

## \*\*\*Volunteer Attorneys Needed\*\*\*

As the Hartford Judicial District Volunteer Attorney Pilot Program approaches its final month, the Self-represented Parties Workgroup would like to send out a heartfelt thank you to all of the attorneys who participated in the Volunteer Attorney Program. We would also like to announce that due to its success, the Volunteer Attorney Program will resume in September. This time around the Program will run for a period of nine (9) months, beginning on September 8, 2010 and ending on May 25, 2011, the last Wednesday before Memorial Day.

If you would like to volunteer or, if you have questions about the program, please contact Krista Hess at Court Operations at 860-263-2734 or [Krista.Hess@jud.ct.gov](mailto:Krista.Hess@jud.ct.gov).

This pilot program utilizes the services of volunteer attorneys to provide legal advice and assistance to self-represented parties who have or may be commencing domestic and/or family support magistrate cases.

As of June 23, 2010, Hartford's Volunteer Attorney Program has assisted over 225 self-represented parties in the area of family law. To date, preliminary feedback has been very positive. 93% of self-represented parties who participated in the program and responded to the exit survey said they understood the court process better because they met with the volunteer attorney and 97% said they would recommend the program to other self-represented parties.

The Volunteer Attorney Program will once again work in cooperation with the Court Service Centers and the Judicial Branch law libraries to provide additional assistance to self-represented parties who might otherwise be unable to benefit from the assistance of counsel.

The volunteer attorneys will meet with self-represented parties in designated courtroom space at 90 Washington Street on Wednesday mornings from 9:00am-11:00am. Two attorneys per advice session will be scheduled.

Parking in the lot behind 80 Washington Street will be provided for attorneys participating in the Advice Days pilot program on the days they are volunteering.