

Celebrating 38 Years

JUDICIAL COLUMN

Connecticut Judicial Branch Volunteer and Intern Program • Issue 5 • Summer 2008

JUNE START FOR COURT AIDE PROGRAM

Will Provide Opportunities for High School Students

For many years when high school students expressed interest in volunteering in the Judicial Branch their only opportunities rested with occasional job shadow experiences arranged through their schools.

Today students can volunteer through the Court Aide Program, which started in the summer of 2006. A pilot program, funded by a grant from a non-profit organization, provided stipends for four students who were part of the Law and Social Services Academy, which is run by Hartford High School in conjunction with the Urban League.

Fifteen students have participated since 2006 and in June of this year the program became a permanent educational component of the Judicial Volunteer/Intern Program. It

will run from February to April and from June to July with limited placements and areas of coverage.

Students were placed in court and agency offices such as the State's Attorney, Public Defender, Adult Probation and the Court Clerk to assist with routine duties while observing court and office functions. The object was to provide actual work experience while educating the students about law and the criminal justice system.

Role of Volunteer/Intern Program

The role of the Volunteer/Intern Program is to provide suitable placements where students can develop appropriate work skills. The V/I Program staff also provides ongoing supervision, orientation and training with an emphasis on the importance of confidentiality. In fact, students must sign a statement acknowledging that they understand a breach in this area will terminate their placements.

Currently five students from the Law and Social Services Academy are working within the Judicial Branch. This Academy, which is an after-school program, is selective and chooses only students who have proven themselves to be responsible and motivated to succeed.

Some of the schools that have participated are the Valley Regional High School in Deep River, Shelton High School, the Big Picture High School in Bloomfield, Jonathan Law High School in Milford, Sacred Heart Academy in Hamden, and the John F. Kennedy High School in Waterbury. The majority of students have come from schools in the Hartford area: Hartford High, Weaver High, and the Sports and Medical Academy. 



Annmarie Ramirez was a court aide in centralized small claims.

New Britain Volunteer Honored

On May 2nd, in New Britain Superior Court, as part of the celebration of Law Day, the Honorable Frank D'Addabbo presented volunteer Helen Jachimowski with the Liberty Bell Award for 2008.

The award is given annually by local Bar Associations to recognize the contribution of individuals who have given unusual assistance to the court system. Helen is a retiree who has volunteered for ten years in the clerks offices of both the civil and criminal courts.

Judge D'Addabbo said, "We here at the New Britain Judicial District appreciate her generously giving her time to us." Helen usually works two mornings a week but also helps out when staff levels are low. She does "a little of everything." Judge D'Addabbo continued, "She is considered a volunteer, but in the eyes and hearts of the personnel at the New Britain Judicial District she is a trusted worker and a pleasant person to have around."

During her ten years of service statistical records show that Helen has contributed approximately, 3500 hours to the court. A reception followed the ceremonies, where court staff and guests were able to meet and congratulate Helen on her award. 🍷



Honorable Frank D'Addabbo presented volunteer Helen Jachimowski with the Liberty Bell Award for 2008. Helen volunteers in the New Britain Judicial District.

Volunteer and Intern Program Highlighted at Diversity Day Celebration

The Aqua Turf was the scene for the Judicial Branch 2008 Diversity Day celebration held on June 26th. Chief Court Administrator Barbara Quinn began the day by welcoming the nearly 450 people who attended the event.

The Diversity Day events included workshops and a keynote address by a prominent Dartmouth professor, John Rassis. His energetic presentation was well received and spoke directly to the issues of diversity facing the workplace today.

The highlight of the day was a video titled "The Judicial Branch Volunteer/Intern Program: Making the Most of a Valuable Resource." The history of the program and its increased importance to the Branch during the past 38 years was presented.

The film also featured current interns, college professors and Judicial Branch staff who described their experiences with the program and how it benefits them. The attendees who had participated in the program and were now employed by Judicial were asked to stand and a substantial number did so.

Co-Chairs Hilda Nieves and Robyn Oliver considered the day a success and credited members of their committee for their hard work. 🍷



Juana Brown is the Intern Coordinator for the Middlesex, New London, and Windham counties.

Summer Orientation Held

Seven orientation sessions were held in late May and early June for students who are interning in Judicial Branch offices and courts for the summer. One hundred seventy three undergraduates, paralegal students and law students heard Branch trainers stress the need for professional behavior ranging from confidentiality issues to sexual harassment, and diversity.

The Judicial Branch dress code and code of conduct were also subjects that were thoroughly reviewed. The consequences of breaching confidentiality and violating the conduct and dress codes were carefully outlined so students would take these issues seriously and avoid having their placements terminated for inappropriate behavior. All students received copies of the intern manual containing both of these codes.

Students were sworn in by External Affairs Executive Director Melissa Farley, External Affairs Director Deborah Fuller, Bridgeport Housing Deputy Chief Clerk Beth Duffy Burns or Michael Kokoszka, Chief Clerk of Middlesex Judicial District.

Those students who are working in the Court Support Services Division (CSSD) were also trained on the case management system (CMIS) used in that division. This allows students to receive their own passwords to access the system and be of further assistance to CSSD staff.

Summer Interns Ready to Roll!



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Application Deadlines and Orientation Schedules

Paralegal, Graduate & Undergraduate Studies.

Applications for Fall 2008 must be received by August 15, 2008

Intern Orientation will be held on September 11 and 12

Applications for Spring 2009 must be received by December 31, 2008

Intern Orientation will be held on January 22 and 23

Law Studies.

Applications for Fall 2008 must be received by August 15, 2008

Intern Orientation will be held on September 5, 2008

Applications for Spring 2009 must be received by April 17, 2009

Intern Orientation will be held on May 15, 2009

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

The Connecticut Judicial Branch

Volunteer/Intern Program

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