



CONNECTICUT JUDICIAL BRANCH

Biennial Report and Statistics 2002-2004



CONNECTICUT JUDICIAL BRANCH

Biennial Report and Statistics 2002-2004

HON. WILLIAM J. SULLIVAN

Chief Justice, Connecticut Supreme Court

HON. JOSEPH H. PELLEGRINO

Chief Court Administrator, Connecticut Judicial Branch

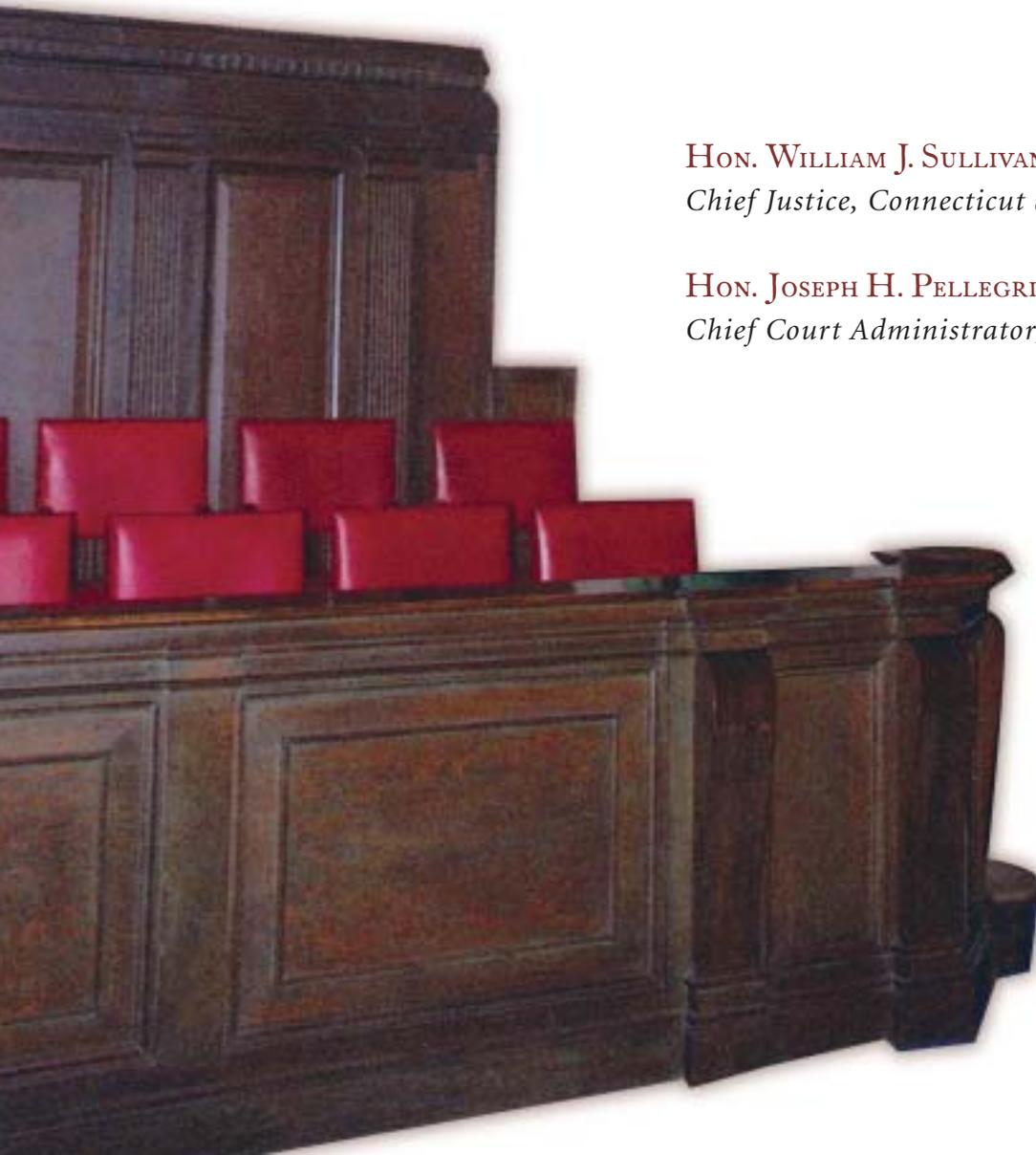
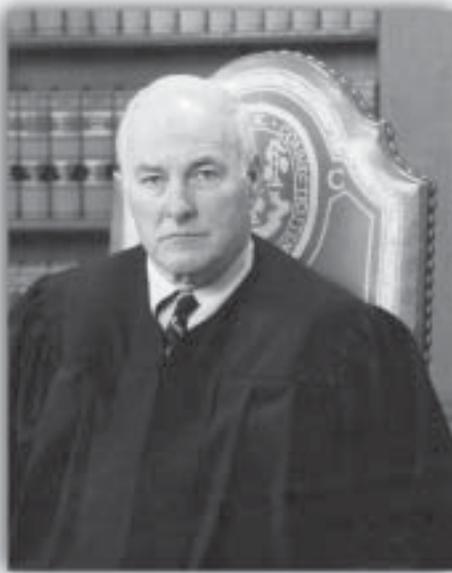




TABLE *of* CONTENTS

<i>Letter from William J. Sullivan</i>	2
<i>Letter from Joseph H. Pellegrino</i>	3
<i>Connecticut Court Structure</i>	4
<i>Supreme Court</i>	5-8
<i>Appellate Court</i>	9-13
<i>The State Judiciary</i>	14, 15
<i>Superior Court</i>	16
<i>Chief Court Administrator</i>	16
<i>Deputy Chief Court Administrator</i>	16
<i>Chief Administrative Judges</i>	17
<i>Administrative Judges</i>	18
<i>Connecticut Judicial Districts Map</i>	19
<i>Judicial Branch Geographical Areas Map</i>	19
<i>Administrative Services</i>	20, 21
<i>Court Support Services</i>	22, 23
<i>External Affairs</i>	24
<i>Information Technology</i>	25, 26
<i>Superior Court Operations</i>	27-29
<i>Basic Facts</i>	30
<i>Statistics</i>	31



TO THE GOVERNOR, GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE CITIZENS OF CONNECTICUT,

I t is with great pride that I present this report on the Connecticut Judicial Branch's activities over the past two years.

To say that the past two years have brought about great change to the Judicial Branch is an understatement. At the beginning of this biennial, we faced complex and difficult issues such as the layoffs of dedicated employees. But as it has done in the past, the Judicial Branch weathered these hard times and has emerged stronger than ever, as it continues to fulfill its mission for the citizens of the state of Connecticut.

I want to also take this opportunity to thank the Executive and Legislative Branches for their continued support of the Judicial Branch. The cooperation of the Executive and Legislative Branches with the Judicial Branch has been outstanding during the past two years. As a result, I believe that we have moved forward together, bound by a shared commitment to improve the quality of life for Connecticut's residents.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William J. Sullivan". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

William J. Sullivan

Chief Justice

TO THE GOVERNOR, GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE CITIZENS OF CONNECTICUT,

This has been an exciting two years for the Connecticut Judicial Branch. Our most significant and ambitious initiative has been the implementation of electronic filing in our courts, effective July 1, 2004. Lawyers now have the ability to e-file certain civil cases via the Judicial Branch's website, and other types of cases will be added in the future. While e-filing is simply another option for attorneys, we anticipate increased efficiency within our courts, which will directly benefit attorneys and their clients.

The past two years also have been significant in terms of capital projects. A newly renovated building at 90 Washington Street houses the Hartford Judicial District's family matters, as well as central judicial administrative offices. We are looking forward to the opening of the new Appellate Court, located at 75 Elm Street in Hartford. We recently celebrated the groundbreaking for the garage at the Stamford-Norwalk Judicial District Courthouse, which is expected to be completed next year. Additionally, we have opened a new juvenile detention facility in Hartford, and work is underway there to renovate Juvenile Court.

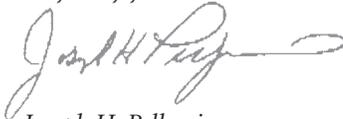
On the civil side, the reduction of our jury case inventory has been dramatic.

In 1998, we had a record high pending jury list of 23,000 cases. Today, we have approximately 12,000. We credit the reduction to our very successful complex litigation docket and Alternative Dispute Resolution programs and the hard work of judges and staff.

On the criminal side, the budget crisis two years ago led to the closing of Drug Court Sessions in New Haven, Bridgeport, Waterbury and Hartford. But the Branch then developed a new Drug Intervention Program that we expect will serve more individuals than the old Drug Court model. Drug Intervention Programs are operating in New Haven and Bridgeport, and most recently, one started in the Windham Judicial District – marking the first time such a program has been offered outside of an urban area.

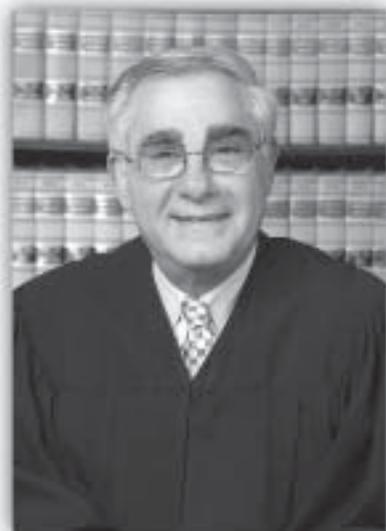
This will be my final biennial to you, as I will have reached the judges' mandatory retirement age by the time the next biennial report is released in January 2007. It has been both an honor and privilege to serve you, and I am grateful for the support we have received from the other branches of government. I am also grateful to the judges of this state and to our many dedicated Judicial Branch employees, who work so hard to make a difference – and do.

Very truly yours,

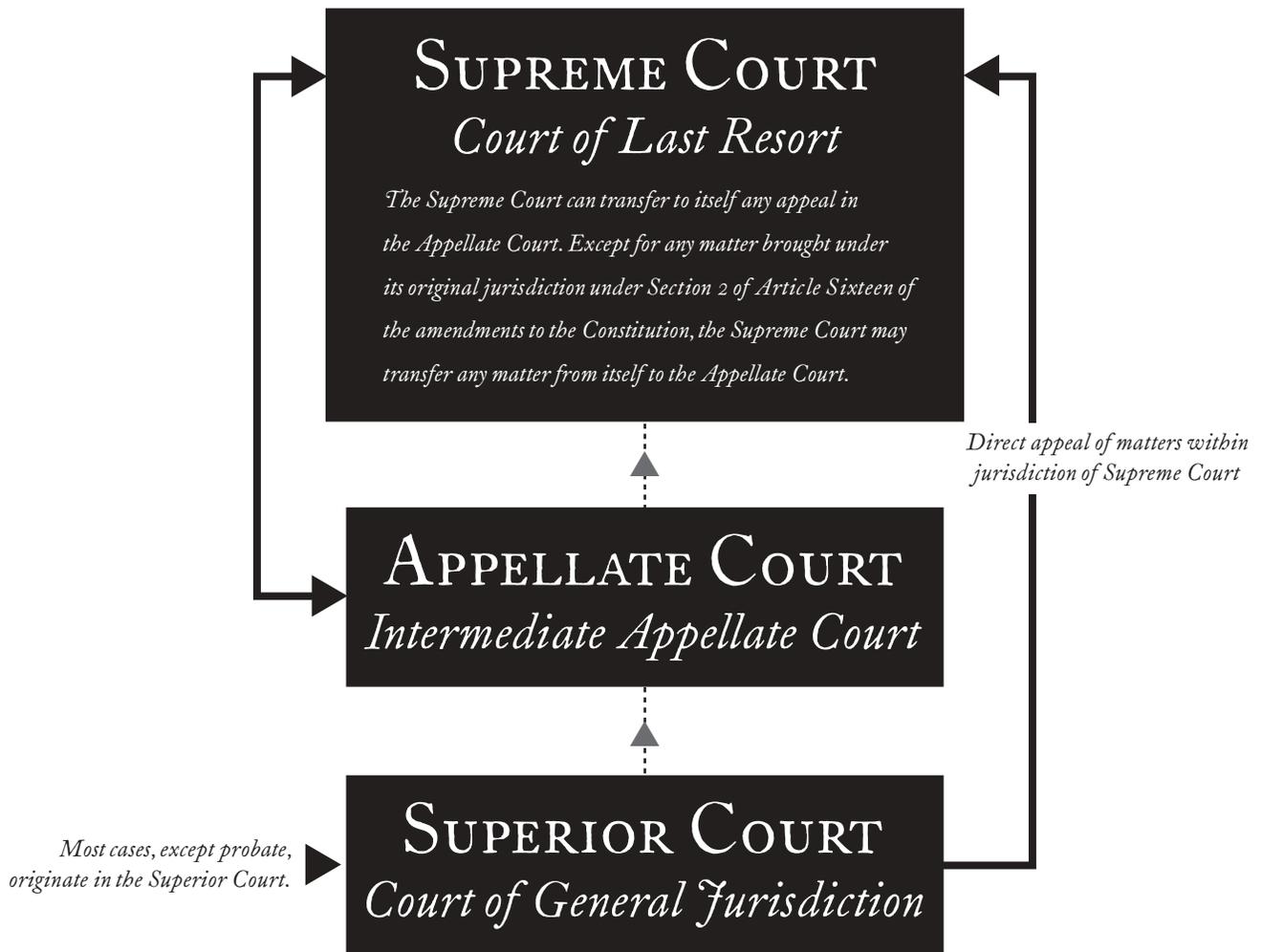


Joseph H. Pellegrino

Chief Court Administrator



CONNECTICUT COURT STRUCTURE



The above diagram depicts the relationship between Connecticut's courts. Dotted lines indicate routes of appeal.

SUPREME COURT

THE Supreme Court is the state's highest court. It consists of the Chief Justice and six associate justices. A panel of five justices hears and decides each case. On occasion, the Chief Justice summons the court to sit *en banc* as a full court of seven, instead of a panel of five, to hear particularly important cases.

The Supreme Court reviews decisions made in the Superior Court to determine if any errors of law have been committed, as well as decisions of the Appellate Court.



Seated (left to right): Justice David M. Borden, Chief Justice William J. Sullivan, Justice Flemming L. Norcott, Jr.

Standing (left to right): Justice Christine S. Vertefeuille, Justice Joette Katz, Justice Richard N. Palmer, Justice Peter T. Zarella

NOTEWORTHY CASES HEARD BY THE SUPREME COURT DURING THE BIENNIUM

STATE V. COURCHESNE, 262 Conn. 537 (2003)

General Statutes § 53a-54b (7) provides that a person who murders two or more persons at the same time or in the course of a single transaction is guilty of a capital felony. General Statutes § 53a-46a (i) (4) provides that the death penalty may be imposed if the state proves as an aggravating factor that the capital felony was committed in a “an especially heinous, cruel or depraved manner.” This appeal required the Supreme Court to determine whether, in prosecutions under § 53a-54b (7), the state was required to prove that both murders were aggravated under § 53a-46a (i) (4). The majority concluded that proof that only one of the murders was committed in an especially heinous, cruel or depraved manner was sufficient to establish the aggravating factor. In the course of its opinion, the majority also held that it would no longer follow the plain meaning rule when engaging in statutory interpretation. In a dissenting opinion, Justice Zarella disagreed both with the majority’s interpretation of § 53a-46a (i) (4) and with its abandonment of the plain meaning rule. Justice Sullivan joined in the dissenting opinion. Subsequently, the legislature enacted Public Acts 2003, No. 03-154, codifying the plain meaning rule and legislatively overruling the majority’s rejection of that rule.

FORT TRUMBULL CONSERVANCY, LLC V. ALVES, 262 Conn. 480 (2003)

This appeal required the Supreme Court to determine, inter alia, whether the plaintiff had standing under General Statutes § 22a-16 to bring an action against a New London building official seeking to enjoin him from issuing certain demolition permits to the New London Development Corporation. Section 22a-16 provides that any person may bring an action in the Superior Court for declaratory and equitable relief against any person to prevent unreasonable pollution or destruction of the natural resources of the state. The plaintiff claimed that the demolition of the buildings in question would cause a wide variety of environmental harms. The majority concluded that the plaintiff had standing to sue the building official, but that the relief that the plaintiff sought could not be granted. Under *Nizzardo v. State Traffic Commission*, 259 Conn. 131 (2002), the building official had no jurisdiction to consider the environmental effects of the demolition of the buildings and § 22a-16 did not authorize the courts to enjoin lawful, nonpolluting conduct, such as the issuance of the demolition permits, merely because it constituted a condition precedent to the alleged harmful conduct of another person. The majority held that, although the trial court improperly had dismissed the plaintiff’s claim for lack of standing, the impropriety was harmless because the claim properly was subject to a motion to strike. Justice Borden issued a dissenting opinion in which he argued that it was procedurally improper for the court to dispose of the claims against the building official on a theory that the parties had not pleaded.

STATE V. RIZZO, 266 Conn. 171 (2003)

General Statutes § 53a-46a (f) provides that, in death penalty cases, if the jury determines that an aggravating factor exists and a mitigating factor exists, and the mitigating factor is outweighed by the aggravating factor, the court shall sentence the defendant to death. The principal issue in this appeal was whether the trial court properly instructed the jury that the death penalty would be imposed if the jury determined that the aggravating factor outweighed the mitigating factor by any amount or degree. The court determined that the instruction was proper but, to avoid a possible infirmity under the state constitution, the jury must also be instructed that its level of certitude in arriving at its weighing judgment must be beyond a reasonable doubt. Justice Katz issued a concurring and dissenting opinion arguing that the jury must be instructed that the aggravating factor outweighs the mitigating factor beyond a reasonable doubt. Justice Sullivan issued a concurring and dissenting opinion in which he argued that the trial court's instruction was proper and that no additional instruction as to level of certitude was required. Justices Vertefeuille and Zarella joined in that portion of Justice Sullivan's dissenting opinion.

KELO V. NEW LONDON, 268 Conn. 1 (2004)

The principal issue in this appeal was whether the taking of land for economic development purposes pursuant to chapter 132 of the General Statutes constituted a "public use" under the takings clauses of the state and federal constitutions. The majority of the Supreme Court concluded that it did. The majority also rejected the claims of the plaintiff landowners that the particular economic development project under review was unlawful because it would not benefit the public and did not provide a sufficient guaranty of future public use. Justice Zarella authored a concurring and dissenting opinion in which he agreed that the chapter 132 of the General Statutes was not facially unconstitutional, but argued that economic development plans should be subject to heightened judicial scrutiny to ensure that they actually result in a public benefit. Chief Justice Sullivan and Justice Katz joined in Justice Zarella's dissenting opinion.

continued on page 8



NOTEWORTHY CASES HEARD BY THE SUPREME COURT DURING THE BIENNIUM *continued from page 7*

GOVERNOR V. SELECT COMMITTEE, *269 Conn. 850 (2004)*

The defendant, the Select Committee of Inquiry to Recommend Whether Sufficient Grounds Exist for the House of Representatives to Impeach Governor John G. Rowland Pursuant to Article Ninth of the State Constitution, issued a subpoena to Governor Rowland demanding that he appear and testify before the defendant. The plaintiff, the Office of the Governor, filed an action in the Superior Court seeking to quash the subpoena and to enjoin its enforcement on the ground that the governor was categorically immune from being compelled to testify and the subpoena violated the separation of powers doctrine. The Superior Court determined that the subpoena was valid. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court then granted the plaintiff's application for certification to appeal from the ruling to the Supreme Court pursuant to General Statutes § 52-265a. In a preliminary slip opinion, the majority of the Court concluded that the Governor was not categorically immune from being compelled to testify and the subpoena did not violate the separation of powers doctrine. Chief Justice Sullivan and Justice Zarella issued a dissenting opinion in which they concluded that the plaintiff's claim should be dismissed as premature. The majority later issued a second opinion setting forth in greater detail the reasoning underlying its conclusions. *Governor v. Select Committee*, 271 Conn. 540 (2004). Justice Zarella issued a second dissenting opinion in which he argued that the validity of the subpoena was a nonjusticiable political question. Chief Justice Sullivan joined in Justice Zarella's dissenting opinion and issued a

separate dissenting opinion in which he argued that the matter was moot.

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES V. CHESHIRE BOARD OF EDUCATION, *270 Conn. 665 (2004)*

The central issue in this appeal was whether the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (commission) had jurisdiction over claims of racial discrimination arising in the public schools or whether the State Board of Education had exclusive jurisdiction over such claims. The commission claimed that it had jurisdiction over such claims under General Statutes §§ 46a-58 (a) and 46a-86 (c). Section 46a-58 defines "discriminatory practices" to include "the deprivation of any rights, privileges or immunities, secured or protected by the Constitution or laws of this state or of the United States on account of ... race" and § 46a-86 (c) provides that the commission may award damages upon finding a discriminatory practice. The defendant, the Cheshire Board of Education, argued that the more specific provisions of General States § 10-15c, which, inter alia, prohibits racial discrimination in the public schools, and § 10-4b, which provides that the State Board of Education has jurisdiction over claims arising under § 10-15c, overrode the more general provisions of §§ 46a-58 (a) and 46a-86 (c). The majority concluded that the commission had jurisdiction over claims of racial discrimination involving a discrete course of discriminatory conduct in a public school setting through § 46a-58 (a). In a dissenting opinion, Chief Justice Sullivan, joined by Justice Zarella, argued that the State Board of Education had exclusive jurisdiction over such claims.

APPELLATE COURT

THE Appellate Court, like the Supreme Court, reviews decisions of the Superior Court to determine if errors of law have been committed.

There are ten Appellate Court judges, one of whom is designated by the Chief Justice to be the Chief Judge. Generally, three judges hear and decide each case, although the court may also sit *en banc*, which means that the entire membership of the court participates in the decision.



Seated (left to right): Judge Joseph H. Pellegrino, Judge Paul M. Foti, Chief Judge William J. Lavery, Judge Barry R. Schaller, Judge Anne C. Dranginis;

Standing (left to right): Judge Alexandra D. DiPentima, Judge Thomas A. Bishop, Judge Joseph P. Flynn, Judge Thomas G. West, Judge C. Ian McLachlan.*

** Judge West retired in November of 2004.*

NOTEWORTHY CASES HEARD BY THE APPELLATE COURT DURING THE BIENNIUM

IN RE JEISEAN M., 74 Conn. App. 233 (2002),
appeal dismissed, 270 Conn. 406 (2004)

Argued September 11, 2002
Released December 24, 2002

The respondent mother in this termination of parental rights case sought to appeal from the trial court's termination of her parental rights in her child. She sought to challenge, among other things, the constitutionality of the termination statute and the court's determinations that termination was in her child's best interest and that she had failed to achieve sufficient personal rehabilitation. The respondent, alleging indigency, filed an application pursuant to Practice Book § 63-6 for waiver of fees, costs and expenses on appeal. The court denied the respondent's application, despite having found that the respondent was indigent, on the ground that the appeal lacked merit. The respondent thereafter filed a motion for review with the Appellate Court. The Appellate Court, in an en banc decision, held: "[I]n deciding an application for a waiver of fees, costs and expenses pursuant to Practice Book § 63-6 in a termination of parental rights proceeding, the factors to be weighed by the trial court are limited to a consideration of whether the applicant has a statutory right of appeal pursuant to General Statutes § 52-263 and whether the applicant is indigent. Once the court has determined that there is a statutory right to appeal from a final judgment and that the applicant is indigent, the proposed issues for appeal are to be considered only to determine the extent to which a waiver of fees should be granted to enable the applicant adequately to pursue those issues on

appeal." In so holding, the court explained that, if an appellee believes that an appeal is frivolous, such party may move to dismiss the appeal pursuant to Practice Book §§ 85-2 (5) and 85-3.

IN RE ANDREWS' APPEAL FROM PROBATE,
78 Conn. App. 441 (2004)

Argued May 29, 2003
Released July 29, 2003

The plaintiff, the executor of the decedent's estate, appealed to the Superior Court from a decree of the Fairfield Probate Court disallowing certain charges against the decedent's estate. These charges consisted of legal fees and associated costs incurred by the plaintiff in his effort to obtain an executor's fee larger than that awarded to him by the Probate Court. The decedent's son, the primary beneficiary of the estate, objected to the plaintiff's attempt to burden the estate with these charges. The trial court upheld the validity of the Probate Court's decree and the plaintiff appealed to the Appellate Court, arguing, in part, that the trial court improperly rejected his claim that these charges should be borne by the estate. The Appellate Court recognized that the issue before it did not concern an estate's duty to pay for an executor's services or for expenses incurred by an executor for services that directly benefit the estate. Instead, the court observed, the issue concerned only "the alleged duty of an estate, in the event of a fee controversy, to pay not only the executor's fee but also the fee charged by the attorney representing the executor in the fee dispute." Under the facts of this case, the court resolved this issue of first impression against the

plaintiff executor and affirmed the judgment of the trial court. The court concluded: “The plaintiff’s claim founders on the fact that the plaintiff did not establish that he had pursued the underlying fee litigation in good faith for the benefit of the estate. Furthermore, the plaintiff does not purport to have established that the defendant challenged the amount of his executor’s fee for reasons that were frivolous, unreasonable or groundless.”

*TARBOX v. TARBOX, 84 Conn. App.
403 (2004)*

*Argued April 29, 2004
Released August 10, 2004*

The defendant wife appealed from the judgment of the trial court regarding the postdissolution motions for contempt she and the plaintiff husband had filed. The primary issue was whether a parent who was ordered, pursuant to a judgment of dissolution, to pay child support and who subsequently becomes disabled may satisfy the obligation to the custodial parent by means of social security dependency benefits paid directly to, rather on behalf of, a child who has reached the age of majority.

The parties, the parents of two children, agreed at the time of dissolution that the plaintiff would pay child support until the younger of the children was graduated from high school or reached the age of eighteen, whichever occurred later. The amount of child support was modifiable after the older of the children was graduated from high school or turned eighteen, whichever occurred later. Although the children were born approximately two years apart,

they were graduated from high school on the same day after both of them had turned eighteen years old. Subsequent to the judgment of dissolution, the plaintiff became disabled and received social security disability benefits. Because of his age, the older of the children was not eligible for dependency benefits, but the younger of the children was eligible for benefits which he received himself in a lump sum after he had reached the age of majority. The plaintiff failed to move to modify his support obligation until the defendant had filed a motion to show cause and for contempt because the plaintiff failed to make all child support payments as required by the separation agreement. The trial court concluded that because the dependency benefits paid to the younger child represented the plaintiff’s earnings, he was entitled to credit them toward his child support obligation which was in arrears. The Appellate Court disagreed and reversed the judgment of the trial court.

A parent’s child support obligation may be fulfilled in whole or in part by dependency benefits paid on behalf of a minor child under certain circumstances. The parent seeking to fulfill his or her support obligation by means of dependency benefits must first seek a modification of the child support obligation and submit guideline worksheets reflecting the changed financial circumstances for the purpose of determining the amount of the child support obligation. This procedure is consistent with General Statutes § 46b-86 (a). Dependency benefits may be used fulfill current and past due child support obligations if a motion to modify the obligation is

continued on page 12

NOTEWORTHY CASES HEARD BY THE APPELLATE COURT DURING THE BIENNIUM *continued from page 11*

timely filed. Pursuant to the terms of the dissolution judgment, child support obligations are due the custodial spouse for the benefit of the child and may not be satisfied by directing dependency benefits to be paid directly to a child who has reached the age of majority. The opinion contains a discussion of the procedures a disabled parent with child support obligations should follow to modify his or her obligation.

HAGGERTY v. WILLIAMS, 84 Conn. App. 675 (2004)

Argued March 25, 2004
Released August 24, 2004

The defendant appealed from the judgment of the trial court rendered subsequent to granting a motion for summary judgment filed by the plaintiff. The plaintiff executed a note secured by a mortgage on certain real property in favor of the defendant to secure payment for legal services provided by defendant's employer. The terms of the note provided that it was payable on demand, and the defendant was free to "delay enforcing her rights... without losing them." The attorney, whose fee was secured by the note, was discharged some time prior to the completion of the legal matter. The defendant had not made a demand for payment on the note and the plaintiff had made no payments thereon at the time the plaintiff initiated this action seeking, inter alia, a release of the mortgage held by the defendant. The plaintiff argued that she was entitled to summary judgment because the defendant was precluded from bringing an action to enforce the note pursuant to the

statutes of limitation found in General Statutes §§ 52-576 and 42a-3-118. The defendant argued that the plaintiff had waived her right to rely on either statute by signing the mortgage note that contained a "delay in enforcement" clause. Defendant argued that pursuant to such clause, the defendant was able to enforce her rights under the note at any time and, the statute of limitations was therefore irrelevant. The question presented to the court was whether the "delay in enforcement" clause constituted an enforceable waiver of the statute of limitations. This presented a question of first impression, as the courts of this state had not yet considered the validity of a waiver of the statute of limitations made at the inception of a contract. The Appellate Court affirmed the judgment of the trial court, following the reasoning of the majority of the states that "a stipulation contained in a written instrument, waiving the defense of the statute of limitations permanently, as to any breach of contract that might occur in the future, is void and unenforceable as contrary to public policy." The court noted that if it were to uphold the validity of such waivers, they would be routinely inserted in every promissory note and similar instrument and "the door would be open to the very abuses the statute was designed to prevent." Additionally, the court was concerned that there was a great likelihood that a waiver or extension of the statute of limitations in the initial contract "was the result of ignorance, improvidence, an unequal bargaining position or was simply unintended."

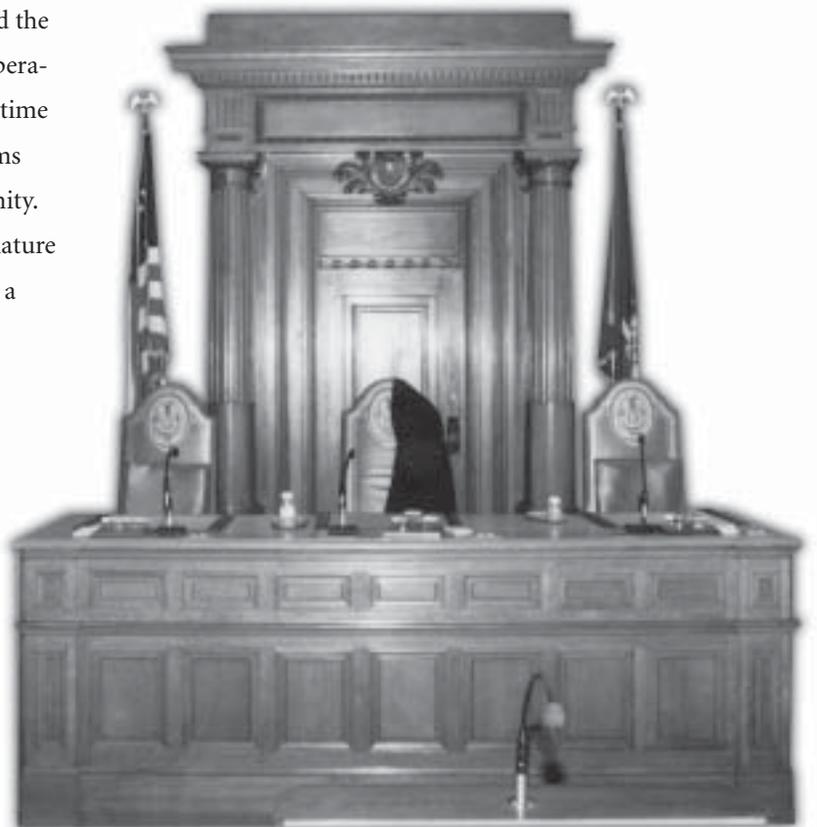
*ALLISON V. MANETTA, 84 Conn. App. 535,
cert. denied, 271 Conn. 931 (2004)*

Argued June 9, 2004

Released August 17, 2004

The Appellate Court reversed the judgment of the trial court dismissing for lack of subject matter jurisdiction the plaintiff's cause of action for personal injuries sustained in a motor vehicle accident. The accident occurred on a winter day when the defendant operator exited his state-owned truck to attend to his responsibilities for the department of transportation. The truck was idling and partially obstructing the roadway. As the operator finished his task and was returning to his truck, a tractor trailer passed the state vehicle by crossing over the center line. The tractor trailer struck the plaintiff's vehicle that was traveling in the opposite direction. The trial court granted the state's motion to dismiss, concluding that the operator of the state truck was not operating it at the time of the accident and therefore the plaintiff's claims were barred by the doctrine of sovereign immunity. Pursuant to General Statutes § 52-556, the legislature has waived the state's immunity from suit when a

person is injured due to the negligence of a state employee who is operating a motor vehicle owned and insured by the state. Relying on the reasoning of *Rivera v. Fox*, 20 Conn. App. 619, cert. denied, 215 Conn. 808 (1990), the Appellate Court concluded that the operator of the state truck was operating it at the time of the collision. He had parked it as an activity incident to moving from one place to another along his designated maintenance route to fulfill his responsibilities for the department of transportation. Although the operator was not in the truck at the time of the collision, there was a temporal congruence between the operation of the truck and the plaintiff's injury. The case was remanded to the trial court for further proceedings.



THE STATE JUDICIARY



Connecticut's state judges are a varied group of men and women who dedicate themselves to carrying out the mission of the Judicial Branch: *to resolve matters brought before it in a fair, timely and efficient manner.*

Fulfilling this mission means that judges must confront serious problems affecting people's lives – their liberty, their children, their spousal relationships, their business relationships. This may involve the sentencing of a convicted defendant, the determination of which parent will raise a child, or the awarding of damages to an accident victim.

While these circumstances may be intensely personal to the parties involved, the work of the judges – in each and every one of these cases – is the foundation of a free and democratic society. Moreover, the responsibilities of Connecticut state judges often extend beyond the courtroom, as they seek to enhance the public's understanding of the importance of an independent judiciary.

Whether it was inside or outside of the courtroom, Connecticut's judges accomplished much over the past two years.

AMONG THE HIGHLIGHTS:

- ❖ Under the leadership of Chief Justice William J. Sullivan and the Rules Committee of the Superior Court, Connecticut's judges revised the rules regarding sealing orders and courtroom closures. The changes barred the use of what was known as "Level 1" sealings, where a case name and docket number were sealed from the public.
- ❖ Chief Justice Sullivan appointed a committee to review the issue of lawyer advertising. The Honorable C. Ian McLachlan, Judge of the Appellate Court, chairs the task force, which includes both judges and lawyers.
- ❖ Chief Justice Sullivan requested from Probate Court Administrator James J. Lawlor a plan for the future of the Probate Court system.
- ❖ The Supreme and Appellate Courts continued their popular visits to colleges and high schools around the state, as part of the Chief Justice's goal of demystifying Connecticut's state court system. The Supreme Court visited Eastern Connecticut State University in 2003 and Teikyo Post University in 2004. In addition, the Supreme Court traveled to the Stamford Judicial District courthouse in April 2003, where students from several area schools heard arguments in two cases. The Appellate Court visited Waterford High School in 2002, Fairfield University in 2003, and both Litchfield High School and Western Connecticut State University in 2004.
- ❖ Chief Justice Sullivan and Supreme Court Justices Joette Katz and Christine S. Vertefeuille presided over the state's high school mock trial competition in 2003. The following year, Justice Katz, Justice Richard N. Palmer and Justice Vertefeuille presided over the competition. The Connecticut Consortium for Law & Citizenship Education Inc. and the Connecticut Bar Association

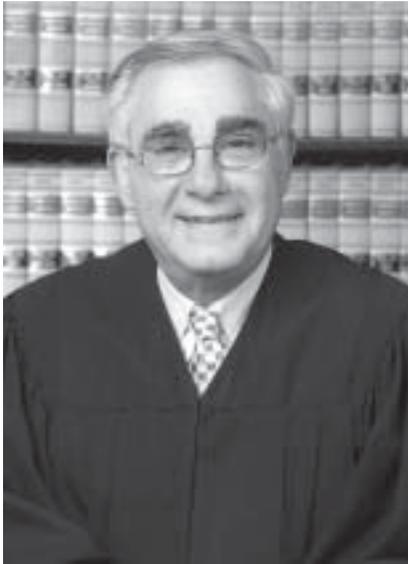
co-sponsor the competitions, which are held in conjunction with Connecticut's annual Law Day celebration.

- ❖ The Supreme Court took an active role in the 2003 and 2004 Law Day ceremonies, for which the Connecticut Judicial Branch won a national award from the American Bar Association in 2003.
- ❖ The Supreme Court continued its popular practice of swearing in new attorneys at a ceremony designed to recognize the significance of the admittees becoming members of the Connecticut Bar. The ceremonies are held twice a year and attended by Appellate Court judges, chief administrative judges, and administrative judges.
- ❖ The Appellate Court celebrated its 20th anniversary in October 2003 and continued to ready for its move from the fourth floor of 95 Washington Street, Hartford, to a new courthouse on Elm Street, a few blocks away.
- ❖ Judges Alexandra D. DiPentima and C. Ian McLachlan were appointed to the Appellate Court in 2003.
- ❖ Chief Court Administrator Joseph H. Pellegrino spearheaded the Branch's electronic filing project. As of July 1, 2004, lawyers can file certain cases via e-filing, and work is underway to extend e-filing.
- ❖ Since July 1, 2002, there have been 24 new judges appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the General Assembly.
- ❖ The American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Public Education selected Superior Court Judge Alfred J. Jennings Jr. to receive the Judge Edward R. Finch Law Day Speech Award for the best 2004 Law Day speech nationwide.
- ❖ Judges Joseph H. Pellegrino, John J. Langenbach, Marshall K. Berger, Linda K. Lager, and David W. Skolnick, along with several prominent civil practitioners, are part of the Judicial Branch's Civil Commission. Over the past two years, the commission has reviewed and addressed several issues that have and will continue

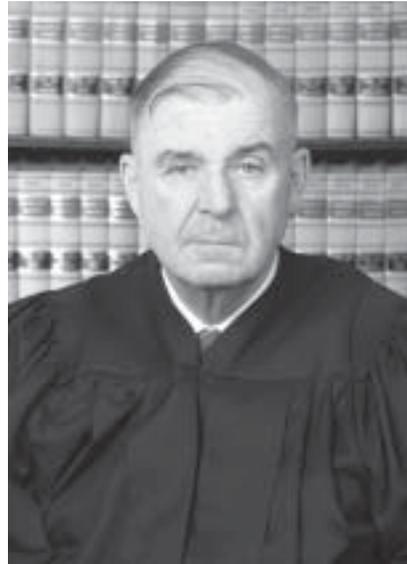
to have a significant impact on civil practice. Among these items are: panel jury selection, fact and notice pleading, standardizing foreclosure procedures and proposing rules to the Rules Committee of the Superior Court to streamline civil procedures.

- ❖ Judge Linda K. Lager has produced a videotape on panel jury selection that was showcased at the Connecticut Bar Association's annual meeting in June 2004. In addition, she has made presentations to local bar associations on this subject.
- ❖ Dozens of Superior Court judges volunteered for the Judicial Branch's Speakers Bureau. These judges have spoken to various civic groups around the state on issues regarding the courts. The judges also have visited many schools, and during Law Day, several returned to their high school alma maters to speak to students.
- ❖ Several judges participated in the Open World Program, which enables judges from Russia to visit Connecticut and learn about its state courts.
- ❖ In 2003, the Judges' Education Committee commenced a review of the five-year strategic plan for judicial education, which was adopted in 1999. The committee refined its mission statement and established eight long-term strategic goals to guide its work in achieving its vision. That vision is: *To enhance the wisdom, knowledge and skills required of an independent judiciary in its pursuit and administration of justice.*
- ❖ In addition, key programs have been developed to enhance the current educational offerings to judges. Together with the Office of the Chief Court Administrator, the Education Committee and the Office of Continuing Education have introduced a series of basic courses for judges appointed to the bench since Jan. 1, 2001. During the biennial, the Education Committee also surveyed Superior Court judges regarding their educational needs and is incorporating the results of the survey into curriculum planning for the academic year and annual Connecticut Judges Institute.

SUPERIOR COURT



*Judge Joseph H. Pellegrino,
Chief Court Administrator*



*Judge Thomas F. Parker,
Deputy Chief Court Administrator*

CHIEF COURT ADMINISTRATOR

The Chief Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court appoints the Chief Court Administrator, who oversees the administration of the Judicial Branch.

The duties and powers of the Chief Court Administrator are set out in Section 51-5a of the Connecticut General Statutes.

In part, the statute requires that the Chief Court Administrator: “shall be responsible for the efficient operation of the department, the prompt disposition of cases and the prompt and proper administration of judicial business.” The statute also authorizes the Chief Court Administrator to “assign, reassign and modify assignments of the judges of the Superior Court to any division or part of the Superior Court.”

DEPUTY CHIEF COURT ADMINISTRATOR

The Deputy Chief Court Administrator assists the Chief Court Administrator in fulfilling these obligations.

In addition to assisting the Chief Court Administrator, Judge Parker represents the Judicial Branch on numerous commissions and committees affecting various aspects of Connecticut’s judicial system. These committees include: the Prison and Jail Overcrowding Commission, the Judges Advisory Committee on e-filing, the Chief Justice’s Ad Hoc Criminal Practice Committee, the Investigatory Grand Jury Panel and the Judicial Performance Evaluation Program.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES

The Chief Court Administrator appoints chief administrative judges to oversee the following Superior Court divisions: civil, family, criminal, juvenile, judge trial referees, judicial marshal services and facilities.

THEY HAVE THE FOLLOWING RESPONSIBILITIES:

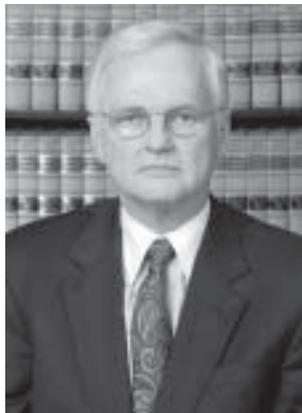
- ❖ To represent the Chief Court Administrator on matters of policy affecting their respective divisions
- ❖ To solicit advice and suggestions from the judges and others on matters affecting their respective divisions including legislation and advise the Chief Court Administrator on such matters
- ❖ To advise and assist administrative judges in the implementation of policies and caseload programs



*Judge Susan B. Handy,
Chief Administrative Judge
for Criminal Matters*



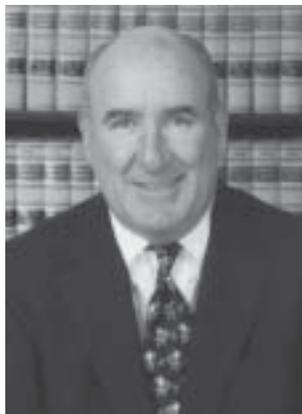
*Judge John J. Langenbach,
Chief Administrative Judge
for Civil Matters*



*Judge F. Herbert Gruendel,
Chief Administrative Judge
for Family Matters*



*Judge Michael A. Mack,
Chief Administrative Judge
for Juvenile Matters*



*Judge Thomas V. O'Keefe, Jr.,
Chief Administrative Judge
for Judicial Marshal Services*

ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES



Standing (from left to right): Judge Francis J. Foley, III, Judge Bruce W. Thompson, Judge John F. Kovanewsky, Jr., Judge John W. Pickard, Judge James J. Devine, Judge Salvatore C. Agati, Judge Douglas C. Mintz*

Sitting (from left to right): Judge Jonathan J. Kaplan, Judge Robert E. Beach, Jr., Judge John W. Moran, Judge Richard P. Gilardi, Judge Julia L. Aurigemma, Judge William P. Murray

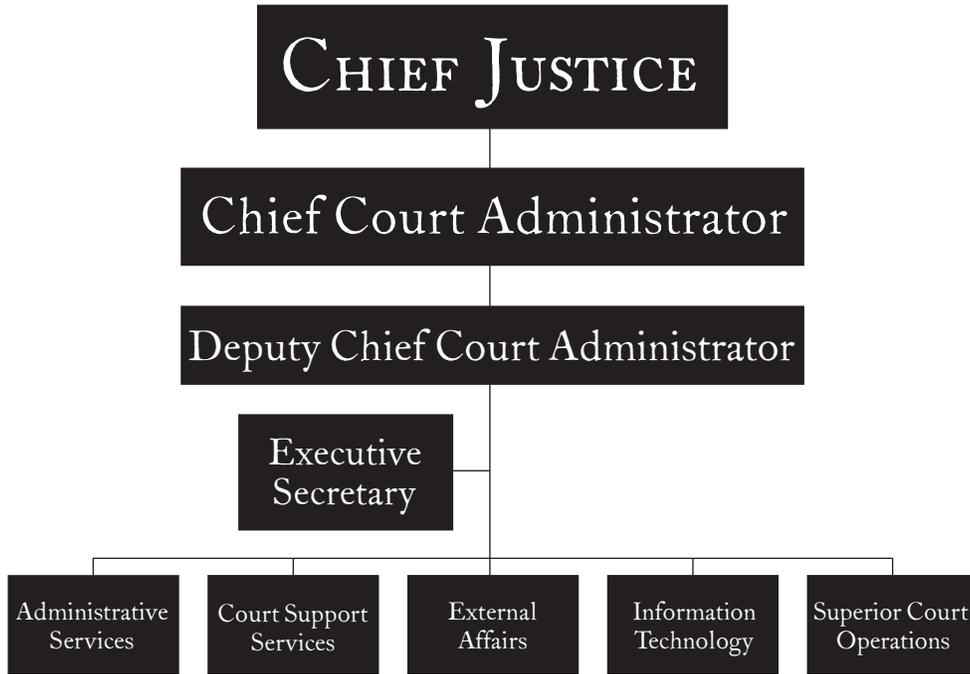
**Judge James J. Devine is the Assistant Administrative Judge for the New London Judicial District. Judge Stuart M. Schimelman is the Administrative Judge.*

The Chief Court Administrator appoints administrative judges to oversee the administrative operations of each of the 13 Judicial Districts.

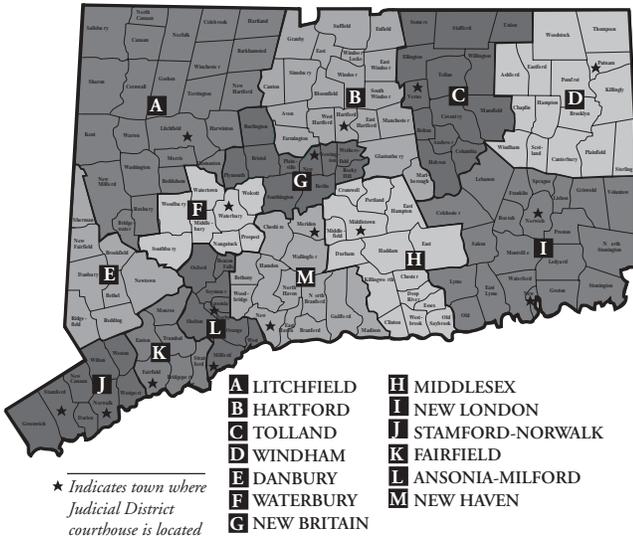
THEY HAVE THE FOLLOWING RESPONSIBILITIES:

- ❖ To represent the Chief Court Administrator in the efficient management of their respective Judicial Districts in matters affecting the fair administration of justice and the disposition of cases
- ❖ To implement and execute programs and methods for disposition of cases and administrative matters within their respective Judicial Districts in accordance with the policies and directives of the Chief Court Administrator
- ❖ When required, to order that the trial of any case – jury or non-jury – be held in any courthouse facility within the Judicial District
- ❖ To assign judges within the Judicial District, as necessary
- ❖ To oversee the daily assignment of a judge to address jurors

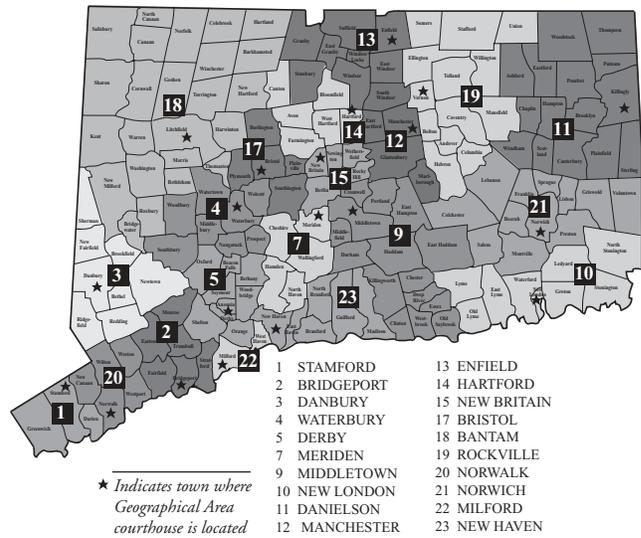
ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION



Connecticut Judicial Districts



Connecticut Geographical Areas



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION



At the direction of the Chief Court Administrator, the Administrative Services Division provides essential centralized services to assist the judges and the Judicial Branch's almost 4,000 employees. Such services include: development, management, monitoring and analysis of the Branch's General fund budget; payroll administration, revenue and expenditure accounting, and payment of the Branch's financial obligations; coordination of personnel and labor relations functions and employee benefits administration; capital budget development and oversight, and facilities planning, design and repair; fleet and materials management, purchasing and warehousing; and internal auditing and investigation.

Among the more visible responsibilities of the Administrative Services Division is the planning and management of facilities.

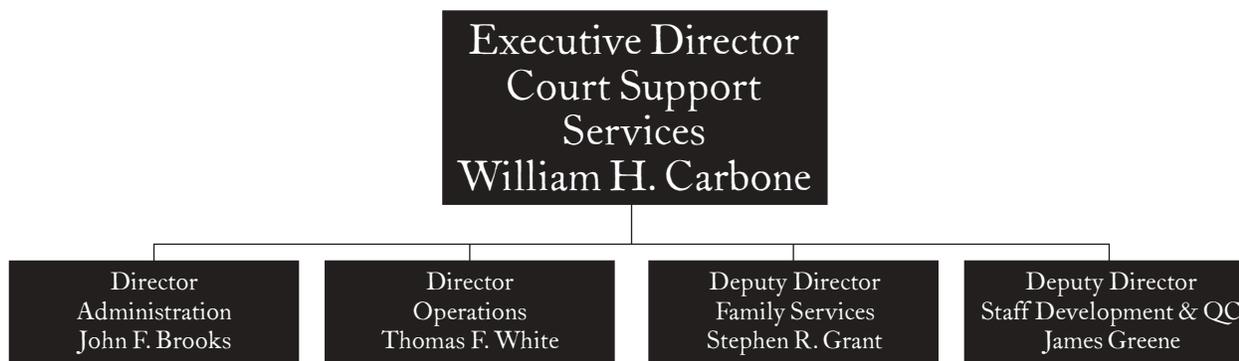
CAPITAL PROJECTS OVER THE PAST BIENNIUM INCLUDE:

- ❖ **Stamford-Norwalk Judicial District Courthouse and Garage:** The Stamford Courthouse opened in August 2002. The groundbreaking for the garage occurred in October 2004, with completion expected next year.
- ❖ **Hartford Juvenile Detention Center:** The new detention center opened for occupancy in January 2004. The 58,000-square-foot addition, costing \$18.7 million, provides juveniles with a state-of-the-art facility for education, medical/psychiatric and recreation programs.
- ❖ **Superior Court for Juvenile Matters and Detention Center, Bridgeport:** The Judicial Branch is committed to the construction of a new facility in Bridgeport for the juveniles in its care. The project has been in the works for years and is of primary importance to the Branch.
- ❖ **Appellate Court, Hartford:** The Judicial Branch's building at 75 Elm Street in Hartford is being renovated for the use of the state Appellate Court. This unique project preserves the significant historical nature of the former insurance company building, while upgrading all building systems (i.e. security, telecommunications). The impressive central hall, with Corinthian columns and second-floor balcony, is being redesigned to serve as the Appellate Court's courtroom.
- ❖ **The Supreme Court Building, Hartford:** The Supreme Court Building at 231 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, has undergone exterior repairs and renovation, including the rebuilding of the front staircase and repairs to the exterior of the building.

- ❖ **Civil Annex, Kendrick Avenue, Waterbury:** Fundamental structural repairs are being performed at the historic Kendrick Avenue courthouse to prepare it for use as a civil court annex. In addition to the structural repairs, general renovation and upgrading to centralized HVAC are being accomplished.
- ❖ **GA 23, 121 Elm Street, New Haven:** A two-phase project is in process to repair and restore the exterior of the courthouse at 121 Elm Street in New Haven.
- ❖ **Litchfield Judicial District at Torrington:** Legislation was passed to allow the construction of the Litchfield Judicial District Courthouse in Torrington, as well as to provide for repair and renovation of the historic courthouse on the Litchfield Green.
- ❖ **Criminal Courthouses, Bridgeport and New Haven:** These two long- range capital projects are in the planning stages, with funding being sought for criminal courthouses in both New Haven and Bridgeport. Each is expected to be approximately 250,000 square feet, with 20 courtrooms.
- ❖ **Family Court and Central Administrative Offices, 90 Washington Street, Hartford:** A lease for the 80,000-square-foot building at 90 Washington Street, Hartford, was executed and renovation work was completed. The lease accommodates Family Court on the first two floors, which will relieve the severe and longstanding overcrowding at the Judicial District courthouse at 95 Washington Street, Hartford. The upper two floors will allow for the consolidation of many of the Branch's central administrative offices.



COURT SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION



The Court Support Services Division (CSSD) was established by the Connecticut Judicial Branch in February 1999, to better serve the judges by consolidating pre-trial services, family services, offender sentencing and supervision options in one division. CSSD also oversees juvenile probation services and the state's three juvenile detention centers (Bridgeport, Hartford and New Haven).

THE PAST TWO YEARS HAVE BEEN BUSY ONES FOR CSSD. AMONG ITS ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ❖ In 2003, Connecticut became the first state in the nation to have all of its state-run detention facilities accredited through the American Correctional Association, after successfully complying with over 500 standards of detention center operation. In 2004, the National Commission on Correctional Health Care also accredited the centers, certifying that their medical and mental health care services are of the highest quality and meet the commission's standards.
- ❖ The 2004 session of the Connecticut General Assembly authorized and approved the hiring of 98 new adult probation officers in order to improve public safety, reduce jail overcrowding and enhance current probation services. It is anticipated that probation officer caseloads will be reduced substantially, allowing officers to work more effectively with their clients. The increase in staff, along with several new initiatives in supervision methods and programming, will promote the goal of reducing recidivism rates of offenders.
- ❖ In accordance with Public Act 03-242, all persons either serving or sentenced to a term of probation as of October 1, 2003, for a felony or certain misdemeanors are required to submit a sample of DNA. Accordingly, CSSD established its DNA Testing Project, which collects samples from new probationers each month. A contracted community-based laboratory service does the testing in six probation offices statewide. Beginning June 1, 2004, this requirement became a standard condition of probation.
- ❖ Following a CSSD-supported study by Central Connecticut State University, the division is piloting an alternative point scale for the risk-assessment tool used in making decisions regarding bail. Results indicate that the new scale has resulted in lower failure-to-appear-in-court rates and incarceration rates by more accurately targeting clients who can be safely released pre-trial rather than incarcerated.
- ❖ Since July 2003, the Automated Case Management Information System (CMIS) has been operating for bail, adult probation and family staff. CMIS has generated many enhancements for all disciplines, including streamlining the family and bail intakes, and improved data collection. The implementation of Juvenile CMIS, including juvenile detention, Court Operations and juvenile probation, is underway.

- ❖ In 2004, the newest evidence-based program model for adult probationers began in New Britain. Called the Adult Risk Reduction Center (AARC), the program is designed for high-risk probationers and provides intensive services targeted to an individual's needs. The program has three separate tracks to provide gender-specific services, as well as age-appropriate services for 16- to 21-year-olds. If the New Britain center proves successful, the model will be replicated in other locations.
- ❖ Also in 2004, CSSD implemented two projects designed to reduce the number of probation violations and technical violations that lead to incarceration: the Probation Technical Violation Unit and the Probation Transition Program. These initiatives incorporate new supervision strategies and services designed to help probation officers effectively deal with violation behavior.
- ❖ Technical Violation Units have been established in six locations: Hartford, New Haven, Bridgeport Waterbury, New London and New Britain. These units target individuals whose regular probation officer has determined that a technical violation of probation is imminent. The probationers receive intensive treatment, supervision and case management services to change the violation behavior for up to 120 days. They then are returned to the regular caseload. If the offender fails to make progress, an arrest warrant is prepared.
- ❖ The Probation Transition Program (PTP) provides critical front-end services for offenders who have probation upon discharge from prison. The program aims to help these individuals achieve a successful re-entry into society. PTP probation officers are located in Hartford, New Haven, Bridgeport, Waterbury and New London.
- ❖ CSSD staff, along with a team of national experts, developed the first formal screening tool in the country to incorporate all current science and research in this area of child custody and visitation. This screening tool is designed to assist the Family Services staff with identifying the level of conflict and complexity of issues in these types of cases. It will facilitate the identification of appropriate interventions in accordance with evidence-based practices, and enhance differentiated case management.
- ❖ The Parent Education Program Advisory Committee reviewed and significantly modified the Parent Education Program curriculum to more clearly reflect current statutory requirements.
- ❖ CSSD Juvenile Services and the state Department of Children and Families (DCF) developed new and innovative alliances to improve delivery and access to services funded by both agencies. Recent developments include the establishment of Case Review Teams in each court location, with representatives from DCF and other resource agencies being invited to discuss appropriate alternatives to out-of-home placement. Whenever a child is being considered as needing out-of-home/community care, the team seeks alternative community-based treatment.
- ❖ In 2004, CSSD and DCF entered into a joint mission to create a unified strategic plan for providing juvenile justice services to address the needs of their common population of children and families. This plan will provide for extensive inter-agency collaboration and thereby streamline services to Connecticut's children and families.
- ❖ In 2002 and 2003, CSSD initiated two improved services models for juveniles. The first, Adolescent Clinical Treatment (ACT), delivers highly clinical interventions with medical or psychiatric oversight to children with "internalizing" behavioral/emotional disorders. The second, Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST), is a clinical model that delivers intensive in-home services to high-risk children and their families.
- ❖ In 2003, CSSD introduced a new behavior management program to improve services for court-involved girls. The new curriculum was implemented in girls' detention centers, and initial results show success in producing behavior changes and improved outcomes.
- ❖ In 2004, the Legislature approved \$1.85 million to fund the Girls Diversion Initiative. The project's goal is to divert girls who are in detention for status offense violations from further involvement in the juvenile justice system.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION



The External Affairs Division furnishes and facilitates the exchange of information about the Judicial Branch to the Legislative and Executive Branches, the public, community organizations and the news media.

TO THAT END, THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION:

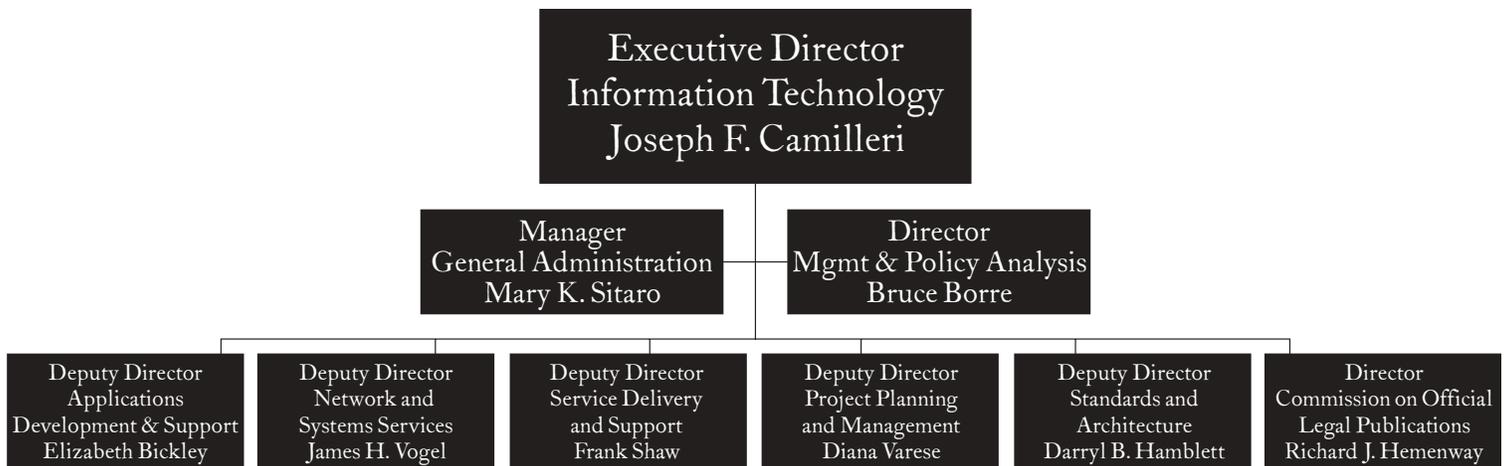
- ❖ Oversees all legislation affecting the Judicial Branch;
- ❖ Serves as the Judicial Branch spokesperson;
- ❖ Handles various Judicial Branch publications, such as the Branch Directory and biennial report;
- ❖ Promotes public understanding of the law by educating the public about the court system, its role and responsibilities, and the importance of an independent and strong third branch of government;
- ❖ Assists with continuous development of the Judicial Branch website; and
- ❖ Oversees the Branch's volunteer and intern program.

AMONG THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BIENNIUM:

- ❖ The Supreme Court Tour program, which furthers the Chief Justice's commitment to demystifying Connecticut's appellate process, continued to grow. Through this program, thousands of school children, as well as many other groups and individuals, toured the Supreme Court courtroom. In addition, a virtual tour of the courtroom was made available through the Judicial Branch's website at www.jud.state.ct.us.
- ❖ Hundreds of senior citizens have availed themselves of the popular "Seniors & the Law" program, which provides seniors with information on how to avoid scams, probate issues, and elder abuse. Seniors & the Law programs have been held in several locations throughout the state, and additional locations will be scheduled in the future.

- ❖ The Volunteer/Intern Program administered by External Affairs continue to thrive. The program provides thousands of hours worth of valuable services to Judicial Branch employees, who gain the opportunity to act as a mentor to a college student or volunteer, while benefiting from the contributions made by these individuals. In 2003, the Branch recognized the contributions of the volunteers at a ceremony in the Museum of Connecticut History. Additionally, intern orientations are held three times a year.
- ❖ The External Affairs Division, along with the Branch's Web Board and Information Technology Division, played a key role in enhancing the Judicial Branch's website. In 2004, the Judicial Branch won another award for its website, this one from the Center for Digital Governments. The National Center for State Courts also has recognized the excellence of the Branch's website by placing it within the nation's top 10 court websites.
- ❖ External Affairs also played a significant role in the Law Day Award the Judicial Branch received in 2003 from the American Bar Association. The award honored the Branch for putting on one of the best Law Day programs in the nation.
- ❖ To enhance the relationship between the Judicial and Legislative branches, the External Affairs Division, in collaboration with the Judges Association, coordinated a program that brings legislators to courthouses in their area and allows them to meet their local judges and discuss issues of mutual concern. This program is ongoing.
- ❖ External Affairs handled hundreds of calls from the media, including state and national news organizations.
- ❖ External Affairs assisted the Branch's other four divisions in a variety of ways, from handling media inquiries to helping organize events.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION



The Information Technology Division (IT) consists of Judicial Information Systems (JIS) and the Commission on Official Legal Publications. The division is dedicated to designing, developing, implementing and maintaining the Judicial Branch's complex data and information processing, storage, retrieval, dissemination and printing systems for the Judicial Branch, for the legal community and for the public. IT also manages the Help Desk, which provides computer assistance to thousands of users.

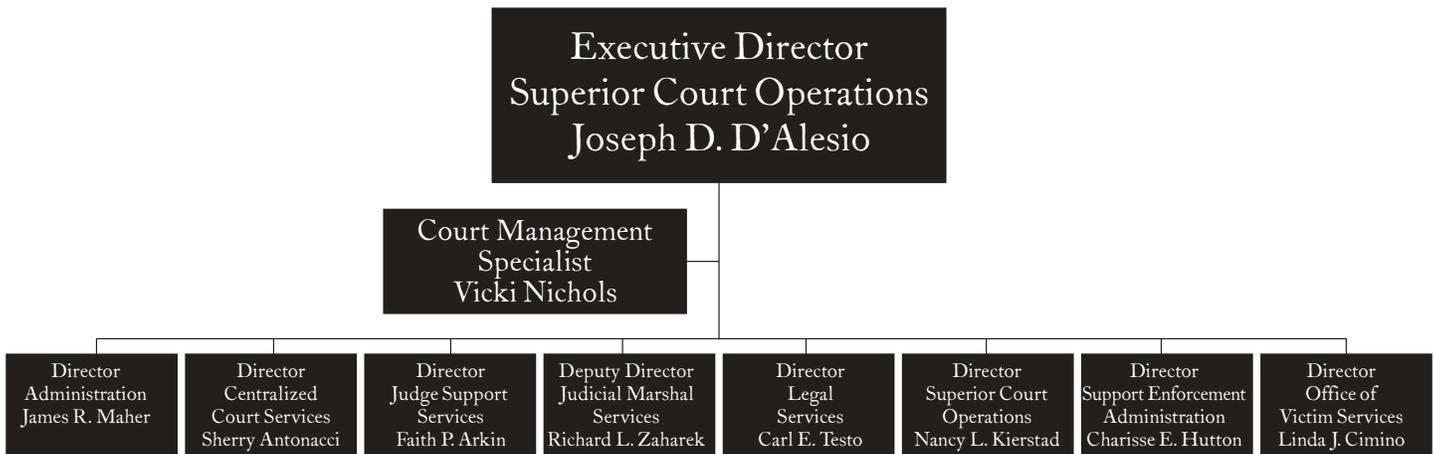
IT performs a crucial role in the development of the Branch's website as well.

continued on page 26

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PAST TWO YEARS INCLUDE:

- ❖ IT was an indispensable partner in the development of the Judicial Branch's electronic filing program, which allows attorneys to file certain civil cases. The division helped develop training materials and worked closely with the Superior Court Operations Division to get the e-filing program up and running by July 1, 2004. Over the next year, IT will be involved in the expansion of e-filing to other types of cases.
- ❖ Currently there are 5,849 attorneys/firms enrolled in the Branch's e-services which allows attorneys to e-file specified civil cases, to mark motions in civil cases and to register with the Statewide Grievance Committee. The website also provides civil, family, small claims and housing case lookups. Additionally, the attorneys and the public can now view and print short calendars for all civil cases.
- ❖ Since its inception in 1997, the Judicial Branch website has received a total of five national awards – four of which were awarded in the past two years.
- ❖ IT enhancements to the Branch's website have included a redesign for easier navigation and accessibility, creative additions and technical upgrades to the website's Kids Pages, quick and easy access to the Connecticut bar exam applications and results, ongoing improvement to its fillable forms and a major overhaul of the Law Library section.
- ❖ JIS is a key participant in the development and operational rollout of the Criminal Justice Information System/Offender-Based Tracking System (CJIS/OBTS). JIS currently feeds CJIS/OBTS real-time events from the following Judicial Branch applications: Criminal Motor Vehicle System (CRMVS); Centralized Infractions Bureau (CIB); the Protective Order Registry; and the Paperless Rearrest Warrant Network (PRAWN). These real-time feeds are helping to increase public safety and speed up the flow of information. CJIS/OBTS is being used by over 400 certified users spread out over the Executive and Judicial Branches and municipal police departments.
- ❖ The Intranet-based Case Management Information System (CMIS) made its debut in July 2003 and has greatly enhanced data collection at the Court Support Services Division. CMIS is a vendor-developed application, but many JIS developers participated in the analysis, requirements and programming phases of this project.
- ❖ Working in tandem with the Superior Court Operations Division and its Office of Victim Services, IT developed the Protection Order Registry to enhance the enforcement of court or agency orders. Since its full implementation in July 2002, more than 79,500 orders of protection have been entered into the registry. As soon as an entry is made, the registry sends the information to the following multi-agency systems: the state's law enforcement telecommunications system (COLLECT), the Gun Registry, the federal criminal justice telecommunications system and the state's Offender-Based Tracking System (OBTS). In addition, the registry automatically faxes order information to corresponding police departments whenever a protective order, restraining order or standing criminal restraining order is entered, modified or terminated.
- ❖ In early 2003, the Judicial Branch rolled out the computerized Paperless Rearrest Warrant Network (PRAWN) for tracking and serving Superior Court failure-to-appear warrants. PRAWN now covers two-thirds of the state, and work continues to make it statewide. PRAWN makes rearrest warrants in the state known to law enforcement immediately upon issuance. IT has had and continues to have a major role in the project.
- ❖ IT, in response to the adoption of new rules by the judges of the Superior Court in 2003, developed a "bulletin board" that appears on the Judicial Branch website and informs the public of any motions to seal documents or close courtrooms in civil and family cases.
- ❖ In the fall of 2004, the Judicial Branch provided the Offices of the Attorney General, Chief State's Attorney, the Connecticut State Police and local law enforcement officials with the ability to access judicial forms in a fillable format. This helps ease and expedite the filling out and filing of forms.

SUPERIOR COURT OPERATIONS DIVISION



The mission of the Superior Court Operations Division is to assist the Judicial Branch in the administration of justice by providing quality services and information to the court, customers and the community in an effective, professional and courteous manner. Overall, the division provides judges and support staff with the resources needed to process cases for trial, and process cases and matters that can be resolved without a trial.

THE DIVISION, THE BRANCH'S LARGEST, IS COMPOSED OF THE FOLLOWING UNITS:

- ❖ Judge Support Services, which coordinates and ensures the delivery of quality services to Superior Court judges and Family Support magistrates, including those related to legal research, technology, continuing education and law libraries, and provides overall grants management for the Judicial Branch;
- ❖ The Court Operations Unit, which provides support to Superior Court judges through the clerks' offices, and directs the policies and procedures for maintaining the accuracy and security of the official court file. This unit also implements legislative and Practice Book changes, directs alternative dispute resolution programs, provides statistical case analysis and reporting, and manages all matters related to the Protective Order Registry;
- ❖ The Legal Services Unit, which provides legal advice to the Chief Court Administrator and other Judicial Branch officials and divisions and provides legal and administrative support to the Rules Committee, the Bar Examining Committee, the Statewide Grievance Committee and other Branch committees and panels;
- ❖ Centralized Court Services, which is responsible for jury administration, the Superior Court Records Center and the Centralized Infractions Bureau;
- ❖ The Administrative Unit, which is responsible for court reporter and interpreter services, seized property, technical assistance to the clerks' offices regarding collection and disbursement of all monies received by the courts, managing the division's grants and contracts, and acting as a liaison with the Administrative Services Division to manage Court Operation's personnel, labor relations, purchasing and facilities responsibilities;
- ❖ The Office of Victim Services, which provides assistance to crime victims and their families through financial compensation for personal injuries arising from crime, as well as advocacy, informational services, and referrals;
- ❖ Support Enforcement Services, which is responsible for the court-based enforcement, and review and adjustment of child support and medical support orders;

continued on page 28

- ❖ Judicial Marshal Services, which is responsible for maintaining and coordinating security at all Judicial Branch facilities, and prisoner transportation to courthouses throughout the state. Judicial Marshal Services also operates two overnight lockups.

HIGHLIGHTS OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS INCLUDE:

- ❖ On July 1, 2004, the Judicial Branch implemented electronic filing of documents in five civil case types, with the objective of creating a fully integrated paperless electronic filing system for all civil matters. The purpose of this project is to expand the public's access to court information while conserving the time, effort and resources of the Branch. Court Operations is overseeing the implementation of this ongoing project. The initial phase provided attorneys with the ability to file documents electronically over the Internet. The next phase will make a complete electronic file available over the Internet for all cases initiated that are within the five civil case types. Subsequent phases in the next biennium will expand the program to additional case types. It is expected that e-filing will allow the courts to operate with increased efficiency, directly benefiting litigants, attorneys and their clients.
- ❖ Over the biennial period, the Court Operations Division coordinated implementation of the Paperless Rearrest Warrant Network (PRAWN). This project is a real-time system that apprises law enforcement personnel of the existence of a rearrest warrant immediately upon issuance. Similarly, once a rearrest warrant is marked served by the law enforcement agency or vacated by the court, it no longer will be displayed in PRAWN. The ultimate goal is to eliminate the need for law enforcement agencies to obtain paper copies of rearrest warrants from the court.
- ❖ In 2003-2004, a new Court Service Center opened in the Hartford Judicial District courthouse, and Public Information Desks commenced operations in Waterbury G.A. 4, and Hartford G.A. 14. During the biennium, substantial work was also completed for four additional Court Service Centers, in Tolland, Middletown, Milford and New Haven. This expansion greatly increases the availability of the centers, which already operate in New Britain, Bridgeport and Stamford. Judicial Branch employees, who are trained to assist members of the public with various court-related matters, staff Court Service Centers and Public Information Desks.
- ❖ The Judicial Branch introduced a new Drug Intervention Program to address the treatment needs of drug-dependent individuals who have been charged with a crime. This program, implemented in New Haven, Bridgeport and the Windham Judicial District, provides treatment, supervision and judicial monitoring. It also expands the treatment options available to drug-dependent persons at all stages of a criminal case.
- ❖ In April 2004, the Judicial Branch initiated a major program to quantify the need for court interpreters. This program tracks the usage of court interpreters and will allow the Branch to analyze how many interpreters are needed during what times and in which courthouses. This complements the Branch's ongoing effort to standardize the quality of its interpreters by using a National Center for State Courts program to train and certify its interpreters.
- ❖ On January 1, 2004, substantial revisions to the attorney grievance process took effect, with the goal of improving the attorney discipline process. Among the revisions was the creation of a disciplinary counsel to investigate and pursue all cases before the Statewide Grievance Committee in which probable cause of misconduct is found.
- ❖ The Jury Administrator implemented a Jury Outreach Program. Its purpose is to promote awareness and increase the likelihood that young adults will respond to jury summonses and serve on juries. A classroom education program has been developed for high school students and several schools have participated in the program. As of August 31, 2004, Jury Outreach program staff had given 29 presentations to 450 students from nine schools throughout the state.
- ❖ Court Year 2003 (September 1 through August 30) marked the first full year of summoning jurors from a Jury Master File developed by the Judicial Branch. The system matches records from source lists provided annually by the Departments of Revenue Services, Motor Vehicles, Labor, and the Secretary of State. The files obtained from these agencies are combined annually to

form the Jury Master File from which jurors are randomly selected. The new process removes duplicate records to ensure to the greatest extent possible that each individual has an equal chance of being randomly selected to serve.

- ❖ In 2004, the Judicial Branch expanded its court-based victim services advocate program to the Geographical Area courthouses in Enfield and Norwich. OVS and the University of New Haven also sponsored the Connecticut Victim Assistance Academy in 2002 and the OVS Institute for Advanced Victim Advocacy in 2003 and 2004. OVS also has reduced the time it takes to process victims' compensation claims through its Compensation Determination Program.
- ❖ In 2004, Support Enforcement Services received a \$100,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and

Human Services. The grant will fund proactive customer outreach in an effort to provide parents who use the Connecticut Child Support Enforcement Program with increased access to necessary information and services. In another project, SES developed a low-cost enforcement device to target specific child support obligors, which generated child support payments from many parents who hadn't made a payment in years. SES also embarked on a five-year planning process to increase child support collections.

- ❖ Judicial Marshal Services (JMS) continued to centralize its prisoner transportation system for greater efficiency and use of transportation resources. In April 2004, JMS also provided specialized courthouse security training through the Advanced Law Enforcement Readiness Training (ALERT) Court Security Seminar.



BASIC FACTS ABOUT THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

COURTS: *Supreme Court, Appellate Court, Superior Court*

METHOD OF APPOINTMENT: *Nomination by the Governor from list compiled by Judicial Selection Commission; Appointment by the General Assembly*

TERM OF OFFICE: *Eight years*

NUMBER OF AUTHORIZED JUDGESHIPS:

Supreme Court: 7

Appellate Court: 10

Superior Court: (trial) 179

Total: 196

PERMANENT FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE POSITIONS AUTHORIZED (INCLUDING JUDGES): *4,119*

FUNDING: *State-Funded*

GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:

	<u>FY 2002 - 2003</u>	<u>FY 2003 - 2004</u>
	\$333,657,764	\$334,133,557
CASES FILED:	<u>FY 2002 - 2003</u>	<u>FY 2003 - 2004</u>
Supreme Court	234	202
Appellate Court	1,172	1,221

SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION: *13 Judicial Districts, 20 Geographical Areas and 13 Juvenile Districts*

SUPERIOR COURT CASES FILED IN THE 2002 - 2004 BIENNIUM

	<u>FY 2002 - 2003</u>	<u>FY 2003 - 2004</u>
CRIMINAL		
Judicial Districts	3,111	3,133
Geographical Areas	123,743	123,505
Total Criminal	126,854	126,638
MOTOR VEHICLE	197,157	202,387
CIVIL	52,308	50,640
SMALL CLAIMS	75,672	74,791
FAMILY	30,743	30,396
JUVENILE		
Delinquency	15,628	16,459
Family with Service Needs	4,608	4,161
Youth in Crisis	1,143	1,089
Child Protection	11,156	11,474
Total Juvenile	32,535	33,183
HOUSING	19,889	18,466
SUBTOTAL	535,158	536,501
MOTOR VEHICLE <i>Cases Administratively Processed through the Centralized Infraction Bureau</i>	304,323	288,880
TOTAL CASES FILED	839,481	825,381

TOTAL CASELOAD FILED DURING THE BIENNIUM: *1,664,862*

