 1 million dollars, received in connection with settlement of any lawsuit to which the State was a party, into the General Fund.
- 10) Are you seeking "fast-track" approval?¹
No.

¹ 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.