

OFFICE OF THE PROBATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

PAUL J. KNIERIM Probate Court Administrator

186 NEWINGTON ROAD WEST HARTFORD, CT 06110

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HELEN B. BENNET Attorney

Probate Court Budget Committee

Meeting Agenda Wednesday, March 4, 2015 5:00 p.m.

Library at the Office of the Probate Court Administrator 186 Newington Road, West Hartford

- I. Convene Meeting
- II. Public Comment and Correspondence
- III. Remarks by the Chair
- IV. Compensation Study Implementation Policies
 - V. FY16 Court Office Budgets
- VI. Staffing Level Adjustments
- VII. Financial Impact of January 2015 COLA
- VIII. July 2015 Merit Pay Adjustments
 - IX. Other Business
- X. Schedule Next Meeting
- XI. Adjournment

KURT M. AHLBERG Judge

DEIRDRE L. BASSETT Chief Clerk

SHARON K ZIMMERMAN

LORRAINE MAGLIONE Assistant Clerk

STRATFORD PROBATE COURT ROBATE COURT ROLL CO

ph. (203) 385-4023

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JENNIE-LYNN MAINVILLE Court Assistant

2015 MAR -2 P 1: 44

February 27, 2015

Hon. Paul J. Knierim **Probate Court Administrator** 186 Newington Road West Hartford, CT 06110

Hon. Fred J. Anthony **Shelton Probate Court** P.O. Box 27 Shelton, CT 06484

Hon. Joseph D. Marino Middletown Probate Court 94 Court Street Middletown, CT 06457

Re: Compensation / Merit increase

Dear Judges,

Although a written job description is a good starting point for any employer when hiring a new employee, it can only become apparent that you have hired the right person when they actually begin to perform the tasks at hand. Sometimes you find that a person is not up to the task they were hired for, and other times you find that a new hire exceeds your every expectation.

Last June, our Court hired Jennie-Lynn Mainville as a 'Court Assistant', which was the only position allowed in accordance with our benchmark staffing level. During this past year, it has become abundantly clear that she provides this Court with much more than her title or job description defines, and I am therefore requesting that the Budget Committee consider approving a substantial merit increase for Jennie-Lynn to fairly compensate her for her exceptional work ethic and skill level that she has demonstrated this past year.

Her general experience far exceeds the one-year clerical experience as required under the job description for a Court Assistant's minimum qualifications. She has previously worked for a private-practice attorney, giving her legal knowledge and familiarity with court procedures, and also received an Associate's Degree in Paralegal Studies from Gateway in May, 2014. She has grasped general Probate procedures in a very short amount of time and has demonstrated that she is a self-starter. Her exceptional ability to communicate to the public is beyond our expectations of a typical new-hire.

Her starting pay-rate, which is just a few dollars above minimum-wage, cannot fairly compensate Jennie-Lynn for the work she is performing for this office or as a positive representative of the Probate system as a whole. If the current benchmark staffing levels for our Court do not permit us to provide her with a salary and title promotion, I feel the very least we can do is compensate her with fair wages so we do not risk losing her to a higher-paying job elsewhere.

Sinderely

Kurt M. Ahlberg, Judge

Compensation Study Proposed Implementation Policies DRAFT 2/25/2015

Introduction

To implement the compensation study, the budget committee will need to adopt policies to determine how changes to the pay ranges will affect the rates of pay of individual employees. In developing those policies, careful consideration of the findings of the internal pay equity study, which was completed in 2013, is warranted. The budget committee used the pay equity study to increase the rates of pay of employees who were underpaid in relation to length of service in the Probate Courts. At the same time, the committee decided against reducing the pay of employees whose pay rates were higher than the rate as calculated in the equity study. In light of this key decision, the compensation study implementation policies will need to address the treatment of employees previously determined to be above the equity study rate in a way that avoids perpetuating legacy pay disparities among employees.

Equity Study Background

In 2013, the compensation consultant performed a calculation for each eligible employee to determine an equity study rate based on the employee's years of service. Service was calculated as of January 5, 2011, the date on which the uniform compensation system became effective. Pay adjustments were calculated using a hybrid approach that considered both experience in the employee's current position and prior experience in other positions within the Probate Court system. Employees were credited with 100% of their service in the current position and 40% of their service in prior positions.

An employee whose pay was less than the equity study rate received an increase to match the target. If an employee's pay was found to be higher than the equity study rate, the employee's pay was not reduced. A total of 138 employees received equity pay increases and 108 employees were found to be already above the equity study rate.

The following categories of employees were excluded from the equity study:

- 1. Employees hired on or after January 5, 2011, when the uniform compensation system was already in place
- 2. Employees whose rates of pay were at or above maximum for the position
- 3. Temporary employees
- 4. Rehired retirees

At the time the equity study was conducted, the Probate Court system employed 341 individuals, of which 95 were in one of the excluded categories.

Compensation Study Pay Range Adjustments

In 2014, the budget committee embarked on a compensation study to evaluate the competitiveness of the compensation plan. The compensation consultant, Owen-Pottier, Inc. recommended revised pay ranges for each of the 11 staff positions. The percentage increases to the pay ranges vary by position, as follows:

Position	Compensation Study Percentage
Chief Clerk III	9%
Chief Clerk II	6%
Chief Clerk I	9%
Staff Attorney	12%
Deputy Clerk	13%
Clerk	8%
Assistant Clerk	15%
Court Assistant	5%
Security Officer	5%
Lead PCO	27%
PCO	25%

The proposed implementation policies outlined below seek to translate the changes in pay ranges into adjustments in the rates of pay for individual employees, taking into consideration the equity study findings.

Proposed Policies

GROUP 1 – Employees hired PRIOR to January 5, 2011 who were below their target rates and received equity adjustments in 2013 (116 employees):

Increase the hourly rate of each Group 1 employee by the compensation study percentage for the employee's position.

GROUP 2 – Employees hired PRIOR to January 5, 2011 who DID NOT receive an equity adjustment in 2013 because their hourly rates at the time were higher than the equity study rates (90 employees):

First calculate an updated equity study rate by adding all COLA and merit raises to the 2013 equity study rate. Then calculate the compensation study hourly rate for each employee by applying the compensation study percentage for the employee's position to the updated equity study rate. The employee will receive the greater of the compensation study hourly rate or the employee's current rate.

GROUP 3 – Employees hired PRIOR to January 5, 2011 who were grandfathered because their hourly rates were higher than the maximum (17 employees): Calculate adjustments for Group 3 in the same manner as Group 2. PCA will need to collect employment histories for Group 3 because this group was excluded from the equity study in 2013.

GROUP 4 – Employees hired SINCE January 5, 2011 who were hired at the minimum for their positions (71 employees):

Increase the hourly rate of each Group 4 employee by the compensation study percentage for the employee's position.

The adjustment will apply to employees who were hired before July 1, 2015. Employees hired on or after July will receive an increase to the new minimum for the position.

GROUP 5 – Employees hired SINCE January 5, 2011 who were hired ABOVE the minimum for their positions (8 employees):

On September 28, 2011, the budget committee adopted a policy requiring new hires from outside the system to start at the minimum for the position. Several employees were hired above minimum before the policy became effective. Calculate the compensation study rate for these employees by applying the compensation study percentage to an adjusted hourly rate equal to the sum of the minimum for the position plus all merit and COLA increases.

GROUP 6 – Rehired retirees (16 employees):

Make a one-time adjustment to standardize rates for rehired retirees at the following updated market rates, provided that the rate does not exceed the employee's preretirement rate of pay:

- \$25.79 Clerk
- \$22.74 Assistant Clerk
- \$18.83 Court Assistant

Temporary and floating clerk positions held by rehired retirees would be treated as Assistant Clerk positions.

PROMOTIONS

If an employee in Group 2, 3 or 5 was promoted on or after January 5, 2011, calculate the adjustment as if the employee was hired at minimum in the original position and add the promotion increase, along with the COLA and merit increases, before applying the compensation study factor.

Proposed Compensation Study Implementation Schedule

Implementation is contingent upon budgetary approval.

June – State budget and Probate Court system budget finalized

June 10 – Budget committee meeting

July 9 – Pay date with merit increases (pay period beginning 6/20/15, ending 7/3/15)

September 11 – Distribute report showing hourly rate changes for each employee (by employee number rather than name)

September 25 – Due date for comment or questions

September 30 – Special budget committee meeting (tentative)

October 29 – Payroll date with changes processed (pay period beginning 10/10/15)

STAFFING PLAN

Budget Committee Meeting: March 4, 2015

Probate District:

Trumbull

District No.:

46

Positions	Benchmark	Proposal
Chief Clerk III		
Chief Clerk II		
Chief Clerk I	0.9	0.9
Deputy Clerk		
Clerk	1.0	0.9
Assistant Clerk	0.9	1.8
Court Assistant		
Court Staff Attorney		
Temporary Staff		
Probate Court Officer		
Security Officer		
TOTAL	2.8	3.6

Full Time Equivalents (FTE) = 40 Hour Work Week (2,080 Annual Hours)

STAFFING PLAN

Budget Committee Meeting: March 4, 2015

Probate District: Stratford

District No.: 47

Positions	Benchmark	Proposal
Chief Clerk III		
Chief Clerk II		
Chief Clerk I	1.0	1.0
Deputy Clerk		
Clerk	1.0	1.0
Assistant Clerk	0.9	1.8
Court Assistant	0.9	
Court Staff Attorney		
Temporary Staff		
Probate Court Officer		
Security Officer		
TOTAL	3.8	3.8

Full Time Equivalents (FTE) = 40 Hour Work Week (2,080 Annual Hours)

Office Expense Budget FY 2016 Budget Proposal July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

District:	All Probate Districts
District Nos.:	1 through 54
No. of Employees (Judge and Court S	taff) 344

Description	FY 2015 As Adjusted	FY 2016 Proposed	Budget Committee Assumptions
Educ/Seminars/Mtgs	32,680	32,800	\$600 per district
Dues	95,125	8,600	Other = \$25 per person average (Excludes Probate Assembly, bar & NCPJ dues)
Subscriptions	50,720	51,020	Court proposal, subject to \$1,500 maximum
Coffee/Tea/Holiday/Special Occ	27,920	27,520	\$80 per person
Other Expenses	50,840	54,040	\$500 per district
TOTAL EXPENSES	257,285	173,980	

^{**} Represents number of individuals (not FTE)

Office Expense Budget FY 2016 Budget Proposal July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

RCPC:	ALL RCPCs
District No.:	55-60

No. of Employees (AJ and Court Staff) 50

Description	FY 2015 As Adjusted	FY 2016 Proposed	Budget Committee Assumptions
Rent and Taxes	276,716	279,818	Court proposal
Repairs, Maint and Utilities	77,380	83,580	Court proposal
Office Supplies	38,300	39,800	Court proposal
Office Furniture and Equip	34,500	32,000	Court proposal
Postage Equip and Fees	42,565	42,365	Court proposal
Legal Notices and Ads	18,750	18,700	Court proposal
Liability Insurance	8,150	10,500	Court proposal
Educ/Seminars/Mtgs	6,400	6,800	\$600 per RCPC, plus \$200 per PCO
Dues	1,250	1,250	Other = \$25 per person (Excludes Probate Assembly, bar & NCPJ dues)
Subscriptions	3,275	2,925	Court proposal, subject to \$1,500 maximum
Coffee/Tea/Holiday/Special Occasion	4,000	4,000	\$80 per person
Other Expenses	3,500	3,500	\$500 per district
TOTAL EXPENSES	514,786	525,238	

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^{**} Represents number of individuals (not FTE)

Educ/Seminars/Mtg
Budget Committee Meeting - March 4, 2015

No.	District Name	FY16 Budget	Budget Committee Guidelines	Variance ove (under) guideline
_ 1	Hartford	600	600	-
2	West Hartford	600	600	-
3	Tobacco Valley	600	600	
4	Greater Windsor	600	600	
5	East Hartford	600	600	-
6	Glastonbury-Hebron	600	600	
7	Newington	600	600	
	Berlin	600	600	-
	Simsbury Regional	600	600	
	Farmington-Burlington	600	600	
	North Central Connecticut	600	600	<u>-</u>
	Ellington	600	600	<u> </u>
	Greater Manchester	600	600	<u>-</u>
	Region # 14	600	600	
	Middletown	600	600	
	Meriden	600	600	-
	Wallingford	600	600	
	Cheshire-Southington	600	600	
	Region # 19	600	600	
	Waterbury	600	600	-
	Naugatuck	600	600	
	Region # 22	600	600	
	Torrington Area	600	600	
	Litchfield Hills	600	600	
\neg	Tolland-Mansfield	600	600	•
	Northeast	600	600	
	Plainfield-Xillingly Regional	600	600	
$\neg \neg$	Windham-Colchester	600	600	
	Norwich	600	600	
	Southeastern CT Regional	600	600	
	New London	600	600	<u>-</u>
	Nlantic Regional	600	600	
	Saybrook Madison-Guilford	600	600	
\neg	Branford-North Branford	1,000	600	400
	East Haven-North Haven	600	600	400
$\overline{}$	Hamden-Bethany	600	600	
	New Haven	600	600	
	West Haven	600	600	
\neg	Milford-Orange	600	600	<u>-</u>
	Derby	600	600	
\neg	Shelton	600	600	<u>-</u>
	Danbury	600	600	<u>-</u>
\neg	Housatonic	600	600	<u> </u>
	Northern Fairfield County	600	600	
	Trumbull	600	600	
\neg	Stratford	600	600	
	Bridgeport	600	600	
\neg	Fairfield	600	600	-
\neg	Westport	600	600	
$\neg \neg$	Norwalk-Wilton	600	600	-
\neg	Darien-New Canaan	600	600	-
\neg	Stamford	600	600	-
$\overline{}$	Greenwich	600	600	_
	SUBTOTAL	32,800	32,400	400
	New Haven Regional Children's	1,400	1,400	
	Central CT Regional Children's	1,000	1,000	
	New London Regional Children's Waterbury Regional Children's	1,000	1,000	<u> </u>
	Northeast Regional Children's	1,000	1,000	
	Hartford Regional Children's	1,400	1,400	
	SUBTOTAL	6,800	6,800	•

DuesBudget Committee Meeting - March 4, 2015

No.	District Name	# of Court Staff	FY16 Budget	Budget Committee Guidelines	Variance over (under) guldeline
1	Hartford	11	275	275	0
2	West Hartford	9	225	225	0
3	Tobacco Valley	5	125	125	0
4	Greater Windsor	5	125	125	0
5	East Hartford	6	150	150	0
6	Glastonbury-Hebron	4	100	100	0
7	Newington	8	200	200	0
8	Berlin	7	175	175	0
9	Simsbury Regional	8	200	200	0
10	Farmington-Burlington	5	125	125	0
11	North Central Connecticut	5	125	125	0
12	Ellington	5	125	125	0
13	Greater Manchester	7	175	175	0
14	Region # 14	4	100	100	0
15	Middletown	6	150	150	0
16	Meriden	3	75	75	0
17	Wallingford	5	125	125	0
	Cheshire-Southington	6	150	150	0
	Region # 19	10	250	250	0
	Waterbury	10	250	250	0
	Naugatuck	5	125	125	0
_	Region # 22	9	225	225	0
	Torrington Area	6	150	150	0
	Litchfield Hills	6	150	150	0
	Tolland-Mansfield	4	100	100	0
	Northeast	5	125	125	0
	Plainfield-Killingly Regional	- 4	100	100	0
	Windham-Colchester	5	125	125	0
	Norwich	6	150	150	0
	Southeastern CT Regional	7	175	175	0
	New London	6	150	150	0
_	Niantic Regional	6	150	150	0
	Saybrook	8	200	200	0
_	Madison-Guilford	5	125	125	0
	Branford-North Branford	4	100	100	0
	East Haven-North Haven	5	125	125	0
	Hamden-Bethany	5	125	125	0
	New Haven	14	350	350	0
	West Haven	8	200	200	0
	Milford-Orange	6	150	150	0
-	Derby	6	150	150	0
	Shelton	5	125	125	
	Danbury	6	150	150	0
	Housatonic	5	125	125	0
	Northern Fairfield County	5	125	125	0
	Trumbull	4	100	100	<u>0</u>
	Stratford	5	125	125	0
	Bridgeport	14	350	350	0
	Fairfield	7	175	175	0
	Westport	4	100	100	0
	Norwalk-Wilton	9	225	225	0
	Darien-New Canaan	5	125	125	0
	Stamford	10	250	250	0
	Greenwich	6	150	150	0
	SUBTOTAL	344	8,600	8,600	
55	New Haven Regional Children's	13	325	325	0
	Central CT Regional Children's	5	125	125	Ŏ
	New London Regional Children's	6	150	150	Ō
	Waterbury Regional Children's	7	175	175	0
	Northeast Regional Children's Hartford Regional Children's	7 12	175 300	175 300	0
	SUBTOTAL	50	1,250	1,250	
			.,,-		
	TOTAL	394	9,850	9,850	-

Subscriptions

Budget Committee Meeting - March 4, 2015

No.	District Name	FY16 Budget		
1	Hartford	845		
	West Hartford			
	Tobacco Valley	700		
	Greater Windsor	1,500		
	East Hartford	- -		
	Glastonbury-Hebron	350		
	Newington	350		
	Berlin Sandana Banasal	1,200		
	Simsbury Regional Farmington-Burlington	1,500		
	North Central Connecticut	1,500 500		
	Ellington	375		
	Greater Manchester	1,500		
	Region # 14	1,500		
	Middletown	1,250		
	Meriden	1,500		
	Wallingford	400		
	Cheshire-Southington	800		
	Region # 19	1,500		
_	Waterbury	1,500		
	Naugatuck	1,500		
	Region # 22	1,500		
	Torrington Area	1,500		
	Litchfield Hills	750		
	Tolland-Mansfield			
	Northeast	500		
	Plainfield-Killingly Regional	250		
	Windham-Colchester	-		
	Norwich	300		
	Southeastern CT Regional	400		
	New London	500		
32	Niantic Regional	150		
	Saybrook	1,000		
34	Madison-Guilford	1,200		
35	Branford-North Branford	1,500		
36	East Haven-North Haven	1,500		
37	Hamden-Bethany	400		
38	New Haven	1,500		
39	West Haven	500		
40	Milford-Orange	1,500		
	Derby	1,300		
	Shelton	-		
	Danbury	1,500		
	Housatonic	700		
	Northern Fairfield County	1,500		
	Trumbull	1,300		
	Stratford	1,000		
	Bridgeport	1,000		
	Fairfield	1,500		
	Westport	1,500		
	Norwalk-Wilton	1,500		
	Darien-New Canaan	1,500		
	Stamford	1,500		
54 Greenwich				
EE	SUBTOTAL New Haves Regional Children's	51,020		
	New Haven Regional Children's Central CT Regional Children's	1,500 325		
	New London Regional Children's	- 323		
	Waterbury Regional Children's	600		
	Modbood Designal Objects			
58 59	Northeast Regional Children's	<u> </u>		
58 59	Hartford Regional Children's SUBTOTAL	500 2,925		

Coffee/Tea/Holiday/Special Occasion

Budget Committee Meeting - March 4, 2015

		# of Court Staff	FY16 Budget	Budget Committee Guidelines	Variance over (under) guideline
1	Hartford	11	880	880	0
2	West Hartford	9	720	720	0
3	Tobacco Valley	5	400	400	
	Greater Windsor	5	400	400	0
	East Hartford	6	480	480	0
	Glastonbury-Hebron	4	320	320	0
	Newington	8	640	640	0
	Berlin Giraham Barianal	7	560 640	560	0
	Simsbury Regional Farmington-Burlington	8 5	400	640 400	0
	North Central Connecticut	5	400	400	0
	Ellington	5	400	400	0
	Greater Manchester	7	560	560	0
	Region # 14	4	320	320	0
	Middletown	6	480	480	0
	Meriden	3	240	240	0
17	Wallingford	5	400	400	0
	Cheshire-Southington	6	480	480	0
	Region # 19	10	800	800	0
20	Waterbury	10	800	800	0
21	Naugatuck	5	400	400	0
22	Region # 22	9	720	720	0
23	Torrington Area	6	480	480	0
	Litchfield Hills	6	480	480	0
	Tolland-Mansfield	4	320	320	0
	Northeast	5	400	400	0
	Plainfield-Killingly Regional	4	320	320	0
	Windham-Colchester	5	400	400	0
	Norwich CT II - i i	6 7	480	480	0
	Southeastern CT Regional New London	6	560 480	560 480	0
	Niantic Regional	6	480	480	0
	Saybrook	8	640	640	0
	Madison-Guilford	5	400	400	0
	Branford-North Branford	4	320	320	ō
36	East Haven-North Haven	5	400	400	0
37	Hamden-Bethany	5	400	400	0
38	New Haven	14	1,120	1,120	0
39	West Haven	8	640	640	0
40	Milford-Orange	6	480	480	0
	Derby	6	480	480	0
	Shelton	5	400	400	0
	Danbury	6	480	480	0
	Housatonic	5	400	400	0
	Northern Fairfield County	5	400	400	0
	Trumbull	4	320	320	0
	Stratford	5	400	400	0
	Bridgeport Fairfield	14	1,120 560	1,120	0
	Westport	4		560	0
	Norwalk-Wilton	9	320 720	320 720	0
	Darien-New Canaan	5	400	400	0
	Stamford	10	800	800	0
	Greenwich	6	480	480	0
	SUBTOTAL	344	27,520	27,520	
	New Haven Regional Children's	13	1,040	1,040	0
	Central CT Regional Children's	5	400	400	0
	New London Regional Children's Waterbury Regional Children's	6 7	480 560	480 560	0
	Northeast Regional Children's	7	560	560	0
	Hartford Regional Children's	12	960	960	
	SUBTOTAL	50	4,000	4,000	•
	TOTAL	394	31,520	31,520	•

Other Expenses Budget Committee Meeting - March 4, 2015

		FY16 Budget	Budget Committee Guidelines	Variance over (under) guideline
1	Hartford	500	500	- 0
	West Hartford	500	500	
3	Tobacco Valley	500	500	C
4	Greater Windsor	500	500	C
5	East Hartford	500	500	C
6	Glastonbury-Hebron	500	500	C
7	Newington	500	500	
. 8	Berlin	500	500	
9	Simsbury Regional	500	500	C
	Farmington-Burlington	500	500	C
	North Central Connecticut	500	500	0
	Ellington	500	500	0
	Greater Manchester	500	500	C
	Region # 14	500	500	0
	Middletown	500	500	c
	Meriden	500	500	
	Wallingford	500	500	
	Cheshire-Southington	500	500	C
$\overline{}$	Region #19	500	500	
20	Waterbury	500	500	
	Naugatuck	500	500	
	Region # 22	500	500	
	Torrington Area	500	500	
	Litchfield Hills	500	500	
$\overline{}$	Tolland-Mansfield	500	500	
	Northeast	500	500	
	Plainfield-Killingly Regional	500	500	
	Windham-Colchester	500	500	0
	Norwich	500	500	0
	Southeastern CT Regional	500	500	
	New London	4,500	500	4,000
	Niantic Regional	500	500 500	0
	Saybrook Madison-Guilford	500	500	0
	Branford-North Branford	500	500	0
	East Haven-North Haven	500	500	
	Hamden-Bethany	500	500	
	New Haven	23,540	500	23,040
$\overline{}$	West Haven	500	500	23,040
	Milford-Orange	500	500	0
\neg	Derby	500	500	
\neg	Shelton	500	500	
$\neg \neg$	Danbury	500	500	
	Housatonic	500	500	
	Northern Fairfield County	500	500	
	Trumbull	500	500	0
	Stratford	500	500	
\neg	Bridgeport	500	500	
$\neg \neg$	Fairfield	500	500	0
\neg	Westport	500	500	
	Norwalk-Wilton	500	500	C
\neg	Darien-New Canaan	500	500	C
\neg	Stamford	500	500	C
54	Greenwich	500	500	0
	SUBTOTAL	54,040	27,000	27,040
	New Haven Regional Children's	500	500	C
	Central CT Regional Children's	500	500	
	New London Regional Children's Waterbury Regional Children's	500 500	500 500	
	Northeast Regional Children's	500	500	0
59	Hartford Regional Children's	1,000	500	
59				500 500