

The Chief Judge's Hearings on Civil Legal Services

The Hon. Jonathan Lippman, Chief Judge of the State of New York, will be conducting four public hearings to assess the extent and nature of unmet civil legal services needs in all parts of the State in order to recommend to the Legislature and the Executive the level of public resources necessary to meet those needs. Providing funding for these services for low-income New Yorkers will greatly improve their chances of keeping or securing basic necessities — the keys to safety, stability and self sufficiency — and help build stronger, more stable communities, producing taxpayer savings at all levels of government.

The Chief Judge will conduct one hearing in each of the four Appellate Division Departments together with the Presiding Justice of that Judicial Department (Presiding Justice Luis A. Gonzalez of the First Department, Presiding Justice A. Gail Prudenti of the Second Department, Presiding Justice Anthony V. Cardona of the Third Department, and Presiding Justice Henry J. Scudder of the Fourth Department), Chief Administrative Judge Ann Pfau, and the President of the New York State Bar Association, Stephen P. Younger.

THE HEARINGS WILL TAKE PLACE AS FOLLOWS:

FIRST DEPARTMENT

September 28, 2010.....10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Appellate Division
27 Madison Avenue, New York City

FOURTH DEPARTMENT

September 29, 2010.....11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Appellate Division
50 East Avenue, Rochester

THIRD DEPARTMENT

October 5, 2010.....10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Court of Appeals
20 Eagle Street, Albany

SECOND DEPARTMENT

October 7, 2010.....10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Appellate Division
45 Monroe Place, Brooklyn

The purpose of the public hearings is to receive the views of interested individuals, organizations and entities about the unmet need for civil legal services for low-income New Yorkers in matters in which their basic human needs, and those of their families, are at stake. The hearing panels seek information on the following issues:

- The particular types of situations or cases in which current civil legal services needs are unmet and their magnitude.
- The categories of individuals whose unmet legal needs currently are especially critical.
- Data on the impact of the economic downturn on sources of funding for civil legal services.
- Impact on courts of increasing numbers of unrepresented litigants.
- The economic and social harm to the community (direct and/or indirect) when critical legal needs are unmet.
- The economic and social benefits to the community when such needs are met.

THE CHIEF JUDGE'S HEARING PANEL WILL CONSIDER BOTH ORAL TESTIMONY (BY INVITATION ONLY) AND WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS. Persons interested in presenting oral testimony or making a written submission are asked to follow the procedures and deadlines described below. Please note that the Hearing Panel can not accept any comments, written or spoken, addressing details of individual litigation or complaints about individual judges or attorneys.

Because of the limited time available for the hearings, oral testimony must be by invitation only. If you are interested in being invited to testify at a hearing, you should send an email to CivilLegalServices@nycourts.gov **no later than 14 days in advance of the hearing** at which you propose to testify. **Proposed testimony should be no more than 10 minutes in length.** If requesting an invitation, please (1) identify yourself and your affiliation (and if you are requesting an invitation for someone else to testify, that individual's name and affiliation); (2) attach a prepared statement or a detailed outline of the proposed testimony and specify which of the topics described above will be addressed; (2) indicate at which of the hearings the testimony is proposed to be given. In advance of the hearing, invitations to testify will be issued and will include an approximate time period for each presenter's testimony. For those not invited to present oral testimony, your proposed testimony will be deemed a written submission.

Persons unable to attend the hearing, or those interested only in making a written submission, may submit their remarks by emailing them to CivilLegalServices@nycourts.gov **at least seven (7) days in advance of the hearing,** or by mailing the submission to the Task Force to Expand Access to Civil Legal Services in New York at the address below. The Task Force is assisting the Chief Judge in preparing for the hearings and in reporting on its results.

The Task Force to Expand Access to Civil Legal Services

c/o Marcia Levy, Esq.
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For further information about the hearings, please visit the Task Force's website
www.nycourts.gov/ip/access-civil-legal-services