

Judge Joseph D. Marino

Probate Court, District of Middletown

94 Court Street • Middletown, CT 06457

860 347-7424

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Qualifications Profile

Dedicated and accomplished Probate Judge with demonstrated expertise across a broad spectrum of probate and civil matters; extensive knowledge of mental health law, including commitments and medication issues. Thorough understanding of such probate court matters as adoptions, termination of parental rights, guardianship for children, distribution of estates, and conservator appointments.

- Effective, dynamic public speaker and trainer/facilitator. A well-known and respected leader in the area of mental health law; frequent lecturer at seminars for other judges, state agencies, doctors and hospital staff and civic/community groups.
 - Philosophy reflects a keen commitment to balancing an individual's civil rights with the rights of the community as a whole.
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Professional Experience

PROBATE COURT • Middletown, CT 1986–Present

Judge of Probate (*elected ten consecutive terms*)

- Probate Judge of one of the largest and busiest probate courts in the State of Connecticut, handling thousands of matters per year serving over 74,000 residents of Middletown, Cromwell, Durham, and Middlefield in Middlesex County; developed reputation for ability to make difficult but fair decisions and achieve balance in typically conflictual or adversarial situations.
- Selected as “Outstanding Probate Court for State of Connecticut”. Earned distinction in recognition of commitment to excellence, spirit of cooperation, and active support of the Probate Court System.
- The Probate Court for the District of Middletown is unique for its exceptional workload of mental health matters due to the presence of Connecticut Valley Hospital, Whiting Forensic Hospital, Middlesex Hospital and Solnit Children's Center. Decision-making includes commitments, forced medication, shock therapy and conservatorships.
- Judge Marino is the Administrative Judge of the Central Connecticut Regional Children's Court where he presides over cases involving custody, guardianships, termination of parental rights and adoptions.

LAW OFFICE OF JOSEPH D. MARINO • Portland, CT 1980–2022

Attorney at Law

- Maintains a successful private firm engaged in the general practice of law with a broad base of clients throughout Middlesex County.

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Education

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA SCHOOL OF LAW • Washington, DC
Juris Doctor (1980)

JOHN CARROLL UNIVERSITY • Cleveland, OH
Bachelor of Arts Degree (1977)

Affiliations / Civic Involvement

- President of the Connecticut Probate Assembly (*elected by fellow judges, Apr. 2004–Apr. 2006*)
 - Member, Budget and Executive Committee of Probate Assembly and Chair of Nominating Committee
 - Probate Liaison to the following:
 - Committee to Study DCF Policy Manual
 - Committee to Study Sexually Violent Persons
 - Committee to Accept Probate Court Jurisdiction of Drug and Alcohol Commitment
 - State Task Force, Involuntary Outpatient Commitment
 - Committee to Revise Criminal Competency Restoration Statute
 - Member, Middlesex County Bar Association (*1980 – Present, President: 2017-2018*)
 - Member, National College of Probate Judges (*1987–Present*)
 - Legal Counsel, Xavier High School, Middletown (*1998–2022*)
 - Legal Counsel, East Hampton Housing Authority (*1985–2022*)
 - Member, Middletown Political Town Committee (*1982–2000*); Member, Advisory Board (*2000–Present*)
 - Coach, Youth Soccer, Basketball, and Softball (*1993–2009*)
 - Provider of legal services to Habitat for Humanity (*1994–2022*)
 - Member, Rotary Club of Middletown (*2006–Present, President 2016-2017*)
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Awards/Recognitions

- Middlesex Chamber of Commerce: Governor William A. O’Neill Public Service Award (2016)
 - Rotary Club: Paul Harris Community Service Fellowship Award (2013)
 - NAACP: Community Service Award (2007)
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Publications

Decisions selected for frequent publication in *Quinnipiac Probate Law Journal* (formerly the *Connecticut Probate Law Journal*) on wide range of topics, including:

- Contested Admission of Will
- Involuntary Transfer of Mental Health Patient
- Determination of Ownership of Bank Accounts in an Estate
- Paternity
- Power of Attorney Accounting
- Termination of Parental Rights