



Charles DellaRocco
President

Ron Nelson
Vice President

Efrem Golden
Secretary-Treasurer

Kristy Porter
Recording Secretary

Charles Marino
Northwest Regional VP

Dana Beecham-Brown
North Central Regional VP

Tracey Doulens
Northeast Regional VP

vacant
Central Regional VP

Alex Santiago
Southwest Regional VP

Betsy Bryan
South Central Regional VP

Maria Lindia
Southeast Regional VP

Ian Shackleton
Advisor to the Executive Board

vacant
Chief Steward

Anthony Duarte
Chief Steward, DCJ

vacant
Trustee

Joe Reilly
Trustee

vacant
Trustee

John DeVito
Staff Representative

Wayne Marshall
Field Representative

Sontonye Otunba-Payne
Council Vice President

Salvatore Luciano
*Executive Director,
Council 4, CT,
International VP*

Judiciary Committee Public Hearing Testimony - May 22, 2017

Chairman Tong, Chairman Doyle, Chairman Kissel and Members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Charles DellaRocco. I am a State Supreme Court Police Officer and President of Local 749 of Council 4 AFSCME. Our union proudly represents more than 1,500 front-line employees in the Judicial Branch, Officer of Public Defender and Division of Criminal Justice.

In this time of economic hardship and budgetary challenges for the State of Connecticut and its citizens, we you to oppose the creation of 20 new judgeships.

We can find no record of the Judicial Branch requesting the large number of judges that appear to be on the verge of being named. We are aware that there are two state supreme court vacancies that need to be filled. We are not aware of any other need for judges.

The ranks of Judicial Branch employees are already thin. We have a need for more front-line workers in the aftermath of last year’s layoffs. Our members are the unappreciated but vital cogs in the judicial and criminal justice system. Yet, there seems to be no demonstrable need for so many judges.

As we all know, the governor’s proposed budget calls for the layoff of more than 4,000 workers if no labor agreement is reached with state employee unions. The impact of losing more dedicated employees would bring the judicial branch past the breaking point.

I want to be clear. Our union has no problem with the qualifications of those nominees listed for hearing today. We are sure that they are fine people. But when our members are asked to make sizeable economic concessions or face being laid off because of the dire economic climate, and at the same time witness the appointment of several generously paid judges, their morale suffers even more.

Please consider the optics. The State and the Branch are spending money unwisely on essentially life time appointments for managerial level employees, while asking its lowest paid to give back – or face the unemployment line. It makes no sense and it sends the absolute wrong message to my members.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions.