



## **VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

September 27, 2019

Rules Committee of the Superior Court Attn: Joseph J. Del Ciampo, Counsel P.O. Box 150474 Hartford, CT 06115-0474 Joseph.DelCiampo@jud.ct.gov

Re: Proposed Amendment to Practice Book Section 11-19

Dear Rules Committee,

We write on behalf of the undersigned legal services programs to submit this comment regarding Attorney Cohen's proposal to amend Practice Book Section 11-19 to set a time limit for deciding short calendar matters. The proposal would require a trial court to make a decision on pendente lite issues in family cases within 30 days after the completion of the hearing. The three direct service legal services organizations in Connecticut, Greater Hartford Legal Aid (GHLA), Connecticut Legal Services (CLS), and New Haven Legal Association Association (NHLAA), support this proposal.

Our legal services organizations represent victims of domestic violence in family matters. We certainly appreciate the need to reduce the time that such persons must wait to obtain critical court-ordered pendente lite support orders. In our experience, undue delay is not an issue because judges assigned to the Family Division often issue pendente lite support rulings from the bench or in just a few days. However, to the extent this is an issue in some courthouses, our attorneys support this rule change. Since the proposed amendment to the rule is not a departure from current practice in many courthouses, it should not be burdensome.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment and thank the Committee for its consideration.

## Respectfully submitted,

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