

COURT BULLETIN

February 2016

Martin Luther King Day Visit to Lowell High School



"There is power in true listening." Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Ralph Gants spoke at Lowell High School's fifth annual Martin Luther King Celebration, hosted by the school's Black Unity Club. Shown in this photo with the students to the left of Chief Justice Gants are Middlesex County Juvenile Court Judge Jay Blitzman and Lowell High School Headmaster Brian Martin. Chief Justice Gants said that Dr. King inspired him "as a white boy growing up in New York" to practice "listening with generosity of spirit."

"Each of us may seek to emulate Dr. King but few will match his gift for rhetoric, his intellect, his spiritual depth," Chief Justice Gants said to the students. "But there is one thing each of us can do as well as he could: we can become true listeners...There is power in listening. True listening enables you to understand who you are and to understand the lives of others...if you listen and feel each other's challenges, failures, and triumphs, you will better understand not only their lives but your own."

Chief Justice Gants then asked the students to embark on their own "true listening project" by asking other students and relatives about their backgrounds and family histories. A lively

question and answer session followed his remarks. A video of Chief Justice Gants' presentation was later shown to the Lowell High School community.

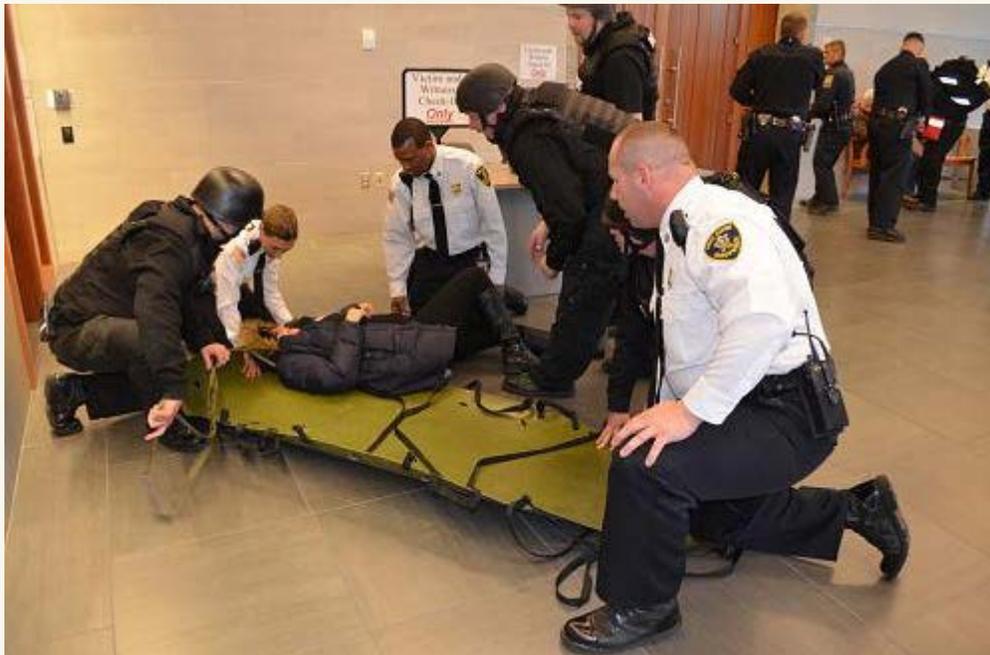
[See photos](#)

Fall River Justice Center Conducts Active Shooter Drill

Last month, the Fall River Justice Center (FRJC) was the site for the Trial Court's first active shooter drill. Court Officers were put to the test on their response in implementing ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) protocols in the event of an active shooter entering a courthouse.

The inter-agency collaborative exercise included approximately 20 police officers from the Fall River Police Department, 15 EMS members from the region, 10 firefighters, 20 Court Officers from the FRJC, and 60 role players, including Probation Officers, Security, and Command staff. Court Administrator Harry Spence, Security Director Jeffrey Morrow and Human Resources Director Mark Conlon observed the Saturday drill, which lasted five hours.

The group ran through three different worst-case scenarios, which included sounding of systems alarms and firing rounds of blank ammunition to simulate the noise and activity of a mass shooting event.



Tending to the "wounded." From left, Fall River Assistant Chief Court Officer Dorianna Medeiros works with Court Officers Jarrell Barnes and John Jusseume and EMS First Responders during during the first simulated drill.

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Q&A with Probation Commissioner Edward Dolan



Edward Dolan brings over 30 years of experience working in the state justice system to his role as the Commissioner of the Massachusetts Probation Service. Prior to becoming Commissioner in 2013, Mr. Dolan held senior roles in Parole, Forensic Mental Health, and the Department of Youth Services. Mr. Dolan has a master's degree in public administration from Syracuse University and a bachelor's degree in government from UMass/Amherst.

Now that you're half-way through your five-year appointment, how would you describe your department's progress on your goals? Any surprises?

I would say that morale has really rebounded, which has been heartening to see. Another pleasant surprise was to discover that the shared vision was already here. It was a bit trampled, but that vision was not an alien idea. It already existed, I just had to revive what people here had already felt.

We no longer use the name the "Office of the Commissioner of Probation" but instead use the "Massachusetts Probation Service" to signify our unity as a team and in our combined efforts. The change signifies that we're one service, one team, and that there isn't a separation between the central office and the folks out in the field. We share the same mission, vision and values to get the job done.

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Managed Print

In December, Judiciary Information Services (JIS) assisted managed print vendor Toshiba with the installation of 103 multi-function devices at the Brooke Courthouse in Boston. The new machines replace existing print-only capability with full print, copy and scan to email function on all devices.

The managed print system at the Brooke joins several courthouse locations successfully using the new technology in Worcester, Greenfield, Brockton, Plymouth, Malden, and Dudley. Next up for managed print conversion is the Ruane Judicial Center in Salem.

Court Technology: By the numbers...

JIS recently provided the Chief Justices and Deputy Court Administrators with some interesting statistics on MassCourts and other initiatives:

MassCourts

Attorney Portal

- 7,756 attorneys are now actively using this portal
- 12,017 average weekly log-ins for December 2015
- Scanned documents for selected Superior Court docket codes are now available in the portal

MassCourts.org: Public Access

- 24,000 visits a week is the new average weekly high
- 96,837 unique visits to eAccess in December 2015; this is up 31% since August, which had 74,000 visits

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For the Record Installation Update

The Trial Court is installing a new digital recording system, For the Record (FTR), across the state as part of a multi-year project.

Courtrooms can be noisy places, often making it difficult to hear and be heard. And each courtroom is different: some have excellent acoustics, while others lag behind. FTR's challenge has been to assess and design the appropriate sound amplification for each courtroom.

Justice, government, and law enforcement agencies in over 60 countries use FTR's digital content systems for recording and data keeping. The FTR system records to a central server, and will also be integrated with MassCourts to track and locate recordings for individual cases.

Courtroom assessments are being used to develop custom solutions for each courtroom. As part of each assessment, the team observes how people navigate the courtroom: How they approach the bar and walk around the courtroom, including the 'well,' or the area inside the bar enclosure. FTR determines the existing conditions and plans on how to install data drops and electrical outlets, microphone access on each counsel table, clerk's bench, witness box, public gallery rail, and podiums. The challenge is to find the right mix of acoustical support.

On the Hill...



Sworn in and ready to serve. Drug Court Coordinator Marie Burke stands next to Governor Charles Baker after her swearing-in ceremony as a member of the Governor's Criminal Justice Commission at the State House earlier this month. With Governor Baker and Ms. Burke are Attorneys Damien Gilliette, President of the Middlesex County Bar Association, and Ms. Stephanie Romano. Attorneys Gilliette and Romano have spent many years volunteering as defense attorneys at the Cambridge Drug Court. Attorney Romano is now also part of the Trial Court's new Professional Learning Network for Drug Court training.

Court Leaders Testify on FY17 Budget

On February 23rd, SJC Chief Justice Gants, Appeals Court Chief Justice Kafker, Trial Court Chief Justice Carey and Court Administrator Spence testified before the Legislature's Joint Ways and Means Committee regarding the Judiciary's budget needs for Fiscal Year 2017.

The written testimony submitted is available here:

<http://www.mass.gov/courts/court-info/court-management/court-budget.html>

In January, Governor Baker had issued his fiscal year 2017 budget proposal, known as "House 2." Of the overall \$39.6 billion budget, the Governor recommended \$638.6 million to fund the Trial Court, including \$1 million for Housing Court expansion.

The Trial Court had requested maintenance funding of \$654.4 million plus additional modules for other key projects. Major budget modules include: \$2.8 million for specialty court expansion; \$4 million for security systems enhancements; \$6.9 million for increased Probation Officer staffing, and \$10 million for critical court facilities repairs and maintenance.

Did you know...The Governor's budget recommendations are called "House 2" because it's the

second year of the two-year legislative session. Last year, the Governor's budget recommendations were known as "House 1."

Governor Signs Bill on Juror Selection Process

A jury statute for the 21st century.

Earlier this month, the Governor signed into law a new bill (H 1354/S724) that will consolidate a group of laws related to juror selection.

The law repeals Chapter 234 of General Laws, which was the source of law for jury selection until 1982. That year, the Legislature passed Chapter 234A which superseded most of Chapter 234's provisions such as exemptions and length of jury duty. The new law moves Chapter 234's still viable provisions, including the new voir dire law into 234A and repeals the rest.

"We're just really pleased to have the Legislature help us clear up decades-old confusion and get an old, outdated statute off the books," says Jury Commissioner Pamela Wood. "It will make the law much simpler for the courts, as well as for the jurors and the attorneys who call us and ask for clarification on Chapter 234A, a law that's been on the books for almost 30 years."

"We are very appreciative of the bill's legislative sponsors, Representative Alice Haddad and Senator Michael Barrett, for their efforts in moving this bill to the finish line," said Chief Justice Paula Carey.

What's My Salary Really Worth?

Did you know that your job is worth much more than just your salary?

That's because your benefits: health insurance, basic life insurance, paid vacation, holidays, sick time, and the rest -- are worth roughly 30 percent more than the dollar amount you see direct-deposited into your bank account each biweekly pay period.

Breaking down the numbers...

Per the [Comptroller of the Commonwealth](#), with benefits, your salary is worth an estimated additional 29.17%, of which:

- 18.77% is group insurance
- 9.45% is retirement benefits
- 0.95% is "terminal" (when you retire with any remaining paid time off or sick days)

For example, a salary of \$40,000 + 29.17% benefits (\$11,668) = \$51,668 (value of salary + benefits package). This total value does not include a calculation for the additional benefits of personal days, 11 legal holidays, accrued vacation days or sick time.

Take a look at your benefits: [Trial Court Benefits Summary](#)

MISSION-Cape Kick Off Held at Barnstable District Court

The Barnstable Drug Court is set to significantly expand services to participants, thanks to a nearly \$1 million dollar, three-year federal grant from the Substance Abuse

and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

The initiative, a partnership of the Trial Court, UMass Medical School's Center of Excellence, and AdCare Criminal Justice Services, held its kick off meeting earlier this month at the Barnstable District Court.

Those in attendance included Trial Court Chief Justice Paula Carey, First Justice Kathryn Hand, presiding Barnstable Drug Court Judge John Julian, Cape and Islands District Attorney Michael O'Keefe, Dr. David Smelson from UMASS Medical School's Department of Psychiatry, Sheriff James Cummings, Director of Specialty Courts for the District Court Department Judge Mary Hogan Sullivan, and Specialty Courts Administrator Sheila Casey.

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Winter's Unsung Heroes...



A. Milton Cardoso from Facilities keeps the walkways free and clear of snow in front of the Suffolk County Superior Courthouse during this month's first serious storm. Thanks to the efforts of countless Facilities staff, courthouses across the state have stayed open for business this season. Hopefully, spring is right around the corner.

Chief Probation Officers Thank ELMO Staff



Thanks for all you do...The Chief Probation Officers' Association recently presented ELMO staff with Dunkin' Donuts gift cards to show appreciation for their hard work on behalf of the Probation Department. Shown here with their cards are, from left: Electronic Monitoring Assistant Coordinators Kenley Wasmer, Daniel Collins, Allison Beard, and Shawna Alder. The ELMO center, located in Clinton, is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"The Chiefs are very impressed by the professionalism of the ELMO coordinators, especially when we receive calls from them," says Association President Alf Barbalunga, Chief Probation Officer for the Southern Berkshire District Court. "Their level of activity and potential stress appears to be that of an air traffic controller, and every decision these employees make has the potential to have a resounding impact on the safety of all of us living in the Commonwealth."

Read it: [Chief Probation Officers' Association thank you to ELMO employees](#)

Turning Ideas into Action: Innovation Grant Recipients Celebrated at the Adams

Idea incubators. Court leaders and staff from across the state met at the John Adams Courthouse last month to celebrate the latest group of Innovation Grant winners. Of the 30 applications received by the Innovation Grant Committee for consideration, eight were chosen in this fourth round of grants, half of which were ideas generated from the Probation Department. So far, 35 grants have been awarded since 2013 totaling \$68,090. Additional proposals have been funded with operating funds and through the federal Court Improvement Program.

Chief Justice Paula Carey commended the group for their initiative, creativity, and dedication to innovation by introducing new ideas in their courts. "You are the life blood of the Trial Court, our incubators of great ideas."



All in for innovation: Court leaders with FY16 Innovation Grant recipients and committee members after the ceremony at the Adams Courthouse.

[See photos](#)

What's happening at your courthouse?

We won't know about it if you don't tell us. Email execofc@jud.state.ma.us with your news or story idea, or send us a photo from the next event at your courthouse. We'll share it with your Trial Court colleagues from around the Commonwealth.

Don't miss out on the *Bulletin*...

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Coming Up in March:

- Seven Graduate at Lowell Drug Court Ceremony
- Access to Justice Rolls Out 20+ Translated Forms Regarding Liberty Interests
- Now Online at Mass.gov/courts: New Jury Videos