

# COURT BULLETIN

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## Trial Court Honor Guard Presents Colors at Fenway Park



**Field of dreams.** On July 7th, the Trial Court's Honor Guard "presented the colors" in a special ceremony in front of thousands of fans at Fenway Park. From left: Honor Guard Court Officers Charles Bullard, Shannon Green, Robert Taylor, and Anthony Holmes.

The Massachusetts Trial Court Honor Guard is a specialized Security Department unit under the direction of Heather Brouillette, Standards & Training. Members of the Honor Guard represent the Massachusetts Trial Court at events and services, such as judicial investitures, academy graduations, Law Day ceremonies, and memorial services. Honor Guard officers volunteer to be part of the unit, and at times sacrifice their personal time to give honor to those when called upon.

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## Enhanced Families Through Literature: A Judge's Journal

By Judge Richard Simons, First Justice, Berkshire Probate & Family Court

I was simultaneously intrigued and skeptical when I first heard about the program, Changing Lives Through Literature. Would participants actually prepare for class by doing outside reading? Is it possible that discussions of literature could actually lead to behavioral changes? Could such a program be adapted to fit the needs of the litigants who appear in the [Probate and Family Court?>>](#)

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## On the Hill...

### FY16 Budget Process Now Complete

The FY16 budget process concluded with House and Senate votes to restore \$4.16 million to three Trial Court line items in the FY16 budget, reinstating the Trial Court appropriation to the \$631.5 million recommended by the Conference Committee.

"The Judicial Branch is most grateful for the consideration given by the Legislature to the Trial Court's needs in the FY16 budget process," said Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Ralph Gants, Trial Court Chief Justice Paula Carey and Court Administrator Harry Spence in a joint statement. "We fully understand and appreciate the difficult decisions and choices required to develop a budget that meets many critical funding needs across the state."

Advocacy efforts by court leaders and officials across the state were critical in making the case to the Legislature for the continued funding of key initiatives.

The final appropriation of \$631.5 million will maintain basic operations and ensure that several key initiatives will stay on track, such as the expansion of specialty courts to address opioid addiction, and the implementation of key mandates from the 2014 domestic violence statute, including the development of a risk assessment tool to help identify the dangerousness of domestic violence defendants.

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### Veterans and Federal Affairs Committee Members Visit Veterans Treatment Court

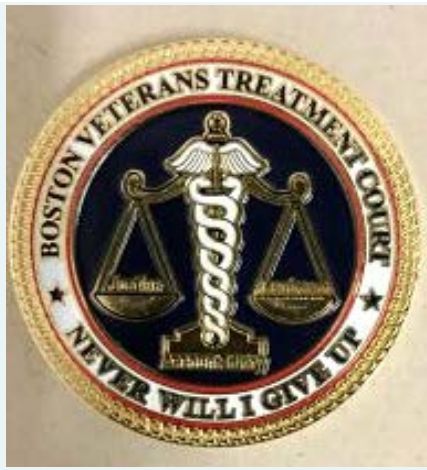


*The Boston Municipal Court's Veterans Treatment Court thanked members of the Joint Committee of Veterans and Federal Affairs at a special session last month for their support of veterans treatment courts. The event also highlighted the Trial Court's efforts to serve the needs of veterans living in Suffolk County, and showcased how the veterans treatment courts work. The Committee members attended the court session after the ceremony.*

*In the photo above, presiding Judge Eleanor Sinnott presents members of the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs with "challenge coins" given to graduates of the Veterans Treatment Court program. An example of the special BMC Central Veterans Treatment Court coin is shown below. From left: Representative Daniel Ryan, BMC Chief Justice Roberto Ronquillo, Jr., Committee House Chair Rep. Jerald Parisella, Committee House Vice Chair Rep. Alan Silvia, Judge Eleanor Sinnott, and Representative Donald Berthiaume, Jr..*

*The custom coins come from a military tradition dating back to World War I. To this day commanders, and units, have coins that they present to troops who do something above and beyond.*

*With the Legislature's support, this year the Trial Court will open veterans treatment court sessions in Holyoke and Framingham, in addition to its existing sessions at the Dedham District Court and the Central Division of the BMC.*



*Challenge coin given to BMC  
Central Veterans Treatment Court  
graduates.*

## New Court Officers Graduate from Academy



*The fourth class of new Court Officers graduated in June from the Trial Court's Court Officer Training Academy at the Massachusetts State Police Academy. From left, first row: Chief Court Officer Leonard M. Johnson, Drill Instructor Court Officer Dori Medeiros, Drill Instructor Police Officer John Felix, Senior Drill Instructor, Court Officer Bryant Mauer.*

*Second row (graduating Court Officers): Class Guide Gary Levesque, Squad Leader Douglas Macedo, Michael Turowsky, Matt Weir, Brian Bernier, Frederick Balk, Taneilya Ellis, Lauren Grundy, Yobanis Ayuso, Jacqueline Corbett, Angel Torres III.*

*Third row: Squad Leader Sean Rivera, Latacha Anderson-Smith, Shawn Baker, Brian Capodilupo, Daryl DeGrace, Kristie Fenlon, Frank Gallagher, Gregory Gomes, Kristen Henrikson, Giancarlo Ibrahim, Edwin St. Louis.*

*Fourth row: Squad Leader Vincent Carita, Michael Burns, Matthew Carr, Daniel Doherty, Errol LaFontant, John McCarthy, Derrick Picard, Jesse Ritter, Paul Roach, Dawon Roy. Fifth row: Squad Leader Daniel Padilla, Ramon Bessa, Steven Davis,*



## Court Officer Testing & Qualifications

The test for candidates interested in applying for Court Officer postings in 2016 will be held in Boston on October 17th and the registration deadline for the test is August 14th.

In 2014, the test for this position was administered for the first time to about 1,100 potential candidates. Approximately 900 passed and interviews were given to 600 who met the minimum qualifications for the position. Of those, 206 were invited to participate in the six-week Court Officer Academy. Four academies were conducted and 125 graduates are now court officers - 82 new officers and 43 Assistant Court Officers promoted to Court Officer.

The next group of candidates invited to the Academy also will need to pass a Physical Assessment Test (PAT) prior to appointment, so that the class is prescreened to meet the physical standards of the position. Use of a PAT screening was not feasible in 2014.

Candidates who took and passed the July 2014 exam are exempt from having to take this test to remain eligible to apply for CO positions.

[Court Officer Exam Information](#)

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## Inspection & Evaluation Unit Formed by Security Department

Since 2013, the Security Department has worked to increase its ability to manage courthouse security threats. As part of these efforts, starting in September, two Chief Court Officers will conduct inspections and evaluations of courthouse security operations as part of a new Inspections and Evaluations Unit.

Led by Chief Court Officers Wayne McDaniel and Reggie Graham, the unit will oversee and help ensure the effectiveness of security operations through a regular process of inspections, evaluations, and assessments to assure compliance with Security Department and Trial Court policies, procedures, and performance standards.

By conducting these inspections on a regular basis, the unit will recognize and identify practices and methods of operations that may assist local security units on a daily basis. Their observations also will improve the department's overall performance and practice. While these assessments are focused only on the performance and capabilities of the Security Department, the reviewers will engage with local courthouse leaders to help inform the assessments.

**Physical security.** Separately, in-depth courthouse security assessments of physical security issues also are underway. Fourteen physical security assessments have been completed or are scheduled. Security is working with Facilities Management to identify those issues that can be addressed with existing resources. Any issues that require major capital investment beyond existing resources will be compiled and submitted for future budgeting or legislative consideration.

# The Courts & The Community...

## Superior Court Judge Inspires High School Seniors



**Future state leaders.** Suffolk County Superior Court Judge Merita Hopkins mingles with students after speaking to several hundred high school girls attending the Girls State program at Stonehill College. Boys State and Girls State are one-week summer programs for students from across Massachusetts about to embark on their senior year of high school. Students learn about state government, and actively participate in creating and running a working government.

Judge Hopkins familiarized the students with the judicial branch of government, and provided an overview of the legal profession. An enthusiastic question and answer session followed her presentation.

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## 9th Annual HEAT Conference Draws Over 350 Participants

Hundreds of criminal justice professionals, medical treatment providers, educators, parents and families filled the Woburn Hilton in June to attend the 9th annual [HEAT \(Heroin Education Awareness Taskforce\) Conference.>>](#)

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## South Boston BMC Clothes Closet Helps Needy

### **A second chance.**

Office Manager Ann Connolly from the Boston Municipal Court's South Boston



*Division sorts through clothing donations received for probationers and others in need, including the new designer children's clothing shown here, donated by local business owners.*

*The South Boston BMC keeps the donations tucked away in available space throughout the courthouse. The Probation Departments at the [Worcester](#) and [Malden District Courts](#) also collect and distribute clothing, winter coats, shoes, and small household items for the communities they serve.*

## Facilities Department Update



**Summer Sizzler.** From left, Amilton Cardoso, Facilities Supervisor, Suffolk County Courthouse; Joseph Mantone, Building Systems Manager, John



*Adams Courthouse; and Frederick Tufo, Facilities Service Supervisor, Suffolk County Courthouse listen to a speaker during Facilities' two-day "Summer Sizzler" training in Worcester.*

*Read about juvenile space renovations and secure waiting areas in the latest [Facilities Update](#)>>*

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## Bail Training Scheduled

A mandatory 1/2 day program on bail issues for active Bail Magistrates and Bail Commissioners of the Boston Municipal Court, District Court, and Superior Court Departments has been scheduled for the fall. This program, conducted by the Judicial Institute and the Office of Bail Administration, will be held in Worcester on September 16th and in Plymouth on October 21st. The Judicial Institute recently emailed program registration information to Bail Magistrates. Any questions can be directed to the Registrar on 617-788-6779 or to [jennifer.terminesi@jud.state.ma.us](mailto:jennifer.terminesi@jud.state.ma.us)

Topics to be covered include:

- Reporting Requirements for the IRS Form 8300
- Review of Rules Governing Persons Authorized to Admit to Bail Out of Court
- Open Forum / Q & A Session

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## IT Corner

### Browser Upgrade Saves Hours

Judicial Information Services (JIS) has updated Internet Explorer on Trial Court desktop computers statewide to version 11. This effort is substantially complete for all MassCourts users and as a result, data performance has improved between 20 and 30 percent statewide. The browser upgrade also shaved more than a second off the time it takes to load webpages, from about 3 seconds to 2 seconds on average. When applied to nearly one million transactions a day across the system, those combined seconds add up to about 250 hours of eliminated wait time each day.



### Civil e-Filing Update

Last year, the Trial Court selected Tyler Technologies to help implement and integrate the court's e-filing services with its existing MassCourts system. Chief Information Officer Craig Burlingame recently reported progress in achieving connectivity between the e-filing and MassCourts systems.

Sample filings are being accepted by the MassCourts test system and acknowledgements are being returned successfully to the Tyler e-filing system. Additional systems testing is underway to identify and data or functionality issues. Internet connectivity between the systems proved more challenging than anticipated and required daily conference calls for two months.

User acceptance testing for the new system began July 20 for the first civil e-filing pilot in Worcester

District Court. The rollout of civil e-filing calls for three pilots to be conducted in Trial Court divisions and three in the appellate courts.

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## Lessons in Justice: Suffolk Superior Court Judge Speaks to JYC Students About Leaster Case



**Forever changed.** Suffolk County Superior Court Judge Christopher Muse (left) and Judicial Youth Corps (JYC) Coordinator Gerry Howland listen as Bobby Joe Leaster speaks to JYC students about his experiences of being wrongfully convicted of murder at 19 and imprisoned for 15½ years. As a young defense attorney, Judge Muse and his father Robert represented Mr. Leaster pro bono for 10 years before seeing their client walk free on December 26, 1986. [Read more about the Leaster case.>>](#)

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## Judge Ferrino Award Presented to Attorney Arthur Shabo



*Attorney Arthur Shabo (third from left), recently received the Honorable Joseph Ferrino Award for his service to the East Boston Division of the Boston Municipal Court (BMC). The new award was created to recognize individuals who "exhibit the excellence and commitment for the East Boston court and community as exemplified by the legacy of retired Justice Ferrino during his tenure on the bench." Mr. Shabo is the first to receive the award.*

*From left: East Boston BMC retired First Justice Paul Mahoney, Speaker of the House Robert DeLeo, award recipient Attorney Arthur Shabo, retired First Justice Joseph Ferrino, BMC Chief Justice Roberto Ronquillo, Jr., presiding First Justice John McDonald, Jr., and Judge Myong Joun.*

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## **Sweet Scoops: Ice Cream Social at Norfolk County Superior Court**



**Decision time:** Case Coordinator Cynthia Kramer chooses her favorite flavor from the 24 half gallons of ice cream and 32 assorted toppings offered during the eighth annual Ice Cream Social, held by the Norfolk County Superior Court and the office of the Clerk of Court Walter Timilty. Created as a morale booster in 2007 by Court Officer Steven Minkofsky with the help of Assistant Clerk Diane Gibbons, the event draws together court staff from the Superior Court and Clerk's offices, as well as sitting and retired judges, and assistant district attorneys.

(Photo by Assistant Probation Officer Kate Restuccia).

## This is your **Court Bulletin...**

**Keep in touch.** Do you have a topic or question you'd like to see addressed? Write to us at [execoafc@jud.state.ma.us](mailto:execoafc@jud.state.ma.us). You can also send in news and photos to share with your Trial Court colleagues throughout the Commonwealth.

## Email issues? Don't stress...

If you're having trouble seeing *Court Bulletin* photos, 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>>](#)





### Coming up in September:

Court-Wide Domestic Violence Training Set to Begin

A Look Inside the Land Court

Court Service Centers Expanding to Four New Locations