

COURT BULLETIN

In this issue...

Access to Justice Update:

- New Court Service Centers Set to Open Across State
- Probation Pilot Assesses Language Access Needs
- More Translated Court Forms Now Available Online

A Visit to Housing Court

- Chief Justice Steven Pierce to Retire

Update on Domestic Violence Initiatives:

- Launching Soon: Court-Wide Domestic Violence Training
- System Upgrades
- New Domestic Violence Crimes

Probation Exam Promotion Eligibility Announced

On the Hill:

- Justice Reinvestment Initiative on its Way to Massachusetts

HOPE/MORR Pilot Programs Show Promise

Celebrating Success: Nominations for 2015 Excellence Awards Due October 7th

The Courts & The Community:

- Bristol County Juvenile Court Teams with UMass Law School to Comfort Children in Foster Care
- "Info John" Montiero, 90, Devoted Volunteer at Hampden County Hall of Justice

Access to Justice Update

New Court Service Centers Set to Open Across State

Four new Court Service Centers (CSCs) are on track to open this fall in Lawrence, Worcester, Brockton, and Springfield. The centers will help improve the

Probation Pilot Assesses Language Access Needs

The Probation Department has been working with Support Services on a pilot to assess demand for language access services, and to establish protocol

ability of self-represented litigants to navigate court proceedings and ease the burden on court staff and judges. New CSC managers for the locations have been hired:

- Sandra Delgado will manage the Lawrence CSC, which will be located inside the Law Library on the second floor.
- Constance (Connie) Mortara will manage Worcester's CSC, which will operate in partnership with the Worcester Law Library on the first floor of the Trial Court complex on Main Street.
- Karen Duffy is the new CSC manager for Springfield. The center will be on the first level of the courthouse in the former IT training space, which has been relocated to the Law Library.
- Franklin Silverio will manage the Brockton CSC on the Trial Court complex's main floor near the entrance. The new space will house the Court Service Center and the Law Library.

To date, the Court Service Centers at the Brooke and Greenfield have helped over 9,000 people.

More Translated Court Forms Now Available Online

The Trial Court continues to significantly increase the number of court forms and documents now available on [our website](#). The list includes 209As and instructional forms and small claims videos translated into several languages.

See what's available at mass.gov/courts and scroll down to "Forms and Information in Multiple Languages." You can also type "language access" in the search box on the upper right hand side of our mass.gov/courts website. Each form is downloadable and includes translated instructions.

for working with interpreters. Several courthouses across the state are participating in the pilot:

- Suffolk Probate and Family Court
- Brockton District Court
- East Boston Division of the Boston Municipal Court
- Lynn District Court
- Gardner District Court
- Worcester Juvenile Court
- Hampden Superior Court
- Middlesex Superior Court
- Essex County Juvenile Court (Lynn / Lawrence)

The pilot, which started in May, has been extended until the end of October. Courts participating in the pilot are able to request court interpretation on an as-needed basis for a number of issues, including but not limited to: dispute resolutions, victim impact statements, intakes, ORAS (Ohio Risk Assessment System) assessments, and warrant removals.

As part of the pilot, Probation officers assigned to the above locations also completed a 2-day training on how to work with court interpreters and LEP (Limited English Proficient) probationers.

To help LEP probationers better understand the probation intake and assessment process, the Office of Court Interpreter Services is translating a number of documents for Probation as part of this pilot, including ORAS forms, which are now available in Spanish. The long-term goals of the pilot are to improve compliance with conditions and orders, and reduce recidivism.



Quick tip: Go to mass.gov/courts and type "language access" in the search box on the top righthand corner for the latest downloadable translated forms.

A Visit to Housing Court



Congratulations: Housing Court Chief Justice Steven Pierce gets ready to swear in the Northeast Division's newest Housing Specialist Dashira Mangual.

More than just a house... The Housing Court is often the "court of last resort" for landlords and tenants wishing to resolve long-simmering disputes: months of unpaid rent; neglected or bungled repairs; discriminatory housing practices. By the time a case reaches the Housing Court, the parties are often deadlocked and can't envision [a way forward.>>](#)

Update on Domestic Violence Initiatives

Launching Soon: Court-Wide Domestic Violence Training Online & Mandatory

The Trial Court is set to launch an online domestic violence training program later this fall for all Trial Court employees as required by statute. Roughly 1,000 guardians ad litem (GAL) in the Probate & Family and Juvenile Courts will also participate in the training.

The program is a collaborative effort involving the Trial Court, the Donahue Institute at the University of Massachusetts, and the Trial Court Domestic Violence Education Task Force. The training program consists of four online modules. It will provide "a baseline level of information about domestic violence for everyone in the courthouse, including clerks, probation officers, case managers, court officers, facilities management, and counter staff," says Taskforce Chair and District Court Judge Marianne Hinkle. "The Donahue Institute worked closely with our team to create content that will engage and [inform a wide audience.](#)">>

Probation Exam Promotion Eligibility Announced

The Office of Court Management (OCM) has decided that, per statutory requirement, the scores on the writing assessment portion of Probation's promotion exams will be considered as part of the interview and investigation process. Essay results will not determine a test-takers application status, but will be considered as an objective part of each candidate's assessment for promotion.

Therefore, all test-takers who received a passing score on the multiple choice portion of their exams (adult criminal, juvenile, and Probate and Family) are in the pool of potential applicants.

For more information, please see the recent letter and attachments to Massachusetts Probation Service employees from [Court Administrator Harry Spence](#)>>

On the Hill...

Justice Reinvestment Initiative on its Way to Massachusetts

Reducing recidivism through data-based policies and practices. Last month, Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Ralph Gants, Governor Charles Baker, House Speaker Robert DeLeo, and Senate President Stan Rosenberg sent a letter to the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance and the Pew Center on the States to request that the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) conduct an independent analysis of the state's criminal justice system. The formal launch of the program is slated for later this month.

State leaders are requesting this analysis to develop practices and policies that will reduce recidivism rates

and in turn, reduce incarceration levels. The JRI has completed similar studies for 21 states. The JRI strives to find effective ways to reduce spending in the criminal justice system while increasing public safety.

While Massachusetts has one of the lowest incarceration rates in the country, recent data shows the recidivism rate historically has held steady at around 40%.

Next steps. Governor Baker plans to appoint a working group, which will include court leaders, to assist in the analysis. The Trial Court will provide necessary data for the group's analysis.

Learn more:

- [Read the letter](#) from state leaders
- Visit the [Justice Reinvestment Initiative's website](#)
- ["Massachusetts Seeks National Help to Reform Criminal Justice System"](#) (MassLive)

HOPE/MORR Pilot Programs Show Promise

Taking swift, certain, and measured actions against probation violations. Project HOPE/MORR[1] aims to reduce recidivism rates of high-risk probationers by taking a swift, no-tolerance response to any kind of probation violation.

Created by Judge Steven Alm in Hawaii, Massachusetts aims to replicate Hawaii's successful formula, shown in one 2009 study funded by the U.S. Department of Justice to reduce recidivism by 55%. The same study found that Hawaii's HOPE probationers were 72% less likely to use drugs and 61% less likely to skip their appointments with their probation officer.[2]

But can this success be replicated 5,000 miles away [in Massachusetts?>>](#)

[1] *Hawaii Opportunity Probation with Enforcement/Massachusetts Offender Recidivism Reduction*

[2] Source: <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/229023.pdf>

Celebrating Success: Nominations for 2015 Excellence Awards Due October 7th

To recognize the outstanding efforts of Trial Court staff to serve the public and ensure the delivery to justice, Chief Justice Paula Carey and Court Administrator Harry Spence are requesting nominations for the 2015 Trial Court Excellence Awards.

Learn more. See [award categories and criteria](#), and download a [nomination form](#).

Timeline for Excellence Awards:

- Nominations due by [Wednesday, October 7, 2015](#)
- Winners selected by [Friday, October 30, 2015](#)
- Awards presented on [Tuesday, November 17, 2015](#) at the Adams Courthouse, Boston

The Courts & The Community...

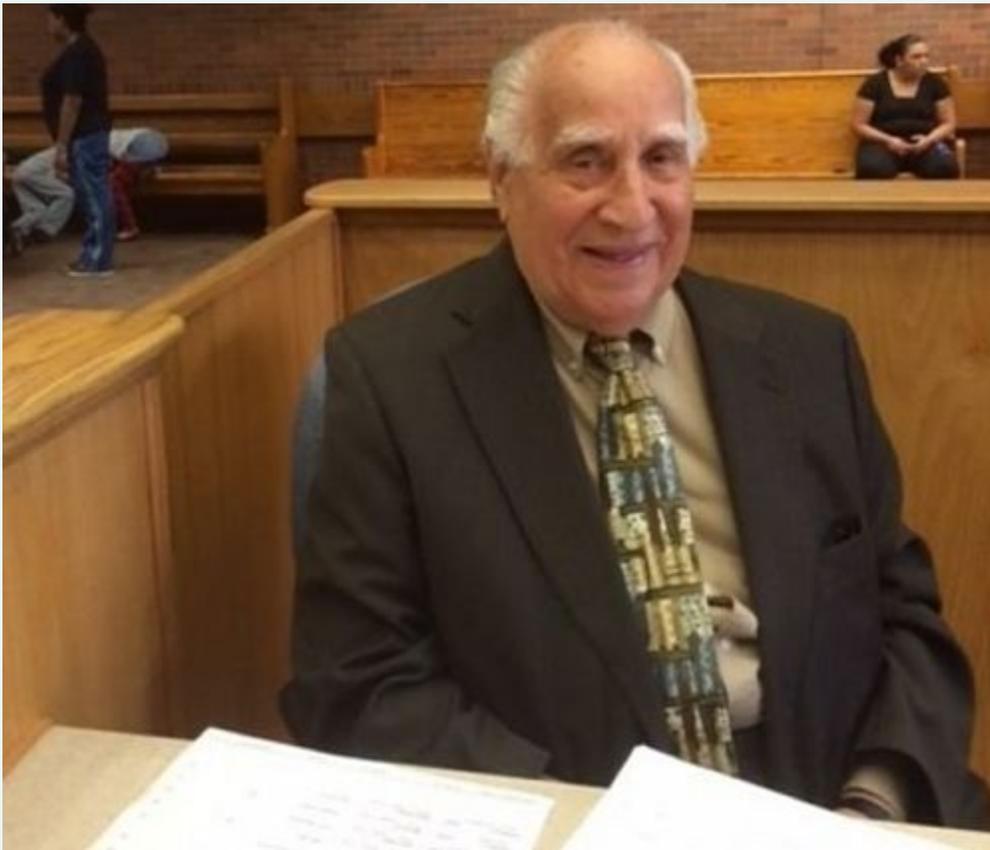
Bristol County Juvenile Court Teams with UMass Law School to Comfort Children in Foster Care



Special delivery. From left, Judge's Secretary Linda Hickney helps Assistant-Clerk

Magistrate Mary Perry fill the shelves at the Bristol County Juvenile Court with the newest batch of Beanie Babies, donated by court staff and UMass Law School students. Bristol County Juvenile Court First Justice Bettina Borders writes: "...A number of years ago, a minister from Fall River asked if I might be able to use [Beanie Babies in the court...](#)">>

"Info John" Montiero, 90, Devoted Volunteer at Hampden County Hall of Justice



Nonagenarian John Monteiro has spent over two decades as the Hampden County courthouse's volunteer information officer. Chief Justice Paula Carey recently commended his dedication and many years of service to the Trial Court, saying that: "You are a pillar in our courthouse and in our community...you exemplify the best of the best in public service." Read the Springfield Republican's feature on [Mr. Monteiro](#)>> (Photo courtesy of Jack Flynn / The Republican)

Your news. Your *Court Bulletin*.

Do you have a newsworthy topic or question you'd like to see addressed? Got a photo from an event at your courthouse that you'd like to share? Drop us a line and let us know what you want to read about: execofc@jud.state.ma.us. Thanks!

Can you see us now?

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



Coming up in October:

All-Judge Conference Explores Race and Implicit Bias

Court Management Advisory Board Adopts Peer Reviews