

State of Connecticut
Judicial Branch
Community Court
Session
At Hartford

WINTER 2010
News & Updates

Produced by Chris Pleasanton, Vol. 12, Issue 1

From the Judge's Chambers by Hon. Raymond R. Norko:
2009 THE BUSIEST YEAR EVER AT COMMUNITY COURT

I am happy to report that 2009 has turned out to be the busiest year so far at the Community Court in Hartford. In fact, we were the busiest court in Connecticut for pure criminal cases added with 12,918 new cases, and 13,600 total arraignments including infractions. Evidence supporting the validity of the "Broken Windows" theory that says if you seriously address the low-level crimes, then bigger crimes are less likely to occur can be found by looking at the Community Court and HPD stats between 2005 and 2009. Community Court arraignments have risen 45% between 2005 and 2009. At the same time, Part 1 felony crimes have decreased 27.9%.

The Community Court is not just about numbers, it is also about the ability of the Court to connect clients with services that will help them improve their lives and stay clear of the criminal justice system in the future. We continue to expand upon and improve our long-standing collaborations with DMHAS, the local human services departments, and Community Health Services, Inc., among many others. The Foodshare Food Stamp Outreach Program also continues to be successful in connecting qualified persons and families with that vital service. Our biggest improvement in 2009 came with the return of City of Hartford Health and Human Services worker Yanira Rodriguez to the Court's social services team. Yanira is a determined and unique person who has really stepped up the quality of services provided at the court through a mix of intensive case management and her personal abilities.

We continue to develop new and exciting connections including the Purpose, Vision, and Goals Program led by Rev. Clay Casson designed to help young people focus on realistic goals and take steps to achieve them. I think it is important to note that we do not pay any of these programs a dime for their services. They continue to see the Community Court as an ideal forum in which to connect in-need persons with their services. We are very grateful to each and every agency and non-profit group that works with us in this effort.

One program we lost due to budget constraints was the Prostitution Protocol Program conducted under a contract by Paul & Lisa, Inc. While we fully appreciate the difficult budget situation Connecticut is enduring, the loss of this program was particularly painful for us as it was very successful in helping a large number of persons charged with prostitution to leave that life. While we have not been able to replicate the comprehensive approach we had with P & L, Charter Oak Heath Center has done a remarkable job stepping into the breach to bring stability to the lives of these defendants.

Thanks to all of you for your continued support.



In Fond Remembrance of Chief Michael Fallon

The Community Court in Hartford would like to extend its deepest sympathies to the family of State Capitol Police Chief Michael Fallon who passed away in December at the age of 47.

"As a Hartford Police Officer and then as Chief of the State Capitol Police, Mike was supportive of the Community Court and its practice of dealing with low-level crimes before they became bigger problems and also of offering people the opportunity to access services through the court," Judge Norko said. "He was a great professional but he was an even greater friend and a wonderful family man. I will miss him."

(At Left) Chief Fallon, then with HPD, and his son at the Community Court in February 2000.



COMMUNITY COURT STATISTICS

SUMMER 2009	OCT	NOV	DEC	2009 TOTAL
Total Arraignments	1,182	1,086	926	13,663
Community Service Hours	2,442	2,226	2,832	25,917
Social Services Referrals	492	230	350	3545
Referrals to Mediation	76	56	71	876
Appearance Rate	89%	89%	90%	90%
Suburban Caseload	11%	10%	16%	13%

NOTES OF INTEREST



John Castillo

One of the hardest working members of the Community Court team is John Castillo. John, as an employee of Suburban Contract Cleaning, Inc. provides cleaning and maintenance services at the 80 Washington Street facility. John has worked for Suburban for over 9 years.

A lifelong resident of Hartford, John lives in the city with his wife Gracie and his two daughters Hannah and Keira.

“John does a tremendous job keeping the Community Court looking its best,” Judge Norko said. “We appreciate John for his hard work and for being a good guy who brings a lot to the court with his excellent work ethic and positive approach. We are very thankful to him!”

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CHRIS.PLEASANTON@JUD.CT.GOV

IN THE COMMUNITY

The Community Court tries to maintain a presence throughout the Hartford community, by attending neighborhood public safety meetings and other gatherings when possible. In the past few months Judge Norko and Court Coordinator Chris Pleasanton have maintained a very busy schedule attending meetings to report on the court and to learn about neighborhood conditions.

In November, Judge Norko and Mr. Pleasanton attended the Northeast NRZ meeting on the invitation of I. Charles Matthews. Prior to that, Mr. Pleasanton also attended the Clay Hill Improvement Association's monthly meeting on November 9. The Maple Avenue Revitalization Group, Chaired by Hyacinth Yennie, honored the Community Court at its annual holiday gathering by presenting the Community Court with citations and certificates of recognition from U.S. Congressman John Larson, the state Legislative delegation led by Senator John Fonfara, and Mayor Eddie Perez of the City of Hartford, who proclaimed November 10, 2009 Community Court Day in Hartford! Chris also attended MARG's January 14 meeting.

On January 13, Chris Pleasanton spoke to the Parkville Business Association who are interested in graffiti cleanup and quality of life enforcement. Mr. Pleasanton was also invited to speak before nearly 200 Hartford Police Officers at their annual in-service training sessions on January 15 and 20. He also joined the South Meadows Marketplace Alliance in a meeting with police and city officials concerned about the effects of illegal street racing in the community.

Judge Norko was the Keynote Speaker at Community Health Service's 12th Annual African Men In Recovery Rites of Passage ceremony held at the newly opened YMCA on Albany Avenue on January 27th. He was also awarded a plaque from AMIR for his support of the program.



Judge Norko, Keynote Speaker at the AMIR Rites of Passage

Judge Norko and Mr. Pleasanton have also maintained a regular schedule with the Truancy Prevention Program at Hartford's Quirk Middle School where they give up their lunchtime to meet with at-risk kids and try to help keep them in school and on the path to success.

YANIRA RODRIGUEZ RECOGNIZED

City of Hartford Administrative Analyst Yanira Rodriguez who is the mainstay of the Community Court's Social Services Team, was recognized by the City for her hard work and dedication to those she serves with an Official Citation from Mayor Perez. The certificate was presented to Yanira during the Judah House's 4th Annual Christmas Celebration at the Sate Capitol by City Councilwoman rJo Winch and Judah House Director Corendis Bonner.

"There is only one word to describe Yanira and that word is outstanding," Judge Norko said. "When Yanira returned to the Community Court in early 2009, she took a look at the long-time social services practices and over time developed new methods of working with our clients to provide them with more direct and effective case management."

"The quality of success people are having with social services intervention at the Community Court has improved noticeably since Yanira's return," Judge Norko added. "She works very hard, has a wealth of knowledge and it has been a true pleasure to see her come into her own as a top-notch service provider. I'm very proud of her."



(From left) Corendis Bonner of Judah House and Hartford Councilwoman rJo Winch present Yanira with her award.

MENTOR COURT ACTIVITIES

The Community Court in Hartford continues to serve as a United State Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance Mentor Court. One of the responsibilities of the Community Court's is to host site visits and field inquiries from other cities looking to develop their own community court. We are very pleased to have been very active on this front.

On October 26, 2009, the Community Court hosted a site visit by Andrea Gouin, Justice Education and Outreach Specialist, from Justice 2000 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Ms. Gouin spent a morning meeting with Judge Norko and other Community Court staff and also observed the court in session.

Court Coordinator Chris Pleasanton continues to participate in teleconference team meetings with the team from Tok, Alaska who are designing a wellness court utilizing the best practices of state and tribal courts in their community. He also continues to field several informational requests from across the United States.

The Community Court in Hartford has maintained a constructive relationship with many neighborhood citizen groups throughout its 11 plus years of operations. Impressed by these relationships, the organizers of the 5th annual National Community Prosecution conference, hosted by the National District Attorneys Association, invited longtime Hartford neighborhood community organizer Hyacinth Yennie to speak on a panel discussion concerning the relationship between the legal system and neighborhoods. The conference was conducted in Los Angeles, California from October 6 to 8, 2009. Ms. Yennie is the President of the Maple Avenue Revitalization Group in Hartford who were very instrumental in encouraging the development of the Community Court in Hartford in the 1990's.

"Hyacinth was a tremendous addition to our panel," Brett Taylor, Panel Moderator and Deputy Director of Technical Assistance with New York's Center For Court Innovation, said. "She spoke very passionately about the Hartford Community Court and was a great advocate for community courts in general."



(Top) Judge Norko with Andrea Gouin of Justice 2000 and Chris Pleasanton (Bottom) Brett Taylor of the Center For Court Innovation, Rosalind Jeffers, Executive Assistant City Attorney for the City of Dallas (TX), Honorable Fred Bonnor of the Seattle Community Court, and Hyacinth Yennie of Hartford's Maple Avenue Revitalization Group.

NEW FACES IN THE PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE

The Public Defender's office at the Community Court has a couple new members. Mary-Elizabeth Ahern joined the Community Court last summer as the primary public defender at the Community Court, replacing recently retired Ray Cuatto. Attorney Ahern has been a public defender for 20 years, mostly serving at the GA14 Superior Court on Lafayette Street. She is a native of Connecticut and is a graduate of a Connecticut law school.

"I like the interaction the Community Court provides between a defendant and social services," Attorney Ahern stated. "You can see the results of the court's intervention and I like that people don't get criminal records when they successfully resolve their cases."

"I have also enjoyed working with the staff on the Community Court team," Attorney Ahern added. "They really care and work hard to help people succeed."

The other new member of the Public Defender's staff at the Community Court is Investigator Catherine Harkness. Her job is to investigate cases at the behest of the public defender to support the position of their clients in court. Ms. Harkness has been with the public defender's office for a year and a half. Prior to that she was a private investigator for three years.

"People who might not have a chance to get help can get help here at the Community Court," Investigator Harkness said. "I like being a part of helping people get the social services they need and in helping them stay out of the criminal justice system."

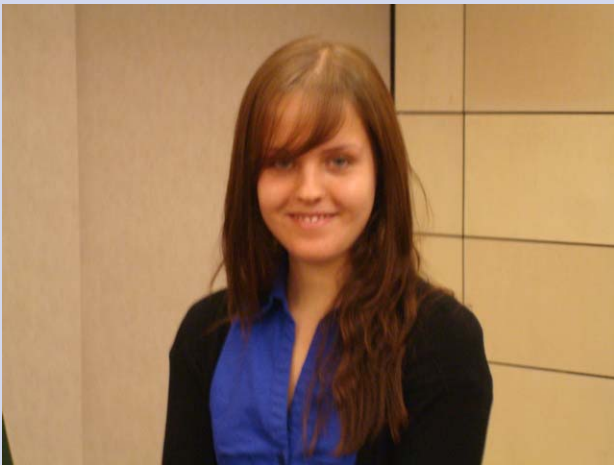
"Attorney Ahern and Investigator Harkness have brought a lot of quality to the public defender's office at the Community Court," Judge Norko said. "They are both very dedicated to their clients legal cause and to helping them obtain the best services and opportunities that are available. We are very pleased to be working with them."



Public Defender Liz Ahern and Investigator Catherine Harkness

FROM ENGLAND TO HARTFORD: AN INTERN'S EXPERIENCE AT COMMUNITY COURT

by Laura Bater



After graduating in 2009 with a degree from the UK in Law and Criminology, I began to reflect on the options available to me post academia. Considering the difficult task many students face in gaining employment, particularly in the increasingly competitive field of law, and as I'd never been outside of the UK for more than the odd week here and there whilst holidaying, I decided that I wanted to do something that would make me more employable, provide a great experience, and allow me to sample a different part of the world. Immediately America was my first choice as it was somewhere that I had always wanted to explore, and being (what I consider) a superpower, I knew that it would provide great opportunities. Of course there was also the added plus that it's English speaking!



I found the State of Connecticut Judicial Intern Programme whilst searching online, and I instantly knew that it was right for me! As a result, in September 2009 I began my adventure alone as I boarded a plane to America for the first time, and soon found myself in Hartford, Connecticut.

My first few days consisted of moving into my hostel and exploring the area, whilst taking photos of everything American (yellow school buses, fire hydrants and super-sized meals to name a few). I quickly settled in and really loved America, immediately knowing that I'd made the right decision. After attending my orientation I then commenced my internship, where I was primarily based at the State of Connecticut Superior Court Community Court Session in Hartford.

(Above) Laura Bater (Below) Laura being presented with a certificate of appreciation from Judge Norko

At the Community Court I worked mainly with Community Service where I learnt a lot and was able to experience many different things. However, I was also able to spend time in various departments including prosecution, defense, mediation, and bail commissioners, and in other courts such as Juvenile, Family and Criminal. My duties and responsibilities were extremely varied and involved interviewing defendants and helping to make referrals based upon their social needs, visiting a school with the Judge, observing and assisting in court, conducting drug tests, visiting a prison and juvenile detention centre, and carrying out general office tasks.

However, my visit was not all work and no play, as whilst living in Connecticut I managed to travel to much of the surrounding area, including Washington DC, New York (where a much needed shopping spree was in order), Boston, Vermont and Gloucester, Massachusetts, which provided quite a comparison to the Gloucester, England where I was born and raised.

Whilst in America I found everyone to be very welcoming and friendly, and my initial nerves as a first time traveller alone in a new country quickly disappeared. Choosing to spend my first six weeks living in a Connecticut hostel, where I was able to be independent and explore America with other young people that were passing through from all over the world, was a lot of fun. However, I was later invited to move in with a wonderful American family that I had befriended, which meant that I was able to gain a true American experience, including becoming a college student for a few days, whilst my personal highlight was that I was able to celebrate Thanksgiving.

Today I am back in Gloucester, England and after having experienced what I believe was an extremely worthwhile internship and would recommend to many other people in my position, it is back to reality for me for now, as I begin the task of gaining legal employment, although this time as a more mature and enriched person, having had a wonderful three months to learn from, and having met many amazing people that I will never forget.



Laura with some of the Community Court staff

“Laura was one of the most exceptional interns we have ever worked with at the Community Court. She worked hard, added a lot to our team and we also learned a lot from her for which we are grateful.”

Chris Pleasanton
Community Court in Hartford

SEATTLE AND HARTFORD: A TALE OF TWO CITIES (AND THEIR COMMUNITY COURTS)

By Kendy Rossi

During a recent visit to her hometown of Seattle, Kendy Rossi took the time to visit the Seattle Community Court. Kendy has worked as mediator and case manager for the Hartford Area Mediation Program since 2005, and was recently promoted to Program Manager. She can be reached at krossi@cpa-ct.org. HAMP, a program of Community Partners in Action, is one of many partnerships in the Hartford Community Court network of service providers. For more information, go to www.cpa-ct.org or www.jud.ct.gov/external/super/spsess.htm#CommunityCourt.

As the Mediation Specialist for Hartford Community Court, I have witnessed the community court model in action for almost five years. Like other community courts, Hartford deals with misdemeanor offenses that are often minimized or dismissed if handled in higher-level courts. Although the unlawful acts are typically low-level and non-violent, they have a negative impact on other citizens, and on quality of life in the community as a whole.

Research has shown that the problem-solving approach of community courts can “reduce crime, improve compliance with court orders, and enhance public confidence in justice.”¹ How do they do all this? What I have witnessed at Hartford Community Court is that the judge and staff employ a variety of creative sanctions and services, all of which reflect some basic principles: hold offenders accountable for their actions and expect them to participate in solutions; provide support where needed to address chronic problems; reach out to individuals and communities who are affected by the unlawful behavior; and create partnerships so that the social and judicial systems work together for the greater good. Makes sense, doesn't it? When it works, the community court model is an innovative way to build the capacity of individuals and to restore faith in an overburdened court system. And Hartford Community Court has been making it work for over eleven years now – which is why it was selected as a Mentor Court in 2009 by the Center for Court Innovation (CCI). Two other courts in the nation were given the same distinction: those located in Seattle, Washington and Dallas, Texas.

Clearly I am a believer in this restorative model of justice; in many ways, it parallels the principles of the mediation profession in which I work. However, according to CCI: “Community courts are not designed to be cookie-cutter models; in a perfect world, each would be specifically tailored to reflect the needs of the neighborhood in which it is housed.”² And so, since I am a Seattle native, I decided to investigate the community court located in my hometown to see how two exemplary programs might compare.



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Kendy Rossi in Seattle

SEATTLE CONTINUED...

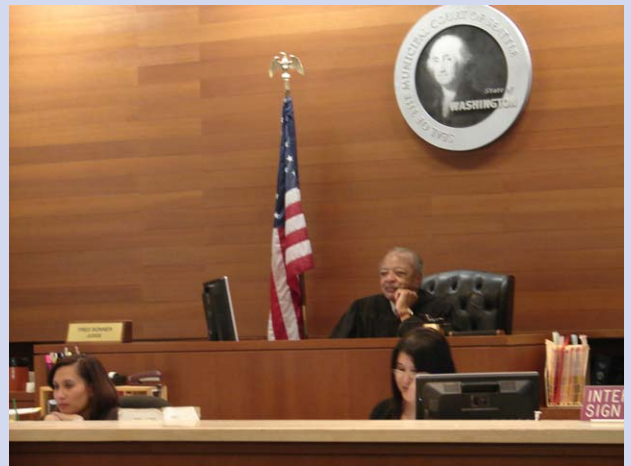
Seattle & Hartford Community Courts - Some Similarities

It turns out that these two regions on opposite sides of the country share more than a collegiate mascot (both UCONN and UW claim the Husky as their own). In addition, both Hartford and Seattle have community courts that look remarkably similar – at least at first glance. In both courts, defendants are misdemeanor offenders who have committed non-violent acts; some of the common offenses are: drinking in public, interfering with an officer, prostitution, trespassing, graffiti, vandalism, shoplifting, disorderly conduct, loitering, etc. Offenders are arrested within the downtown area of their respective cities, or within one of the surrounding areas served by their court. In both courts, community service is an integral part of the conditions for all (Seattle) or most (Hartford) defendants, and the service projects themselves are designed with the input of community members and stakeholders so that the courts help to address the most relevant, pressing needs of each local community. Finally, defendants in both courts (as well as other non-arrested community members) have access to a range of social service referrals for substance abuse treatment, job training, mental health services, food stamps, and other resources. With these referrals – sometimes mandated and always available – the courts seek to provide assistance for some of the underlying causes of persistent low-level crime.

And Some Differences

Any observer of both Hartford and Seattle Mentor Courts will immediately recognize the difference in volume and access to these respective courts. Hartford CC is a branch of the Superior Court of the State of Connecticut that operates full time, five days a week. It acts as the gateway for all misdemeanor crimes in the Greater Hartford Area, so almost every defendant (aged 17 or older) charged with a low-level crime is arraigned in this court. As a result, Hartford CC had an average of 1,058 new cases a month in 2009. Once in the door, defendants are routed based on their criminal charges and criminal history: a few have their cases closed on intake; many are referred to social services, mediation, or other specialized support; and most are assigned community service as a condition to ultimately resolve their cases. Clients that present as frequent offenders with chronic issues are assigned various conditions of release, and they are often required to report back to the court at intervals to monitor their behavior and progress. By comparison to other superior court cases, those at Hartford Community Court have a relatively short life span: 90% are disposed of within three months.³ In this way, Hartford helps to alleviate a large part of the state court docket in an efficient way, and combines defendant accountability with rehabilitation whenever appropriate and possible.

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(Top) Judge Bonner presiding in Seattle
(Bottom) Seattle DA Robert Hood with Kendy.

SEATTLE CONTINUED...

Seattle CC is a newer program (started in 2005, compared to Hartford's inception in 1998) and it is a municipal court (as opposed to a state-level court) that is in session three afternoons a week. Seattle's numbers have grown almost five-fold since they started almost five years ago: they saw 228 defendants in their first year of operation, and over 1000 defendants in 2009.⁴ Still, by comparison to Hartford, their volume is significantly lower – and this is (at least in part) by design. The defendants that end up at Seattle CC are pre-screened by the City Attorney to determine eligibility, and the target group of defendants fits a challenging profile: repeat offenders, many of whom are chronically homeless and unemployed, suffer from multiple addictions, and often have co-occurring mental illness.⁵ A needs assessment is performed by probation at arraignment, and then Community Court is offered as an alternative sentencing recommendation where defendants “opt-in” to the program, signing a contract agreeing to make contact with all recommended service providers and to fulfill the required number of community service hours.

From my perspective, the most striking differences between Seattle and Hartford CC's are related to timeframes and expectations for treatment. Seattle requires defendants to appear at orientation the day after arraignment, and they encourage completion of community service within two weeks (in Hartford, c.s. dates can be several months out, usually due to bulging dockets). Jurisdiction for Seattle cases is either 30 or 60 days – an intentionally short period of time to increase compliance. In addition, Seattle Community Court does not require successful completion of service programs in order to close a case; they only require that the defendant make initial contacts. When I asked staff about this, they explained that Seattle's approach is based on client readiness rather than court mandates or monitoring: the leverage of the court is used to require defendants to initiate contact with treatment and services, and any continued participation is up to them. To prevent a revolving door for lapsing re-arrested clients, defendants are only allowed to participate in the Community Court option a maximum of three times.⁶ By contrast, Hartford CC tends to monitor the compliance and progress of chronic offenders over longer periods of time, and there is no limit to the number of times an individual may appear in the community court.

A Common Thread

While visiting Seattle Community Court, presiding Judge Bonner kindly invited me to sit in on several case conferences and a planning meeting. What I learned is that ultimately, community courts (okay, at least the two I have seen) seek to adapt to the changing needs of individuals and communities in constant flux. Although Seattle's program has been in existence for half as many years as Hartford's, the discussions could have been happening in either city, because the core issues are the same. How do we hold individuals accountable, offer services to those in need, prevent recidivism, maintain public safety, and improve quality of life in our cities and neighborhoods? You can look to the community courts to keep asking these core questions – and, while they share a common philosophy, their answers will be as varied and changing as the communities they serve.



The Seattle Team in a planning meeting.

(Footnotes)

1. <http://www.courtinnovation.org/>
Regional Network of Mentor Community Courts (accessed January 2010)
2. Fienblatt, J. and Berman, G.
Community Court Principles. Center for Court Innovation. (1997, rev. 2000, p. 1)
3. <http://www.jud.ct.gov/external/super/spsess.htm#CommunityCourt>
What is Community Court? (accessed December 2009)⁴ *ibid*
4. <http://seattle.gov/communitycourt/facts.htm>
Community Court Fact Sheet. (accessed January 2009)
5. Lapitan, T. *Seattle Municipal Community Court Overview*. (September 2009)
6. <http://seattle.gov/communitycourt/defendants/eligibility.htm>
Eligibility. (accessed January 2010)

POLICE ACADEMY RECRUITS VISIT COMMUNITY COURT

On December 23, 2009, the Community Court in Hartford was pleased to host a site visit by the recruits in the latest Police Academy class. Over 30 recruits visited, many of whom plan to be Hartford Police Officers.

The recruits, led by Hartford Police Officer Theresa Velez, attended a pre-session briefing by Judge Norko and Court Coordinator Chris Pleasanton. They then observed a Community Court session, and participated in a follow-up question and answer session.

“I am very pleased the new Police Academy recruits were brought to the Community Court,” Judge Norko said. “Being able to show these future police officers the follow-through of community policing efforts is essential to developing a complete and educated perspective of community policing principles.”

During their meeting with the recruits, Judge Norko and Mr. Pleasanton explained the basic functions of the Community Court and discussed the importance of honest, accurate, and thorough police report writing. They also talked about how community policing involves more than just law enforcement, but also includes getting to know the residents and merchants of a community and to better understand the neighborhoods they will be working in as officers.

“Community oriented policing is an important and growing practice throughout the country and has been in practice for several years under Chief Roberts in Hartford,” Judge Norko added. “It involves more than just being good at law enforcement, it means getting to know your neighborhood and the people in it. Developing a good relationship with the residents, while maintaining a non-nonsense attitude toward criminal activity, will pay off in increased cooperation and safer streets.”



(Top) The Police Academy recruits in front of the Community Court
(Bottom) The recruits meet with Judge Norko

PROFILE OF A MARSHAL: NICK WINN

by Matt Downey

The following feature article was written by Bowdoin College student Matt Downey. Nick Winn has served as the Supervising Judicial Marshal at the Community Court in Hartford since 2006.

Supervising Judicial Marshal Nick Winn stands at over six feet four inches, a bear of a man. His enormous hands dwarf his badge, making it seem like a toy while his carefree, gregarious attitude and bellowing laugh only add to his Paul Bunyon-esque personality. However, his confident demeanor and rugged persona give the feeling that Marshal Winn is not someone with whom to be trifled. He oozes coolness, not that of a cocky teen, but more the likes of someone who has been a part of great things. Very rarely does someone meet a man with a similar, meandering path through the guarded halls of law enforcement, and even more infrequently does the opportunity to interview such a man arise.

Supervising Marshal Nick Winn grew up during the early 1970's in Bristol, Connecticut: a tough, blue collar town that created tough, blue collar adolescents with often quite limited opportunities. When asked about his decision to pursue a career in law enforcement, Winn had a very logical answer: "It was simple. People went into the service (which seemed like a dangerous choice with the Vietnam conflict lurking in the background of history), worked in a factory, or became a cop or a criminal. Some of my friends went the easy route and are now locked up for a long time, while I and some other friends became cops."

Marshal Winn, however, did not go directly to the courts. When he was 22, Winn started working as an officer in the Connecticut Department of Corrections. Four years of invaluable experience later, he became a patrol officer in the Cheshire Police Department. He describes his first day on the job as an exhilarating, unforgettable experience. "It was really like being a kid in a candy store. I jumped into the patrol car with my service shotgun next to me, flipped on the wigwags and cruised on out into "real life". After an exciting career as a police officer, Winn went into a family-owned kitchen cabinet company and a cigar-shop.

Connecticut would see Nick Winn's reemergence in the criminal justice system when he decided to return to his true calling. Eight years ago, he started working in the Hartford Superior Court as a Judicial Marshal and has spent those years climbing the ladder in "The best place I've worked yet."

To this point, my interview with Winn carried an overall informality, most likely due to his easygoing nature. However, when the conversation transitioned to his court duties it was almost as if he was being reminded of something evocative that he had never verbalized. It was a powerful thing to hear this man explain what exactly it is about law enforcement that he holds so close to his heart.

When I asked Marshal Winn, bluntly, what he likes and dislikes about his job, he answered quickly that there is not a great deal to dislike. Conditioned through his three different law enforcement careers with a combined 22 years of experience, Winn has seen it all. However, he likes his job as Judicial Marshal the most. Winn explained: "As a cop, you only see the bad things people do. Sure, you help people along the way but then you never see them again and that's that. In corrections, you only see the aftermath of crime. People are arrested, convicted, and go to jail, where I MET THEM. As a Marshal in the courts, you see both the good and the bad and have a direct line to both. You see people you need to straighten out and people who need a helping hand, and I'm right there through all of it."

Interestingly enough, this was also the aspect of the job that Marshal Winn did not like.

While there are certainly an abundance of people in his court whom Marshal Winn can help, there are also those whose lives are shattered. These instances never get any easier to stomach. “You never get used to it. For example, someone comes in after their DUI accident killed a bystander and you see the pain both families go through. You help them through the judicial process as much as you can, but you can’t help the fact that someone’s actions killed another human being.”

To the unfamiliar observer, he does not fit the mold of a hard-hearted officer worn by years on the unforgiving streets, although on paper he is exactly that man. The main characteristic of Marshal Winn that I have seen in nearly all other agents of Criminal Justice is that he loves his job, loves to help people, and does not hesitate to admit so.



Supervising Judicial Marshal Nick Winn

“Nick exemplifies the best qualities of a Marshal and a leader. He keeps a strong sense of order and promotes safety in the courthouse while doing his best to help people. It’s an honor to work with him.”

Honorable Raymond R. Norko
Presiding Judge
Community Court in Hartford

VISITING HARTFORD'S NEW YMCA



On October 27, 2009, several Community Court staff and associates led by Judge Norko, were invited to tour the recently opened Wilson-Gray YMCA on Albany Avenue. YMCA Associate Executive Director Clinton Hamilton led the visitors through the sparkling newly-built Y, its many classrooms with top of the line computers, community meeting rooms, and top-notch athletic facilities. The YMCA strives to make its facility accessible for all and offers sliding scale memberships to both individuals and families. As of January 2010, member ship has exceeded 2,000 members and is growing steadily.

“The YWCA joins its immediate neighbor Community Health Services as a true cornerstone of the revitalization of Albany Avenue,” Judge Norko said. “This YWCA is clean, it’s a safe place for both kids and adults, and the enthusiasm of Mr. Hamilton and his staff is inspiring to see. I encourage you to visit.”

For more information on the Wilson-Gray YMCA please call 860-241-9622 or visit their website at <http://www.ghymca.org/wilson-gray/>.



(At Top Left) The new YMCA on Albany Avenue
(Bottom) CPA's Tony McLendon, Hartford YMCA Director Clinton Hamilton, Chris Mena, Judge Norko, George Dillon, and Chris Pleasanton

COMMUNITY COURT CONTACT INFO

Please feel free to email the court at:

Hartford.Commcourt@jud.ct.gov

and visit the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch website at:

www.jud.ct.gov

Summer 2009 COMMUNITY SERVICE

**WORK
SITES**

OCTOBER

10/1/09 Foodshare Regional Market, Holcomb Farms (East Granby), Ebony Horse Women, Enfield St., Hillside Ave., Capitol Ave. 10/2/09 Foodshare Mobile Unit (Faith Manor, La Casa, Place of Grace), Affleck St., Shultas Place, Pawtucket St., Orange St. 10/5/09 Foodshare Regional Market, Ebony Horse Women, Kibbe St., Standish St., John St., Forest St., Putnam St. 10/6/09 Ancient Burial Grounds/Main St.- (Knox Park), Belden St., Pliny St., Westbourne Pkwy, Greene St., Risley St. 10/7/09 Foodshare Regional Market, Ebony Horse Women, Martin St., Sterling St., Benton St., Barker St., Winter St. 10/8/09 Foodshare Regional Market, Brook St., Holcomb Farms (East Granby), Gillette St., South St., Madison St. 10/9/09 Foodshare Mobile Unit, (La Casa, Place of Grace, Faith Manor), Huntington St., Magnolia St., South Marshall St. 10/14/09 Foodshare Regional Market, Ebony Horse Women, Brook St., Liberty St. 10/15/09 Holcomb Farms (East Granby), South End Senior Citizen Center / 830 Maple Ave., Foodshare Regional Market 10/16/09 Foodshare Mobile Unit (La Casa, Great Commission, Faith Manor), Park Terr., Ebony Horse Women, Vine St., Judson St. 10/19/09 Foodshare Regional Market, Ebony Horse Women, Magnolia St., Mather St., Enfield St., Barbour St. 10/20/09 Farmington Ave. (Knox Park), Russ St., Lawrence St., Lincoln St., Whitmore St., Ward St., Jefferson St. 10/21/09 Foodshare Regional Market, Niles St., Bond St., Ebony Horse Women, Barnard Park, Shultas Place 10/22/09 Foodshare Regional Market, Holcomb Farms (East Granby), Judson St., Jefferson St., Grand St. 10/23/09 Foodshare Mobile Unit (La Casa, Faith Manor, Place of Grace), Annawan St., Eastford St., Colt Park 10/26/09 Charter Oak Health Clinic - 225 Washington St., Foodshare Regional Market, Ebony Horse Women, Russ St., Park Terr. 10/27/09 Standish St., Enfield St., Capen St., Nelson St., Laurel St., Judson St., Mansfield St., Martin St., Ebony Horse Women 10/28/09 Foodshare Regional Market, Broad St., Madison St., Lawrence St., Ward St., Jefferson St., Adelaide St., Pawtucket St. 10/29/09 Foodshare Regional Market, Bond St., Affleck St., Brown St., Barbour St., Niles St., South Marshall St., Whitmore St. 10/30/09 Foodshare Mobile Unit (Faith Manor, La Casa, Place of Grace), Mahl Ave., Adams St., Dean Dr., Hungerford St., Pliny St., Ebony Horse Women.

NOVEMBER

11/2/09 Foodshare Regional Market, Ebony Horse Women, Campfield Ave., Winter St., Wilson St.
11/3/09 Middlefield St., Sterling St., Oakland Terrace, Deefield Ave., Baltimore St., Norfolk St., Milford St.
11/4/09 Foodshare Regional Market, Ebony Horse Women, Collins St., Sergeant St., Huntington St., South End Senior Citizen Center 11/5/09 Foodshare Regional Market, Wadsworth St., Benton St., Elliot St., Standish St., Barnard St., Russ St. 11/6/09 Foodshare Mobile Unit (Place of Grace, Faith Manor, La Casa), Broad St., Pope Park (playscape) 11/9/09 Ebony Horse Women, Foodshare Regional Market, Mahoney Village (leaf removal)
11/10/09 Mark Twain Dr., Wooster St., Russ St., Chandler St., Florence St., Seyms St., Wadsworth St., Capitol Ave. 11/11/09 Foodshare Regional Market, Ebony Horse Women, Irving St., Madison St., Standish St., Shultas Place 11/12/09 Foodshare Regional Market, Norfolk St., Edgewood St., Mansfield St., Grand St., Baltimore St., Mather St., 36-39 Earle St. 11/13/09 Foodshare Mobile Unit (La Casa, Faith Manor, Great Commission, Place of Grace), Ebony Horse Women, Sigourney Park 11/16/09 Ebony Horse Women, Capen St., Martin St., Elliot St., Shultas Place, Pawtucket St., Babcock St., Garden St. 11/17/09 Place Of Grace, Jubilee House (40 Clifford St.), Capitol Ave. (Knox Park), Grand St., Redding St., Bond St., John St.
11/18/09 Foodshare Regional Market, Ebony Horse Women, Benton St., Alden St., John St., Case St., Brook St., Mather St. 11/19/09 Foodshare Regional Market, Lawrence St., Grand St., Case St., Bedford St., Nelson St., South St., Campfield Ave. 11/20/09 Foodshare Mobile Unit (La Casa, United Labor, Faith Manor) Wawarme Ave., Colt Park (playscape), Orange St., Day St. Park 11/30/09 Foodshare Regional Market, Ebony Horse Women, Russ St., Standish St., Orange St.

DECEMBER

12/01/09 Broad St., Madison St., Shultas Place., South St., Annawan St., Wadsworth St., Affleck St., Dean Dr. 12/02/09 Foodshare Regional Market, Ebony Horse Women, Albany Ave./Main St. (Knox Park), Lincoln St., Barbour St. 12/03/09 Foodshare Regional Market, Mather St., Judson St., Lennox St., Deerfield St., Ashley St., Lawrence St. 12/04/09 Foodshare Mobile Unit (Place of Grace, La Casa, Faith Manor), Pliny St., Capen St., Julius St. 12/07/09 Foodshare Regional Market, Ebony Horse Women, Shultas Place, Pawtucket St., Bond St., Annawan St. 12/08/09 Fairfield Ave., Campfield Ave., Bushnell St., Douglas St., Brown St., Standish St., Barnard St. 12/09/09 Foodshare Regional Market, Ebony Horse Women, Capen St., Westland St., Waverly St., Judson St. 12/10/09 Farmington Ave. (KnoxPark), Park Terrace, Zion St., Wilson St., Ellington St., Flatbush St. 12/11/09 Foodshare Mobile Unit (Golden Age), Ebony Horse Women, Homestead Ave., Sisson Ave., Prospect St. 12/14/09 Ebony Horse Women, Foodshare Regional Market, Niles St. 12/15/09 Brooks St., Benton St., Elliot St. Belden St., Hazel St., Ashley St. 12/16/09 Ebony Horse Women, Foodshare Regional Market, Williams St., Hendricksen Ave. 12/17/09 Foodshare Regional Market, Laurel St., Pliny St., Homestead Ave. 12/18/09 Foodshare Mobile Unit - Faith Manor, La Casa, Place of Grace, North Main St. 12/21/09 Charter Oak Health Clinic, Foodshare Regional Market, Ebony Horse Women 12/22/09 Westbourne Pkwy, North Main St., Farmington Ave. 12/23/09 Foodshare Regional Market, Ebony Horse Women, Wethersfield Ave. 12/24/09 Foodshare Regional Market, Ebony Horse Women, Maple Ave. 12/28/09 Foodshare Regional Market, Ebony Horse Women, Capitol Ave., Windsor St., Hamilton St. 12/29/09 Homestead Ave., Van Block Ave., Bethel St., Capen St., Clay St. 12/30/09 Foodshare Regional Market, Foodshare Mobile Unit - Place of Grace, 420 Sheldon St. 12/31/09 Foodshare Regional Market, Ebony Horse Women, Nelson St., Center St., Park/Main St.



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STATE OF CONNECTICUT JUDICIAL BRANCH

**COMMUNITY COURT
SESSION IN HARTFORD**

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WINTER 2010 NEWSLETTER

IN THIS EDITION...

2009 Review, In the Community, Mentor Court Activity, A Visit to
Seattle Community Court, An International Intern's View
New Faces in the PD's Office, Statistics, & More....



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