



JUDICIAL BRANCH

BRANCH PURPOSE

<http://www.jud.ct.gov/>

- To operate a fair, timely, efficient and open court system to adjudicate all state criminal, civil, family and administrative cases.
- To maintain secure and safe conditions in courthouses and other Judicial Branch facilities.
- To create and sustain a full range of alternatives to incarceration for adult and juvenile populations.
- To advocate and provide services and financial compensation for crime victims.
- To effectively resolve family and interpersonal conflicts through a comprehensive program of negotiation, mediation, evaluation and education.
- To provide safe and secure custody, treatment and rehabilitative services for children and families through the juvenile justice system.
- To enforce, review and adjust child support orders.
- To monitor and supervise persons who have been placed on probation.

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

Public Service and Trust Commission

The Chief Justice established the 42-member Public Service and Trust Commission in July of 2007 to determine what people think about the court system; to ask what people value about their judiciary and what they believe the future holds; and to develop a meaningful blueprint for the next three to five years. The Commission solicited input from over 90 focus groups, who interact with the court system; two public hearings were held and two surveys were conducted.

The Commission's revised vision for the Branch is: *An independent, accountable and responsive Judicial Branch will administer justice, ensure access to the courts and deliver effective, uniform and consistent services to a diverse public. The Judicial Branch will collaborate with the Executive and Legislative branches of government and others with an interest in administration of justice.*

The revised mission statement reads: *The mission of the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch is to serve the interests of justice and the public by resolving matters brought before it in a fair, timely, efficient and open manner.*

In June, the Commission completed the strategic plan and an implementation plan is being developed.

Criminal Information on the Judicial Website

On February 1, 2008, the Judicial Branch took a significant step in increasing public access to criminal case information by posting publicly disclosable criminal conviction information on its website. This information, which is updated daily, includes criminal and motor vehicle convictions after January 1, 2000. It can be searched by defendant's name or docket number.

Cameras in the Courtroom

Pursuant to a recommendation of the Judicial Branch's Public Access Task Force, the Judicial Branch adopted new Practice Book Rules, effective January 1, 2008, to allow for the expanded use of cameras in the courtroom. The rule permits judges presiding over arraignments to authorize the media to record, broadcast, televise or take photographs of the proceedings. The media has enthusiastically embraced this opportunity; as of July 2008 more than 100 requests for camera access have been granted.

Criminal Sentencing Transcripts

Public Act 08-1 (effective January 25, 2008), prohibits the Board of Pardons and Paroles from holding a hearing on the release of any inmate unless it has obtained all information pertinent to the decision to grant parole release. One of the pieces of pertinent information is a transcript of the sentencing proceeding. As a result, the Judicial Branch produced the significant number transcripts needed to comply with the mandates of the Public Act. As a part of this ongoing effort, court reporters and monitors employed by the Branch produced more than 7,000 sentencing transcripts during FY 2008. These transcripts are available to the appropriate agencies through a database created by the Branch.

Foreclosure Mediation Program

Pursuant to P.A. 08-176, the Judicial Branch launched a new foreclosure mediation program. This state-wide program, which went into effect on July 1, 2008, provides mediation services to homeowners who have had a foreclosure action filed against them and who have requested mediation. The purpose of the program is to facilitate the best outcome for all parties to a foreclosure action.

RECOMMENDED SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

Reductions to Current Services	<u>2009-2010</u>	<u>2010-2011</u>
• Remove or Limit Inflation	-4,367,078	-7,638,211
• Transfer Equipment to CEPF	-1,384,719	-1,193,350
• Rollout FY2009 Rescissions	-8,171,304	-8,171,304
• Eliminate Vacant Positions	0	0
• OE/OCE General Reductions	-362,999	-362,999
• Eliminate or Defer New Leases - FY2011 Leases	0	-3,504,619
<i>Funding is removed to defer leases of facilities in Bristol, New Britain, New London, Torrington, East Hartford (FDIC Building and JIS), and Hartford until July 1, 2011.</i>		
• Streamline Agency Operations - Courthouse Closings	-2,079,105	-2,079,105
<i>Funding for 29 positions and associated costs is removed to coincide with the closing of the Bristol GA and Meriden GA and JD courthouses.</i>		
• Victim Notification System	-250,000	-250,000
<i>Funding is removed in order to provide the best estimate for the operating cost of the Victim Notification System to be developed for the implementation of PA 08-1 of the January Special Session, AAC Criminal Justice Reform.</i>		
• Remove 65 Unfunded Vacancies Remaining From 2003 Early Retirement Incentive Program	0	0
• Delay Hiring of 50 Juvenile Probations Officers for Juvenile Jurisdiction	-4,944,316	-4,944,316
<i>Funding is removed for 50 Juvenile Probation Officers and associated costs as Juvenile Jurisdiction is now delayed. These positions have not yet been hired.</i>		
• Defer Hiring of Court Staff to Support Juvenile Jurisdiction Change	-2,100,000	-2,100,000
<i>Funding is removed for 5 Judges and 6 support staff as Juvenile Jurisdiction is now delayed. These positions have not yet been hired.</i>		
• Eliminate Grant to the Justice Education Center	-293,111	-293,111
• Eliminate Vacant Judge Positions	-795,000	-795,000
<i>Funding is removed as the appointment of 5 Judges will be postponed.</i>		
• Eliminate Salary Increases for Temporary Assistant Clerks	-859,840	-859,840
<i>Funding is removed for the increase in compensation of Temporary Assistant Clerks.</i>		
• Remove Funding for Juvenile Justice Urban Cities Pilot	-764,000	-764,000
<i>Funding is removed for the Juvenile Justice Urban Cities pilot which has not yet been launched.</i>		
• Remove Diversionary Bed Funding	-1,680,000	-1,680,000
<i>Funding is removed for 60 Diversionary Beds which have not been contracted.</i>		
• Implementation of Probate Court Reform Plan	0	-1,250,000

AGENCY SUMMARY

Personnel Summary	2008-2009	2009-2010	2009-2010	2010-2011	2010-2011
	Total	Change From	Total	Change From	Total
	Authorized	2008-2009	Recommended	2009-2010	Recommended
<u>Permanent Full-Time Positions</u>					
General Fund	4,452	-241	4,211	0	4,211
Banking Fund	30	0	30	-30	0
Federal Contributions	4	0	4	0	4
Private Funds	43	0	43	0	43
<u>Other Positions Equated to Fulltime</u>					
General Fund	565	20	585	0	585
Private Funds	2	0	2	0	2
Financial Summary	2008-2009	2009-2010	2009-2010	2010-2011	2010-2011
	Estimated	Current	Total	Current	Total
	Services	Services	Recommended	Services	Recommended
Personal Services	322,282,648	330,198,446	319,415,425	332,631,278	321,848,257
Other Expenses	70,135,927	77,805,745	76,261,588	81,641,939	76,593,163
<u>Capital Outlay</u>					
Equipment	3,519,772	3,994,319	2,275,099	4,116,102	2,588,251

Other Current Expenses

Alternative Incarceration Program	46,156,222	56,292,302	52,252,826	56,292,302	52,252,826
Justice Education Center, Inc.	293,111	308,111	0	308,111	0
Juvenile Alternative Incarceration	30,128,929	31,675,753	30,128,929	31,675,753	30,128,929
Juvenile Justice Centers	3,104,877	3,263,346	3,104,877	3,263,346	3,104,877
Probate Court	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	1,250,000
Youthful Offender Services	7,977,037	10,052,619	6,475,253	10,052,619	6,475,253
Victim Security Account	148,000	155,750	148,000	155,750	148,000
Persistent Violent Felony Offenders Act	434,700	0	0	0	0
TOTAL - Other Current Expenses	90,742,876	104,247,881	94,609,885	104,247,881	93,359,885
TOTAL - General Fund	486,681,223	516,246,391	492,561,997	522,637,200	494,389,556

Other Current Expenses

Foreclosure Mediation Program	2,000,000	2,373,839	2,373,829	0	0
TOTAL - Banking Fund	2,000,000	2,373,839	2,373,829	0	0

Other Current Expenses

Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund	2,625,000	2,625,000	2,625,000	2,625,000	2,625,000
TOTAL - Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund	2,625,000	2,625,000	2,625,000	2,625,000	2,625,000

Additional Funds Available

Federal and Other Activities	6,410,861	4,468,921	4,468,921	3,851,527	3,851,527
Bond Funds	9,127,175	3,127,521	3,127,521	1,362,042	1,362,042
Private Funds	8,611,925	8,227,910	8,227,910	8,027,910	8,027,910
TOTAL - All Funds Net	515,456,184	537,069,582	513,385,178	538,503,679	510,256,035



PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION

AGENCY PURPOSE

<http://www.ocpd.state.ct.us/>

- Ensure the constitutional administration of criminal justice within the state criminal court system by maintaining a public defender office at all juvenile and adult court locations throughout the state.
- Provide legal representation to indigent accused children and adults in criminal trials and appeals, extradition proceedings, habeas corpus proceedings arising from a criminal matter, delinquency and juvenile post-conviction matters, Psychiatric Security Review Board cases and post-conviction petitions for DNA testing and to convicted persons seeking exoneration through the CT Innocence Project.
- Provide social work services to clients for referrals to alternative pre-trial programs and sentencing alternatives to incarceration and to assist them in addressing personal and social problems to prevent recidivism within the criminal justice system.
- Contribute to public safety initiatives by participation in the development of specialized programs that promote successful reentry, reduce violence, homelessness and recidivism including Domestic Violence Courts, Community Courts, Diversionary Programs, Drug Intervention, Alternatives to Incarceration and Team Child.
- Provide a balanced perspective within the criminal justice community by participation on state policy boards, task forces, and committees involved in addressing criminal and juvenile justice issues.
- Fulfill the State's constitutional obligation to provide counsel in a professional, effective and cost efficient manner for indigent accused.

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

Connecticut Innocence Project

The Division established the Connecticut Innocence Project as a volunteer program in 2005 for the purpose of assisting individuals wrongfully convicted of crimes that they did not commit. In 2007, the Project became a permanent Unit of the Public Defender Services Division with the addition of four new positions in the FY2008-2009 Biennium. Based upon strict criteria, cases are reviewed and proceedings are initiated if new evidence exists to establish that the person is actually innocent of the crime for which they were sentenced.

Innocence Project staff include 2 attorneys, an investigator and a paralegal who are currently reviewing requests for assistance from incarcerated persons in Connecticut.

Electronic Evidence Training and Information Technology

The Division continues to expand the use of computerized electronic evidence presentation techniques in the courtroom. With the addition of a Training Specialist and essential equipment, the Training Department continues to provide innovative training in case management, time line, and electronic evidence presentation to those offices involved in serious felony and capital case trials. Training has been expanded to include more offices and staff. The Information Systems Unit is also working with the Director of

Special Public Defenders to design a more efficient invoice tracking and billing system.

Juvenile Delinquency Defense

In 2006, the Public Defender Services Commission created the position of Director of Juvenile Delinquency Defense to coordinate and enhance the representation of children in delinquency matters on a statewide basis. The Director has continued to serve as an important resource for the Agency and the General Assembly. The Director continues to expand specialized juvenile delinquency training track for public defender staff, special public defenders, the private bar, and juvenile court service providers. This year, the Director and other juvenile public defenders coordinated comprehensive training on Juvenile Competency for interested agencies. The Director also serves on multiple juvenile justice interagency and legislative task forces.

Persistent Felony Offender Legislation

P.A. 08-51 provided funding for additional public defender attorneys to provide much needed assistance to public defender offices expecting increased and more complicated caseloads due to legislatively enhanced measures to prosecute persistent serious felony offenders. These additional attorneys will allow experienced staff to concentrate on and prepare for trials in cases of clients exposed to the most severe mandatory penalties.

RECOMMENDED SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

<i>Reductions to Current Services</i>	<u>2009-2010</u>	<u>2010-2011</u>
• Remove or Limit Inflation	-254,421	-432,857
• Transfer Equipment to CEPF	-453,491	-366,824
• Rollout FY2009 Rescissions	-6,311	-6,311
• Eliminate Vacant Positions	-252,729	-252,729
• OE/OCE General Reductions	-9,070	-9,070
• Consolidations - Courthouse Closings	-437,922	-437,922
<i>Funding for 5 positions is removed to coincide with the closing of the Bristol GA and Meriden GA and JD courthouses.</i>		
• Reduce Special Public Defender - Contractual	-300,000	-300,000
<i>Funding is removed representing 10% of the Special Public Defender - Contractual account.</i>		
• Reduce Special Public Defender - Non Contractual	-580,000	-580,000
<i>Funding is removed representing 10% of the Special Public Defender - Non-Contractual account.</i>		
• Reduce Expert Witnesses Account	-160,000	-160,000
<i>Funding is removed representing 10% of the Expert Witnesses account.</i>		

AGENCY SUMMARY

<i>Personnel Summary</i>	2008-2009	2009-2010	2009-2010	2010-2011	2010-2011
	Total	Change From	Total	Change From	Total
	Authorized	2008-2009	Recommended	2009-2010	Recommended
<u><i>Permanent Full-Time Positions</i></u>					
General Fund	400	-10	390	0	390
Federal Contributions	1	-1	0	0	0
<u><i>Other Positions Equated to Fulltime</i></u>					
General Fund	4	0	4	0	4
<i>Financial Summary</i>	2008-2009	2009-2010	2009-2010	2010-2011	2010-2011
	Estimated	Current	Total	Current	Total
		Services	Recommended	Services	Recommended
Personal Services	37,284,447	39,257,626	38,579,475	39,273,323	38,595,172
Other Expenses	1,451,374	1,513,899	1,492,329	1,480,293	1,458,723
<u><i>Capital Outlay</i></u>					
Equipment	0	453,596	100	366,929	100
<u><i>Other Current Expenses</i></u>					
Special Public Defenders - Contractual	3,044,467	3,044,467	2,744,467	3,044,467	2,744,467
Special Public Defenders - NonContractual	5,850,292	5,850,292	5,270,292	5,850,292	5,270,292
Expert Witnesses	1,615,646	1,615,646	1,455,646	1,615,646	1,455,646
Training and Education	119,808	131,852	125,546	131,852	125,546
Persistent Violent Felony Offenders Act	512,000	0	0	0	0
TOTAL - Other Current Expenses	11,142,213	10,642,257	9,595,951	10,642,257	9,595,951
TOTAL - General Fund	49,878,034	51,867,378	49,667,855	51,762,802	49,649,946
<u><i>Additional Funds Available</i></u>					
Federal and Other Activities	172,663	0	0	0	0
Bond Funds	541,928	0	0	0	0
Private Funds	133,587	99,000	99,000	99,000	99,000
TOTAL - All Funds Net	50,726,212	51,966,378	49,766,855	51,861,802	49,748,946



COMMISSION ON CHILD PROTECTION

AGENCY PURPOSE

Pursuant to C.G.S. §46b-123c, d & e, the Commission on Child Protection's purpose is to improve the system for the provision of legal services and guardians ad litem to children and indigent respondents in family matters in which the state has been ordered to pay the cost of such services and in proceedings before the superior court for juvenile matters.

The Commission is also required to ensure that attorneys providing legal services pursuant to this section are assigned

<http://www.ct.gov/ccpa>

to cases in a manner that will avoid conflicts of interest, as defined by the Rules of Professional Conduct, and in a manner consistent with the Standards of Practice.

The Commission is required to establish and implement training, practice and caseload standards for the representation of children and indigent respondents in juvenile and family courts.

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

Model Child Welfare Law Office Pilots

- Issued RFP for a Multi-Disciplinary Model for providing legal representation to children in juvenile matters cases.
- Awarded contacts to two pilots, New Haven Legal Aide in New Haven and Southeastern Connecticut Center for Juvenile Justice in Waterford.

Established Child Welfare Law Specialty Certification Program

- Initiated and facilitated recognition of Child Welfare Law as a Legal Specialty under the Rules of Professional Conduct.
- Assisted the National Association of Counsel for Children in achieving recognition by the Judicial Branch Rules Committee as the authorized certification body in Connecticut.
- Granted 45 Scholarships to Juvenile Contract Attorneys to apply to the NACC for Certification as a CWLS.

Caseload Standards

The Chief Child Protection Attorney's contract allows attorneys to decline cases if they feel their current workload prohibits them from meeting their professional obligations to a new client. CCPA has added a net of approximately 13 new attorneys, helping to reduce caseloads.

Attorney Assessment/Application Review

Processed and reviewed over 230 contract applications. Denied contracts to new applicants who were not qualified and to existing contract attorneys who did not meet Standards of Practice.

Mentoring Program

The Mentor Program has been enhanced to include assigning the Mentor as co-counsel with the new attorney on the first 2 cases assigned to the new attorney. This ensures an opportunity for hands on coaching in every aspect of a child protection case and that the client also has an experienced attorney assisting with the representation.

RECOMMENDED SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

Reductions to Current Services

- Remove or Limit Inflation
- Rollout FY2009 Rescissions
- OE/OCE General Reductions

Reallocations or Transfers

- Separate Family Matter Expenses from Contracted Attorney Account

Funding is transferred to distinguish between Juvenile Matters and Family Matters expenses.

	<u>2009-2010</u>	<u>2010-2011</u>
	-7,213	-10,273
	-593,289	-593,289
	-4,542	-4,542

	0	0
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AGENCY SUMMARY

Personnel Summary	2008-2009	2009-2010	2009-2010	2010-2011	2010-2011
	Total	Change From	Total	Change From	Total
	Authorized	2008-2009	Recommended	2009-2010	Recommended
<u>Permanent Full-Time Positions</u>					
General Fund	9	0	9	0	9

Financial Summary	2008-2009	2009-2010	2009-2010	2010-2011	2010-2011
	Estimated	Current Services	Total Recommended	Current Services	Total Recommended
	Personal Services	580,031	679,429	679,429	681,449
Other Expenses	179,964	193,512	184,260	193,512	184,260
<u>Capital Outlay</u>					
Equipment	0	100	100	100	100
<u>Other Current Expenses</u>					
Training for Contracted Attorneys	42,750	45,000	42,750	45,000	42,750
Contracted Attorneys	11,031,528	11,612,135	10,295,218	11,612,135	10,295,218
Contracted Attorneys Related Expenses	108,713	114,435	108,713	114,435	108,713
Family Contracted Attorneys/AMC	0	0	736,310	0	736,310
TOTAL - Other Current Expenses	11,182,991	11,771,570	11,182,991	11,771,570	11,182,991
TOTAL - General Fund	11,942,986	12,644,611	12,046,780	12,646,631	12,048,800