

COURT BULLETIN

March 2017

Events of Interest...

- April 7: Franklin County Justice Center Opening Ceremony
- April 8: Probation Officer Exam
- April 25: Berkshire Community Corrections Center Open House
- April 27: Thaddeus Buczko Probate & Family Courthouse Official Opening in Salem
- April 28: Superior Court Judicial Conference

New Courtyard Intranet Opens



Courtyard went live on schedule on Monday, March 20. Over 4,000 people have already logged on to the new intranet.

In addition to the Web Team's efforts, special kudos go out to the Judicial Information Services Department's Help Desk, who continue to assist those with any technical issues.

The Web Team will continue to identify ways to ease the transition, and will make ongoing updates to the site as needed.

Bios and photos continue to roll in daily, from all court departments and divisions.

The top three content areas or sections visited so far are: Forms, Human Resources, and Using Courtyard, the site's how-to guide.

Get started: To get to the Courtyard, go to <http://courtyard.interactgo.com> and log on from anywhere by entering the same user name and password you use to log on to your computer each day.

In the Courtyard:

Top early adopters include...

- Boston Municipal Court Department
- Cambridge District Court
- Dorchester Division of the BMC
- Dudley District Court
- Essex County Juvenile Court

- Fall River District Court
- Hampden Probate & Family Court
- Land Court Department
- Lowell District Court
- Middlesex Probate & Family Court
- New Bedford District Court
- Springfield District Court



Quality Control. Trial Court Web Team members, from left: Web Administrators Christine Lamont and Margaret Hayden with Sr. Web Manager Kevin Buckley.

Courts Begin Move to Paperless

Small Claims in Orleans Go Digital



A team effort: From left, Clerk-Magistrate Marion Broidrick, Assistant Clerk Magistrate Delores Bowman and Civil Claims Unit Regional Case Coordinator Miriam Brady led the effort to digitize Orleans District Court's Small Claims Session.

Most clerks enter a typical courtroom session carrying a heavy load of case files.

But that's not the case anymore at the Orleans District Court's small claims session, which has been paperless since July 2016.

"I find that court users' level of frustration has gone way down," says Clerk-Magistrate Marion Broidrick, who now walks into her small claims session on Thursday mornings

armed with just a pen and small notebook.

[Read more](#)

BMC Probation Officers Nab Two Sex Offender Suspects



BMC Central Assistant Chief Probation Officer Brad McNichols and Probation Officer Heather Whynot.

Every morning, Suffolk County probation officers check their inboxes for a "BRIC," a Boston Regional Intelligence Center email detailing the Boston Police Department's (BPD) most-wanted suspects. That's how probation officers at BMC's Central and Roxbury Divisions caught two suspected sex offenders last month.

Case 1: When BMC Central Probation Officer Heather Whynot read her daily BRIC, she noticed someone who looked familiar...

[Read more](#)

Nine Graduate from Fall River Drug Court



Hope for the future: Fall River District Court's Drug Court recently graduated nine participants from its 18-to-24-month program, led by Judge Christopher Welch. Shown here with several certificate-holding graduates are, from left: Social Worker Allison Wood, STARR Case Manager Steven Joseph, Probation Officer Erin Lanczycki, STARR Case Manager Karen Aguiar, Judge Welch, Trial Court Chief Justice Paula Carey, Bristol County District Attorney Thomas Quinn, and District Court Chief Justice Paul Dawley.

Read it: [The Herald News](#) covered the event.

Hampshire Courts Receive Community Service Award



Shown from left: Northampton District Court Judge W. Michael Goggins, ServiceNet Criminal Justice Liasion Alexander Spear, Northampton District Court Clerk-Magistrate Darren Alston, Superior Clerk Clerk-Magistrate Harry Jekanowski, and District Court Chief Probation Officer Jane Pendergast.

Northampton District and Superior Courts received a Community Service Award earlier this month from ServiceNet, a mental health and human services provider based in Northampton that works closely with the courts in Hampshire County. Mr. Spear thanked the courts for their "unwavering understanding and compassion of the ServiceNet community."

New Legislators Event Held at the Adams Courthouse



"Not your grandfather's Trial Court." Speaker of the House Robert DeLeo, above, addresses court leaders and legislators at the March 13 event for new legislators.

The Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) and Trial Court hosted new legislators in the main courtroom of the John Adams Courthouse, where they heard welcoming remarks by SJC Chief Justice Ralph Gants, Trial Court Chief Justice Paula Carey, Court Administrator Harry Spence, Senate President Stan Rosenberg, and Speaker DeLeo.

The bi-annual event introduces new legislators to the court system and court leaders, and includes a behind-the-scenes tour of the SJC chambers and consultation room. Speaker DeLeo and Senate President Rosenberg offered their insights on working and collaborating with the Judiciary.

"This is not your grandfather's Trial Court," said Speaker DeLeo, referring to the court system's innovative approaches to achieving justice, such as evidence-based specialty courts.

Judges Reach Out at First National Judicial Outreach Week



Hello from Malden: Malden District Court First Justice Benjamin Barnes and Clerk-Magistrate Marybeth Brady (center) meet with some 90 Malden Middle School and Linden STEAM Academy 8th graders.

As part of the American Bar Association's first-ever National Judicial Outreach Week, more than 20 Appeals, Superior and District Court judges volunteered their time to visit local schools and community centers throughout March. The community-based events are part of the Trial Court's ongoing efforts to promote public understanding and commitment to the Rule of Law. Judges spoke about the work done in courts every day and how the American legal system works.

[Click here](#) to see a list of participating judges and the places they visited.

[Wicked Local Salem](#) attended Superior Court Judge Thomas Drechsler's visit to Salem Academy Charter School.

[The Sun Chronicle](#) sat in during Superior Court Judge Raffi Yessayan's visit to a criminal justice class at Attleboro High School.

New England Public Policy Center Reports on CORI Reform at the Adams Courthouse



Changes to CORI discussed. Senator William Brownsberger makes a point during a panel discussion at a March 21 event on Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) policy reform at the Adams Courthouse.

Policymakers met earlier this month at the Adams Courthouse to discuss why changes to the CORI laws aren't resulting in ex-offenders ability to find jobs as expected. Changes to the CORI law, made in 2010 and 2012, "banned the box" on job applications requiring job seekers to disclose their criminal backgrounds, and took five years off wait times to seal criminal records from background checks.

Researchers from the Policy Center speculated that the 2.6% drop in the employment rate for Massachusetts residents with criminal records since the changes were enacted could be the result of ex-offenders' belief that the revised CORI laws may improve their job prospects, causing them to seek better paying jobs than before. They also suggested that employers may also now use other ways to screen for ex-offenders, such as raising educational and/or experience requirements. Presenters and panelists alike called for more research to help people build "positive records" to enable them to contribute to the state's economy.

Read the report: [Reintegrating the Ex-Offender Population in the U.S. Labor Market: Lessons from the CORI Reform in Massachusetts](#)

What's new by you?

We want to hear from you!

Tell us about upcoming events or solutions your courthouse has developed.



2016 Excellence Awards at the Adams Courthouse.

Send us your latest news and photos so we can share them with your Trial Court colleagues across the Commonwealth.

Keep in touch: execofc@jud.state.ma.us.

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Coming up in April: Franklin County Justice Center officially opens its doors in special ceremony; EACC at Dudley District Court