

Celebrating 39 Years

JUDICIAL COLUMN

Connecticut Judicial Branch Volunteer and Intern Program • Issue 6 • Spring 2009

VETERAN INTERN TRAINER RETIRES

Her Assistance To The Program Will Be Missed

When Brenda Westberry retires from Court Support Services in the not too distant future it will be the end of a 22-year connection not only with the Judicial Branch but with the Judicial Intern Program. Brenda relates her progression from Intern to Probation Officer to Training Officer in the following message:

By Brenda Westberry

Being an intern is such an exciting feeling!

I remember the first day I walked into the Danbury Office of Adult Probation in 1987. So many thoughts were going through my head as I had no idea what my internship would entail, or whom I would be assigned to. Those feelings of anxiousness, nervousness and wonder soon faded.

I was greeted with the friendliest smiles and given the best hands-on experience that I could ever imagine. It was that internship 21 years ago that clinched my desire to become an Adult Probation Officer. In a historical way, to trace my beginnings with Adult Probation, I still carry my original intern ID card in my badge case!

Some of the staff and officers who were a meaningful part of my internship have retired and moved on to other avenues of their lives: Joan Lodson, Steven Fritzer, Steve Langrock, George Kane, and Mary Larkin. I am forever indebted to them for the faith that they bestowed upon me and the confidence that they gave me in pursuing probation as a career. It is that spirit that I have vowed to pass on to the volunteer and internship



program and why I remain involved in the program. I am proud to give back only a small portion of what was given to me over 21 years ago.

As I sit on the cusp of retirement, I think back to my adventures as an Intern, an Adult Probation Officer, A Chief Probation Officer, Field Training Officer and someone who has worked with 17 interns over the past 20 years. I am proud to say and acknowledge that I have four former interns who are now Adult Probation Officers.

A Final Note

The Judicial Branch V/I staff would like to extend a warm “thank you” to Brenda Westberry for all her support and participation as an intern, workplace host and trainer. As a member of the Eastern Connecticut State University faculty, she also served as a great resource to our students. Brenda’s retirement plans are to continue teaching, coaching basketball, and consulting. While we will miss her assistance we will enjoy good memories and we wish her the very best in her future endeavors. 🍷

Application Deadlines and Orientation Schedules

Paralegal, Graduate & Undergraduate Studies.

Applications for Fall 2009 must be received by August 18, 2009
Intern Orientation will be held on September 10 and 11

Applications for Spring 2010 must be received by December 31, 2009
Intern Orientation will be held on January 21 and 22, 2010

Law Studies.

Applications for Fall 2009 must be received by August 17, 2009
Intern Orientation will be held on September 4, 2009

Applications for Spring 2010 must be received by December 31, 2009
Intern Orientation will be held on January 8, 2010

NEWSLETTER STAFF

External Affairs

Editors:

Rosanne Purtill

Rhonda Stearley-Hebert

Graphic Design and
Publication Development:
Karen LeBoulluec

Information Technology

Printer: Commission on
Official Legal Publications

Placement opportunities, eligibility, and application process can be obtained at our new website www.jud.ct.gov/intern

VOLUNTEER/INTERN PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Questions and Comments: (860) 282-6581

Robyn N. Oliver, Program Manager
Robyn.Oliver@jud.ct.gov

Juana Brown, Coordinator
Middlesex, New London, and Windham Counties

Rosanne Purtill, Coordinator
Hartford and Tolland Counties

Ivette Servera, Coordinator
New Haven and Litchfield Counties

The Connecticut Judicial Branch
Volunteer/Intern Program
99 East River Drive, East Hartford, CT 06108



Probation Internships Valued By Students

Experience Helps Many Determine Career Goals



As Coordinators of The Volunteer/ Intern Program we are aware of how influential staff members can be when they sponsor a student intern. But sometimes even we are surprised by something that a student brings to the attention of others.

This was the case recently when we heard about a student who had done an internship with **Adult Probation Officer, Alfrancis Williams in Hartford**. The student was asked to describe her experience there and what she said went something like this:

“Al told me that if I wanted to work with him I would have to understand that the people coming in are people, not criminals, but people who are someone’s brother, sister, mom or dad and that they are to be treated with dignity and respect. He went on to say that the most important thing was to create a relationship with the clients so that they will trust you and want to work with you to better themselves, and if you can’t do this then you can’t work in my office.”

Quite an extraordinary comment—and it obviously made a lasting impression on this particular intern. A search of our files included many positive comments on Probation internships. Here are some of them:

“... my internship in New Britain Adult Supervision has been very “hands-on” and everyone is willing to answer questions.”

“... my experience at the Manchester Probation office has been interesting and impressive and very enjoyable.”

“... I love my internship with the SO officers in Hartford. I couldn’t have asked for a better experience; I have really learned a lot and now know this is something I would really like to do.”

“... one of the best things about my Probation internship is the variety of tasks I am assigned; each day is different.”

“... my supervisor was great—I learned so much from her and she definitely kept me busy; you cannot beat the knowledge I gained through this program.”

... my supervisors were the best part of my internship; the office I worked in was a comfortable experience and working with clients was great experience.

... my supervisor was excellent ... very professional; I now know I want to be a Probation Officer.

... the people I worked with made me feel like I was a part of their team and always helped me with any questions I had.

“... everyone was extremely helpful and taught me so much. I was able to learn hands on by interacting with clients rather than shadowing someone ...”

“... I always had something to do...I saw that most people want to get their lives back on track.”

Many interns have gone on to careers in the Judicial Branch, in Adult and Juvenile Probation as well as other offices. The names of those recently hired appear on page three. 

Former Interns Hired by the Judicial Branch

| Name | Position | Location |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Rachel Aylor | Temp. Asst. Clerk | Hartford GA |
| La Tasha Black | Judicial Marshal Trainee | JD Fairfield |
| Jeremy Brown | Temp Asst. Clerk | Hartford JD |
| Scott Burg | Temp. Asst. Clerk | Hartford JD |
| Obee Byrd | Juvenile Detention Officer trainee | Bridgeport |
| David Caliri | Adult Probation Officer Trainee | Norwich |
| Kim Crayco | Temp. Admin. Clerk | Adult Probation Manchester |
| Kimberly Dennis | Office Clerk | New Haven JD |
| Melissa Mary DeStefano | Juv. Det Class/ Program Officer | Juvenile Detention Bridgeport |
| Marco Diaz | Juvenile Det. Officer | Bridgeport |
| Lisa Ferrara | Temp. Asst. Clerk | Fairfield Judicial District |
| Debra Downs | Temp. Asst. Clerk | New Haven GA Clerk's Office |
| Jason Goddard | Temp. Asst. Clerk | Manchester |
| Secrett Hampton | Juvenile Detention Officer | 11/7/2008 |
| Shonrael Lanier | Adult Probation Trainee | Norwich |
| Cristina Mongillo | Temp Asst. Clerk | Fairfield JD |
| Ronald Nelson | Juvenile Detention Officer trainee | Bridgeport |
| Meredith Olan | Temp Asst. Clerk | JD New Haven |
| Todd Peterson | Temp. Paralegal | Waterbury GA Clerk's |
| Jennifer Puffen | Juvenile Detention Officer Trainee | Bridgeport |
| Justin Quick | Adult Probation Officer Trainee | 10/10/2008 |
| Sylvia Rutkowska | Temp. Asst. Clerk | Middlesex JD |
| Jeffrey Schuyler | Temp. Asst. Clerk | New Haven JD |
| Sara Stone | Temp. Administrative Clerk | Adult Probation Norwich |
| Andrina Tobierre | Temp. Paralegal | GA Rockville |

Correction: Article printed in Issue 5 **JUNE START FOR COURT AIDE PROGRAM**

In the last issue of the Judicial Column the front page article about the new Court Aide Program was accompanied by a photo of one of the students who participated, Annemarie Ramirez. Unfortunately, the office where she worked was incorrectly identified.

It was actually the Interpreter and Translator Services Office located in Hartford Superior Court at 90 Washington Street that provided Annemarie with the opportunity to learn about that aspect of the criminal justice system. The Interpreter's staff, under the supervision of Program Manager Gabrielle Winter, was so welcoming and supportive that they even gave Annemarie a birthday party, complete with birthday cake and gifts.



Standing (*left to right*): Sonja Blasko, June Osborne, Annemarie Ramirez, Gabrielle Winter and Sandra Meadows. Kneeling (*left to right*): Alejandra Donath and Ivette Servera.