

Subject: This month in the Trial Court: Gov. signs FY18 budget; Housing Court expands statewide; Judges observing judges; New time saving software & interfaces at work

COURT BULLETIN

July-August 2017

Upcoming Events:

- September 1: Deadline to register for Court Officer exam
 - September 28: Cultural Appreciation Day, various courthouses (see below)
 - September 28: Seventy Years Since Nuremberg, SJC event, Adams Courthouse
 - September 8 - 29: 2017 Excellence Award nominations
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Governor Signs FY18 State Budget

Retirement Incentive Part of Court Leaders' Cost Saving Efforts

On July 17, Governor Baker signed the Commonwealth's FY18 budget. His only change to the Judiciary budgets approved by the Legislature was a \$250,000 reduction in funding allocated for the Housing Court expansion.

The Trial Court's final appropriation for FY18 includes \$652.6 million, in addition to \$750,000 for the Housing Court expansion and \$3 million to implement criminal justice reforms recommended by the Council of State Governments.

"This appropriation is \$8.8 million below our maintenance budget, which represents a significant difference to address," said Court Administrator Jon Williams. "Chief Justice Carey and I have discussed with court leaders cost saving measures within the budget that will enable the Trial Court to manage current operations at the level of funding received."

The recently announced Retirement Incentive Program for retirement eligible employees to be off the payroll by September 1 is one such example.

Read it: [FY18 Retirement Incentive Program - Memorandum](#)

Housing Court Expands Statewide

Department Will Serve All Cities and Towns in Commonwealth

As mentioned above, the Commonwealth's final FY18 budget included the expansion of the Housing Court Department.

As a result, two million people in 84 cities and towns in Barnstable, Middlesex, Norfolk, Suffolk, Dukes, and Nantucket counties will soon have access to a Housing Court.

The Housing Court Department will serve all Massachusetts cities and towns by expanding existing divisions, creating a new sixth division, and adding five new judges.

"I would like to thank our partners on the Hill for their support over the years to help us achieve our goal of creating a Housing Court that is truly accessible for all Massachusetts residents," said Trial Court Chief Justice Paula Carey.

"This is a very exciting time to be part of the court's expansion," said Housing Court Chief Justice Timothy Sullivan. "Over the next couple of months, we will work with the Housing 4 All Coalition, the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, and others to gather feedback and determine the court's next steps, including an assessment of resources and implementation timeline."

See it: [Housing Court Map of Expansion Proposal](#)

Cape Cod Times: [Advocates applaud expansion of housing court to Cape](#)

Judges Observing Judges: Learning from Each Other



Judges are pairing up with colleagues to observe and learn from each other, and to continuously improve their skills as judges and leaders within the court system.

You may have recognized a judge observing a recent session in your courtroom, and wondered why that judge was there.

"Many professionals, including educators and doctors, are regularly observed by peers or mentors as part of their professional development," explains Trial Court Chief Justice Paula Carey. "We're proud of the excellent judges in our system, and what better way to learn than from the experts, our own colleagues," she says...

[Read more](#)

Save the Date: Cultural Appreciation Day

Statewide event set for Thursday, September 28.

Many courthouses across the state will participate in a Cultural Appreciation Day on [September 28](#). Planning began as part of the Massachusetts Probation Service (MPS) strategic plan goal on Workforce Diversity and Cultural Competence.



"It will be a day that is rich in celebration and appreciation of the diversity across the Trial Court and its communities," says Probation Regional Supervisor Pamerson Ifill, an event organizer.

Events will vary by participating courthouses, and will range from foods from different cultures to a book discussion.

Report Ranks Mass. in Top 5 for Online SRL Services

The Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System (IAALS) at the University of Denver recently conducted a nationwide inventory of state courts' online resources for self-represented litigants (SRLs). The report, *Court Compass: Mapping the Future of User Access through Technology*, cited Massachusetts as one of the top five states in the country for its range of online services offered for SRLs.

In order, the IAALS report ranks the five states with the widest range of online services for SRLs as California, New York, Massachusetts, Arizona and Utah. IAALS also identified emergent or trending technologies for state judiciaries as: online dispute resolution (ODR), litigant case manager with an online portal, and case alerts and tracking.

Read it. [Court Compass: Mapping the Future of User Access through Technology](#)

IT Update

New Time-Saving Software and Interfaces at Work

PrinterLogic makes it easy to connect to printers at any court location. PrinterLogic is a web application that makes it easier to connect with available Trial Court network printers at any courthouse. To add a networked printer to your work station, click on the printer icon with the green plus "+" sign shown along the bottom right-hand corner of your monitor, which links to <http://printers.jud.state.ma.us/>. You can also access PrinterLogic from your Windows Start button, where you can select All Programs>>Printer Installer>>Add Printer.

Public Safety - e-Citation Initiative and RMV FAST replacement for ALARS. The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) has partnered with the Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) and the Merit Rating Board to develop an e-Citation system that will be used by police departments to issue motor vehicle citations. This data will be shared with the courts using the existing Electronic Application for Criminal Complaint (EACC) and CMVI hearing request and disposition reporting interfaces. The RMV is also replacing its

automated licensing and registration system (ALARS) with a new system called RMV FAST

Probate and Family Court looks forward to new interfaces with DOR:

New MassCourts/DOR Child Support Enforcement Interface. JISD and the Probate and Family Court Department are working with the Department of Revenue (DOR) on a set of interfaces designed to reduce the time spent by court and DOR employees processing cases. The new interfaces will support e-filing, scheduling, and transmission of documents between the Probate and Family courts and DOR. The interfaces are in development with an expected December start date.

Child Support Title IV-D Matching and Reporting. JISD and the Probate and Family Court are also working with DOR to automate the reporting of Title IV-D child support and enforcement time and effort data. This interface is in final testing at DOR, and is expected to be moved into production this fall..

Coming soon: 2017 Excellence Awards



2016 Excellence Awards, Adams Courthouse, Boston.

Wanted: Examples of Excellence. The Trial Court will seek nominations in September for the 2017 Excellence Awards. This year's awards ceremony will be held **November 17** at the Adams Courthouse.

Please be on the lookout for more information on how to nominate teams or coworkers who have demonstrated excellence that should be recognized statewide. Nomination forms will be sent out after Labor Day.

What's new by you?



Adoption Day 2017, Brockton.

Drop us a line, anytime... Write and let us know about upcoming events or innovations at your courthouse.

Keep us posted... Send us your news and photos so we can share them with your Trial Court colleagues across the Commonwealth in the Bulletin, or on Courtyard.

Keep in touch: execofc@jud.state.ma.us.

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