

Community Courts


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the opportunity to become acquainted with a very special group of people. Like Mr. Coviello, Mr. Pleasanton has welcomed interns over the years. He has assisted these students in expanding their knowledge of the judicial process while also expanding the possibilities of their professional goals.

The Chinese Connection

In fall of 2006, the Hartford Community Court was fortunate to have two very unusual interns who could not be called "typical" students. These "students", who were referred by the U.S.-China Business Center at Central Connecticut State University, were high-ranking Chinese court personnel who came to Connecticut to learn about its legal system. This internship experience

offered these unique "students" an excellent opportunity to see firsthand how judicial and non-judicial agencies working together can achieve a positive response in the community, something that is yet to exist in their own country.

Community Court has become an important part of the Judicial Branch court system and as such is now an important part of the Intern Program. The willingness of staff at both Community Courts to accept students and provide educational and meaningful experiences is highly valued and appreciated by the Intern Program Coordinators. Their participation has helped many students to achieve their academic goals, and in some cases, helped to determine their career goals as well. 

Did you know during 2006 . . .

- Over 600 applications were received and 468 interns were placed throughout the branch
- Interns contributed 70,000 hours of service to the Judicial Branch

Half of our current volunteers have been contributing their time for more than seven years . . .

**The Connecticut Judicial Branch
Volunteer/Intern Program**
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Community Courts A Great Place to Intern

It is well known that the Judicial Branch offers a wide array of intern assignments to both undergraduate and graduate students looking for placements that are both educational and exciting. What may not be as well known is that one of the most interesting intern placements is at one of the Community Courts.

Connecticut currently operates two Community Courts. The first one was established in 1998 in Hartford with a second created in 2000 in Waterbury. These courts were designed and implemented to provide a meaningful judicial response to "quality of life" crimes which negatively impact city neighborhoods and their residents.

Community Courts allow interns to experience a unique, panoramic view of the

judicial process. They have a chance to see key participants at work, as well as how the Branch works with other state agencies while resolving cases in a timely manner. In recent years, numerous interns have been placed at both the Hartford and Waterbury locations.

Waterbury Community Court

Mr. James Coviello, Court Planner assigned to the Waterbury Community Court, has been an integral part of the court since its inception in 2000. He is a native of Waterbury, who brings extensive skills and experience from his previous profession. Mr. Coviello has hosted many interns over the years. He is attentive to their skill development while ensuring that their placements are interesting, educational and of assistance to the court in its day-to-day operations.

Hartford Community Court

Mr. Coviello's counterpart in Hartford is Mr. Chris Pleasanton. Mr. Pleasanton, Court Planner/Program Coordinator, has been an essential part of the court since 1999. The Hartford Community Court is an excellent model of government and community-based organizations working in concert to improve the quality of life in Hartford's neighborhoods. This community court is a very busy place and offers interns a variety of tasks to learn and proceedings to watch, as well as

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2007 Orientation Schedule

Important Dates

Winter Orientation: January 25 & 26

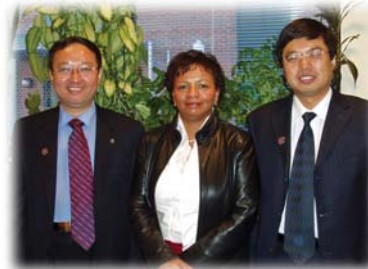
Applications for Summer Session due by May 18

Summer Orientation: June 7 & 8

Applications for Fall Session due by August 24

Fall Orientation: September 13 & 14

For Timely Information Visit:
www.jud.ct.gov/external/news/jobs/intern.htm



Chinese government official Mr. Zhang Chuan Wu and Mr. Ma Lingxi (student) were pleased with their placements at Hartford Community Court, which was arranged by Intern Program Manager Robyn Oliver.

Alicia Novi Chief State's Attorney's Office Intern

This summer I had the distinct pleasure of working with both Brenda Hans and Maura Coyne in the Elder Services Unit of the Chief State's Attorney's Office. The opportunities presented to me this summer varied from research and exhibit preparation to preparing trial briefs. I thank both attorneys and Unit Inspectors for continually providing me with guidance and feedback. My experiences this summer have prompted me to seek a position in the Criminal Justice Department after my graduation next year.

My very first assignment was to assist Attorney Hans in a white collar crime case consisting of 27 felony counts, including 17 securities fraud violations. My research into Connecticut state usury laws was used in a trial brief. I was also allowed to essentially second-chair this case and offer questions on redirect and cross examination. Seeing a bench trial run for over two weeks is not a normal occurrence and I am thankful for my inclusion in the trial and verdict.

Aside from the part A trial, I also worked on pre-trial and post trial for several cases. I was able to research a wide variety of topics and view videotaped depositions to assist in building cases and warrant applications. I also researched and prepared memos on motions and petitions for a new trial and was able to determine what should be brought up on appeal and what should be brought up on a motion or petition. Participating in a Violation of Probation case also allowed me to participate in pretrial negotiations and learn that being thorough in your review of documents will always work to your advantage. At the end of my internship I was invited to help in determining a payment of pre-paid oil contracts as well. Unfortunately my internship ended before I would be able to attend.

Throughout all of these cases I was able to work with and draw input from the inspectors. These inspectors were great teachers and gave me insight into the Connecticut legal system. Their knowledge and experience allowed me to see how cases are handled in vertical prosecution and the advantages to having inspectors available at all times.

Working at the Chief State's Attorney's Office has been a wonderful experience. Since I am not attending law school in Connecticut, working for CIAO gave me the opportunity to become familiar with the Connecticut laws and court system. I would highly recommend an internship for any law student from outside of Connecticut. 📖

The Volunteer/Intern staff extends a hearty congratulations to our former interns who recently passed the Connecticut Bar Examination.

Adamucci, Nicholas	Johnson, Alan
Afif, Maryam	Lachance, Amy
Ali, Raehan	Locus, John
Altaf, Somaia	Luksberg, Joshua
Audet, Jessica	Martin, Kelly
Baker-Warbin, Christa	McCluer-Fauham, Aisha
Bannister, Heather	Miller, Christine
Barnes, Joseph	Miller, Kathleen
Boucher, Kate	Moore, Ashley
Brennan, Sharon	Muller, Erica
Busque, Michelle	Murolo, Joseph
Candella, Donna	Neary, Michelle
Compagna, Brian	Orkney, Heather
Cushing, Tobias	Piech, Mark
Diaz, Brenda	Podolak, Gregory
Dougiello, Leslie	Prensky, Jeffrey
Fappiano, Justin	Scepanski, Jeffrey
Farisello, Vincent	Schlechtweg, Sarah
Furlong, Jennifer	Schmedlin, Melissa
Haberland, John	Strini, Nancy
Haslam, James	Szymczak, Stephen
Herskowitz, Craig	Tetrault, Brian
Hill, Megan	Theodosiou, Sevasti
Hubball, Jonathan	Tiberio, Heath
Hwang, Christine	Zimmerman, Stacie
Interlandi, Anthony	
Janosov, Devin	
Jekot, Wayne	

Meet the Verner Volunteer Team

"I would never be a volunteer"—strange words to come out of the mouth of Raymond Verner who has been a Judicial volunteer in the Waterbury JD Court at 300 Grand Street since 1999. But he did utter those "famous last words" several years ago when his wife, Eleanor, first suggested it.

At that time, Eleanor was working as an Administrative Assistant in the Housing Court where she was employed for 12 years. Chief Clerk Philip H. Groth needed help pulling files so Eleanor figured that Ray, who had been retired for 10 years, now had the time to help out. Ray had been a driver for New England Dairy for 42 years, making deliveries to various hospitals and schools.

Apparently Eleanor presented a convincing argument because Ray not only agreed to help Phil, but now spends two days a week volunteering in the Information Center.

Eleanor herself retired four years ago, and joined Ray by volunteering next door at the Small Claims Division.

Ray and Eleanor have enjoyed traveling in their retirement. They have gone to such diverse places as the Mexican Riviera, Grand Canyon, various European countries, the Canadian Rockies, and Alaska, where Ray enjoyed fishing for salmon. Besides fishing, Ray has taken to gardening as a hobby.



Eleanor likes to cook and try new recipes, and keeps her mind sharp by doing crossword puzzles.

Judicial has had other married couples volunteer together over the years, but Eleanor and Raymond Verner currently are the only ones who can make that claim. They have been married for 46 years and moved to Cheshire from Waterbury three years ago. The Judicial Branch greatly appreciates their dedication and hopes they both continue to enjoy their volunteer work for a long time to come. 📖

Spotlight on Intern Trainers

Attorney Michael Kokoszka

"Do you agree, disagree, or are you undecided?" Each semester this is the question Attorney Michael Kokoszka poses to the latest group of Judicial interns assembled for Orientation in the Branch's East Hartford Learning Center. For several years the Chief Clerk from the Middlesex Judicial District has been presenting students with thought provoking issues for their consideration as they prepare to start their internships.

As part of the required Cultural Diversity training, the new interns grapple with such topics as "At age 70, citizens should automatically have their drivers' licenses taken away," or "Discrimination is not as bad as it was 40 years ago." With Attorney Kokoszka leading the way, the students come to learn that there are many valid viewpoints to a given situation depending on factors such as cultural background, gender, ethnicity and race. His enthusiasm and genuine appreciation for this subject bring well deserved accolades from the students in the evaluations they write about their Orientation experience.

The maturity, knowledge and continued support Attorney Kokoszka brings to the Intern Program is valued greatly by Program staff and appreciated by each semester's group of students. Hopefully this partnership between him and the Intern Program, in this educational effort, will continue for a long time. 📖



Attorney Kokoszka, who grew up in Middletown, has been Chief Clerk there since 1979. He is a graduate of UConn and UConn Law School and lives with his wife and three children in Durham.