

COURT BULLETIN

April 2016

House Budget Released & Amendments Filed

On April 13, the House Ways and Means Committee recommended a FY17 Trial Court budget of \$639.8 million, of which \$637 million is for maintenance funding plus \$2.8 million for additional specialty court funding.

Working with Representative John Fernandes, the House Chair of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary, court leaders submitted two amendments to the original budget proposal to increase maintenance funding and better support the day-to-day operations of the criminal justice system:

- Amendment 470 requests an additional \$2 million to help replace court screening stations and closed circuit television systems that are 10+ years old, and;
- Amendment 474 requests a \$17.3 million increase in the maintenance budget request to the House Ways and Means initial recommendation of \$637 million.

Court leaders continue to meet with our legislative partners on budget issues.

Next month, the Senate Ways and Means Committee will introduce its proposed FY17 Budget.

Makes the case: [Massachusetts Trial Court: Creating Systemic Change for the 21st Century](#)

Strategic Planning Teams Report Progress

Co-leaders and project managers for each of the six focus areas in Strategic Plan 2.0 updated the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) on April 14th.

Proposed tactical plans were presented and discussed in the following areas:

- organizational decision making and support
- the judicial experience
- next generation technology
- access to justice and the court user experience
- talent and career development
- case flow management

Chief Justice Carey and Court Administrator Spence commended the teams' progress at the end of the all-day, interactive session at the Worcester Law Library. "The work you've accomplished over the past six weeks is truly impressive. It demonstrates very serious commitment to the

future of the Trial Court."

Next steps. At the May SLT meeting, Probation will report progress of its four planning committees that are examining business processes, services, practices and workforce development. That work will be integrated into the final version of Strategic Plan 2.0, as will operations plans for security and facilities.

Planning teams will present final reports on June 6th and the SLT will finalize Strategic Plan 2.0 by the end of June.

Who's who: [See the list of SP 2.0 team members](#)

ELMO Center Introduces Cutting Edge Technology to Protect Public



Real-time results: *Statewide ELMO Manager Daniel Pires waits for test results as he demonstrates the new SCRAM Remote Breath system. ELMO, a department of the Massachusetts Probation Service, is the only division of the Trial Court that operates around the clock, every day of the year. The Clinton-based facility is responsible for continuously tracking some 3,500 probationers across the Commonwealth. Approximately 470 individuals use the portable alcohol monitoring system as part of their probation conditions.*

Cheaters, beware: SCRAM is here. ELMO recently introduced SCRAM (Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitoring), a handheld, wireless breath alcohol testing unit that uses advanced facial recognition software to provide a more accurate way to track probationers who are court ordered to remain alcohol free.

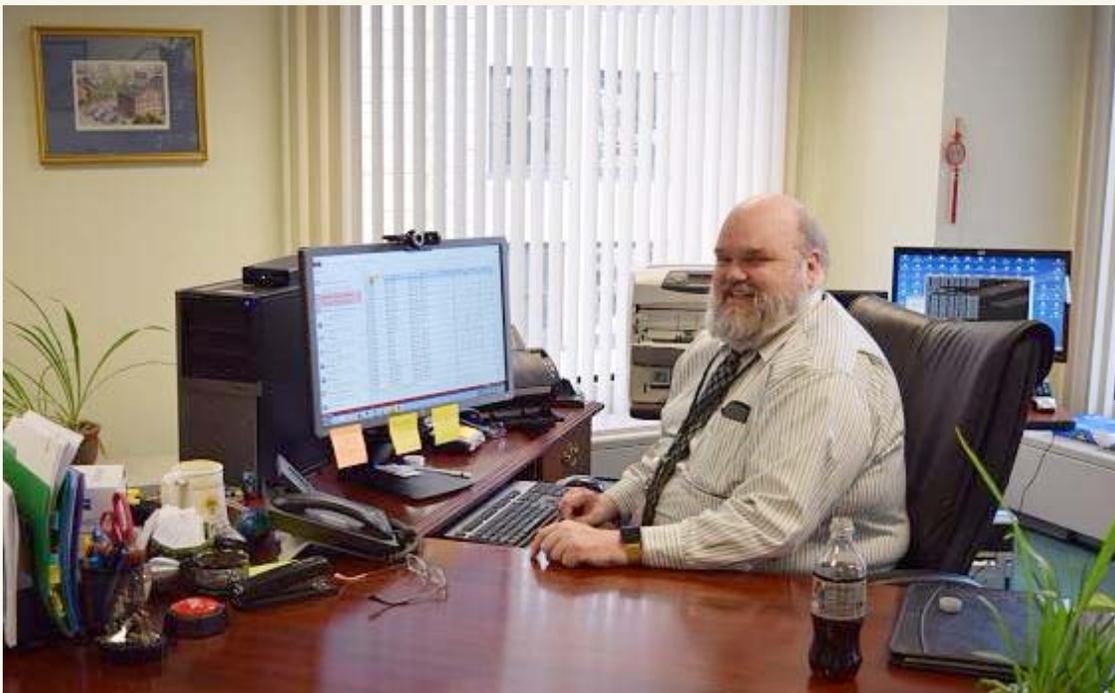
Implemented last November, the new alcohol monitoring device, designed by 3M and SCRAM

Systems, provides fast, accurate transmittal of alcohol related alerts to the Massachusetts Probation Service's 24-hour a day ELMO Center. SCRAM's wireless and Ethernet connectivity offers more continuous network coverage than the former land-line based alcohol testing device.

How it works. Probationers using SCRAM are typically tested for alcohol a few times a day. Daily testing schedules, guided by court orders, are developed by Probation Officers. In addition to scheduled tests, SCRAM also allows for probationers to be tested on demand by the Massachusetts Probation Service.

[Read More](#)

Q&A with Chief Information Officer Craig Burlingame



Mr. Burlingame's IT career spans over 30 years with state and municipal government, including stints as the first cabinet level CIO for Boston Mayor Thomas Menino; as Executive Director for the Criminal History Systems Board, and CIO for the Executive Office of Public Safety. He served as chair for the executive committee of the national Court Information Technology Officers Consortium. As the Judiciary's Chief Information Officer (CIO), he manages the way the organization uses information and technology to accomplish its mission. Mr. Burlingame is responsible for technology service delivery, support of over 7,000 computers and 3,000 printers throughout the organization, the Trial Court data network, telephone and video conferencing systems, and the application portfolio for the organization, including email, internet access, and MassCourts.

What do you feel is the greatest misconception about the Judicial Information Services Department (JISD) and its role within the Trial Court?

That we make business decisions about how various systems should work. We are here to

assist the court departments in understanding what is possible using the various systems we operate, but in the end it is the individual court leaders throughout the system who are responsible for making business decisions about how our technology is configured to work.

Another misconception is that we track people's email and internet use. Frankly, we don't have the time or bandwidth - or even the interest, unless we are alerted to look into a flagrant case of abuse.

[Read More](#)

On the Hill...

Legislators Updated on Bail Reform Progress



Letting the data tell the story. Department of Research and Planning (DRAP) Director Linda Holt presents the latest statistics on bail and pre-trial release for the District Court and Boston Municipal Court (BMC) earlier this month during a Legislative hearing on bail reform at the State House.

Of the 184,000 cases disposed in four District and BMC courts, DRAP found that 91.2% of defendants were released, including those released with bail conditions. DRAP will soon expand its bail-related analyses to include all District, Boston Municipal, and Superior Courts. Probation Commissioner Edward Dolan briefed legislators on Probation's new risk assessment tool and its impact on pre-trial guidelines, while District Court Chief Justice Paul Dawley spoke about his department's expanding access to the services offered by the Office of Community Corrections, and the new judicial guidelines on bail.

"Funding Our Trial Courts" Legislative Briefing Draws Crowd



From left, Representative Shauna O'Connell, Representative John Scibak, Representative James Cantwell, Trial Court Chief Justice Paula Carey, Court Administrator Harry Spence, Representative Thomas Sannicandro, and Representative Michael Day were among those at the Legislative briefing: "Funding Our Trial Courts - Administering Justice, Reducing Recidivism, and Preventing Crime" held earlier this month at the State House.

Hosted by Representatives Cantwell and Sannicandro, the briefing focused on the Trial Court's FY17 Budget priorities, including operations, court security system needs, specialty courts, and the statewide expansion of the Housing Court. "The court system is relying more and more on data and evidence-based practices to track measurable results," said Chief Justice Carey at the event. "This data-driven approach helps us to determine which initiatives and programs are the most effective. It enables us to remain focused on outcomes, which drives everything we do."

SJC Hosts Bar Leaders at the Adams Courthouse



From left, Saraa Basaria from the South Asian Bar Association of Greater Boston at the SJC's Bench

Bar reception with Massachusetts LGBTQ Bar Association Co-Chair Nan Sauer and Probate and Family Court Chief Justice Angela Ordoñez.

The Supreme Judicial Court recently hosted its annual event for bar leaders, drawing a diverse crowd. In opening remarks, Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Ralph Gants and Massachusetts Bar Association President Robert Harnais mentioned the funding challenges the judicial branch faces. Mr. Harnais stressed the ongoing need for legislators to visit their local courthouses regularly in order to see first-hand how the budget affects the constituents they serve.

"The Legislature is well aware of the budget numbers and the cost. But they need to also see the people we serve," said Attorney Harnais, illustrating his point with examples of a domestic violence victim filing an order of protection, and a family working with a housing specialist to avoid eviction.

Trial Court Chief Justice Paula Carey gave an overview of the various initiatives and accomplishments resulting from Strategic Plan 1.0. Court Administrator Harry Spence spoke about the Trial Court's maintenance budget, the amount required to maintain current operations, as well as some additional budget "modules" or priorities, such as specialty courts and security systems enhancements.

A panel on Lawyer for the Day programs asked the Bar for help recruiting experienced lawyers to volunteer their services. The panel noted that skilled interpreters are also urgently needed.

Panel participants included retired District Court Judge Patrick Fox, who noticed a particular demand for pro bono lawyers in small claims sessions. Judge Fox said that the program is a "practical application of the court's access to justice efforts, which affect everyone in Massachusetts."

Earth Day... It's Here: Single Stream Recycling



What is it? Single stream recycling lets us recycle a wide variety of materials without exposing employees to the hazards of hand sorting recyclable materials from rubbish. As the name implies, single stream recycling allows Facilities to collect all recyclable materials commingled in a single container. Using this method, courts can recycle paper, cardboard and glass without having to sort each material into separate containers. This not only protects our staff and saves us a significant amount of time, but makes it easier to recycle--no more excuses.

Who has it? While most state-owned courthouses have single stream recycling (see link below for the list), those that don't must wait until their current contracts expire to make the switch. For county owned and leased courthouses, single stream recycling has to be included on a case-by-case as part of their individual leases. We will provide

updates as courthouses are added to the single stream list.

Toner/ink cartridge disposal. Used toner and ink cartridges cannot be thrown in with the regular trash, and they cannot be recycled as part of the single stream recycling. They do require recycling, but from a specialty vendor specifically set up for this type of waste. The Operational Services Division (OSD) has established state-approved contracts with office supply vendors to handle safe disposal of print cartridges.

How it works: When you purchase toners and ink cartridges through the state contract, please keep the original packaging, which contains a pre-paid shipping label that you can use to return the spent cartridge. All you need to do is put the used cartridge back in its original box and ship it using the pre-paid label to a recycling vendor.

Click to see...

- [Materials Suitable for Recycling](#)
- [Courthouses with Single Stream Recycling](#)
- [11 Facts about Recycling](#)
- [Recycling poster from Republic Services](#)

It's Back: The Green Team

Pay it forward. Facilities Management Deputy Director Tony Duros is looking for new members to help re-launch the Green Team. Past accomplishments have included verifying LEED certification of courthouses, collecting hundreds of cellphones for soldiers, introducing paper and single stream recycling at state-owned court locations, saving the courts more than \$4.4 million in reduced energy and utility costs since FY09, and running annual e-waste collection efforts resulting in over 50,000 pounds of electronic waste diverted from landfills. There are new initiatives underway for energy reduction, green cleaning, recycling and carpool/vanpool options for employees.



Are you in? To get involved, email green.team@jud.state.ma.us or call 617-788-6750.

Share your Law Day photos...

What's your court doing for Law Day? Send your Law Day celebration photos to execofc@jud.state.ma.us so we can feature them in the May issue of the *Bulletin*.

Read your monthly *Bulletin*...

If you still can't see *Court Bulletin* photos or links, or have issues with your email in general, call the JISD Help Desk at [617-878-0245](tel:617-878-0245) or [try this quick solution](#)>>



Coming Up in May:

- Norfolk Juvenile Court Probation Programs Help Strengthen Families
- Courts Celebrate Law Day Across the State