

**Testimony of:**

**Joseph P. Secola  
Judge of Probate, District of Brookfield  
And  
President of the Connecticut Probate Judges Association for  
Local Courts, Inc.**

**before the  
The Judiciary Committee**

**March 30, 2007**

Co-Chairs, Sen. McDonald and Rep. Lawlor, and members of the Judiciary Committee, I am Joseph P. Secola, Judge of Probate for the District of Brookfield and President of the Connecticut Probate Judges Association for Local Courts, Inc., an organization of over 30 probate judges, who are committed to preserve the local court features of our probate system.

The Probate Assembly has just adopted major and historic reforms to improve our beloved 300 year-old Probate court System. Besides dramatically increased education for judges (requiring all 15 CLE hours be in person, up from 5), including intensive training and mentoring for new judges, we have adopted certain minimum standards for courts. The two most important standards deal with 1) court hours of operation (requiring a 20 hour/week minimum) and 2) compliance with *Conn. Gen. Stat. § 45a-8*, which requires towns to provide adequate facilities for their probate court. If the Probate Administrator had been enforcing this statute, many voluntary mergers would already have taken place.

Our reforms preserve our most important quality – the accessibility to the general public, who can come to their local probate court without a lawyer and without the intimidating presence of metal detectors and sheriffs. Our people can come to their local probate court when they need help with their estate, their elderly loved ones, their mentally disabled loved ones, and their children, any of whom maybe infirm and in need of the assistance of the local probate court; no bureaucracy, no red tape, just a clerk or judge to help.

In an age which prizes efficiency above everything else, we are constantly bombarded with this bigger is better philosophy, resulting in constant mergers, a massive federal government and larger and larger multi-national corporations, all of which cause our heads to keep spinning. We all mourn the loss of the sense of community many of us had growing up; the local probate courts are one of the few community building institutions left, where we can sit down and catch our breath in an informal and welcoming atmosphere, many times with a judge we already know and trust.

Our Association strongly opposes S.B. 1272 and S.B. 1454, explained in the following chart of bills. We support S.B. 1439, which provides increased protections for conserved persons, but oppose 3 sections of this bill as detailed in the chart of bills. We support S.B. 1454, which raises the limit from \$20,000 to \$40,000 for small estates. We support H.B. 7382, which transfers the cost of present and former judges and employees from the Probate Fund to the General Fund. We suggest this bill be expanded to also transfer the system's indigency costs to the General Fund.

What follows is a chart for specific bills and language as well as a detailed memorandum with documents attached discussing the major reforms adopted by the probate assembly and the financial mismanagement and excessive spending by the probate court administrator.

## CHART REGARDING SPECIFIC BILLS

1. **OPPOSE** S.B. No. 1272 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING ADMINISTRATION OF THE COURTS OF PROBATE AND THE DUTIES OF THE PROBATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR.

**OPPOSE** - THIS BILL CREATES A MONARCHY IN THE PCA, GIVING HIM CARTE BLANCH CONTROL OF ALL COURTS, JUDGES, STAFF, ETC. AND ALLOWS HIM TO DESIGNATE "SPECIAL JUDGES" AND THEREBY PROVIDE INFERIOR SERVICES TO CONN. RESIDENTS, BASED ON WHERE THEY LIVE, AS WELL AS DISENFRANCHISING THE VOTE OF MANY CONN. RESIDENTS. PROBATE JUDGES ARE ELECTED OFFICIALS, NOT POTTED PLANTS.

2. **OPPOSE** S.B. No. 1453 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRANSFER OF AN APPLICATION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A CONSERVATOR TO THE SUPERIOR COURT OR OTHER PROBATE COURT.

**OPPOSE** - THIS BILL ALLOWS FORUM SHOPPING BETWEEN THE SUPERIOR COURT AND PROBATE COURTS AS WELL AS BETWEEN PROBATE COURTS. IT ALLOWS THE PCA TO ASSIGN "SPECIALLY TRAINED JUDGES" TO REPLACE ANY JUDGE AT ANY TIME AT THE REQUEST OF ANY PARTY. TH IS ALLOWS THE PCA TO PROVIDE INFERIOR SERVICES TO CONN. RESIDENTS, BASED ON WHERE THEY LIVE AS WELL AS DISENFRANCHISING THE VOTE OF MANY CONN. RESIDENTS. PROBATE JUDGES ARE ELECTED OFFICIALS, NOT POTTED PLANTS.

3. **SUPPORT with 3 exceptions** S.B. No. 1439 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING CONSERVATORS AND PROBATE APPEALS.

### WE OPPOSE THE CHANGES SHOWN IN THESE SECTIONS:

Sec. 2. Section 45a-649 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):

(a) (1) Upon an application for involuntary representation, the court shall issue a citation to the following enumerated parties to appear before it at a date, time and place named in the citation, which shall be served on the parties at least [seven] fourteen days before the hearing date, or in the case of an application made pursuant to section 17a-543 or 17a-543a, at least seven days before the hearing date, which date shall not be more than thirty days after the receipt of the application by the Court of Probate unless continued for cause shown. [Notice of the hearing shall be sent within thirty days after receipt of the application.]

**3.A. OPPOSE Section 2(a)(1): REGARDING ADDING 17A-543 AND 17A-543A - THESE STATUTES INVOLVE MEDICATION AND PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT - ESPECIALLY WHEN IMMEDIATE TREATMENT IS NEEDED, DOUBLING THE NOTICE TIME ALLOWS MENTALLY DISABLED INDIVIDUALS TO REMAIN VULNERABLE AND A DANGER TO THEMSELVES AND OTHERS**

Sec. 4. Section 45a-650 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):

(b) After the court determines pursuant to subsection (a) of this section that it has jurisdiction over the application for involuntary representation, the court shall receive evidence regarding the [condition] capacity of the respondent [, including a written report or testimony by] to care for himself or herself or manage his or her affairs that may include evidence from one or more physicians licensed to practice medicine in the state who have examined the respondent within [thirty] forty-five days preceding the hearing. The [report or testimony] evidence shall contain specific information regarding the [disability and the extent of its incapacitating effect] respondent's condition and the effect of the condition on the respondent's ability to care for himself or herself or manage his or her affairs. The court [may] shall also consider such other evidence as may be available and relevant, including, but not limited to, a summary of the physical and social functioning level or ability of the respondent and the availability of support services from the family, neighbors, community or any other appropriate source. Such evidence may include, if available, [reports] evidence from the social work service of a general hospital, municipal social worker, director of social service, public health nurse, public health agency, psychologist, coordinating assessment and monitoring agencies, or such other persons as the court deems qualified to provide such evidence. [The court may waive the requirement that medical evidence be presented if it is shown that the evidence is impossible to obtain because of the absence of the respondent or his or her refusal to be examined by a physician or that the alleged incapacity is not medical in nature. If such requirement is waived, the court shall make a specific finding in any decree issued on the petition stating why medical evidence was not required. In any matter in which the Commissioner of Social Services seeks the appointment of a conservator pursuant to chapter 319dd and represents to the court that an examination by an independent physician, psychologist or psychiatrist is necessary to determine whether the elderly person is capable of managing his or her personal or financial affairs, the court shall order such examination unless the court determines that such examination is not in the best interests of the elderly person. The court shall order such examination notwithstanding any medical report submitted to the court by the elderly person or the caretaker of such elderly person.] Any medical [report] evidence filed with the court pursuant to this subsection shall be confidential.

**3.B. OPPOSE Section 4(b) - DELETING THE COURTS' ABILITY TO WAIVE MEDICAL EVIDENCE, ESPECIALLY IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS, ALLOWS MENTALLY DISABLED INDIVIDUALS TO REMAIN VULNERABLE AND A DANGER TO THEMSELVES AND OTHERS.**

Sec. 4. Section 45a-650 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):

[(f)] (i) Upon the request of the respondent [or his or her counsel, made within thirty days of the date of the decree] or any interested party, the court shall, [make and furnish findings of fact to support its conclusion] within fourteen days of the date of such request, clarify the findings of fact required to support an appointment of conservator under this section.

**3.C. OPPOSE Section 4 (i) - THIS SECTION ADDS "ANY INTERESTED PARTY" AND WE BELIEVE THAT THIS IS A VIOLATION OF THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY OF THE RESPONDENT, WHO SHOULD BE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN REQUEST THIS FACTUAL CLARIFICATION.**

**4. SUPPORT: S.B. No. 1454 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR FILING AN AFFIDAVIT IN LIEU OF ADMINISTRATION IN THE PROBATE OF A SMALL ESTATE.**

**SUPPORT - THIS BILL RAISES THE LIMIT FROM \$20,000 TO \$40,000.**

**5. SUPPORT: H.B. No. 7382 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR PROBATE COURT JUDGES AND EMPLOYEES.**

See paragraph 9 of my attached memo - indigency costs and health insurance are driving the financial problems of the probate system.

**CONNECTICUT PROBATE JUDGES ASSOCIATION  
FOR LOCAL COURTS, INC.**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Co-Chairmen and Members of the Judiciary Committee and Interested Members of the General Assembly

**FROM:** Judge Joseph P. Secola, District of Brookfield and President of the Connecticut Probate Judges Association for Local Courts, Inc.

**DATE:** March 30, 2007

**RE:** 1) Major Reforms adopted by the Probate Assembly and 2) Financial Mismanagement, Excessive and Wasteful Spending, and a Lack of Openness and Transparency by the present Probate Administrator

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**1. Probate Judges have adopted Major Reforms.** At a Probate Assembly Meeting on February 28, 2007, Probate Judges unanimously adopted historic reforms on Judicial Education (see pages and Minimum Standards for Probate Courts. I co-chair, with President-Judge Dianne Yamin<sup>1</sup> of Danbury, a working group of thirty probate judges, who have proposed reforms in response to the *Program Review & Investigations Committee* recommendations. These proposals were adopted on February 28, 2007. Besides dramatically increased education for judges [see attached pages 3-7] (requiring all 15 CLE hours be in person, up from 5), including intensive training and mentoring for new judges, we have adopted certain minimum standards for courts. [see attached pages 1-2] The two most important standards deal with 1) court hours of operation (requiring a 20 hour/week minimum) and 2) compliance with *Conn. Gen. Stat. § 45a-8*, which requires towns to provide adequate facilities for their probate court. If the Probate Administrator had been enforcing this statute, many voluntary mergers would already have taken place. The statute is attached as pages 29-30. Recently I had an encouraging conversation with the judicial department's Chief Court Administrator, Judge Lavery, who encouraged my own view that these two reforms will achieve the voluntary consolidation needed.

**2. Probate Courts provide money to the state each year.** In addition to funding themselves, the probate courts have generated **over 80 million dollars for the state in the past four years** from liens asserted against estates. This money is used by the state to provide services to Connecticut residents. See letter from the Department of Administrative Services dated December 26, 2006 attached as page 8.

**3. Lack of Openness and Transparency in Budgetary matters.** One of the casualties of Probate Administrator James J. Lawlor's financial and personnel mismanagement of his office was staff accountant/auditor David Saltzman, who had worked in the Probate Administrator's office for 15 years, from 1990-2005. See letter of Saltzman to Sen. Coleman, written in the spring of 2006, attached as page 9. **This letter reveals not only the Probate Administrator Lawlor's manufacture and use of knowingly faulty financial projections, but also his real purpose, namely to achieve a fore-ordained massive consolidation of courts.**

**4. Local Court Costs Distorted:** The first financial deficit in the history of the probate court system, occurring in the 05-06 fiscal year was not the result of probate court expenses, i.e. staff, judges' salaries<sup>2</sup>, and operating expenses. Probate Administrator Lawlor's figures show 44

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<sup>1</sup> President of the Connecticut Probate Assembly of judges since April, 2006.

<sup>2</sup> Program Review & Investigations committee staff found that judges' salaries rose 18% over six years, from 1999-

## CONNECTICUT PROBATE JUDGES ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL COURTS, INC.

courts “in the red”. To support his contention that many of the courts are operating “in the red”, Probate Administrator Lawlor unilaterally changed the accounting system, in violation of statute, to allocate health insurance costs to each court even though the legislature decided that this expense would be a system cost. See *P.A. No. 96-110*, codified as *Conn. Gen. Stat. §5-259 (g)*. **In reality the individual courts are not losing money.** There is only one court experiencing a true deficit (Hartford - \$38,000). See 2005 chart of individual court income and expenses, showing a net income to the Probate Fund of 9.2 million dollars, according to the Probate Administrator’s own figures, attached as pages 10-12. **The problem is the financial mismanagement and excessive spending by Probate Administrator Lawlor, who was appointed by former Chief Justice Sullivan in 2002, both Waterbury residents.** The Probate Administrator serves at the pleasure of the Chief Justice.

**5. Dramatic Probate Administrator Staff Increases.** Probate Administrator Lawlor has dramatically increased his staff from 13 employees<sup>3</sup> to 20 employees plus numerous outside contractors, all performing staff functions. Staff salaries and benefits rose **from \$1.2 million in 02-03 to nearly \$2.0 million in 06-07, a 60% increase in 5 years.** See employee comparison chart at page 13; the 2007 OLR report of staff salaries at page 15; and Probate Fund expenditures on “Personal Services-Staff” and “Fringe Benefits-Staff” during the 02-03 to 05-06 fiscal years, attached as page 27.

**6. Massive Spending on Outside Consultants.** Beginning with the 02-03 fiscal year, Probate Administrator Lawlor has spent **\$1.2 million dollars** on outside professionals, including **six-figure spending on consultants.** The professional fees have risen from \$54,000 in 02-03 to \$220,000 in 05-06, **cumulatively \$570,000 over the 3.5 years** [see 2005 OLR report at pages 18-23]. **However the 2007 OLR report shows that this spending has exploded, as in a 14 month period, from 12-1-2005 to 1-13-2007, the Probate Fund expenditures on “Professional Fees” was \$600,000, as much as the last 3.5 years** [see 2007 OLR report at pages 14-17]. The probate courts have not benefited in any way from these wasteful expenditures on consultants, lawyers and public relations firms. Compare the Probate Fund expenditures on “Professional Fees” during the 02-03 to 05-06 fiscal years, attached as page 27.

**7. Lack of Candor: Children’s Court Costs Hidden:** On March 14, 2005, before the Judiciary Committee, Lawlor testified that the cost of the New Haven regional children’s court is “\$170,000. My estimate is that when we get 13 courts online, one in every DCF district, that our total cost will be less than \$2 million per year.”<sup>4</sup> However, 10 months after this testimony, Lawlor told Judge Pellegrino that 7 courts would cost 5 million annually. Judge Pellegrino “strongly encouraged” Lawlor to immediately report the true costs of operating the new regional children’s courts to the “Executive and Legislative branches” and seek “permanent funding”, but he never has. **The attached letter of Judge Pellegrino reveals the significant difference between what is reported to the public, and what is actually requested in Mr. Lawlor’s**

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2005, averaging a 3% per year increase. *Program Review & Investigations Committee, 2005 Study, Probate Court System Final Report at page 36.*

<sup>3</sup> Under former Probate Administrator Paul Kurmay, who was replaced by Lawlor in the spring, 2002.

<sup>4</sup> See March 14, 2005 transcript of public hearing before Judiciary committee at p. 6-7.

## CONNECTICUT PROBATE JUDGES ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL COURTS, INC.

**budget.**<sup>5</sup> See 1-31-2006 Pellegrino letter, attached as pages 24-25.

**8. Lack of Transparency and Openness in Planning.** At least annually, the Probate Administrator and the Chief Justice meet to discuss the probate system, a meeting that the chief counsel of the Probate Administrator's office, Linda Dow, who had been on staff for more than 20 years, always attended. When Probate Administrator Lawlor was appointed by Chief Justice Sullivan, Attorney Dow was intentionally excluded from these meetings. Moreover, despite her exemplary service to the probate court system, Linda was **involuntarily transferred** to the Judicial Department, Juvenile division, in the summer of 2005. Universally, the judges and their court staff relied upon the advice and guidance of Attorney Dow and auditor Saltzman. They provided the institutional memory of how the probate courts have historically operated; without them, any historical restraints on the operation, including staff size and other spending, of the Probate Administrator's office are gone. Without them, we are all diminished in our capacity to serve the public. Such personnel mismanagement must be reversed; a new Probate Administrator should immediately seek their return.

**9. First ever deficit driven by two system costs: Indigency Fees and Health**

**Insurance.** A simple analysis of the use of the Probate Fund reveals that two system-wide costs are driving the present financial stresses on the probate court system. **Indigency costs have quadrupled in the past five years from 1.0 million in 01-02 to over 4.0 million in 05-06.** In the same 5 years, Health Insurance for Courts (current judges and staff) rose from 1.8 million to 2.8 million; while Health Insurance for Retirees rose from 1.1 million to 2.2 million. **Total Health Insurance costs have nearly doubled from 2.9 million to 5 million.** See Probate Administrator budget ("Health Ins.-Courts" and Health Ins.-Retirees"), attached as page 27, and the Indigency chart, attached as page 28. If a new fiscally conservative Probate Administrator eliminated the millions in wasteful spending as well as reveal and seek assistance for the millions of dollars in hidden costs of the regional children's courts detailed earlier; these two system costs will remain and need to be dealt with openly.<sup>6</sup>

**10. Our entire judicial system needs a fresh start.** When a new Chief Justice is confirmed, she will provide the judicial branch with a fresh start to continue on the path to openness and transparency. We can only hope that a new Probate Administrator is then appointed, as the probate court system needs the same transparent leadership, coupled with a fiscally conservative attitude toward the use of public funds.

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<sup>5</sup> This lack of candor was revealed to me at a meeting I was invited to near the end of the 2005 legislative session. At that time, the CBA President, Fred Ury, invited me and Probate Administrator Lawlor to a meeting to see if we could find any common ground. At that meeting Probate Administrator Lawlor stated his belief that the future of the probate courts was the new regional children's courts, and that he was willing to spend the ENTIRE Probate Fund to get these regional children's courts up and running, because he stated that they will be so successful that the legislature will have to fund them out of general tax revenues, something he has never informed the legislature of.

<sup>6</sup> Program Review Recommendation #2, states: "The costs related to indigent cases shall be paid from the state's general revenues." *Program Review & Investigations Committee, 2005 Study, Probate Court System Executive Summary at page ii.*

**MINIMUM STANDARDS/  
VOLUNTARY CONSOLIDATION  
SUBCOMMITTEE**

February 21, 2007

RE: Status to date (summary form)

**CRITERIA TO BE USED  
TOWARDS VOLUNTARY CONSOLIDATION**

The subcommittee of the Working Group has met approximately nine (9) times on its own and at least an additional ten (10) times with the Working Group Committee and proposes the following criteria. The subcommittee has agreed that the absence of one or more of the following should prompt a) first contact with the Judge by the PCA (with a period of 30 days to respond and if no response or inadequate response; b) PCA contact with the local municipal CEO (s) with a recommendation that they first seriously consider correcting the situation or voluntarily consolidating with another district. If no solution thereafter, PCA to advise legislature per Statute.

Minimum Standards, as follows:

1. Court hours: Courts to be "open to the public" 5 days per week (except where town supplied facility is closed), for not less than 20 hours per week. Courts to post accessibility information with phone numbers when not open (if less than full time).
2. Each Court must have a clerk and a Judge and be staffed by the judge and/or clerk during the hours the court is "open to the public". In addition, all Courts must have at least two designated standby judges, and their names and contact information posted whenever the judge of that district is not available.
3. Facilities Compliance: CGS 45a-8
  - a. Hearing room of adequate size.
  - b. Separate space of adequate size for clerk (s).
  - c. Vault (conforming to statute) and to include access to public records during closed periods (when not open full time) or posting of access information with phone numbers, when closed.

- d. Appropriate storage facilities.
  - e. Judge's office (separate from clerk's office).
- 4. CMS software and hardware with all updates.
  - 5. Financially viable ( have contributed to the Probate Administration Fund for 3 of the last 5 years, with the cost of insurance not included in statutory computation);
  - 6. Geographically appropriate to serve the needs of the population served, taking into account accessibility and public transportation.

NOTE: This report is provided in part as a response to the Program Review Committee's recommendations and in part as part of an overall review of the Probate Court system, in an effort to make it operate in today's world, recognizing that this is only one portion of the overall report. Unanimously recommended by the Working Group, February 21, 2007.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
OFFICE OF THE PROBATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR  
186 NEWINGTON ROAD  
WEST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06110

TR 91-417 REVISED JULY, 1993, \_\_\_, 2007

TO: JUDGES OF THE COURTS OF PROBATE AND COURT PERSONNEL

RE: CONTINUING JUDICIAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

The Continuing Judicial Education Requirements were adopted by the Connecticut Probate Assembly June 17, 1987, amended by the Connecticut Probate Assembly on January 17, 1991. Paragraph 3, which explains "in-person" credit hours, was revised in July, 1993. This entire TR was substantially revised, expanded, and amended in (month), 2007 by the Connecticut Probate Assembly.

**(NEW SECTION) Section 1. REQUIREMENTS FOR NEWLY ELECTED JUDGES**

A newly elected probate judge is a person elected to serve his or her first term of office whether during the regular quadrennial election or by a special election.

A newly elected probate judge must (a)ttend a six day pre-bench orientation program, which will assist newly elected probate judges to make the transition to the new role of probate judge. It is designed to prepare the probate judge for the first day as probate judge upon swearing in. It is designed and required to be taken prior to assuming the position as probate judge regardless of educational background. The courses shall be offered in November and December, after the judge's election, but prior to the judge being sworn in.

The six day program shall consist of the following:

A) All courses of study required by C.G.S. § 45a – 27:

1) Civil Procedure, including constitutional issues, due process, and evidentiary considerations,

**NOTE: A judge who has not completed the Civil Procedure course of Study will be precluded from presiding at any adversarial proceeding and another Judge shall be cited in to preside at these adversarial hearings until this educational requirement is completed.**

2) Property Law, including conveyancing and title considerations,

3) The law of Wills and Trusts, and

4) Family Law in the context of probate courts

B) In addition to statutory requirements of C.G.S § 45a - 27 programs shall consist of:

- 1) Review of areas of Probate Jurisdiction,
- 2) Ethics,
- 3) Tasks of judging and conducting hearings,
- 4) Preparation and writing decrees,
- 5) Administrative duties of the new judge with emphasis on legal research, case flow, file and financial management requirements, court operations and support for judges, and
- 6) Substantive study of Conservatorships, Guardianships for Minors, Guardianships of Mentally Retarded Persons, Termination of Parental Rights and Adoptions.

C) Implementation

1) Probate Administration with the assistance of the Probate Assembly shall facilitate a series of meetings, lectures and court visits for the new judges.

2) The assistance of professional educators is contemplated in setting the final course curriculum and teaching with the Probate Assembly providing experienced judges for substantive probate law. In addition, the Continuing Education Judges Support Services of the State Judicial Department Staff and Facilities and other State Agencies shall be utilized whenever possible.

D) Mentor program.

Each new judge shall be assigned a mentor. Each mentor shall have served as a probate judge for a minimum of four years. The mentoring program shall include a total of fourteen hours for the new judge to sit in and observe hearings conducted by the mentor or other approved probate judge. The fourteen hours need not be consecutive. The mentor or other approved judge must certify attendance by the new judge on a form provided by the office of the probate court administrator. The mentoring program shall take place during the months of November, December and January, following the judge's election.

E) Six Month Review

Approximately six months after assuming the position of probate judge, the new judges shall meet as a group with the Probate Administrator and representatives of the Continuing Education Committee of the Probate

Assembly for an overview of the substantive law required by C.G.S. § 45a – 27.

F) Special election time requirements

Judges elected in a special election shall be required to meet all of the same educational requirements as above; however, they have 45 days after the election to comply.

The new training program shall be audio and video recorded for use in education of judges in special and off year elections.

The failure of any judge in meeting the requirements of this section shall be referred to the Executive Committee of the Probate Assembly for such action as it deems appropriate, including, but not limited to, reference to the Council on Probate Judicial Conduct. See C.G.S. §45a-63; Canon 3, Sections B (2) and C (1) of the Code of Probate Judicial Conduct; and the Minimum Standards for Judges of Probate.

**Section 2: ANNUAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL JUDGES**

All judges of probate shall annually complete a minimum of **fifteen** credit hours of approved continuing judicial education instruction, (except those judges specifically exempted from this requirement by these regulations). All fifteen credit hours must be achieved by the personal attendance of the Judge. Probate Administration and the Probate Assembly shall offer educational opportunities which will satisfy all fifteen hours annually.

An instructional hour must contain at least fifty minutes with no credit given for introduction of the speaker, meal breaks, or business meetings.

Each judge of probate shall be responsible for ascertaining whether or not a particular course satisfies the requirements of these regulations. Judges shall exercise discretion in choosing those approved programs that are most likely to enhance judicial skills.

**Section 3: CERTIFICATION**

No later than January 31st of each year each judge of probate shall submit to the Probate Court Administrator a statement of the number of hours of judicial education programs attended during the reporting period. Such statement shall be rendered on a form provided by the office of the probate court administrator. The failure to file a truthful statement or the failure to attend the minimum number of credit hours required shall be referred to the Executive Committee of the Probate Assembly for such action as it deems appropriate, including, but not limited to, reference to the Council on Probate Judicial Conduct. See C.G.S. §45a-63; Canon 3, Sections B (2) and C

(l) of the Code of Probate Judicial Conduct; and the Minimum Standards for Judges of Probate.

**Section 4: ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE**

There is established a Judicial Education Standards Committee consisting of the chairman of the Connecticut Probate Assembly's Continuing Education Committee, the executive secretary of the Connecticut Probate Assembly, the probate court administrator or his designee, and the first vice-president judge of the Connecticut Probate Assembly, who shall serve as chair. The purpose of this committee is to assist in the implementation of these regulations.

**Section 5. EXEMPTIONS**

Any judge of probate who has obtained a written waiver from the Judicial Education Standards Committee shall be exempted from the minimum requirements for the reporting period for which the waiver is granted.

**Section 6. CREDITS**

Credits will be given only for continuing education instruction or activities approved by the Judicial Education Standards Committee. Continuing legal education activities conducted by the following sponsors are presumptively approved for credit, provided the subject matter is related directly to probate law or will enhance the skills of the judge in the judge's capacity as a probate judge.

Connecticut Probate Assembly Seminars/Probate Court Administrator's Seminars (Note: For new judges elected in special or "off-year" elections, this includes training at the Administrator's office.)

Continuing Education Judges Support Services of the State Judicial Department Staff and Facilities and other State Agencies

National College of Probate Judges' Seminars

American Bar Association Seminars

Connecticut Bar Association Seminars

County and local Bar Association Seminars

Accredited Connecticut legal, medical, and social work courses.

Regional meetings of Judges of Probate, where education is offered.

Judges who participate in Probate Assembly education programs shall be allowed credit preparation for the annual education requirements in an amount equal to the time of the presentation.

Other sponsors may be added to this list as their identities or programs are accepted, confirmed and approved by the Judicial Education Committee.

In addition, judges may receive credit for presenting seminars and other instructional materials relative to probate law and procedures, subject to the approval of the Judicial Education Standards Committee. This approval *must* be obtained before the judge submits the Compliance Report to the Administrator's office.

The Judicial Education Standards Committee shall evaluate and, where appropriate, approve those

programs that serve to satisfy the requirements of the regulations. Although all sponsors' listed above are presumptively approved for credit, an Application for Credit for all sponsors' other than the Connecticut Probate Assembly/Probate Court Administrator must be made to the Judicial Education Standards Committee. All Judges seeking such approval shall submit in writing to the committee an explanation of the benefit of the program to the position of probate judge, on a form prepared by the Probate Court Administrator's Office, which shall be called an "Application for Educational Credit". In evaluating the specific programs, the committee shall consider the following factors:

- (1) Whether the course tends to increase the participant's professional competence as a judge;
- (2) The number of hours of actual presentation and participation, so that the appropriate number of credit hours can be identified;
- (3) The usage of written educational materials that reflect thorough preparation by the course provider and that assist course participants in improving their judicial skills.

The assistance of the Judicial Branch, Superior Court Operations Continuing Education shall be sought in developing and implementing the educational requirement for new judges and for annual education programs.



165 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106-1658

December 26, 2006

Hon. Joseph P. Secola  
Probate District of Brookfield  
P.O. Box 5192  
Brookfield, CT 06804

Re: Revenue Generated through Probate  
Court Processes

Dear Judge Secola:

It was such a pleasure speaking with you last week. The Department of Administrative Services has worked very hard to improve communication between the Probate Courts and the agency in order to both maximize revenue and respond to questions and concerns in a timely and consistent manner. We value this partnership and the many positives it has provided to DAS.

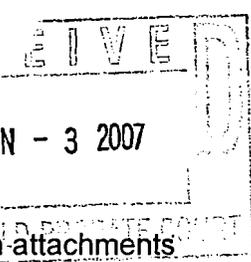
In response to your questions regarding the revenue collected by DAS through the Probate Court processes; the following represents total revenues for the last four fiscal years.

FY02-03	FY03-04	FY04-05	FY 05-06
\$16,867,476.45	\$17,835,439.42	\$21,293,930.36	\$24,457,615.60

If you have any further questions, please contact me at (860) 713-5469. Best wishes for a happy and healthy new year to you and you staff.

Sincerely,

Abbie T. Wotkyns  
Estate Administrator



Judge Secola Memorandum attachments

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Senator Eric Coleman  
Legislative Office Building, Room 2100  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Dear Senator Coleman,

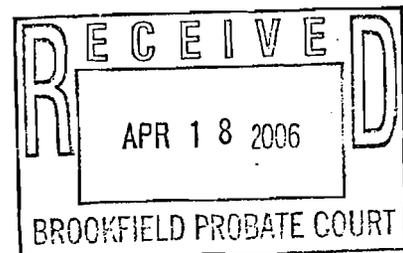
I am writing to you to urge you to oppose SB 431 and HB 5598. These bills were submitted by Judge James J. Lawlor, Probate Court Administrator. I was the staff accountant/auditor at the Office of Probate Administration from July 1990 until May 2005. I quit when I decided that Judge Lawlor was not a person for whom I could work.

- Judge Lawlor's ultimate plan is to reduce the number of Probate Courts to 25-30 large courts that would operate like his court in Waterbury. Probate Courts in towns such as Windsor and Bloomfield would be combined into large regional courts.
- Much of the statistical analysis provided by Judge Lawlor is faulty. Using a model developed by Judge Lawlor, Chief Justice Sullivan announced at the 2004 Probate Assembly annual meeting that the probate system would operate at a deficit in 2004 and thereafter. Judge Lawlor created the deficit by underestimating system revenue and overestimating the expenses of his own office. A retired state auditor hired by Judge Lawlor to review the analysis pointed out the faults, but his comments were ignored.
- Judge Lawlor is constantly invoking a financial crisis in the probate system. His proposal to make probate clerks state employees would increase the probate system expenses significantly. While a few clerks are paid more than their counterparts in the Judicial department, far more clerks are paid less than comparable state employees.
- HB 5598 contains a provision to make all probate court clerks state employees. However, HB 5598 also contains a provision regarding the probate clerks' medical insurance that requires them to pay more for coverage than current state employees pay.
- SB 431 contains a provision that would allow a Judge or clerk to receive a pension if they serve as few as four years and their district is merged into another district. This provision would allow a Judge or clerk, some as young as their 20's or 30's, to receive free medical insurance for life, for themselves and their spouses. This is an extremely generous gift from a system facing financial crisis.
- Information routinely disseminated by prior Administrators is withheld by Judge Lawlor. This is evidenced by the numerous FOI requests filed by Probate Judges to obtain meaningful information from the Administration office.

On more than one occasion Judge Lawlor stated that he reports to the Chief Justice and no one else. Therefore, he does not have to be concerned about following recommendations by the state auditors. If you give him the powers contained in these bills it will be the last time you have any control over what he does.

Sincerely,

/s/ DAVID SALTZMAN  
David Saltzman  
616 Palisado Avenue  
Windsor, CT 06095



District	Comparative Report 2005 (OPCA)				
	Gross Revenue	Op Expense	Staff	Judges	Net Income
Andover	\$84,844	\$4,780	\$36,384	\$40,670	\$3,009
Ashford	\$15,129	\$1,197	\$0	\$13,932	\$1
Avon	\$173,329	\$4,489	\$37,961	\$68,045	\$62,833
Berlin	\$573,639	\$49,177	\$250,079	\$98,906	\$175,477
Bethany	\$61,401	\$12,898	\$0	\$22,968	\$25,535
Bethel	\$72,859	\$1,322	\$26,236	\$41,886	\$3,415
Bloomfield	\$363,804	\$11,339	\$88,783	\$81,478	\$182,205
Bozrah	\$11,868	\$696	\$2,860	\$8,311	\$1
Branford	\$287,360	\$12,321	\$70,942	\$78,498	\$125,599
Bridgeport	\$709,681	\$138,052	\$460,941	\$98,906	\$11,782
Bristol	\$308,812	\$49,457	\$178,094	\$78,660	\$2,602
Brookfield	\$108,196	\$10,987	\$28,624	\$54,070	\$14,515
Brooklyn	\$29,147	\$381	\$0	\$28,196	\$570
Burlington	\$32,464	\$1,192	\$10,241	\$20,968	\$64
Canaan	\$66,770	\$6,094	\$27,908	\$31,798	\$970
Canton	\$71,270	\$5,887	\$10,571	\$47,845	\$6,967
Cheshire	\$187,446	\$18,616	\$79,044	\$59,371	\$30,416
Clinton	\$99,413	\$1,670	\$22,709	\$55,656	\$19,378
Colchester	\$92,990	\$7,540	\$49,074	\$34,875	\$1,502
Cornwall	\$36,307	\$1,153	\$2,518	\$12,548	\$20,089
Danbury	\$354,857	\$27,721	\$128,958	\$98,906	\$99,272
Darien	\$389,541	\$30,645	\$108,840	\$80,796	\$169,260
Deep River	\$40,412	\$2,970	\$10,510	\$26,545	\$386
Derby	\$297,826	\$32,207	\$104,248	\$72,685	\$88,686
East Granby	\$20,092	\$1,789	\$0	\$17,928	\$375
East Haddam	\$46,837	\$331	\$11,700	\$33,540	\$1,266
East Hampton	\$52,650	\$5,475	\$13,710	\$32,400	\$1,065
East Hartford	\$304,794	\$37,580	\$148,612	\$65,589	\$53,013
East Haven	\$131,396	\$7,483	\$61,532	\$51,630	\$10,751
East Lyme	\$112,478	\$11,381	\$39,840	\$51,067	\$10,189
East Windsor	\$179,889	\$5,961	\$62,259	\$64,203	\$47,466
Eastford	\$12,895	\$379	\$0	\$12,515	\$1
Ellington	\$245,672	\$34,695	\$124,826	\$58,462	\$27,689
Enfield	\$196,895	\$12,589	\$65,448	\$65,641	\$53,218
Essex	\$154,717	\$4,925	\$54,267	\$60,805	\$34,720
Fairfield	\$904,939	\$41,519	\$231,080	\$92,353	\$539,987
Farmington	\$265,333	\$11,593	\$75,259	\$75,251	\$103,230
Glastonbury	\$308,303	\$20,564	\$103,050	\$76,182	\$108,507
Granby	\$64,522	\$2,583	\$12,636	\$44,573	\$4,729
Greenwich	\$1,483,507	\$54,669	\$310,490	\$98,906	\$1,019,441
Griswold	\$44,347	\$2,198	\$17,393	\$24,507	\$249
Groton	\$328,593	\$26,843	\$80,256	\$79,368	\$142,125
Guilford	\$203,067	\$14,145	\$41,120	\$70,649	\$77,153
Haddam	\$34,565	\$3,208	\$6,198	\$24,889	\$270
Hamden	\$462,153	\$17,751	\$82,911	\$85,582	\$275,909
Hampton	\$12,535	\$993	\$0	\$10,152	\$1,390
Hartford	\$659,925	\$81,120	\$518,232	\$98,906	(\$38,333)
Harwinton	\$35,854	\$2,270	\$10,105	\$18,288	\$5,191
Hebron	\$31,180	\$1,339	\$7,773	\$19,152	\$2,916
Kent	\$20,528	\$683	\$10	\$19,835	\$0

District	Comparative Report 2005 (OPCA)				
	Gross Revenue	Op Expense	Staff	Judges	Net Income
Killingly	\$93,404	\$14,177	\$40,315	\$38,961	(\$48)
Killingworth	\$40,699	\$5,994	\$1,675	\$30,100	\$2,930
Ledyard	\$65,038	\$6,326	\$15,300	\$40,469	\$2,942
Litchfield	\$157,595	\$9,488	\$30,641	\$65,362	\$52,104
Lyme	\$85,597	\$2,046	\$9,219	\$15,984	\$58,348
Madison	\$179,782	\$2,360	\$31,540	\$70,361	\$75,521
Manchester	\$391,766	\$33,032	\$153,761	\$78,542	\$126,430
Mansfield	\$202,506	\$31,521	\$21,185	\$70,949	\$78,852
Marlborough	\$22,413	\$886	\$6,660	\$14,866	\$1
Meriden	\$302,265	\$46,778	\$92,569	\$72,917	\$90,001
Middletown	\$484,190	\$88,051	\$205,768	\$98,906	\$91,466
Milford	\$371,267	\$11,377	\$91,383	\$81,718	\$186,789
Montville	\$82,894	\$7,849	\$15,410	\$50,257	\$9,379
Naugatuck	\$161,077	\$4,749	\$68,182	\$59,246	\$28,900
New Canaan	\$502,764	\$48,014	\$114,749	\$85,045	\$254,956
New Fairfield	\$111,176	\$6,238	\$18,577	\$58,514	\$27,846
New Hartford	\$76,170	\$5,960	\$20,522	\$44,824	\$4,864
New Haven	\$655,175	\$98,460	\$451,118	\$98,906	\$6,691
New London	\$407,667	\$56,661	\$139,348	\$84,090	\$127,568
New Milford	\$212,910	\$9,533	\$73,195	\$67,905	\$62,276
Newington	\$670,311	\$51,215	\$251,121	\$98,906	\$269,069
Newtown	\$169,786	\$11,191	\$38,351	\$65,918	\$54,326
No. Branford	\$160,958	\$5,269	\$32,254	\$66,556	\$56,879
No. Haven	\$189,336	\$3,873	\$53,014	\$68,346	\$64,103
No. Stonington	\$29,663	\$3,379	\$8,630	\$17,653	\$1
Norfolk	\$30,819	\$2,291	\$0	\$28,528	\$0
Norwalk	\$851,388	\$104,365	\$330,105	\$98,906	\$318,012
Norwich	\$325,602	\$50,939	\$98,962	\$74,834	\$100,867
Old Lyme	\$126,295	\$5,358	\$15,744	\$47,736	\$57,457
Old Saybrook	\$163,493	\$4,755	\$32,778	\$62,928	\$63,031
Orange	\$147,792	\$6,886	\$40,909	\$61,869	\$38,129
Oxford	\$50,887	\$1,096	\$8,769	\$38,677	\$2,345
Plainfield	\$75,074	\$2,929	\$36,682	\$34,099	\$1,365
Plainville	\$104,483	\$7,164	\$23,088	\$55,482	\$18,750
Plymouth	\$48,994	\$1,020	\$13,452	\$33,298	\$1,224
Pomfret	\$48,363	\$475	\$2,085	\$32,101	\$13,702
Portland	\$53,820	\$1,445	\$4,245	\$33,926	\$14,204
Putnam	\$41,899	\$6,613	\$19,463	\$15,823	\$1
Redding	\$166,148	\$2,459	\$20,580	\$38,843	\$104,266
Ridgefield	\$264,253	\$6,194	\$47,337	\$78,830	\$131,892
Roxbury	\$41,868	\$2,687	\$4,746	\$22,639	\$11,796
Salem	\$20,326	\$3,949	\$0	\$14,976	\$1,401
Salisbury	\$132,813	\$4,678	\$22,940	\$47,952	\$57,243
Saybrook	\$77,324	\$4,689	\$9,881	\$33,442	\$29,312
Sharon	\$36,596	\$765	\$9,420	\$25,069	\$1,342
Shelton	\$273,166	\$16,561	\$97,951	\$72,277	\$86,377
Simsbury	\$212,201	\$8,779	\$72,631	\$68,027	\$62,764
Southbury	\$436,885	\$26,329	\$87,884	\$100,032	\$222,640
Southington	\$227,161	\$17,343	\$104,881	\$62,856	\$42,081
Stafford	\$141,954	\$10,834	\$47,586	\$57,807	\$25,726

Comparative Report 2005 (OPCA)					
District	Gross Revenue	Op Expense	Staff	Judges	Net Income
Stamford	\$1,049,180	\$97,033	\$282,414	\$98,906	\$570,827
Stonington	\$243,491	\$21,123	\$31,995	\$77,035	\$113,338
Stratford	\$398,263	\$25,001	\$167,164	\$78,599	\$127,500
Suffield	\$136,379	\$11,805	\$34,768	\$56,952	\$32,854
Thomaston	\$29,149	\$3,927	\$0	\$24,949	\$273
Thompson	\$35,191	\$6,809	\$0	\$25,992	\$2,389
Tolland	\$82,872	\$3,953	\$28,442	\$45,336	\$5,140
Torrington	\$272,699	\$27,299	\$83,434	\$72,774	\$89,192
Trumbull	\$533,643	\$33,919	\$123,564	\$85,949	\$290,212
Wallingford	\$261,196	\$14,180	\$96,726	\$71,022	\$79,268
Washington	\$96,983	\$12,094	\$5,459	\$40,320	\$39,110
Waterbury	\$725,230	\$76,672	\$355,557	\$98,906	\$194,095
West Hartford	\$993,657	\$79,769	\$247,842	\$98,906	\$567,140
West Haven	\$291,308	\$19,737	\$169,966	\$98,906	\$2,699
Westbrook	\$56,117	\$18,801	\$0	\$35,673	\$1,643
Westport	\$526,273	\$41,469	\$118,074	\$85,713	\$281,017
Winchester	\$118,197	\$17,685	\$34,807	\$53,292	\$12,414
Windham	\$117,296	\$6,374	\$37,055	\$55,391	\$18,477
Windsor	\$172,786	\$10,573	\$58,258	\$62,660	\$41,295
Windsor Locks	\$69,027	\$1,056	\$28,340	\$37,634	\$1,997
Woodbridge	\$106,040	\$6,929	\$37,625	\$39,240	\$22,246
Woodbury	\$205,311	\$26,084	\$48,292	\$70,920	\$60,015
Woodstock	\$49,215	\$4,994	\$0	\$26,223	\$17,998
Total Revenue	\$27,282,547	\$2,269,174	\$8,940,615	\$6,836,448	\$9,236,311
Operating Exp	(\$18,046,236)				
Net Income	\$9,236,311				
	\$9,274,692				

**COMPARISON OF JUDGE LAWLOR WITH HIS PREDECESSOR**

PCA staff has mushroomed from 13 employees in 2002 to 20 employees in 2007

<u>2002 PCA STAFFER</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>2007 PCA STAFFER WITH ANNUAL SALARY</u>
<b>Judge Kurmay</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Judge Lawlor 146,780</b>
Linda Dow	Attorneys	Tom Gaffey 110,282
Tom Gaffey		Debra Cohen 76,488
		Helen Bennet 73,368
Alison Green	Legal Assistant	Alison Green 57,765
Kathleen Cull	Administrative Assistant	Sue Dornfried 54,544
		Pat Tarca (contract)
Winnie Sumner	Computer Dept.	George Texeira (contract?)
Sue Scotti		Sue Scotti 67,456
		Ann Brennan 53,372
		Winnie Sumner (contract)
Judy Robertson	Finance/Business Dept	Alyce Cariseo 83,127
Carol Souza		Carol Souza 58,889
Cynthia Mitchell		Willette Frank 34,643
Del Wright		Paula Gilroy 32,407
Jane Obert		Alison Blair 34,643
Dianna Orvis		Barbara Aszklar 32,250
		Judy Robertson (contract)
		Jane Obert 34,180 (p/t)
		Dianna Orvis 44,251
David Saltzman		6 Contract auditors

**New Positions under Judge Lawlor**

<b>Position</b>		
Legislative Assistant	Vinny Russo	54,544
Social Services	Kim Joyner	94,335
<b>Additional New Employees</b>	Nuno Fernandez	62,809
	Stephanie Janes	57,565
	Amy Benjamin	57,565
<b>TOTAL EMPLOYEES</b>		
<b>13 (NO CONTRACTORS)</b>	<b>20 Plus Numerous Contractors</b>	
'01-'02 Total Salaries \$831,582	06-07 Salary Of 20 Employees	\$1,321,263
01-02 Staff Benefits \$374,076	05-06 Staff Benefits	\$664,258
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,205,658</b>	<b>TOTAL (60% INCREASE) \$1,985,521</b>



# OLR RESEARCH REPORT

March 23, 2007

2007-R-0269

## **PROBATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE, REGIONAL COURTS, AND YOUTH IN CRISIS PROGRAM**

For: Honorable Eileen M. Daily

By: George Coppolo, Chief Attorney

You asked us to update of 2005-R-0911 concerning the personal service contracts of the Office of Probate Court Administrator. In addition, you asked for:

1. a breakdown of all full- and part-time employees of the Office of the Probate Court Administrator and their salaries;
2. a breakdown of all full- and part-time employees of the Regional Children's Courts and the Youth in Crisis Pilot Program in Middletown including their salaries, and personnel whose salaries are paid from other sources and the names of those sources;

The information in this report was provided by Probate Judge James J. Lawlor, the probate court administrator. Table 1 provides the names and salaries of all employees of the Probate Court Administrator's Office.

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Mary M. Janicki, Director  
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**Connecticut General Assembly**  
Office of Legislative Research

Room 5300  
Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591  
[Olr@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Olr@cga.ct.gov)

**Table 1: Names and Salaries of Employees of the Office of Probate Court Administrator**

<i>Employee</i>	<i>Annual Salary</i>
Judge Lawlor	\$146,780
Tom Gaffey	110,282
Kimberly Doyle Joyner	94,335
Debra Cohen	76,488
Helen Bennet	73,368
Alison Green	57,765
Susan Domfried	54,544
Stephanie Janes	57,565
Amy Benjamin	57,565
Vincent Russo	54,544
Nuno Fernandes	62,809
Ann Brennan	53,372
Susan Scotti	67,456
Alyce Cariseo	83,127
Carol Souza	58,889
Susan Jane Obert (part-time)	34,180
Dianna Orvis	44,251
Willette Frank	34,643
Alison Blair	34,643
Paula Gilroy	32,407
Barbara Aszklar	32,250
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,321,263</b>

Table 2 updates a 2005 OLR report (2005-R-0091) concerning personal service contracts.

**Table 2: Personal Service Contracts for Office of Probate Court Administrator for FY 2005-06 and 2006-07.**

<i>Name of Person or Entity</i>	<i>Amount Paid</i>	<i>Time Frame</i>	<i>Fiscal Year</i>
<b>Atlas Management LLC</b>	\$19,624.50	12.1.2005 - 6.26.2006	2005 - 06
	7,515.00	8.3.2006 - 10.2.2006	2006 - 07
<b>Carol A. LePage</b>	2,338.02	12.6.2005 - 6.23.2006	2005 - 06
	1,546.09	7.31.2006 - 1.30.2007	2006 - 07
<b>Charles A. Bannon</b>	2,775.00	12.20.2005 - 3.15.2006	2005 - 06
	6,975.00	8.3.2006 - 1.3.2007	2006 - 07
<b>Cipriano Training &amp; Development Inc.</b>	4,985.00	2.2.2006	2005 - 06
	5,215.00	9.28.2006 -	2006 - 07

Table 2: Continued

<i>Name of Person or Entity</i>	<i>Amount Paid</i>	<i>Time Frame</i>	<i>Fiscal Year</i>
		1.16.2007	
<b>Crane Enterprises Inc.</b>	9,460.78	12.20.2005 -	2005 - 06
		6.5.2006	
	6,922.50	7.26.2006 -	2006 - 07
		1.16.2007	
<b>David D. Biklen</b>	1,890.00	3.9.2006	2005 - 06
	4,785.00	1.2.2007 -	2006 - 07
		1.22.2007	
<b>Heidi Famiglietti</b>	19,395.00	1.27.2006 -	2005 - 06
		6.23.2006	
	13,620.00	7.18.2006 -	2006 - 07
		1.25.2007	
<b>Holt Wexler &amp; Farnam LLP</b>	3,000.00	1.12.2006	2005 - 06
<b>Joseph F. Murphy</b>	2,070.00	3.20.2006	2005 - 06
	4,200.00	10.30.2006	2006 - 07
<b>Judith Robertson</b>	8,530.00	2.8.2006 -	2005 - 06
		6.9.2006	
	7,780.00	7.26.2006 -	2006 - 07
		1.23.2007	
<b>Karen Wagner</b>	2,605.50	3.15.2006 -	2005 - 06
		6.26.2006	
	8,363.25	8.8.2006 -	2006 - 07
		1.2.2007	
<b>Mary Gentile</b>	28,644.00	1.13.2006 -	2005 - 06
		6.23.2006	
	13,557.50	1.16.2007	2006 - 07
<b>Meghan E. Liljedahl</b>	1,530.75	6.22.2006 -	2005 - 06
		6.27.2006	
	3,480.62	7.24.2006 -	2006 - 07
		1.2.2007	
<b>Patricia P. Tarca</b>	13,251.44	12.1.2005 -	2005 - 06
		6.21.2006	
	10,371.68	7.13.2006 -	2006 - 07
		1.25.2007	
<b>Paul DiLorenzo</b>	9,640.00	1.2.2007	2006 - 07
<b>Quaker Farms Consulting LLC</b>	110,128.75	11.30.2005 -	2005 - 06
		6.26.2006	
	76,641.25	10.5.2006 -	2006 - 07
		1.29.2007	
<b>Thomas F. Casey</b>	45,799.08	2.3.2006 -	2005 - 06
		6.23.2006	
	25,975.90	9.15.2006 -	2006 - 07
		1.23.2007	
<b>William E. Ryan &amp; Co LLC</b>	20,868.89	1.23.2006 -	2005 - 06

Table 2: Continued

<i>Name of Person or Entity</i>	<i>Amount Paid</i>	<i>Time Frame</i>	<i>Fiscal Year</i>
	30,510.99	4.7.2006 7.26.2006 - 1.23.2007	2006 - 07
<b>William J. Bergin Jr.</b>	3,420.00	4.7.2006	2005 - 06
	14,478.00	7.27.2006 - 1.16.2007	2006 - 07
<b>William P. Lavernoich</b>	1,560.00	1.18.2006 - 3.24.2006	2005 - 06
	555.00	11.2.2006	2006 - 07
<b>Winifred C. Sumner</b>	26,100.00	2.9.2006 - 6.26.2006	2005 - 06
	16,391.25	8.8.2006 - 1.25.2007	2006 - 07
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$596,500.74</b>		

The Probate Court Administrator asked us to get the information about the children's courts and the Youth in Crisis Pilot Program directly from the courts. We have requested this information from them and will forward it as soon as we receive it.

GC:dw



# OLR RESEARCH REPORT

December 20, 2005

2005-R-0911

## PROBATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR-CONTRACT EMPLOYEES

By: George Coppolo, Chief Attorney

You asked us to provide information about personal service contracts entered into by the current probate court administrator's office (PCA) entered into in recent years.

According to information provided to us by the PCA, the total amount the PCA has spent on personal service contracts for fiscal years from 2003 through 2006 to date amounted to \$542,932. A fiscal year runs from July 1 of one year to June 30 of the following calendar year. For example, fiscal year 2003 covers the period July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003. Table 1 shows the total amount the PCA's office spent each fiscal year for service contracts.

**Table 1: Amounts Spent on Personal Service Contracts for Fiscal Years 2003-2006**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Amount Spent</i>
2003	\$54,265
2004	\$294,200
2005	\$177,094
2006 to date	\$ 71,638

Table 2 provides a breakdown of these contracts for each fiscal year. This table includes the name of the person, law firm, or other entity that was paid for personal services, the payment date or period, and the total amount paid. The PCA did not provide this detailed information for

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personal service contracts during the fiscal year 2003 but instead reported that it paid \$54,265 for personal services during that fiscal year.

**Table 2: Personal Service Contracts By Fiscal Year**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Professional Service Contracts and Code</i>	<i>Name of Person or entity</i>	<i>Time Frame</i>	<i>Amount Paid</i>
2002-03		not provided	02/03 FY	\$54,265
2003-04	Professional Fees – 51230*	Robinson and Cole	11/18/2003	1,400.00
		Mellon Consultants LLC	8/15/2003 - 6/18/2004	52,341.97
		Baxter Communications	10/9/2003	275.00
		Casey Family Services	12/4/2003	6,510.00
		Susan R Reyher	6/3/2004	2,130.00
		Integrated Corporate Relations INC	8/19/2003 - 6/16/2004	35,855.17
		Judith Robertson	10/3/2003 - 6/17/2004	6,650.00
		Cummings and Lockwood (NH Pilot Program)	4/28/2004	4,875.00
		Crane Enterprises INC (NH Pilot Program)	6/2/2004	4,000.00
		Susman Duffy & Segaloff (NH Pilot Program)	6/2/2004 - 6/14/2004	3,500.00
		Casey Family Services	4/28/2004	40,000.00
2003-04	Professional Fees – 53715**	CT Micro CORP	12/19/2003 - 8/18/2003	570.00
		Heidi Familglietti	6/8/2004	8,250.00
		Quaker Farms Consulting LLC	10/8/2003 - 6/18/2004	115,662.50
		Robert H. Clemens	9/2/2003	1,256.25
		Winifred C. Sumner	11/10/2003 - 6/18/2004	10,923.75
2004-05	Professional Fees - 51230	Buck Consultants LLC	8/2/2004 - 6/14/2005	53,620.00
		David D. Biklen	11/8/2004 - 3/24/2005	10,215.00
		Susan R Reyher	8/9/2004 - 1/18/2005	2,910.00
		Robert J. Hilliard	10/28/2004	877.50
		Cipriano TRNG & Development	10/22/2004 - 1/4/2005	800.00
		Crane Enterprises Inc	9/7/2004 - 6/8/2005	21,425.00
		Susman Duffy & Segaloff	1/25/2005	1,070.00
		Martha Morrison Dore	1/25/2005 - 6/15/2005	12,500.00

**Table 2 (continued)**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Professional Service Contracts and Code</i>	<i>Name of Person or entity</i>	<i>Time Frame</i>	<i>Amount Paid</i>
		Judy M. Lee	1/25/2005 - 6/15/2005	60,850.00
		Patricia P. Tarca	2/22/2005 - 6/1/2005	7,997.44
		Deborah J. Tedford & Associates PC	3/3/2005	4,830.00
2005-date	Professional Fees - 51230	Buck Consultants LLC	7/15/2005	4,500.00
		Charles A. Bannon	9/21/2005 - 11/22/2005	1,925.00
		Crane Enterprises INC	9/8/2005 - 11/04/2005	3,997.50
		Judy M. Lee	7/13/2005 - 9/20/2005	15,200.00
		Martha Morrison Dore	9/21/2005	1,250.00
		Patricia P. Tarca	7/11/2005 - 11/17/2005	10,042.24
		William E. Ryan & Co LLC	9/23/2005 - 11/17/2005	9,537.25
2005-date	Professional Fees - 53715	Carol A. LePage	8/1/2005 - 9/20/2005	998.10
		Heidi Familglietti	8/10/2005 - 9/16/2005	4,665.00
		Quaker Farms Consulting LLC	10/6/2005	19,522.50

\* Code 51,230 is for consulting services

\*\* Code 53,715 is for information technology consulting services

Table 3 provides the same information as Table 2 except it is arranged by the person, law firm, or entity that was paid in connection with a personal service contract. According to the PCA, personal service contracts were entered into with at least 26 people, law firms, or other entities in Fiscal years 2004, 2005, and 2006. The PCA did not provide this detailed information for personal service contracts during the fiscal year 2003.

**Table 3: Personal Service Contracts by Person, Law Firm, or Entity**

<i>Name of Person or entity</i>	<i>Amount Paid</i>	<i>Time Frame</i>	<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Professional Service Contracts and Code</i>
Baxter Communications	\$275.00	10/9/2003	2003-04	Professional Fees - 51230

**Table 3 (continued)**

<i>Name of Person or entity</i>	<i>Amount Paid</i>	<i>Time Frame</i>	<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Professional Service Contracts and Code</i>
Buck Consultants LLC	53,620.00	8/2/2004 - 6/14/2005	2004-05	Professional Fees - 51230
Buck Consultants LLC	4,500.00	7/15/2005	2005-date	Professional Fees - 51230
Carol A. LePage	998.10	8/1/2005 - 9/20/2005	2005-date	Professional Fees - 53715
Casey Family Services	6,510.00	12/4/2003	2003-04	Professional Fees - 51230
Casey Family Services	40,000.00	4/28/2004	2003-04	Professional Fees - 51230
Charles A. Bannon	1,925.00	9/21/2005 - 11/22/2005	2005-date	Professional Fees - 51230
Cipriano TRNG & Development	800.00	10/22/2004 - 1/4/2005	2004-05	Professional Fees - 51230
Crane Enterprises Inc	21,425.00	9/7/2004 - 6/8/2005	2004-05	Professional Fees - 51230
Crane Enterprises INC	3,997.50	9/8/2005 - 11/04/2005	2005-date	Professional Fees - 51230
Crane Enterprises INC (NH Pilot Program)	4,000.00	6/2/2004	2003-04	Professional Fees - 51230
CT Micro CORP	570.00	12/19/2003 - 8/18/2003	2003-04	Professional Fees - 53715
Cummings and Lockwood (NH Pilot Program)	4,875.00	4/28/2004	2003-04	Professional Fees - 51230
David D. Biklen	10,215.00	11/8/2004 - 3/24/2005	2004-05	Professional Fees - 51230
Deborah J. Tedford & Associates PC	4,830.00	3/3/2005	2004-05	Professional Fees - 51230
Heidi Familglietti	8,250.00	6/8/2004	2003-04	Professional Fees - 53715
Heidi Familglietti	4,665.00	8/10/2005 - 9/16/2005	2005-date	Professional Fees - 53715

**Table 3 (continued)**

<i>Name of Person or entity</i>	<i>Amount Paid</i>	<i>Time Frame</i>	<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Professional Service Contracts and Code</i>
Integrated Corporate Relations INC	35,855.17	8/19/2003 - 6/16/2004	2003-04	Professional Fees - 51230
Judith Robertson	6,650.00	10/3/2003 - 6/17/2004	2003-04	Professional Fees - 51230
Judy M. Lee	60,850.00	1/25/2005 - 6/15/2005	2004-05	Professional Fees - 51230
Judy M. Lee	15,200.00	7/13/2005 - 9/20/2005	2005-date	Professional Fees - 51230
Martha Morrison Dore	12,500.00	1/25/2005 - 6/15/2005	2004-05	Professional Fees - 51230
Martha Morrison Dore	1,250.00	9/21/2005	2005-date	Professional Fees - 51230
Mellon Consultants LLC	52,341.97	8/15/2003 - 6/18/2004	2003-04	Professional Fees - 51230
not provided	54,265	02/03 FY	2002-03	NA
Patricia P. Tarca	7,997.44	2/22/2005 - 6/1/2005	2004-05	Professional Fees - 51230
Patricia P. Tarca	10,042.24	7/11/2005 - 11/17/2005	2005-date	Professional Fees - 51230
Quaker Farms Consulting LLC	115,662.50	10/8/2003 - 6/18/2004	2003-04	Professional Fees - 53715
Quaker Farms Consulting LLC	19,522.50	10/6/2005	2005-date	Professional Fees - 53715
Robert H. Clemens	1,256.25	9/2/2003	2003-04	Professional Fees - 53715
Robert J. Hilliard	877.50	10/28/2004	2004-05	Professional Fees - 51230
Robinson and Cole	1,400.00	11/18/2003	2003-04	Professional Fees - 51230
Susan R Reyher	2,130.00	6/3/2004	2003-04	Professional Fees - 51230

**Table 3 (continued)**

<i>Name of Person or entity</i>	<i>Amount Paid</i>	<i>Time Frame</i>	<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Professional Service Contracts and Code</i>
Susan R Reyher	2,910.00	8/9/2004 - 1/18/2005	2004-05	Professional Fees - 51230
Susman Duffy & Segaloff	1,070.00	1/25/2005	2004-05	Professional Fees - 51230
Susman Duffy & Segaloff (NH Pilot Program)	3,500.00	6/2/2004 - 6/14/2004	2003-04	Professional Fees - 51230
William E. Ryan & Co LLC	9,537.25	9/23/2005 - 11/17/2005	2005-date	Professional Fees - 51230
Winifred C. Sumner	10,923.75	11/10/2003 - 6/18/2004	2003-04	Professional Fees - 53715

GC:ro



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
JUDICIAL BRANCH

CHAMBERS OF  
JOSEPH H. PELLEGRINO, JUDGE  
CHIEF COURT ADMINISTRATOR

231 CAPITOL AVENUE  
HARTFORD, CT 06106

January 31, 2006

The Honorable James J. Lawlor  
Probate Court Administrator  
186 Newington Road  
West Hartford, CT 06110

Dear Judge Lawlor:

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me yesterday to discuss your request for revisions to the budget of the Office of the Probate Court Administrator for the current fiscal year. I remain very concerned about the solvency of the Probate Administration Fund, particularly with respect to the burgeoning costs of operating Regional Children's Probate Courts.

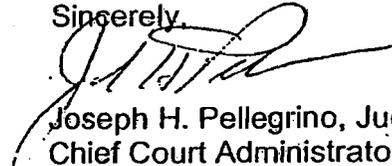
I have been concerned since its inception that the significant costs of operating the original Pilot Children's Court in New Haven would result in a substantial drain on the balance of the Fund. The data you have recently provided to me strongly supports that contention. The New Haven pilot has grown from an initial operating cost estimate of \$100,000 to a revision to \$170,000 and now to a requested increase to \$470,000. By all accounts the cost of this project will continue to escalate. I am not questioning the effectiveness of the program, and in fact all the studies I have seen indicate that the program is working well, but there is no stable funding source earmarked to continue this program in the future, particularly at this funding level.

The legislatively authorized expansion of the Children's Court to six additional sites can only result in a quicker depletion of the Fund. You have asked me to approve the expenditure of over \$400,000 to cover the start-up costs of these additional sites through the end of the fiscal year, and you acknowledge that the full year costs of the new courts will be substantially higher next year. You estimate that the full operating costs of all seven projects could approach \$5 million per year. At that pace, the Probate Administration Fund will be exhausted in two to three years.

Because you have been given legislative authorization to initiate these programs, I believe I have an obligation to approve your requested budget

revisions. However, I do so with the following caveat. I strongly encourage you to prepare a comprehensive assessment of the annualized costs of operating all the Regional Courts and to immediately share that information with the Executive and Legislative Branches and begin discussions on the permanent funding of the programs. Otherwise there is an almost certainty that the Regional Courts would cease to operate, which would ill serve those who come before the Court and those who have worked so hard to make the program successful.

Sincerely,



Joseph H. Pellegrino, Judge  
Chief Court Administrator

cc: Hon. William J. Sullivan, Chief Justice  
Hon. William J. Lavery, Chief Court Administrator designee  
Honorable Michael Mack, Deputy Chief Court Administrator  
Thomas A. Siconolfi, Executive Director

RECEIVED

AUG 10 2006

NEW CANAAN  
PROBATE COURT



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF THE  
PROBATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

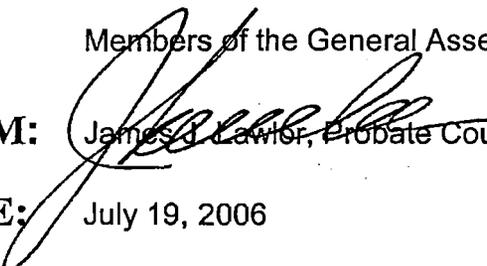
JUDGE JAMES J. LAWLOR  
ADMINISTRATOR  
ATTORNEY THOMAS E. GAFFEY  
CHIEF COUNSEL  
ALICE A. BRUNO  
ATTORNEY  
DEBRA COHEN  
ATTORNEY

186 NEWINGTON ROAD  
WEST HARTFORD, CT 06110

TEL (860) 231-2442  
FAX (860) 231-1055

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Members of the General Assembly

**FROM:**  James J. Lawlor, Probate Court Administrator

**DATE:** July 19, 2006

**RE:** Probate Administration Fund

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On July 15, the Office of the Probate Court Administrator received the final numbers for the 2005-2006 fiscal year, which closed June 30. This report reflects the combined activities of my office and the various courts. It shows that we are facing our first significant deficit within the probate court system.

I have enclosed the Probate Administration Fund financial figures for the fiscal year, projections for the fund through 2010, and supporting financial schedules.

This information shows that at the end of the most recent fiscal year, the Probate Court System operated at a \$3.2 million deficit. Based on this data, it is projected that in fiscal year 2008-2009, the Probate Administration Fund will be insolvent.

Unfortunately, my office has long-predicted this outcome.

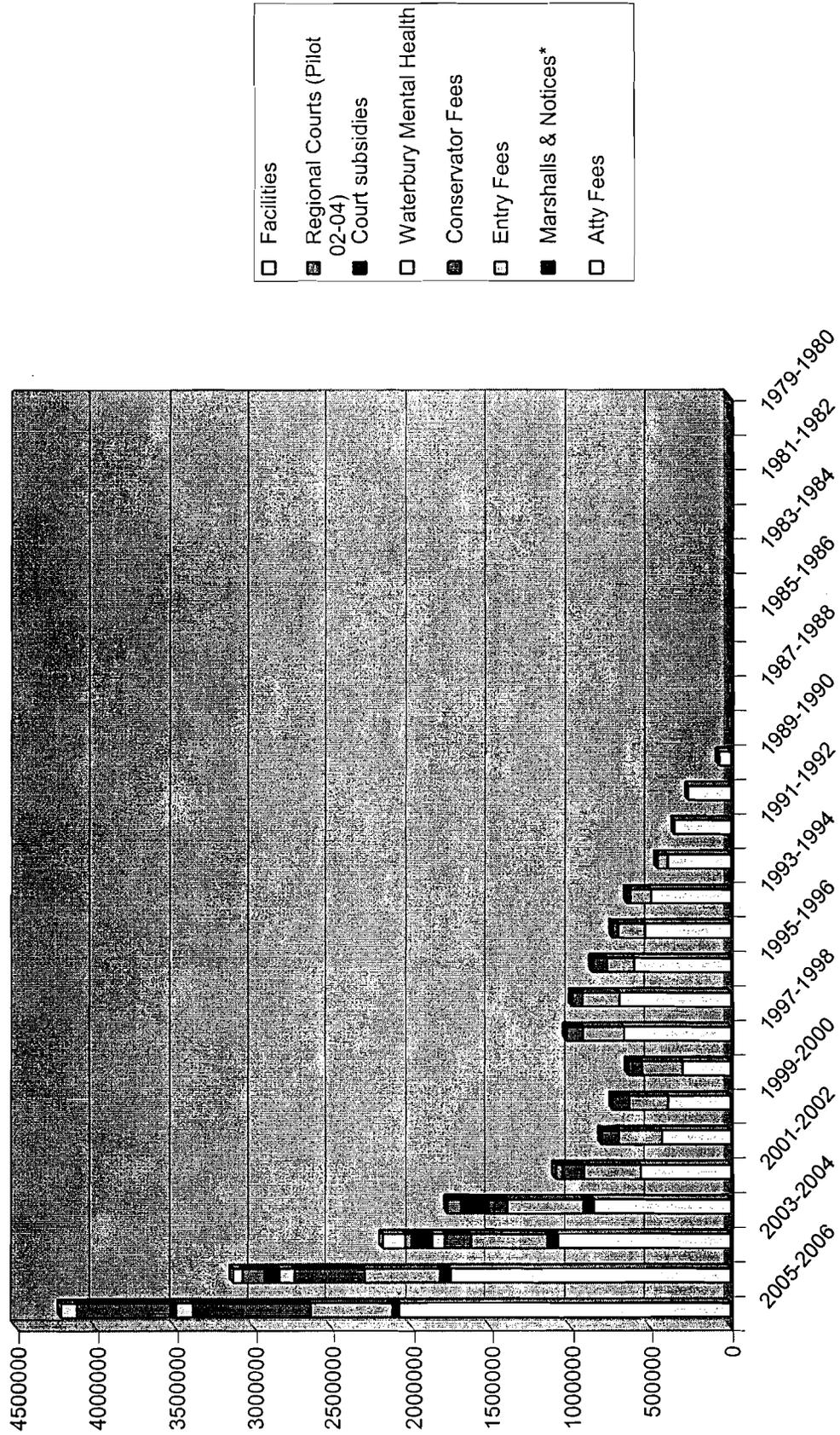
These figures demonstrate the need for immediate reform. Please contact me if you have any questions or you wish to discuss this further.

JJL:kew

Enclosures

PROBATE ADMINISTRATION FUND							
	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06
<b>Expenditures</b>							
<b>P.A. Expenses</b>							
Printing & Binding	51,008	39,427	51,879	56,933	20,447	35,312	22,404
Printing Practise Manual	285						
Rental of StorageSpace	39,845	44,944	46,461	19,106	21,743	25,686	33,279
Bldg: Repairs & Maint.	36,096	34,350	36,331	51,137	50,896	60,054	130,249
Sundry: Conf. Expense	2,816	2,799	3,465	3,397	4,163	4,265	6,828
Professional Fees	7,042	26,918	51,256	54,265	108,402	186,790	220,993
Non-Prof. Fees: Temps		3,852	6,603	31,089	10,788	6,275	9,866
Data Processing (PA Only)	292,426	270,087	215,571	223,702	229,417	201,265	280,170
Postage	15,911	11,999	18,000	10,050	15,211	16,183	17,333
Leasing: Copier, Postage Meter	6,345	5,979	12,032	10,789	16,424	18,938	18,435
Travel Reimbursements	3,117	8,388	4,439	4,442	6,803	5,118	5,856
Office & Misc. Supplies	11,072	11,795	14,134	13,906	15,276	12,215	16,102
Freight & Shipping	10,952	9,537	10,591	10,118	9,361	4,251	1,753
Retirement (PS, Admin Exp)	39,411	43,436	49,353	46,210	28,683	86,375	61,452
Membership Dues, Fees, Subs.	2,691	4,625	7,051	8,028	5,867	9,700	7,011
Office Equipment	5,117	5,363	4,137	5,615	6,225	13,775	7,479
Personal Services - Staff	738,028	773,069	831,582	836,541	917,798	992,809	1,195,327
Telephone	12,493	7,051	6,679	8,936	10,144	21,765	24,200
Auto Lease, Supplies & Insurance	10,156	9,793	9,562	13,632	17,598	18,422	24,268
Fringes Benefits - Staff	305,293	331,621	374,076	358,687	434,910	535,165	664,258
Seminars & Education	10,547	10,202	12,431	6,596	8,568	16,258	17,249
Revenue Refunds	26,526	50,497	55,371	62,822	19,785	17,587	101,065
Judge/Clerks - Education	26,184	28,530	29,824	22,379	20,966	28,271	32,050
Contingency - Other	2,965	4,795	0	5,000	0	0	0
<b>Subtotal P.A. Expenses</b>	<b>1,656,326</b>	<b>1,739,057</b>	<b>1,850,828</b>	<b>1,863,380</b>	<b>1,979,475</b>	<b>2,316,479</b>	<b>2,897,627</b>
<b>Court Expenses</b>							
Facilities	0	0	0	0	133,986	57,449	98,590
New Haven Pilot Program	0	0	0	0	35,769	137,729	411,705
Merdien/Wallingford RCC	0	0	0	0	0	0	67,821
New London RCC	0	0	0	0	0	0	103,853
Council - Probate Judicial Conduct	34,208	53,083	58,756	58,891	63,441	58,571	53,958
Court Computer Updates	97,950	58,626	86,593	675,620	209,526	536,658	473,065
Health Ins - Courts	1,491,301	1,563,247	1,791,711	2,027,901	2,308,899	2,616,279	2,794,623
Indigency Expenses							
a) Court Appointed Counsel	390,400	428,950	560,712	859,193	1,078,151	1,753,922	2,072,312
b) Marshalls and Newspapers				67,071	68,114	69,064	48,359
c) Waived Entry Fees	243,370	272,750	362,900	471,150	481,550	465,940	510,150
d) Conservators	109,059	112,809	130,781	117,823	166,737	451,921	758,669
Court Subsidies	20,000	84,673	30,000	161,043	130,784	81,069	125,000
Pilot Program - West Haven		43,200	42,134	85,000	40,000	0	0
Pilot Program - Waterbury	125	113	0	15,000	79,492	95,856	105,211
<b>Subtotal Court Expenses</b>	<b>2,386,413</b>	<b>2,617,451</b>	<b>3,063,587</b>	<b>4,538,692</b>	<b>4,796,449</b>	<b>6,324,458</b>	<b>7,623,316</b>
Health Insurance - Retirees	979,000	991,000	1,137,000	1,369,000	1,704,662	2,555,813	2,227,629
<b>Total Probate Administration Fund</b>	<b>5,021,739</b>	<b>5,347,508</b>	<b>6,051,415</b>	<b>7,771,072</b>	<b>8,480,586</b>	<b>11,196,750</b>	<b>12,748,572</b>
Final 7/18/06							

# Indigent Expenses 1985-2006



C.G.S.A. § 45a-8

**C**Connecticut General Statutes Annotated CurrentnessTitle 45A. **Probate Courts** and Procedure (Refs & Annos)↗ Chapter 801. Probate Court: Administrative Provisions (Refs & Annos)↗ Part I. Probate Courts in General (Refs & Annos)

→ **§ 45a-8. Probate Court facilities.** Minimum standards. Failure to provide suitable facilities. Consolidation, separation and creation of probate districts

(a) The town or towns comprising each **probate** district shall provide court **facilities** meeting the minimum standards required by this section. If a **probate** district consists of more than one town, the expense shall be allocated to the towns in proportion to their grand lists last perfected. Such court **facilities** shall include: (1) Office space appropriate for the conduct of judicial business, including (A) a room for the judge of **probate** sufficient in size for ordinary matters in which judicial proceedings may be conducted in private, (B) a separate room for the court staff, and (C) on a prearranged basis, access to a larger hearing room for the conduct of unusually large court hearings; (2) furniture and furnishings appropriate to a court facility; (3) use and maintenance of a copying machine and the necessary supplies; (4) use and maintenance of microfilming equipment and the necessary supplies, including record books or the equipment to produce records; (5) the necessary stationery, postage and other related supplies in order that the court may properly carry out its duties; (6) typing equipment with which to complete the necessary records; (7) basic telephone service, which shall include all local calls; (8) if a court is computerized, a dedicated telephone line and maintenance of the computer equipment; and (9) adequate liability, fire, loss, theft and replacement insurance on the furniture, furnishings, equipment, court **facilities** and the records of the court.

(b) If a town or towns comprising a **probate** district and the responsible municipal official or officials within such **probate** district fail to provide the court **facilities** required by subsection (a) of this section, the **Probate Court** Administrator shall offer in writing to meet with the judge of **probate** of the district and the responsible official or officials to discuss such court **facilities**. After discussion and consideration of the circumstances of the court operations, the **Probate Court** Administrator may waive or modify the application of a particular requirement of subsection (a) of this section for court **facilities**.

(c) If suitable court **facilities** are not provided in accordance with subsection (a) or (b) of this section: (1) The **Probate Court** Administrator shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary concerning the failure of the **probate** district to provide the required court **facilities**, together with a recommendation that the **probate** district be abolished as a separate district and be consolidated with a contiguous district where suitable court **facilities** can be provided; or (2) if, in the opinion of the **Probate Court** Administrator, abolition of the district is not in the public interest and judicial action is necessary to enforce the provision of suitable court **facilities**, the **Probate Court** Administrator shall bring an action in the Superior Court to enforce the requirements for the provision of suitable court **facilities**.

(d) Any town located in a **probate** district that desires to (1) consolidate such **probate** district

with one or more districts, (2) be removed from such **probate** district to a separate district established for any such town, or (3) be located in another **probate** district, may, by resolution of its legislative body, petition the General Assembly for such consolidation, separation and creation of a new **probate** district or relocation. The **Probate Court** Administrator shall provide such assistance in the preparation of the petition as the officials of the town or towns may request. At the time of submission of a petition to the General Assembly, a copy of the petition shall be sent to the judges of probate in the probate districts to be affected. No probate district may be consolidated with another district until the expiration of the term of office of any probate judge in an affected probate district.

(e) Each judge of probate shall provide suitable records and supplies, in accordance with subsection (a) of this section, for the court in the judge's district. The judge of probate shall cause a complete record to be made of all orders passed by such court and of all wills, inventories, distributions, accounts, bonds and returns made to or lodged with such court. The expense of records, microfilming or the equipment to produce records, and of supplies which the judge deems necessary shall be paid, upon the order of the judge, by the town or towns composing the district in proportion to their grand lists last perfected.

(f) When the **Probate Court** Administrator, by regulation, requires that the **courts of probate** use specified forms, education materials, supplies or equipment not otherwise required by this section, they shall be furnished by the **Probate Court** Administrator and the expense paid from the fund established under section 45a-82.

#### CREDIT(S)

(1949 Rev., § 6820; 1958 Rev., § 45-12; 1969, P.A. 519, § 1, eff. June 24, 1969; 1980, P.A. 80-476, § 4, eff. Oct. 1, 1980; 1993, P.A. 93-279, § 1, eff. Oct. 1, 1993; 2003, P.A. 03-278, § 96, eff. July 9, 2003; 2004, P.A. 04-257, § 66, eff. June 14, 2004.)

#### HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES

2004 Main Volume

#### Transfer of Section

This section, formerly set out as C.G.S.A. § 45-12, was transferred to C.G.S.A. § 45a-8 in Gen.St., Rev. to 1991.

#### Codification

Gen.St., Rev. to 1995, changed the section heading from "Record books, records and supplies" to "**Probate court facilities**. Minimum standards. Failure to provide suitable **facilities**. Consolidation, separation and creation of **probate** districts".

#### Amendments

**1969 Amendment.** 1969, P.A. 519, § 1, added the former last sentence which related to payment of such books, forms, etc. required by the **probate court** administrator.

**1980 Amendment.** 1980, P.A. 80-476, § 4, divided and rewrote this section which formerly