

Gerry- Sorry I am just receiving your voicemail message- here is basically the text of my update to Justice Wilkins- let me know if you need it as a separate document in a certain format. Hope all is well.

#### SMALL CLAIMS-

Chief Justice Mulligan has now approved the recommendations made by Chief Justice Connolly on the proposals from the Interdepartmental Working Group on small claims. As a result, the Administrative Office of the District Court is now in the process of drafting amendments to the Uniform Small Claims Rules and Trial Court Small Claims Standards as well as several legislative changes required to implement the proposals. The drafting process should be completed by the end of the summer at which time comments on the amendments will be solicited from a wide range of small claim users, including representatives of the bar and consumer groups similar to the depth of representation on the Interdepartmental Working Group. The amendments will then be forwarded to the CJAM for promulgation, in the case of the Trial Court Small Claims Standards, and to the SJC in the case of changes to the small claims rules.

#### DISTRICT COURT DOMESTIC ABUSE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GROUP

This District Court Committee has taken on the crucial task of reviewing the guidelines on Abuse Prevention Proceedings, now more than 7 years old, and proposing revisions. As these are Trial Court guidelines, CJAM will have to approve all revisions and then promulgate them. Given the importance of the guidelines in providing up-to-date case law and information concerning best practices in this area of the law, the District Court and the Professional Development Group thought it was important to begin this process sooner rather than later. The Committee intends to seek input from and work closely with the Probate and Family Court Department as difficult subjects of mutual concern are addressed in the course of our drafting.

#### DOMESTIC ABUSE INTERDEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP

This interdepartmental working group continues to focus on issues of common concern to each of the Trial Court Departments whose jurisdiction includes c. 209A. Its immediate goal is to further enhance coordination and cooperation among these departments to ensure the seamless delivery of all necessary court services particularly when parties begin in one court and find it necessary to follow up in another. The group members have been asked to formulate clear practices and, if necessary, formulate alternative policies and procedures and report back to their respective department Chiefs as to any joint proposal developed by the working group. When Chief Justice Connolly was before your Commission she was asked whether and when this Interdepartmental Committee intended to conduct hearings or solicit input from members of the public. The working group has been defined as undertaking an internal development process. It's recommendations will be made to the Chief Justices of the various departments and through them to the CJAM.