

STATE OF CONNECTICUT JUDICIAL BRANCH

COMMUNITY COURT SESSION IN HARTFORD

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WINTER 2005 NEWSLETTER

IN THIS EDITION...

*2005 year end review, M.A.R.G. presentation ,
staff notes, community service sites and statistics*

State of Connecticut Superior Court
Community Court Session in Hartford
80 Washington Street
Hartford, CT 06106



Presiding Judge, Jorge A. Simón

State of Connecticut
Judicial Branch
Community Court
Session
At Hartford

WINTER 2005
News & Updates

Produced by Chris Pleasanton, Vol. 7, Issue 8

COMMUNITY COURT 2005 REVIEW

By the Honorable Jorge A. Simón

2005 has been another exciting year at the Community Court in Hartford, with the continuation of many successful programs and the development of new partnerships. In short, our connections with independent service providers in Hartford have only strengthened over the past year. There are too many to list, but we would especially like to thank ADRC, CPA, CHS, AIC, Strive/SAND and Paul and Lisa, Inc., for their willingness to work with us to provide our defendants with opportunities. We are very grateful to each and every organization and their staff for their help.

More recently, we have had a caseworker from the Access to Recovery program working on-site two days each week, to connect substance abuse addicted defendants with a wide array of services, enhancing the efforts of our on-site City of Hartford and DMHAS caseworkers. We are very excited about working with the ATR program and have seen it make a big difference for many defendants.

Overall, the Community Court handled nearly 7,000 new cases, and our defendants performed nearly 27,000 hours of community service to resolve their cases. Our social services team made 1348 referrals. We also referred over 500 cases to mediation, with nearly 72% disposed of successfully.

We are looking forward to continued success in 2006 and, as always, welcome your suggestions and input. Please feel free to stop by the Community Court to watch court in session or to meet with our staff.



Judge Simón

*Best wishes for a wonderful
holiday season and a
healthy & happy 2006
- from the
Community Court in Hartford*

FALL 2005 STATISTICS

| | SEPT | OCT | NOV |
|----------------------------------|------|------|------|
| Total Arraignments | 652 | 580 | 427 |
| Community Service Hours | 2004 | 1458 | 1392 |
| Social Services Referrals | 143 | 243 | 99 |
| Referrals to Mediation | 59 | 68 | 40 |
| Rate of Compliance | 92% | 93% | 94% |
| Suburban Caseload | 16% | 17% | 27% |

Please feel free to email the court with questions or comments at:
Hartford.Courtcourt@jud.state.ct.us
 and visit the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch website at:
www.jud.state.ct.us

JOE CONTI: A LIFE OF SERVICE

Little did the United States know what it was in for on December 1, 1955, when an ocean liner from Sicily docked in New York City and 6-year-old Joe Conti disembarked with his parents to begin a new life in America. What it got was an American hero. Joe, who grew up in East Hartford, has dedicated his life to serving others, first through a tour of duty with the Army in Vietnam, then as a Hartford Police officer for over 25 years, and, for the last 10 years, as a Judicial Marshal, most of which at the Community Court. On the 50th anniversary of his arrival in the United States, Joe's friends at the Community Court took the time to honor his service with a brief get-together to say "thanks."

"Joe Conti has shown through his service what a good man he is," Judge Simón said. "He is a great friend to many of us, and we are very proud to work with him."



Judicial Marshal Joe Conti (Center) with Community Court colleagues.

COMMUNITY SERVICE WORK SITES

SEPT
2005

SEPT. 1 Ebony Horse Women barn, Affleck St., Colt Park, Kenney Park, Pope Park SEPT. 2 Girard Ave., Fern St., Evergreen Ave., South Whitney St. SEPT. 6 Hillside Ave. SEPT. 7 Ward St., Summit St. Lincoln St., Park St. SEPT. 8 Ebony Horse Women barn, Colt Park, Pope Park SEPT. 9 FOODSHARE, Mather St., Green St. SEPT. 12 Ebony Horse Women barn, Shultas Place, Bond St., Benton St., Elliot St. SEPT. 13 Nelton Court, Windsor St. SEPT. 14 Zion St., Ward St., Hilton St. SEPT. 15 Ebony Horse Women barn, Kenney Park SEPT. 16 FOODSHARE, Enfield St., Mather St., Capen St. SEPT. 19 Madison Ave., Jefferson St., Newfield Ave., Flatbush Ave., Russ St., Lawrence St., Affleck St., Babcock St., SEPT. 20 Nelton Court, Colt Park, Hudson St., John St. SEPT. 21 Kenney Park SEPT. 22 Hillside Ave. SEPT. 23 Albany Ave. Affleck St., Broad St., FOODSHARE SEPT. 26 Sigourney St., Emily St., Laurel St., South Marshall St., Forest St. SEPT. 27 Madison Ave., Lincoln St., Ward St., Jefferson St., New Britain Ave., Vernon St. SEPT. 28 Broad St., Brownell St., Colonel St., School St. SEPT. 29 Rosemont St., Ashford St. SEPT. 30 FOODSHARE, Albany Ave., Winter St., Fairmont St., Green St.

OCT
2005

OCT. 3 Colt Park OCT. 4 Kent St., Adams St., Baltimore St., Milford St., Harrison Pl., Norfolk St., Westbourne Parkway OCT. 5 Russ St., Lawrence St., Babcock St., Madison St., Oak St., Huntington St., Grant St. OCT. 6 Florence St., East St., Belden St., Center St., Chesnut St., Ebony Horse Women barn OCT. 7 Hillside Ave. OCT. 11 Nelton Court, Clark St., OCT. 12 Park St.-Windsor St.-Capitol Ave. underpasses OCT. 13 Charter Oak Landing, Ebony Horse Women barn OCT. 14 FOODSHARE Oct. 17 Russ St., Lawrence St., Babcock St., Ebony Horse Women barn OCT. 18 Martin St., Farmer's Market, Nelton Court, Westland St., Edgewood St. OCT. 19 Broad St., Ward St., Colt Park OCT. 20 Mather St., Enfield St. OCT. 21 Hillside Ave., FOODSHARE OCT. 24 Cedar St. through Main St., OCT. 25 indoor projects due to inclement weather OCT. 26 Bond St., Whitmore St., Bushnell St. OCT. 27 Washington St., Cedar St., Park St., Colt Park OCT. 28 Main St., Park St., Cedar St. OCT 31 Broad St., Russ St., Lawrence St., Park Terrace

NOV
2005

NOV. 1 Sherman St., Ward St., Jefferson St., Madison Ave. NOV. 2 Hudson St., John St., Main St., Park St., NOV. 3 Allan Place, Ann St., Ebony Horse Women barn NOV. 4 FOODSHARE, Vernon St., Colonial St., Brownell Ave. NOV. 7 Garden St., Zion St., Ward St., Grafton St. NOV. 8 Nelton Court NOV. 9 Catherine St., Hillside Ave. NOV. 10 Capitol Ave., Ward St. NOV. 14 FOODSHARE, Broad St. NOV. 15. FOODSHARE NOV. 16 Homestead Ave., Windsor St., Westland St., Park St., Hamilton St., Capitol Ave., Laurel St. NOV. 17 Park St., Hungerford Ave., FOODSHARE NOV. 18 South St. NOV. 21 Sisson Ave., South Whitney St., Evergreen Ave. NOV. 22 Capitol Ave. and Windsor St. underpasses NOV. 23 Mather St., Pliny St., Garden St. NOV. 25 Ancient Burying Ground - Main St., NOV. 28 Mather St., Pliny St., Garden St. NOV. 29 Park St.-Capitol Ave.-Windsor St. underpasses, NOV. 30 Nelton Court

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT HOTLINE
756-7000
PLEASE CALL WITH YOUR PROJECT

NEW HOLISTIC HEALTH FACILITATOR

Smooth Transition to New Leadership

The Women's Holistic Health Program recently underwent a change in management when Denise Holloman was named lead facilitator. Denise, who was an assistant facilitator for the past year, replaces Diana Desnoyers, who was promoted within Paul and Lisa, Inc.

"We are very pleased to have Denise take over as lead facilitator of the Women's Holistic Health Program," Judge Simón stated. "She did a great job as an assistant facilitator and are confident she will continue to do so as lead facilitator."

Denise's leadership abilities were put to the test in her first session as lead facilitator when one of the participants lost her son to violence in another city. Denise played a crucial role in obtaining grief counseling and making travel arrangements to the far away funeral for the grieving mother. Denise was able to work with the client to keep her from relapsing into her past behavioral patterns and in fact guided her through the completion of the program.

"I definitely got my feet wet with this first session as lead facilitator," Denise said. "Judge Simón and Chris Pleasanton, and the rest of the Community Court staff played a big role in helping me get through these two weeks. I'm looking forward to the next session in February."

The Women's Holistic Health Program, managed under a contract with Paul and Lisa, Inc., is a two-week program designed to introduce women involved in prostitution to a way out of that life. The program is an intensive education program that focuses on physical and mental health, behavioral triggers, goal setting, and accessing available services. Since being established at the Community Court in 1999, the Women's Holistic Health has graduated 210 women, with 137 (65%) never returning to the Community Court on a prostitution charge.



Denise Holloman

**SPECIAL THANKS
TO DIANA DESNOYERS**
*for your four years of
caring and commitment to
making the Women's
Holistic Health Program the
success that it is.*

Thank you!



Diana Desnoyers

KAAS' TOY DRIVE A SUCCESS

Assistant State's Attorney Gathers 800 Toys for Kids



Assistant State's Attorney Glenn Kaas' 2005 Toy Drive was a success, gathering over 800 toys that were distributed to several Hartford-based organizations that serve kids and families in need.

(Above) Is that a big teddy bear? No! It's a life-size Asst. State's Attorney Kaas among the toys, and (Right) Toy Coordinators extraordinary: Intern Rachel Douglass and Hannah & Jill Marie Pasha, daughters of Pam Pasha of the Public Defender's Office, who used their day off from school to help out with the toy drive.



NATE COTTON RETURNS

Served One -Year Military Duty in Middle East

We are very pleased to announce the safe return of Bail Commissioner Nate Cotton from a year of military duty in Kuwait and Iraq. Nate, who is a Major in the Connecticut National Guard, returned to the Community Court full-time in late October.

"We are very thankful to Nate for his service and sacrifice to our country," the Honorable Jorge A. Simón stated. "However, we are most grateful that Nate has returned home safely to his family."

Nate has been a Bail Commissioner at the Community Court in Hartford since its inception in 1998. In addition to his traditional Bail Commissioner duties, Nate often goes above and beyond the call to help youngsters involved with the criminal justice system guiding them back on the path to leading productive lives in school and at home.



Nate Cotton (Far right) with his welcome home party with (L to R) Judge Simón, "Colonel" Jean McGowan Opulski, Lorraine Sullivan, and Stephanie Mann.

THANKS, NATE! WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE BACK!

COURT REPRESENTED IN AUSTIN

At Advanced Community Prosecution Workshop

Court Coordinator Chris Pleasanton recently served as a faculty presenter at the American Prosecutor's Research Institute Advanced Community Prosecution Workshop in Austin, Texas. The APRI conference brought together prosecutors and legal researchers from throughout the United States to discuss methods of community-based prosecution and other judicial concepts.

Chris served on a panel presenting in the area of problem-solving courts with the Honorable Susan Finlay (Ret), who presided over the Domestic Violence Court in California's San Diego County, and Gerianne Abriano, Bureau Chief for the King's County District Attorney's Office at the Red Hook Community Justice Center in Brooklyn, New York. The panel was facilitated by Christopher Watler from New York's Center for Court Innovation.

"It was a great honor to serve on a panel with distinguished judicial leaders such as Judge Finlay, District Attorney Abriano, and Chris Watler," Chris Pleasanton said. "In sharing our experiences in Hartford, I got to meet people working on exciting judicial projects from Seattle, Washington to Santa Clara, California. I hope to reflect on some of their ideas and innovations to improve our operations in Hartford."

In addition to participating in the panel discussions, Chris and many of his conference colleagues were able to pay a site visit to the Austin Community Court and participate in a question and answer session with Presiding Judge Robert Coffey and their Coordinator Greg Toomey.

"I was very impressed with the Austin Community Court and how much their team is making a difference in their community," Mr. Pleasanton stated. "While some of the issues and programs in Austin are different than what we have in Hartford, the basic philosophy of holding people accountable for their quality of life criminal violations while also helping them address their social needs remains the same. It reinforced my belief that the community court concept is adaptable to many different situations, and can be modified to successfully address the issues facing each community."



Chris Pleasanton (Center) with Judge Susan Finlay (L) and District Attorney Gerianne Abriano (R).

MAPLE AVE. GROUP HONORS COMMUNITY COURT

M.A.R.G. Presents Community Court With Certificate of Appreciation



M.A.R.G.'s Certificate of Appreciation to the Community Court.

The Maple Avenue Revitalization Group (MARG) recently honored the Community Court by presenting it with a certificate of appreciation. Community Court Coordinator Chris Pleasanton accepted the certificate from MARG Chairperson Hyacinth Yennie during MARG's annual year-end gathering. The certificate now hangs in the display case outside the Community Court courtroom.

"The fundamental purpose of any government institution is to serve its citizens," Chris Pleasanton said. "To be recognized by the community in such a way is the highest compliment we could receive, and for that, we are very thankful and humble."

M.A.R.G. is a gathering of local citizens who meet on the second Thursday each month at Hartford's St. Augustine's Church to discuss local public safety and economic development initiatives, and to increase community involvement in Hartford's neighborhoods. The Community Court and other agencies including the Hartford Police Department and the City Department of Public Works attend the meeting regularly to report on their organizations. For more information on M.A.R.G. please call Hyacinth Yennie at 296-5543.