

COURT BULLETIN

In this issue...

- The Court in the Community: Franklin County Courthouse Hosts Court Leaders, Legislators
- On the Hill: House Committee Recommends FY2016 Budget
- Celebrating Success: Trial Court Law Libraries Celebrate 200th Anniversary
- Eastern Hampshire District Court Probation Launches Womanhood Program
- District Court Hosts Bench-Bar Series
- High School Students Conduct Mock Trials at Taunton District Court
- Promoted Court Officers Graduate, Assigned to Courts
- First Mental Health Court Conference Held in Worcester
- Best-Selling Author and Surgeon Inspires Participants at J2J Program
- Portrait of Former Chief Justice Margaret Marshall Presented to SJC
- New to Mass.gov/Courts: Bail Basics Webpage
- AskMOVA Campaign Seeks to Assist Boston Marathon Bombing Survivors
- Introducing Tech Training Tips from the Judicial Institute
- Corrections & Comments: [March 2015](#) Issue

The Court in the Community: Franklin County Courthouse Hosts Court Leaders, Legislators



Connecting the courts and the community. Franklin County court and community leaders gathered with local and state officials in Greenfield to showcase their cross-collaborative efforts. [See photos and read more about the event>>](#)

On the Hill: House Committee Recommends FY2016 Budget

On [April 15](#), the House Ways and Means Committee recommended funding of \$620.5 million for the Trial Court. This number, which was greatly appreciated by the Judiciary, represents a significant increase from the Governor's initial recommendation of \$603.2 million. However, the Trial Court requires at least \$628 million to maintain its present lean staffing levels. A deficit of \$8 million would disrupt court operations and stall modernization efforts and current initiatives, such as specialty courts and HOPE/MORR.

House Judiciary Chair John Fernandes has filed an amendment to increase Trial Court funding by \$9.4 million. This amendment increases court maintenance funding by \$7.4 million, and designates \$2 million to expand specialty courts by eight sessions. Representative Jim Cantwell filed an amendment to add \$1.2 million for the continued expansion of HOPE/MORR. Both the specialty courts and the HOPE/MORR initiatives are crucial to the Trial Court's efforts to reduce recidivism and address the Commonwealth's opioid crisis.

Court leaders continue to meet with legislators and others to advocate for additional court funding that will ensure the continued delivery of justice across the state. House members will vote on their version of the budget by the end of April; the Senate will issue a recommended budget in May, and vote on the Senate version by the end of May. Fiscal year 2016 begins [July 1](#).

Trial Court Law Libraries Celebrate 200th Anniversary

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.



Bicentennial birthday: *The Trial Court Law Libraries celebrated the 200th anniversary of the establishment of public law libraries in Massachusetts with a ceremony last month at the John Adams Courthouse in Boston. Court Administrator Harry Spence emceed the event, which featured remarks by Trial Court Chief Justice Paula Carey, Superior Court Judge Kenneth Fishman, Attorney John Slattery, and Mary Rose Quinn of the Mass. Board of Library Commissioners.*

Featured in the photo above are the Trial Court's Head Law Librarians, except where noted. From left, in the first row are: Cynthia Campbell, Departmental Law Librarian, Office of Court Management; Louise Hoagland, Plymouth Law Library; Linda Hom, Middlesex Law Library; Kathy Ludwig, Franklin and Hampshire Law Libraries; second row: Robin Bates, Essex Law Library; Marnie Warner, (retired) Law Library Coordinator; Madlyn Correa, Fall River Law Library; Catherine Alves, Lawrence and Lowell Law Libraries; Jane Callahan (above), New Bedford Law Library; Suzanne Hoey (below) Barnstable Law Library; third row: Barbara Schneider, Berkshire Law Library; Meg Hayden, Electronic Services Librarian; Agnes Leathe, Norfolk Law Library. [photo: Rose Ann Olmstead]

[More event photos and link to Law Library commemorative eBook>>](#)

Eastern Hampshire District Court Probation Launches Womanhood Program

Motivated to succeed. Eastern Hampshire District Court's Probation Department started its first Womanhood Program in March with a class of 10 female probationers, nine of whom are set to graduate next month. Probation Officer Gina Sanderson designed the curriculum to empower the women to achieve future successes.

"Specialized Probation programs such as the Womanhood Program help court-involved women learn how to stay on a more positive life path," says Ms. Sanderson. "The women realize that they have to be accountable and make the right choices for [themselves and their families.](#)">>

District Court Hosts Bench-Bar Series

The District Court Department, together with the Massachusetts Bar Association and local county bar associations, is holding a series of bench-bar events at courthouses around the state. The events, which have been held so far in Salem, Brockton, and Barnstable, aim to facilitate increased dialogue between judges, local practitioners, chief probation officers, and other court personnel about recent developments in the District Court, and to work together with the bar to improve District Court practices. The next District Court bench-bar event will be held in Worcester on [Wednesday, May 13](#).



Salem District Court staff and local lawyers listen to bench-bar speakers. See more [Salem](#) and [Brockton District Court](#) bench-bar photos.

High School Students Conduct Mock Trials at Taunton District Court

Criminal Justice Class Goes to Court. The Taunton District Court recently hosted 32 students enrolled in Southeastern Regional Vocational High School's Criminal Justice Program. The students participated in mock trials of the OJ Simpson and Casey Anthony murder cases, presided over by Regional Administrative Justice Kevan J. Cunningham. Judge Cunningham met with the students at their school beforehand to talk

about the trial process and answer procedural questions.

The students spent three weeks preparing their cases as prosecutors and defenders, practicing their opening and closing statements, presenting evidence, and gathering witness testimony. The mock trials are part of the court's efforts to reach out to younger members in the communities it serves, to encourage young people to consider careers in law and criminal justice, and to engage them by demonstrating firsthand how the judicial branch of government works.



On [April 13](#), students from Southeastern Regional High School's Criminal Justice program participated in mock trials at the Taunton District Court. Here, a student from the prosecution team in the OJ Simpson mock trial questions a witness, while the jury listens in the background.

Promoted Court Officers Graduate, Assigned to Courts



Serving the Courts from Pittsfield to the Vineyard. A third class of Court Officers recently completed Security's new six-week training program, and have been deployed to courthouses across the state. Most of the class members had been promoted from within the department; seven were newly hired.

Court Officers shown in the photo with Senior Drill Instructor Bryant J. Mauer and Drill Instructor Dorianna Medeiros, are, *front row, from left:* Michael Jones, Robert Sousa, Michael Oliver, Tomas Biela, Derek Lewis.

Second row, from left: Anthony Lewin, Michael Moscato, Sylvia Cotter, Joshua Aponte, Raul Pena, Sebastian Witkowski, Michael Natri, Kyle Smith.

Third row, from left: Eladio Lebron, Kathleen McAvoy, Jonathon Rodriguez, Orande James, Dwaine Green, Issa Bibbins, Paul DeMelo, Patrick Johnson.

Fourth row, from left: Scott Gierlich, Michael Cleary, Raymond Moux, Stephen Golden, Daniel Stigas, Matthew Coakley, Brianne Queeney.

Fifth row, from left: Steven Pupek, Onairam Dross-Cortes, Jean Ronald Pacombe, Derek Caron, Donald Yoyo, Ian Lauder, Matthew DeMenna, Edward Dulmaine.

First Mental Health Court Conference Held in Worcester



Standing proud. The Trial Court held its first-ever Mental Health Court Conference earlier this month in Worcester. In the photo above, two Plymouth and Springfield Mental Health Court graduates receive a standing ovation at the event. Standing between them onstage are [second and third from left] Springfield District Court Chief Probation Officer John Morganstern and Christopher Pike, Plymouth's Mental Health Court Program Coordinator.



Above, [from left] Trial Court Chief Justice Paula Carey, BMC West Roxbury First Justice Kathleen Coffey, Deborah Pinals, Dept. of Mental Health's Assistant Commissioner of Forensic Mental Health Services, and Plymouth District Court Judge Rosemary Minehan, who were instrumental in organizing the event.

Best-selling Author and Surgeon Inspires Participants at J2J Program



From operating room to the courtroom. Dr. Atul Gawande chats with judges who attended his talk at MCLE (Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education) in Boston earlier this month. Dr. Gawande spoke to Trial Court judges who serve as mentor coaches in the J2J Program, the court's judge-to-judge peer mentoring program. He discussed effective coaching and how to use metrics to excel in a rapidly changing world. Dr. Gawande also spoke about how data and checklists can be used in an effort to continuously improve processes and performance.

A MacArthur Fellow, Dr. Gawande is the Executive Director at Ariadne Labs, a center for health systems innovation. He is also a general and endocrine surgeon at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, a Harvard Medical School associate professor, *New Yorker* staff writer, and best-selling author of *The Checklist Manifesto: How to Get Things Right*, and most recently *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End*. Dr. Gawande volunteered his time to speak to the Trial Court.

Portrait of Former Chief Justice Margaret Marshall Presented to SJC



The Supreme Judicial Court was presented with the portrait of retired Chief Justice Margaret H. Marshall at a formal portrait unveiling ceremony in April in the Seven Justice Courtroom of the John Adams Courthouse. Hon. Marshall, who was Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court from 1999 to 2010, is shown here with SJC Chief Justice Ralph D. Gants and the portrait, painted by artist Mary Hampson Minifie. Chief Justice Marshall's SJC law clerks commissioned the portrait, which will hang in the John Adams Courthouse. (Photo courtesy of Wayne Jackson / FayFoto)

New to Mass.gov/Courts: Bail Basics Webpage

What: Mass.gov/courts has a new webpage on bail, [Bail Basics: What Bail Is, How It Works](#).

Why: Bail is a concept that's widely misunderstood. The new bail webpage outlines the purpose of bail, and covers the general process, conditions, and basic definitions. We'll be updating and expanding the bail webpage and other "self-help" topics on mass.gov/courts in the future, in an ongoing effort to help better inform the public on how the court system works.



AskMOVA Campaign Seeks to Assist Boston Marathon Bombing Survivors

To ensure that everyone, including Trial Court employees and their families, who may have been impacted by the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings is aware of the free services available to them, the

Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance (MOVA) recently launched AskMOVA.org and hotline 844-878-MOVA. To learn more, visit www.mass.gov/mova/boston-marathon/ or AskMOVA.org.

Introducing Tech Tips from the Judicial Institute

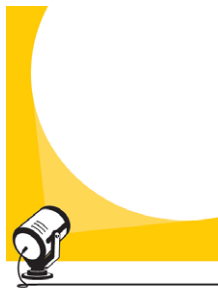
Work, smarter. To help court employees learn useful time-saving computer tips, the Judicial Institute's Trial Court Learning Center is publishing monthly Tech Tips. To find the tips, visit the [JI's page on the Trial Court's intranet site](#) (available only on court computers) and click the *Jl Tech Tips* button, shown on the right.



Corrections & Comments: March 2015 Issue

Right judge, wrong court. Regarding last month's feature, "Dorchester BMC Celebrates Black History Month," BMC Central Judge Thomas Kaplanes wrote to let us know that we mistakenly identified Judge Peter Coyne as a BMC Central justice. Judge Coyne is a justice of the Juvenile Court Department. Thank you, Judge Kaplanes!

Readership is up. Last month's issue of the *Court Bulletin* was our most widely read yet: more than 2,500 of you clicked on the eNewsletter in your email inbox. Thanks for reading, and please encourage your colleagues to read the *Bulletin*. As always, we're interested in your suggestions and comments.



Share the Spotlight.

What's happening at your courthouse?

Write us at execofc@jud.state.ma.us and share your latest news, photos, events, programs, and initiatives with your Trial Court colleagues throughout the Commonwealth. We'll help you spread the word!

Coming up in May:

Law Day Celebrated Across the State

Perspectives from the Juvenile Court

Court Management Advisory Board Convenes Former Members to Showcase Progress

Can't see *Court Bulletin* photos or links? There's a solution for that...

If you can't see images or have links that appear as regular text in your emails, please call the TCIS Help Desk now at 617-878-0245 or try this [quick solution>>](#)

