

COURT BULLETIN

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Happy Thanksgiving...



Dear Trial Court Colleagues and friends,

We'd like to wish all of you a joyous Thanksgiving holiday. We're thankful for all of the hard work that you do every day to help us in our mission to advance the delivery of justice. We're proud of what we've achieved together over the past year, and extend our personal thanks to each of you for all that you've helped us achieve as an organization.

With warm best wishes for a happy holiday season,

Handwritten signature of Paula Carey.

Chief Justice Paula Carey

Handwritten signature of Harry Spence.

Court Administrator Harry Spence

Trial Court Celebrates 2014 Excellence Awards

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.



Congratulations: Trial Court 2014 Excellence Award winners and guests gather before the ceremony at the John Adams Courthouse in Boston. This year featured the largest group to be recognized for their outstanding achievements since the creation of the award over 25 years ago. [See this year's award winners>>](#)

Probation & Security Staffing Update

Hiring Update: Probation

The Office of the Commissioner of Probation is set to begin hiring additional Probation Officers, starting with 35-40 positions across all court departments for locations with the most critical need. Regional and Statewide Supervisors will soon advise the Chief Probation Officers in the departments authorized to hire.

After conducting over 500 initial screening interviews this fall for the criminal court departments, a separate screening interview process is now underway for applicants interested in working in Probate & Family and/or Juvenile Probation. This set of interviews will be completed by Thanksgiving. Applicants who pass initial screening will be placed in local candidate pools for their requested court locations. The first round of local interviews will start at the end of November, and will include existing POs who applied for each location, along with successful applicants from the initial screening. For more details, please contact the Office of the Commissioner of Probation at [617-727-5300](tel:617-727-5300).

Hiring Update: Security

The Security Department is in the process of hiring 92 new Court Officers. In addition to these new positions, a contingent of Associate Court Officers (ACOs) will be promoted to Court Officers (COs). Security will notify new hires and promoted ACOs in November.



Learning the drill: A class of current Court Officers completes new required Security training that incoming recruits will soon undergo at the Massachusetts State Police Academy in New Braintree.

New Court Officer Training

For the first time, Security is requiring new Court Officers to attend a six-week training session at the Court Officer Training Academy, located at the Massachusetts State Police Academy in New Braintree, Massachusetts. The updated and extended training is designed to provide essential security-related skills and knowledge. This is part of the Security Department's effort to seek national accreditation for its program.

Trainees must stay overnight at the academy for the first two weeks (weekends excluded); overnight stay is optional for the remainder of the program. Three sessions are scheduled to accommodate the new Court Officers taking part in the training. The first academy class of approximately 35 trainees will start on December 1, 2014 and will end January 9, 2015. The second class session will run from January 19 through February 27 and will have at least 57 trainees. The third and final training session will start on March 2 and end on April 10 and will mainly include ACOs selected for promotion to Court Officer. For more information, visit the [Security Department on the Judicial Branch website](#).

Viewpoint: The Emergency Room of Justice

by Glenn Mangurian, Chair of the Court Management Advisory Board

Over the past 18 months I've had the opportunity to visit over ten courts around the state, including some Drug and Mental Health Court sessions. Regardless of where I go, two common themes are evident: litigants are scared, anxious and often in crisis, and court leaders and personnel are conducting "business as usual," often with patience, caring, and [sincere empathy.>>](#)



Q&A Spotlight with Catherine Coughlin, Bail Administrator



Can you talk a little about your background and your new role as Bail Administrator?

I'm a graduate of Suffolk Law School and Boston College. I come from Newton District Court, where I started as an Assistant Clerk in 1997, and left as First Assistant Clerk. I administered bail for 17 years as part of my role, so I have an

insider's perspective: I have first-hand knowledge of what the bail magistrates do, as well as how the bail process works and how to do it. I know what it's like to be on call for bails, and get that call from the police department at [three in the morning.>>](#)

Brooke Court Service Center Celebrates its Official Opening



Trial Court Chief Justice Paula Carey addresses the crowd attending the official launch celebration of the new Court Service Center at the Edward W. Brooke Courthouse in Boston last month. The Center has helped approximately 3,000 people since it opened in June.



The Brooke Court Service Center stayed open throughout the event to

provide tours for those who attended the celebration, and to help members of the public like the father and son shown here, who received assistance with forms from volunteer Rizky Wirastomo, a recent Boston University LL.M. graduate. [View more photos>>](#)

Coming Soon: Next Generation Digital Recording for Courtrooms

Process. The Fiscal Department recently completed its request for proposals (RFP) and vendor demonstrations for the latest digital recording technology, and is now in contract negotiations with a vendor-finalist. The next step, slated for early 2015, is to begin installing the new digital recorders throughout the state's 436 courtrooms, a process which will probably take three to four years to complete. Deployment will begin in the Superior Court and other courtrooms in buildings co-located with the Superior Court.

Building a network. While every Trial Court courtroom now features a standalone digital recorder, the next generation of digital recording technology will allow each recorder to be fully networked, and include the ability to interface with MassCourts. The new technology will download daily recordings of courtroom proceedings across the state to a central archive. Authorized users will be able to log in and access the recordings they need, including the ability to access recordings from other courthouses or judges' lobbies. Users of MassCourts will be able to view docket sheets and access a case's related recordings by clicking on a link.

East Boston Division of the Boston Municipal Court Remembers First Assistant Clerk Magistrate Joseph Fiandaca



[L to R] Suffolk County Daniel F. Conley, BMC Roxbury Judge Kenneth Fiandaca, BMC Central First Justice Thomas Horgan, Boston Municipal Court Chief Justice Roberto Ronquillo, and House Speaker Robert DeLeo before the ceremony at the East Boston Division of the Boston Municipal Court honoring former First Assistant Clerk Magistrate Joseph Fiandaca, who served at the East Boston courthouse for over 32 years. East Boston BMC First Justice John McDonald is in the background.



Members of the Fiandaca family unveil the restored memorial in honor of Clerk Joseph Fiandaca in the memorial garden located between the East Boston courthouse and police station. Judge Kenneth Fiandaca and First Justice John McDonald stand to the right of the flagpole.

Managed Print Services Come to Worcester, Dudley and Boston

What's new. The April-May Court Bulletin described the Managed Print Services (MPS) project at the Malden District Court and Franklin County courthouse. Since then, Worcester's large court complex and some of the Trial Court's administrative offices in Two Center Plaza received MPS equipment in late June. By late July, both systems were up and running, with positive feedback so far from staff and judges. "They're pleasantly surprised that it's not such a dramatic change," says Trial Court Chief Financial Officer William Marchant. "Over the long-term, the new system will improve efficiency and reduce costs."

Next up: Dudley and Brooke. MPS makes its next debut at the Dudley District Court, which is now in the final stages of installing equipment. Dudley's new system should be set to go live in December. Preliminary meetings regarding MPS have also been held with court leaders at Boston's busy Edward D. Brooke Courthouse, and MPS equipment should be fully installed there and ready for use early at the start of the new year.

What's happening at your courthouse?

We welcome your suggestions and comments. Please write us at execofc@jud.state.ma.us and tell us about the latest news and events at your courthouse. We'd like to share your Trial Court events and photos with your colleagues around the state.

Coming up in December:

- Court Celebrates National Adoption Day
- Q&A with Court Administrator Harry Spence
- Comprehensive Program on Domestic Violence Underway

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