

COURT BULLETIN

March 2018

Judges Visit Local Schools, Communities for National Judicial Outreach Week



Hampden Probate and Family Court Judge Claudine Wyner speaks to students at DeBerry Elementary School in Springfield.

The court and the community: As part of the American Bar Association's second annual National Judicial Outreach Week, some 100 judges from the Appeals, Superior, District, Housing, Boston Municipal, Probate and Family, Land and Juvenile Courts are visiting local schools and community organizations around the state this month to

educate students and citizens about the American legal system and the work they do as judges.

[See more information & photos on Courtyard](#)

Victims Services Unit Strives to Empower Those It Serves



From left, Victim Services Unit team members Courtney Bacon, Corinn Nelson, Laura Boback, Nicole Hamwey, Lindsey Maxwell and Andrew Laurantano.

After a case is prosecuted and the defendant is placed on probation, what happens to the victim?

The court system, with its own language, acronyms, and procedures, can be a mysterious and forbidding place for crime victims. By design, the court system's focus is on the offenders, not victims.

Before 2015, probation officers often worked on a case-by-case basis to help victims and their families get their lives back together, drawing from a mix of informal networks as well as resources such as the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance (MOVA).

But since the creation in 2015 of the Victims Service Unit (VSU), a division of Massachusetts Probation Service, victims have a team of dedicated advocates embedded in the court system...

[Read more](#)

Solving the Identity Dilemma: OBTNs Offer Judges Access to Federal Criminal Case Records

What is an OBTN number and why is it important?

Fast, accurate access to federal criminal records. An Offense Based Tracking Number (OBTN) is a unique 13-character number assigned by a police agency to an arrestee for a specific arrest event. The Clerk's Office enters an OBTN at case initiation. The police can also provide an OBTN in an Electronic Application for Criminal Complaint (EACC) submission to the court.



An OBTN number connects an arrest incident to a fingerprint-supported state identification number (SID) managed by the Massachusetts State Police. OBTN and SID numbers only apply to criminal cases and should only be provided to the courts in instances where the defendant has been arrested and fingerprinted by the arresting agency...

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IT Update: Reset Your System Password Online

Forgot your password? No problem: Now you can change your password online and configure your account's security questions for self-service password resets.

To reset your password, bookmark this web page: <http://pwreset.jud.state.ma.us>

Try it out. You may want to take a moment now to sign in with your current password and configure your reset questions in case you need to use the tool in the future.

In Your Mailbox: Judicial Evaluations for Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes and Nantucket Counties

What: If you work for the District Court, Housing Court, Juvenile Court, Probate and Family Court or Superior Court in Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes or Nantucket Counties, you can provide

feedback to the judges with whom you work by completing the Judicial Education Program evaluation. The evaluation process is completely anonymous. The judges will not see the questionnaire you submit.

When: You should have received a questionnaire at your home address. Please complete your evaluation and mail it back in the supplied postage-paid envelope as soon as possible.

Why: The scores you submit and the comments you write are taken seriously by the Trial Court. Each judge will meet with their department chief justice to discuss the evaluation and individual professional development plan. Your survey responses and comments help enhance the performance of judges and the judiciary as a whole. The evaluation program is the best way for you to tell the judge and department chief justice of your experiences working with these judges.

If you have any questions or need a questionnaire, contact Mona Hochberg, Coordinator of Judicial Performance Evaluation at Mona.Hochberg@jud.state.ma.us.

Send us the scoop...



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