

COURT BULLETIN

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Budget Process Now Underway in Legislature

On [March 4](#), Governor Baker issued his first budget as governor with his recommendation for fiscal year 2016. Of the overall \$38 billion budget, the Governor recommended that \$623.5 million be appropriated for the Judicial branch, of which \$603 million would fund the Trial Court. [Budget timeline>>](#)

Judiciary Hosts Court Orientation for New Legislators at the John Adams Courthouse



An insider's view: Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Ralph Gants [left] gives a tour of the SJC's Consultation Room earlier this month at the Court Orientation for New Legislators. [More photos and event details>>](#)

Innovation Grant Recipients Recognized

Celebrating Success: Each issue of the *Court Bulletin* highlights one of many success stories happening throughout the court system. Please send us your examples of local successes.



Juvenile Court Judge Dana Gershengorn and Springfield Clerk-Magistrate John Gay, both co-chairs of the Innovation Grant Committee, hosted the ceremony held earlier this month to recognize those receiving Innovation grants. Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Ralph Gants urged grant recipients "not to be shy about telling others about your pioneering achievements," saying their efforts inspire their colleagues to be creative and share new ideas for improving the court system.



Court Administrator Harry Spence, Probation Officer Estella Rebeiro, Chief Justice Paula Carey, and Court Clinician Ann Condon. PO Rebeiro and Ms. Condon are from the New Bedford Juvenile Court, which received an Innovation grant to support Girls Group, an alternative dispute resolution group. [See more photos & event program>>](#)

Focus Turns to Mandatory Minimums at Criminal Justice Summit



[From left] Chief Justice Ralph Gants, Attorney General Maura Healy, and Chief Justice Paula Carey

at [MassINC's Criminal Justice Reform Coalition Summit](#), held on [March 16th](#) at UMass Boston. Chief Justice Gants delivered the [keynote address](#) and Attorney General Healy gave closing remarks. Chief Justice Gants argued that mandatory minimums for drug sentences be abolished. Suffolk County District Attorney Daniel Conley voiced his disagreement during a subsequent panel discussion.

Dorchester BMC Celebrates Black History Month



Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing: The Dorchester Division of the Boston Municipal Court (BMC) celebrated Black History Month with musical performances by court staff and a keynote address by retired Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court Roderick Ireland, now a Distinguished Professor at Northeastern University's School of Criminology and Criminal Justice. Shown in the photo above are Associate Court Officer Issa Bibbens (on keyboard), Assistant Clerk Magistrate Valerie Caldwell (vocalist), and Senior Maintenance Technician Verden Matthias (far right, on guitar), with musicians (at left, behind Officer Bibbens) Samuel Jones, Daryl Brown, and Leonard Sanders.



Court leaders applaud musical performances. Shown above, from left to right: Dorchester BMC's Judge Jonathan Tynes, Clerk Magistrate Anthony Owens, BMC Chief Justice Roberto Ronquillo, Chief Justice Ireland, South Boston BMC Judge Michael Bolden, Juvenile Court Judge Peter Coyne, and SJC Associate Justice Geraldine Hines. [Read about event & see more photos>>](#)

The Courts & Narcan: What It Is, How It Can Save Lives

Narcan pilot underway in eight courts.



Narcan (Nasal Naloxone) kits like the one above are being distributed to the Security staff at eight courthouses that serve communities battling large numbers of opioid overdoses and deaths. (Image: BSAS/DPH).

Public health crisis. As the number of heroin deaths continues to rise in cities and towns across Massachusetts, public health and emergency workers are turning to naloxone, or Narcan® in its nasal spray form, to help reverse opioid overdoses. A new Trial Court pilot is underway in eight courts that serve communities particularly hard-hit by the [heroin epidemic.>>](#)

Probation and Security Promotional Exams Held

The Probation and Security Departments conducted exams on [Saturday, March 21](#) at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center in South Boston for those seeking promotion. Exams are required as a result of the Court Reform Statute of 2011. The probation exam tested current officers for assistant chief probation officer and chief probation officer posts. The security exam applied to assistant chief court officer and chief court officer positions. 358 employees took the Probation Department exam and 214 employees took the Security Department exam.

MassCourts Conversion Continues in Superior Court

The Superior Court conversion to MassCourts continues on schedule. On [March 16](#) Essex County joined Bristol, Barnstable, Dukes, Nantucket and Middlesex Superior Courts on the MassCourts platform. The other Superior Courts will continue the conversion through September 2015.



Once the Superior Court is completed, the Central Division of the BMC and the District Courts in Brockton and Barnstable (criminal cases only) will be converted, completing the Trial Court's implementation of MassCourts, a single system that replaces 14 legacy systems.

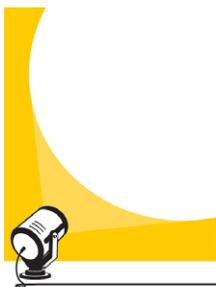
What: MassCourts is a web-based case management system that handles case initiation, disposition, and post adjudication requirements.

Why: A unified case management system allows the court to streamline business practices and processes for case types across all court departments. A uniform system also allows transmission of thousands of data records to external agencies, such as the Registry of Motor Vehicles. In addition, secure public access and electronic filing processes will be common to all.

Suffolk County Registry Recognizes First Employee of the Month



Félix D. Arroyo [left], the new Register for the Suffolk County Probate & Family Court, congratulates Seyed Ali Vaghar on being chosen by his Registry colleagues as the office's first Employee of the Month. An experienced Case Specialist, Mr. Vaghar has worked for the Trial Court for over 22 years.



Law Day is May 1: Share what your courthouse is doing with your Trial Court colleagues.

Share the spotlight...

If you have recent photos of court events you'd like to share or newsworthy items you want your Trial Court colleagues to know about, drop us a line: execofc@jud.state.ma.us. Thanks!

Coming up in April:

Eastern Hampshire District Court
Launches Womanhood Probation
Program

Trial Court Law Libraries Celebrate

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200th Anniversary

Introducing: Tech Training Tips
from the Judicial Institute