

Application Deadlines and Orientation Schedules

Paralegal, Graduate & Undergraduate Studies

Applications for Fall 2011 must be received by August 26, 2011
Intern Orientation will be held on September 15 and 16, 2011

Law Studies

Applications for Fall 2011 must be received by August 26, 2011
Intern Orientation will be held on September 2, 2010

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

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Volunteer/Intern Program
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Volunteer/Intern Program Approaches its 40th Year

JUDICIAL COLUMN

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Problem Solving Pilot Initiative Practices Therapeutic Jurisprudence

Jennifer Penna

MSW Problem Solving Intern

I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work in an internship that provided me with an experience that allowed me to combine my passion for helping people with my interest in the judicial system. The Judicial Branch Volunteer/Intern Program gave me the opportunity to intern for a new pilot program that focuses on individuals and human services while working within the framework of the law.

Under the Family Support Magistrate Division, a statutory court that hears child support cases for the Title

“This pilot project brings the benefit of social work assistance into the judicial system by providing a framework designed to provide parents with increased resources and intensive monitoring.”

IV-D child support program, the Problem Solving Pilot Initiative, which began on January 27, 2010, is located in the New Haven Superior Court. This pilot was started in order to increase a parent’s employment skills and their ability to pay child support as well as determine appropriate child support orders. Additionally, parents

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An Internship With A View: How One Intern Gained The Perspective He Was Looking For

John Burns

Former Intern

When it came to selecting an internship location, I knew I was not seeking the excitement of the state police or the unpredictable interactions with offenders of probation and parole. I wanted a more comprehensive look into the entire Judicial Branch, and one that did not focus in one specific area. There was much that I was

interested in, but I needed to find the correct agency that would help me obtain the answers: how do we as a state decide what policies to implement? Why does more money go into one program than another? Are we as a state even taking the correct actions to stop crime and prevent recidivism? Etc...

When my college teacher informed me that he supervised the Center for Research, Program Analysis and

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Support, Not Punishment at Problem Solving Court

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are assisted in strengthening their relationship with their children, and accessing services that will help better their lives. This pilot project brings the benefit of social work assistance into the judicial system by providing a framework designed to provide parents with increased resources and intensive monitoring. A supportive environment provides ample time to address the personal challenges interfering with their ability to provide regular and dependable financial support for their children. This program adds a new dimension to the legal system as well as a chance for more positive outcomes for those who want and need the extra support to succeed and achieve the goals set forth for them to move towards a more productive life.

The program incorporates an agent from New Haven Support Enforcement Services who is assigned specifically to work with the obligors in the Problem Solving Pilot Initiative; this allows the participants to develop a rapport with the agent and receive individualized attention. Furthermore, each hearing has an allotted 30 minute time slot, which allows the obligors the ability to plan their day. Incentives, such as calendars, planners, notebooks, pens, folders etc. provide the obligors not only with positive reinforcement for their efforts, but also gives them the materials they may need to obtain their GED or find employment. Lastly, even in this formal legal setting, the magistrate has the ability to get to know the obligors and help them to understand the legal process.

I have been fortunate enough to be able to work one-on-one with many of the obligors helping them conduct smart job searches, create resumes, talk about personal barriers



Pictured left to right are Court Planner II Cristina Goncalves, MSW Problem Solving Intern Jennifer Penna, Atty. Marc Schwab, Case Manager Yosley Saxton and Magistrate Linda T. Wihbey.

(i.e. mental health, substance abuse, lack of education) and refer them to appropriate services. Moreover, there is a resource drawer in the courtroom that I update daily with new services and opportunities for the obligors so that the court can make appropriate community referrals. I have enjoyed and learned so much from this internship rotation and feel honored to have been able to spend a year working so closely with knowledgeable and dedicated people, who like myself, feel compassion and pride in their work. This program has shown just how much can be accomplished when the judicial system and social work come together to help those who do not have a support system in place. I am so honored to have been part of this pilot program that has helped people shift their lives in a positive and productive direction.

Opportunity Abounds In Alternative Internship Placement

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Quality Improvement at the Judicial Branch, I felt it would be the perfect place in which to gain experience and obtain the broad view that I was seeking.

I was not one month into my summer internship and I had already attended meetings with top researchers in the state of Connecticut; I had begun a project to consolidate the state's data collection and conducted a research assignment on recidivism, which required me to reach out to other states in order to obtain data that they had collected. My supervisors not only allowed me the opportunity to create and follow my own ideas, but they also trusted me to work

on important, all-encompassing projects for the state of Connecticut.

I am grateful that I chose CRPAQI. It has provided me with a firsthand look into the everyday operations of the Judicial Branch's Court Support Services Division. Working alongside the top supervisors in the central office has provided immeasurable experience as well as high level contacts in a field that I hope to be a part of for a long time. I would advise any college student to follow a path similar to mine.

John Burns is now a temporary employee for the office he interned in as a student.

Interns and Workplace Hosts Give Thanks

Interns Leap at Chance to Work for Judicial Branch

Dear Ms. Purtill:

I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as an intern at the Hartford Community Court last fall. Interning at the Hartford Community Court was a phenomenal learning experience that allowed me to not only gain valuable insight into judicial practice and administration, but also to work directly with the Hartford community.

As an intern of the Hartford Community Court, I conducted client intake interviews/assessments, referred clients to inpatient/outpatient programs for substance abuse and mental health related issues, performed drug tests, input client information into the judicial database and represented clients in the courtroom on behalf of the City of Hartford Department of Health and Human Services, by presenting client progress and compliance to judges and prosecutors.

While gaining skills in legal work and learning of an array of social and economic issues impacting the Hartford community, I could not have asked for a better team. Supervisor Yanira Rodriguez, Court Planner Chris Pleasanton, DSS Case Worker Mary Clark and interns Kurt and Lisa were an absolute pleasure to work with and learn from during my fall internship with the Hartford Community Court. It was through my staff's knowledge and expertise that I was able to learn and grow the most.

Interning at the Hartford Community Court has, without a doubt, increased my interest in criminal law and has also opened up opportunities for me to continue to pursue my academic and professional interests. Because of my experiences as an intern with the Hartford Community Court, I was offered the position of civil rights intern with the Massachusetts Fair Housing Center, which is a nonprofit, civil rights law firm that works to eliminate illegal housing discrimination in central and western Massachusetts.

Once again, thank you for providing me with an extraordinary internship experience.

Sincerely,
Sahar Manzoor

"Interning at the Hartford Community Court has, without a doubt, increased my interest in criminal law and has also opened up opportunities for me to continue to pursue my academic and professional interests."

Offices Grateful For Interns

Veronica Perez-Davidson

Court Planner

Court Service Center

Norwich Superior Court

In these challenging economic times the Intern/Volunteer Program represents a "win-win" situation for all involved.

For the past three semesters, the Court Service Center at Norwich Superior Court has had the privilege of hosting several interns and volunteers. Our interns have gained practical, valuable experience, and developed marketable skills that added to their resumes. One of our interns is currently working for the Clerk's Office as a temporary assistant clerk and another as a paralegal for one of the attorneys that practices law in our court.

Having interns/volunteers work in the Court Service Center has provided numerous benefits to both the clients and the employees of the court. I have seen firsthand how our interns and volunteers are willing to roll their sleeves up and help in any way necessary. They have allowed me to provide a much better level of service to our patrons as the Court Service Center has become overwhelmed with people seeking our services; without them, I don't know how I would manage.

In closing, I would like to thank Ms. Juana Brown for recruiting and selecting such a great pool of interns and volunteers.

IT Provides Unexpected Experience with Branch

Court Support Services staff provides computer technical support to field offices throughout the state and includes Adult Probation, Bail Services, Family Services, Juvenile Probation and Juvenile Residential Services. Interns will have the opportunity to prepare desktops and laptops, for use in the field; picking them up from the warehouse, imaging them, installing software and finally installing the computers in field locations. These locations are in Eastern Connecticut, which encompass the area between the Connecticut River and Rhode Island from Massachusetts to Long Island Sound. Court Support staff also provides wireless and VPN services to field clients as well as on location instruction on how to use various software programs. The Branch is in a Windows environment (soon to migrate to Windows 7) and utilizes Microsoft Office for day to day desktop use.