



Community Service



Community Pride



Community Service Work Sites February 2005

- February 1 Oxford St., Warrenton St., Regent St., Beacon St., West Blvd.
- February 2 Girard Ave., Fern St., Evergreen Ave., South Whitney St., Beacon St., Tremont St.
- February 3 Ebony Horse Barn, Melrose St., Rutland St., Greenwich St., Cambridge St.
- February 4 FOODSHARE
- February 7 Ebony Horse Barn, Webster St., King St., Ellsworth St., New Britain Ave.
- February 8 Flatbush Ave., Sherbrooke Ave., Hughes St., Curtiss St.
- February 9 Zion St., Ward St., Hilton St.
- February 10 Ebony Horse Barn, Capitol Ave., Fishfry St., Hamilton St.
- February 14 Nelton Court, Ebony Horse Barn
- February 15 Wethersfield Ave., Willys St., Main St., Park St., Ledyard St.
- February 16 Elliot St., Bond St., Tower Ave., Orange St. Wethersfield Ave.
- February 17 Maple Ave., Bernard St., Ebony Horse Barn
- February 18 FOODSHARE, Washington St., Jefferson St.
- February 22 FOODSHARE, Washington St., Ward St.
- February 23 Jefferson St., Madison St., Allen Pl., Lincoln St., Vernon St.
- February 24 Hillside Ave.
- February 25 FOODSHARE, various snow & ice removal
- February 28 Ebony Horse Barn, Sanford St., Loomis St., Main St., Westland St.

NORTHWESTERN CT COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS VISIT COMMUNITY COURT

The Community Court in Hartford was pleased to host a March 7, 2005 visit by students from Northwestern Connecticut Community-Technical College (NCCC). The students are studying in NCCC's Criminal Justice Program under Professor Barry D'Onfrio.

During their visit, the NCCC students toured the community court facility and talked with Public Defender Ray Cuatto, Assistant State's Attorney Glenn Kaas, Michael Hatt of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Michal Ayalon of the Hartford Area Mediation Program, Supervising Judicial Marshal Tom Grodecki, and Court Coordinator Chris Pleasanton. Each staff member spoke with the students about their professional perspectives of the community court experience and what goes into making the community court unique from traditional criminal courts.

"This was the fifth year we have hosted students from NCCC, and it is always an enjoyable visit for all of us at the Community Court," Court Coordinator Chris Pleasanton said. "Community College students are nontraditional in the sense that in one class you have both older and younger people from many diverse backgrounds.

They bring a lot of different perspectives to the table. Consequently, the way they view the proceedings and the questions they ask are truly unique among the many visitors we get to the court."



NWCC students with Professor Barry D'Onfrio (far left) and Court Coordinator Chris Pleasanton (far right)



Presiding Judge, Jorge A. Simón

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WHY MEDIATION WORKS IN COMMUNITY COURT

by Glenn M. Kaas,
Senior Assistant State's Attorney

I am fortunate to have, as one of the tools of prosecution, the Hartford Area Mediation Program (HAMP). HAMP handles some of the court's more time-consuming cases; cases where a victim, a complainant, or even a co-defendant needs to have adequate time to explain his or her side of the story, and receive the justice they feel is deserved, while not taking their case to a trial.

My office is a small one (one prosecutor, one secretary, no investigator) and it is often quite difficult for me to get in touch with, or spend quality time with, complainants or victims. That's where HAMP is invaluable to me. I can comfortably refer these "messy" cases knowing that HAMP has the resources available to make the necessary time. In addition, HAMP can make arrangements for parties to meet at odd hours, when the courthouse is not open, to try and resolve the underlying dispute which led to the arrest.

Defendants can feel comfortable with the process as well. State law prohibits disclosure of the substance of the mediation (oral or written) and further precludes the use of any such information in any proceeding. Connecticut's Code of Evidence supports the privacy of the mediation as well by proscribing the introduction of offers to compromise on the issues of liability and amount of a claim. That means that the parties to the mediation are free to openly discuss the situation, even admit culpability, to try to reach some compromise without fear of having their words used against them in court. Such open and honest discussion goes a long way toward reaching a resolution without further prosecutorial intervention. And, as far as I am concerned, with the workload we have in community court (excluding motor vehicle cases, it is consistently among the top five busiest criminal courts in Connecticut), the more cases I can "farm out" in a productive manner, the better.



Glenn M. Kaas

Please feel free to email the court with questions or comments at:

Hartford.Commcourt@jud.state.ct.us

and visit the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch website at:

www.jud.state.ct.us

FEBRUARY 2005 COMMUNITY COURT STATISTICS

Hours of Community Service	2280
Total Number of Cases Processed	466
Number of Human Services Referrals	60
Referrals to HAMP (Mediation)	25



898
SOCIAL
SERVICES
REFERRALS

28,125
HOURS OF
COMMUNITY
SERVICE
PERFORMED

7,462
NEW
CASES

29
WOMEN'S
HOLISTIC HEALTH
GRADUATES

2004 COMMUNITY COURT CUMULATIVE STATISTICS

CASELOAD
BY TOWN

AVON	1 percent
BLOOMFIELD	3 percent
CANTON	1 percent
FARMINGTON	5 percent
HARTFORD	80 percent
W. HARTFORD	9 percent

3,138
DEFENDANTS
THROUGH LOCKUP

471
CASES
REFERRED TO
MEDIATION
(65% RESOLVED)

92%
RATE OF
APPEARANCE
(ARRAIGNMENT CALL BACK, & COM.
SERVICE DOCKETS)