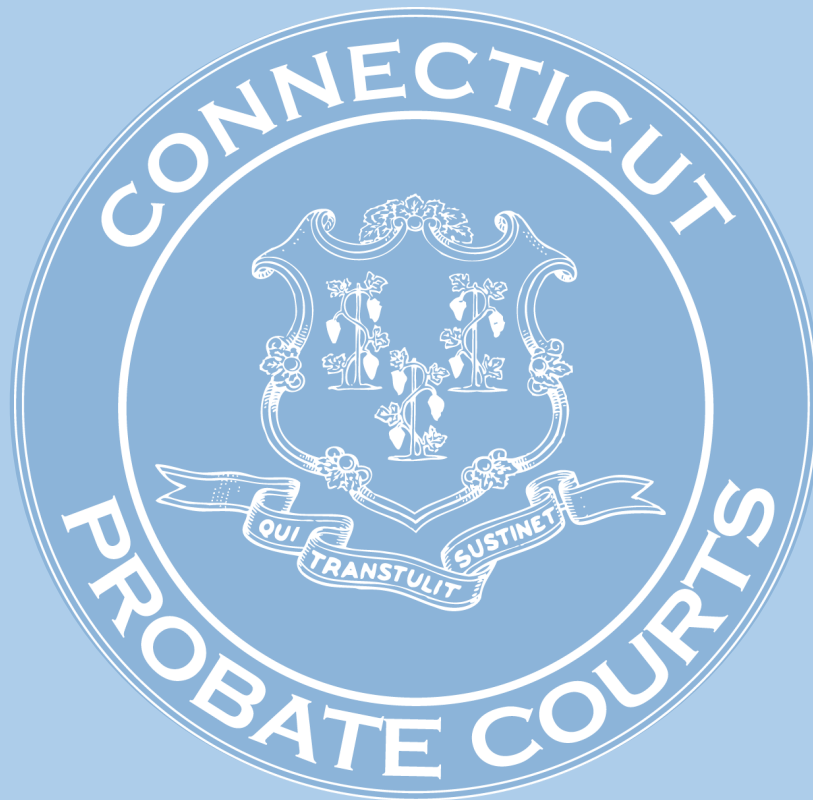


2024-2025 Biennial Report

Office of the
Probate Court Administrator

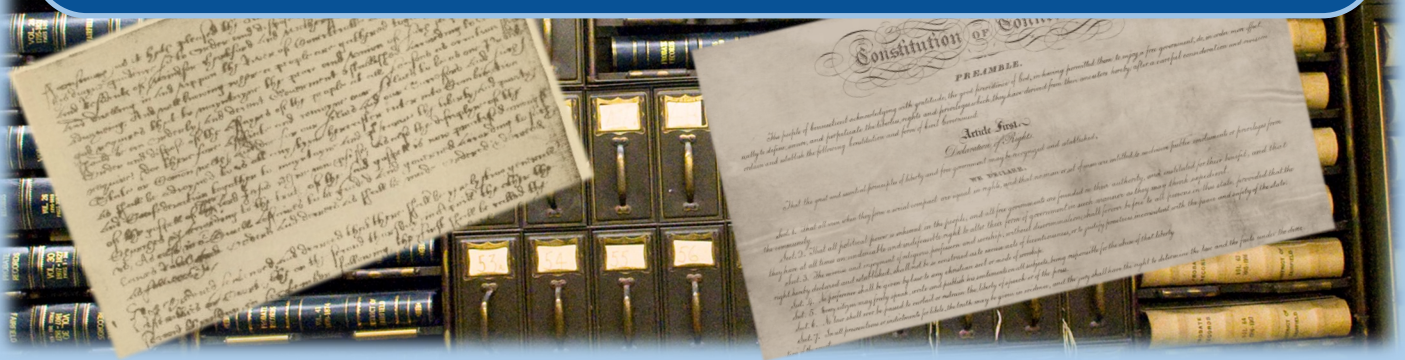
Securing futures
Strengthening families
Transforming lives





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Message from the Probate Court Administrator



I am pleased to share our Connecticut Probate Courts 2024-2025 Biennial Report, which spans the timeframe from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2025. The past biennium has been a period

of meaningful progress. Over the past two years, we have continued to modernize how our courts operate while preserving the personal, accessible, and community-based attention that our court system has always provided. This document serves as a reflection of the accomplishments, growth, and continued impact we have had.

In an increasingly complex and stressful world, the work of the Connecticut Probate Courts is more important now than ever. Guided by our mission to protect the state's most vulnerable, we have implemented new systems to make our courts more accessible, efficient, and responsive to the people we serve. This modernization not only improves the efficiency of court staff and attorneys but also reduces barriers to everyone seeking court services. This is especially important as many of those who come to our courts are brought by the greatest

challenges in their lives and under tremendous personal stress. From expanded electronic filing and remote hearing options to advancing digital case management, launching a new, user-friendly website, and improving data security, we are laying the foundation for a more connected, data-driven court system that is transforming the lives of families, caregivers, and legal professionals throughout the state.

Moreover, vigilant training, software and system updates and maintenance help further fortify our system against cyber threats. In this biennial period, all Probate Court judges and staff took regular cybersecurity training to ensure that our staff and our systems continue to safeguard sensitive information as well as the public's trust. Yet even as we embrace innovation and technology, we never lose sight of the people at the heart of our work. Our focus remains steadfast: ensuring that every child, family member, and individual who

comes into our courts receives the dignity, protection, and care they deserve.

Securing the futures of thousands of court users, the Connecticut Probate Courts save the state of Connecticut billions of dollars by facilitating family-centered solutions to meet the needs of





seniors, children, and individuals with intellectual disability and mental illness. The efforts of court-appointed guardians and conservators to arrange care at home or in other community-based settings saved the state over \$2 billion each year by avoiding more costly state services. Moreover, these annualized savings increase year over year as more and more cases are shepherded through the Probate Courts.

As each year passes, judges and court staff continue to observe the rise in complexity of probate cases, which mirrors the greater challenges faced by society and a growing demand for probate services. Over the last five years, the Probate Courts consistently experienced a 6% increase in activities in the courts, equating to almost 5,500 additional activities per year. Critical to the state's social services safety net, Connecticut's Probate Courts oversee and make rulings on matters that affect residents from birth to death. Our judges and court staff approach each case with compassion and care.

Furthermore, it is important to note that the number of indigent cases or indigent individuals served by the Probate Courts eBilling system has been steadily increasing

year over year. For example, as of FY24 and FY25, approximately one-third of all open conservatorships involved a court-appointed and state-compensated conservator. There is a comparable steady increase in annual costs for indigent conservator fees, which rose from approximately \$4.6 million in 2018 to nearly \$7 million in 2024. Due to modern trends in demographics, population, and regulatory requirements combined with the forecasted increase in demand for conservators, we predict that these state expenses and court demands will only increase. The State of Connecticut Department of Social Services, in coordination with Mercer Health & Benefits LLC, released a comprehensive report on the Connecticut Medicaid Long-Term Care Demands showing there will be a dramatic increase in the needs of a steadily aging population. As reported, by 2030 the aging population of Connecticut is expected to rise to over 370,000 residents over the age of 75. A continued investment in the Connecticut Probate Courts will continue to reap future cost savings and benefits.

This Biennial Report highlights both our progress and our purpose – a reminder that in every technological milestone, our goal is not only modernization, but meaningful access to justice for all.



Beverly K. Streit
Probate Court Administrator

To Validate, to Ensure, to Safeguard....

Connecticut's Probate Courts Embrace the Past While Stepping Into the Future



The portrait of “Lady Justice” was created by Connecticut artist LaRey Pablo, a proud brain injury survivor and a conserved individual with incredible talents. This piece is hung in the Farmington Regional Probate Court courtroom for all to enjoy in perpetuity.

The word probate comes from the Latin *probare* meaning “to prove.” Its earliest recorded use dates back to the Middle Ages, but its core meaning endures today: to validate, to ensure, to safeguard. For more than 300 years, the Connecticut Probate Court system, one of the oldest in the nation, has embodied this purpose. Probate matters were originally overseen by Connecticut’s early county courts, but in 1716, official Courts of Probate were established with one judge and clerk appointed to serve in each court for a period of one year. Their earliest role was to oversee decedents’ estates, but over three centuries, the Connecticut Probate Court system has continued to evolve and expand to become an integral part of our state’s judicial landscape.

Today, the Connecticut Probate Courts consist of 54 Probate Districts, with one elected judge per district for a term of four years. There are also six Regional Children’s Probate Courts that serve multiple probate districts and specialize in probate children’s matters with specially trained staff. The Office of the Probate Court Administrator (“PCA”) is responsible for supporting the operations of the Probate Courts, including





include some of the state’s most vulnerable people, such as those managing mental health issues or substance use disorder; the aging/ elderly or disabled; and children. Every day, the Probate Courts seek to ensure the constitutional rights of these vulnerable people are protected and their needs are being met.

As Connecticut’s population grew, so did the Probate Court system. From 28 districts in 1800 to a peak of 133 districts in 1993, the courts continued to meet the needs of the rapidly growing towns and counties. In 1883, the Connecticut Probate Assembly was created. It began as an informal group of Probate Judges which met quarterly to develop standard procedures. State representatives, senators, and even the Governor attended these early meetings. In 1941, the state legislature officially recognized the Connecticut Probate Assembly. The Connecticut Probate Assembly continues to operate today with all 54 Probate Judges as members.

financial, information technology, court procedural operations, and legislative policy initiatives as required by C.G.S. § 45a-77. The Connecticut Probate Courts have jurisdiction to hear cases in over 70 different areas, which

A major event in Connecticut Probate history took place in 2011 with the consolidation and

“Like so many of you, I am proud and feel privileged to be part of a system like Probate, which every day carries out such important work. Protecting the state’s most vulnerable residents has been our system’s job for more than 300 years, and I believe we are both stronger, and more needed, than ever before.”



*Probate Court Administrator
Hon. Beverly K. Streit*



reorganization of 117 Probate Courts into 54 regional Probate Districts and the six Regional Children’s Probate Districts that exist today.

Probate Judges, elected by their districts since 1850, have long served as trusted leaders in their communities. They serve a four-year term as set by the state constitution. There are no term limits, but the mandatory retirement age is 70. Previously, the only requirement to serve as a Probate Judge was to be an elector (voter) within the probate district they served, but since 2011, Connecticut’s Probate Judges must also be attorneys licensed to practice law in this state.

Connecticut’s Probate Court system continues to be the only state system dependent on its own revenue to meet daily operations. Such revenue, however, is frequently volatile and unpredictable. Each year, the Probate Court system relies on appropriations from the State General Fund to buffer this volatility and to ensure ongoing full court services. It is noteworthy that the Connecticut Probate Courts save the state billions of dollars each year by avoiding more costly state services, all through family-centered solutions meeting



the needs of seniors, children, adults with intellectual disability as well as behavioral and mental health challenges.

Rigorous Training

Newly elected Probate Judges in Connecticut must complete a comprehensive training program prior to assuming office. In addition to extensive legal topics, the training curricula addresses the rules of judicial conduct and ethics as well as the administrative operations of the Probate Court and resources available to judges. A new Probate Judge must receive training during his or her first six months in office in these crucial areas:

- civil procedure including constitutional issues, due process, and evidentiary considerations
- property law with conveyance and title considerations
- wills and trusts
- family law.

Every year, all Probate Judges must complete a minimum of 15 credit hours of approved judicial education focusing on Connecticut probate statutes, regulations, law, procedures, and ethics. Many judges complete well over the minimum credit hours, sometimes completing over 30 hours of approved education in a given year.

Uniformity, Consistency, Transparency

The Office of the Probate Court Administrator (“PCA”) was first created in





Administrator's guidance, Connecticut's Probate Court system operates with administrative and fiscal autonomy while embracing best practices and safeguards that strengthen accountability to the people we serve.

1967 to increase uniformity, consistent procedures, transparent financial practices and oversight throughout the probate system. The Chief Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court appoints the Probate Court Administrator from among the sitting Probate Judges. Amongst other duties, PCA is charged with developing legislation, regulations, and policies to improve the Probate Court system, as well as establishing uniform Probate Court procedures. The Administrator's office regularly reviews the operations of each Probate Court and conducts biennial visits through both the PCA law and financial departments.



The Probate Court Administrator's Office continues to partner closely with Probate Judges and court staff to ensure the highest operational standards and a court system centered on dignity, due process, and ethical integrity. Under the Probate Court

Evolving to Meet Modern Needs

Over the last 300 years, the Connecticut legislature has continued to expand the Probate Court's jurisdiction far beyond estate administration. Today, Probate Judges encounter a wide array of matters that are often legally complex and emotionally charged, as well as being intertwined with significant social, financial, medical, and mental health challenges.

Our judges and court staff help families and individuals navigate conservatorships; children's matters including guardianship and temporary custody; the termination of parental rights and adoption; the commitment of children and adults with mental illness or substance use disorders; the guardianship of adults with intellectual disability; and name changes. The Probate Court's work is deeply people-centric and can often be life changing for the families and individuals we serve each day.

Innovation in Support

Guided by the Probate Court system's long-standing mission to protect the state's most vulnerable residents, PCA continues to prioritize technology and modernization in

our court system to strengthen efficiency and improve access while meeting the needs and expectations of the public. January 2025 marked a significant technology milestone for the Connecticut Probate Courts - the five-year anniversary of the electronic filing (eFiling) system. The eFiling system provides a user-friendly platform for submission of filings and documentation related to court matters while simultaneously ensuring efficient customer service for all of Connecticut.



When the eFiling system was first launched in January 2020, the primary focus was for self-represented (pro se) parties and attorneys to electronically file (“eFile”) all petitions

and documents; pay filing fees; receive notices; and view case-related documents.

Since its launch, the eFiling system has expanded beyond attorneys and self-represented individuals to include a growing number of Connecticut state agencies and professional court users. Over the last four years, PCA has successfully onboarded the Department of Children and Families (DCF); the Department of Developmental Services (DDS); the Connecticut Office of the Attorney General; the Department of Administrative Services (DAS); as well as third-party conservators known as professional conservators. These agencies and users are now able to electronically submit filings; upload required documentation; and securely access case materials through the eFiling platform.

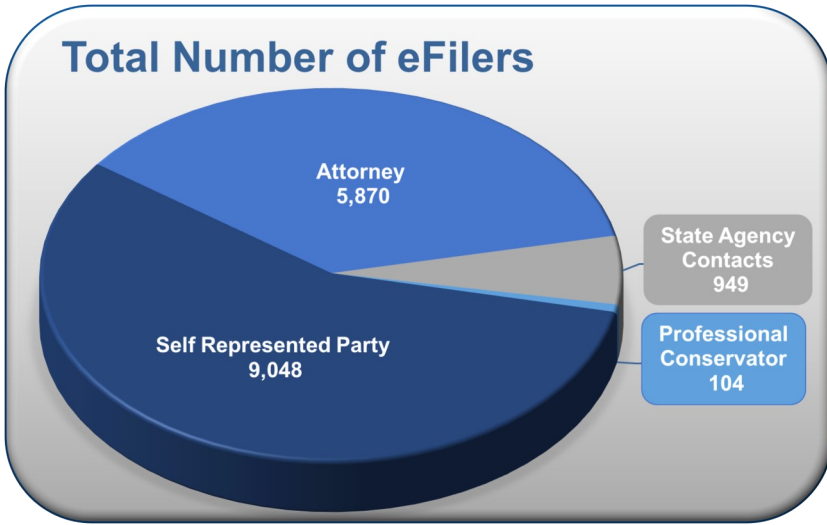
The eFiling system significantly improves the efficiency and accuracy of information exchanged with the Probate Courts and the court users. PCA is working with additional state agencies to bring them onto the eFiling platform, which will continue to support broader statewide adoption and further enhance digital accessibility and service delivery across Connecticut’s Probate system.

Steady Growth in the Land of Steady Habits

The steady growth of the eFiling system over the past five years is reflected in the sheer volume of electronic submissions received by the Connecticut Probate Courts. From January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2024, the Probate Court system received a total of 1,710,301 electronically submitted documents



Total Number of eFilers



payments can now be processed through the eFiling system. In this sense, the ability for users to make online payments when submitting a filing, in addition to payments on open balances, provides improved efficiency for both eFilers and the Probate Courts. Payments made electronically through the eFiling system via credit cards or electronic checks ensure the timely processing of petitions and offer

through eFiling. This sustained growth demonstrates the system’s reliability, accessibility, and value to the public. Each year, filers recognize the convenience and efficiency of submitting materials online, underscoring the importance of offering an online submission option that is intuitive and available statewide. Today, the eFiling system maintains approximately 16,000 eFiling accounts and the numbers of users and accounts continue to grow every year. The continued rise in electronic submissions and accounts highlights how digital access improves overall customer service providing immediate confirmation of filings; and ensuring secure and timely transmission of court documents.

additional efficiencies for the court users. Similarly, the eFiling system also provides a unique “My Cases” module that allows users with multiple cases, such as attorneys, state agencies, and professional conservators, to electronically access both confidential and non-confidential court case documents all on a secure platform using the latest cybersecurity protocols. The growing eFiling system provides users 24/7 access and a streamlined approach to managing their case workload without requiring the historical process of manually reviewing a paper file at a physical court location.

As access to the eFiling platform has expanded, so have the tools and functions of the eFiling platform advanced. For example, receipts and

“Our digitized records, from 1930 to present (over 55 million pages), have been migrated onto updated hardware using an innovative software application which will allow our system to manage data growth over the next seven years.”



**PCA Chief Enterprise Technologist
George Fernandes**



Strategic Planning for Success

Extensive strategic planning during the FY24-25 biennium has supported a number of other significant advances in court operations including:

- A new Case Management System (CMS) in active development for an anticipated 2026 release. Designed with direct input from our courts, this new system will offer the courts a more intuitive, hearing-centric experience with enhanced record-keeping capabilities
- A new, modern, mobile-friendly website that offers easier access to forms, guides, and public information
- Transitioning all courts from cable to fiber internet
- Cybersecurity awareness training deployed

statewide in our courts to protect our system against emerging threats

- Court security enhancements
- Digitized records of more than 55 million document pages have been migrated into our new, long-term, secure digital infrastructure. Thus, keeping probate records accessible and retrievable at local court public access terminals
- Expanded internet, network, and backup systems that guard our court operations against outages and ensure digital continuity.

Court Management Redesign Begins

For the past 25 years, the electronic Case Management System has supported the courts in managing case workloads, but it has reached the limits of its capabilities and can no longer meet the evolving needs, goals, and expectations of the future. In January 2024, we began a significant technology initiative with the initial phases of developing a complete rewrite of our legacy Case Management System (CMS). This redesign development process, which is currently underway, represents more than just an





upgrade: it is reimagining how our Probate Courts will manage cases, information, and court operations on a modern platform and interface. The new application incorporates

extensive feedback and direct input from the Probate Courts - the people who use and rely on the system every day.

New Website

In June 2025, the Office of the Probate Court Administrator completed a major initiative to launch a modernized public internet website. The new site features a user-friendly, dynamic design that is viewable on any smartphone or computer. These advancements ensure full user accessibility and engagement for the public. It delivers improved navigation, flexible content management, and customizable features that allow the site to adapt to future needs and emerging trends. The new website will continue to serve as an excellent platform to educate the public about Connecticut Probate Court practices and procedures.



<https://www.ctprobate.gov/>

Enhancing the Network Backbone

Another major infrastructure and technology milestone completed in 2024 was the successful transition of all 60 Connecticut Probate Court locations from cable internet access to fiber internet. This achievement has significantly enhanced the backbone of the entire court network. The fiber upgrade delivers faster speeds, greater reliability, and improved efficiency, directly benefiting judges, staff, and the public, by ensuring seamless access to information and court services. It also supports critical high-availability applications, cybersecurity systems, and information-sharing tools, while enabling more stable and dependable virtual court hearings that expand access to justice statewide.

Upgrading to fiber ensures the Probate Court system is well-positioned to meet future demands, providing a scalable and reliable infrastructure to support ongoing growth and technological advancement. Moreover, this initiative was completed with minimal expense to the court system, demonstrating how strategic planning and efficient resource management can deliver substantial improvements without additional cost.

Similarly, in September 2023, PCA's Information Technology Department began the process of modernizing computer hardware and physical infrastructure across the system, advancing how technology assets are maintained, secured, and updated statewide. This initiative combined with the new cloud/remote management system provides a unified and scalable platform for

managing and securing court technology resources. These continuous initiatives help strengthen and maintain a strong foundation for the future.

Cyber-Security Awareness

In response to today’s ever evolving digital environment, PCA has implemented a comprehensive cybersecurity monitoring system as well as a Cybersecurity Awareness Learning Management System for all Probate Court system employees. Ongoing training sessions provide essential guidance on identifying and preventing risks. These programs, combined with Probate Administration’s technical and educational initiatives, enhance not only real-time protection but also cultivate a shared sense of responsibility among staff. Together, these efforts ensure that Connecticut’s Probate Court system remains vigilant, resilient, and adaptive to the ever-changing cybersecurity environment. As PCA’s IT Department

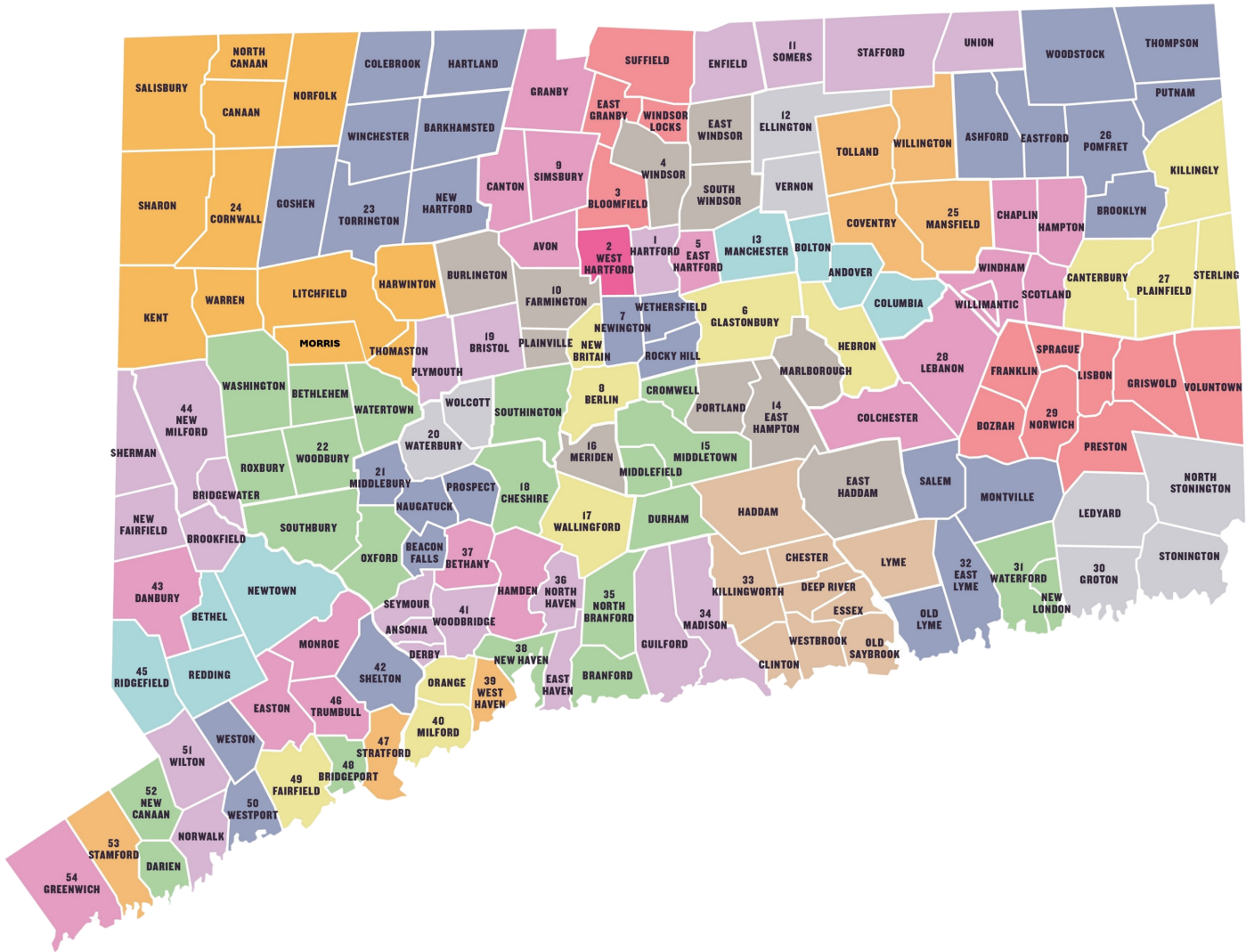
continues to provide software and cybersecurity updates in all the courts, it is also providing information for physical court security improvements.

Looking ahead

These continuous initiatives strengthen the Probate Court system and allow us to build on a strong foundation for the future, but, as always, the people we serve in our courts remain our focus. The Connecticut Probate Courts continue to provide compassionate care and valuable support to people in some of life’s most difficult moments. The people we serve are the inspiration for all we do. Even with the many remarkable achievements we’ve accomplished in this biennial, our focus remains unchanged – safeguarding the vulnerable and improving the lives of the families we serve. The future of Connecticut’s Probate Court system is bright and our commitment to serving the public has never been stronger.



Connecticut Probate Districts



Connecticut's Regional Children's Probate Courts Continue to Evolve

Six Regional Children's Probate Courts provide a forum for families to arrange for the care of children when parents are unable to do so and process complex cases involving parental rights and orders of parentage. Convenient court facilities, expertise of family specialists, and experienced local Probate Judges, ensure protection of children and legal rights as they work through challenges. The goal is to keep children in the care of family members in a safe and familiar home environment when possible.

The Regional Children's Probate Courts (RCPC) serve 118 of the 169 Connecticut towns and cities. Using a collaborative approach, the children's courts offer an informal setting with specialized expertise of staff and judges in child and family dynamics, to help put families at ease as they work out their problems, while ensuring the safety and well being of the child.

During the 2004 legislative session, the Connecticut General Assembly passed Public Act 04-149, which established a pilot program in the New Haven region for the New Haven Regional Children's Probate Court. Under the leadership of then Probate Court Administrator James J. Lawlor, the Honorable Connecticut Supreme Court Chief Justice William J. Sullivan officially opened Connecticut's first Regional Children's Probate Court on July 14, 2004.

In 2005, the General Assembly authorized establishing Regional Children's Probate Courts throughout Connecticut to provide a forum for families to ensure legal arrangements for the care of children when parents are unable to do so together with the specialized resources of the family specialists and the participating Probate Judges.

The second Regional Children's Probate Court serving Meriden and Wallingford was established in 2005 and has since expanded to serve 23 communities and is now the Central Connecticut Regional Children's Probate Court. The New London Regional Children's Probate Court opened in 2006 with the opening of the Northeast Regional Children's Probate Court and the Waterbury Regional Children's Probate Court soon thereafter in 2007. Established in 2012, the Hartford Regional Children's Probate Court is the newest of Connecticut's six regional children's Probate Courts. This court recentralized its location in East Hartford with the support and partnership of the host municipality beginning in September 2024.

Each year, Connecticut's Regional Children's Probate Courts assist thousands of families with vulnerable children by addressing petitions for temporary custody and guardianship; termination of parental rights; visitation; adoption; emancipation; and parentage. The goal of the Probate Courts is to keep children in the care of family members in a safe and familiar home environment and to help families obtain needed services and monitor progress toward the goals set by the court.





Central CT RCPC (2005)

- Berlin
- Cheshire
- Chester
- Clinton
- Cromwell
- Deep River
- Durham
- East Haddam
- East Hampton
- Essex
- Haddam
- Killingworth
- Lyme
- Marlborough
- Meriden
- Middlefield
- Middletown
- New Britain
- Old Saybrook
- Portland
- Southington
- Wallingford
- Westbrook

Hartford RCPC (new location in 2024)

- Andover
- Avon
- Bloomfield
- Bolton
- Burlington
- Canton
- Columbia
- East Granby
- East Hartford
- East Windsor
- Enfield
- Farmington
- Glastonbury
- Granby
- Hebron
- Manchester
- Newington
- Plainville
- Rocky Hill
- Simsbury
- Somers
- South Windsor
- Stafford
- Suffield
- Union
- Wethersfield
- Windsor
- Windsor Locks

New Haven RCPC (2004)

- Bethany
- Branford
- East Haven
- Hamden
- Milford
- New Haven
- North Branford
- North Haven
- Orange
- West Haven

New London RCPC (2006)

- Bozrah
- East Lyme
- Franklin
- Griswold
- Groton
- Ledyard
- Lisbon
- Montville
- New London
- North Stonington
- Norwich
- Old Lyme
- Preston
- Salem
- Sprague
- Stonington
- Voluntown
- Waterford

Northeast RCPC (new location in 2024)

- Ashford
- Brooklyn
- Canterbury
- Chaplin
- Colchester
- Coventry
- Eastford
- Hampton
- Killingly
- Lebanon
- Mansfield
- Plainfield
- Pomfret
- Putnam
- Scotland
- Sterling
- Thompson
- Tolland
- Willington
- Windham
- Woodstock

Waterbury RCPC (2007)

- Ansonia
- Beacon Falls
- Bethlehem
- Derby
- Middlebury
- Naugatuck
- Oxford
- Prospect
- Roxbury
- Seymour
- Shelton
- Southbury
- Washington
- Waterbury
- Watertown
- Wolcott
- Woodbridge
- Woodbury

Probate Courts By the Numbers

FY24 and FY25 Probate Court Activities

FY24

FY25

Decedents

4a-16 Petition	1,749	1,430
Administration Intestate	3,539	3,432
Admit Will	8,212	8,117
Approval/Instruction re: Action by Fiduciary	812	771
Affidavit Estate	6,239	5,973
Allowance for Spouse or Family	64	70
Allowance of Account	11,480	11,143
Compromise of Claim	580	606
Custody of Remains	562	526
Hearing Management/Status Conferences	1,557	1,493
Insolvent Estate	368	318
Sale or Mortgage of Real Estate	1,806	1,600
TPO Estate	4,133	4,206
Will Contest	67	52
Decedent Other	9,526	9,671

Trusts

Approval/Instruction re: Action by Fiduciary	145	173
Trust Accounts	2,455	2,333
Appointment of Testamentary Trustee	411	314
Compel Account for Inter Vivos Trust	27	21
Hearing Management/Status Conferences	191	187
Termination of Charitable Trust	24	12
Trust Other	959	1,046

Conservators

Approval/Instruction re: Fiduciary	649	592
Allowance of Accounting	4,227	4,678
Appointment of Conservator of the Person and Estate — Involuntary	2,201	2,241
Appointment of Conservator of the Person and Estate — Voluntary	796	817
Appointment of Conservator of the Estate — Involuntary	203	221
Appointment of Conservator of the Estate — Voluntary	327	335
Appointment of Conservator of the Person — Involuntary	192	198
Appointment of Conservator of the Person — Voluntary	125	119
Appointment of Temporary Conservator	217	210
Authority to Consent to Psychiatric Medication Treatment C.G.S. § 17a-543(e)	367	329
Hearing Management/Status Conferences	1,126	1,037
Orders Concerning Life Support Systems	4	4
Sale or Mortgage of Real Estate	340	381
Conservatorship Reviews	1,479	1,477
Conservatorship Other	13,113	13,210





FY24

FY25

Children’s Matters

Approval/Instruction re: Action by Fiduciary	17	16
Appointment of Co-Guardian of a Minor	95	111
Continuation of DCF Care or Placement — Voluntary	0	0
Review of DCF Plan	0	0
Emancipation of Minor	6	13
Hearing Management/Status Conferences	95	91
Immediate Temporary Custody	101	90
Parentage (formerly Paternity) Claim	161	119
Reinstatement of Parent as Guardian	140	95
Removal of Guardian of the Person	1,142	1,193
Temporary Custody	493	424
Temporary Guardian	325	304
Transfer to Superior Court	6	4
Children’s Matters Other	6,585	7001

Guardian of Minor Estates

Approval/Instruction re: Action by Fiduciary	62	61
Allowance of Account	1,077	1,159
Appointment of Guardian of the Estate	760	865
Compromise of Claim	480	551
Hearing Management/Status Conferences	135	129
Guardian of Minor Estates Other	807	842

Guardian of Person with Intellectual Disability

Approval/Instruction re: Action by Fiduciary	56	50
Appointment of Guardian of Person with Intellectual Disability	630	640
Hearing Management/Status Conferences	183	196
Placement of Person with Intellectual Disability with DDS	18	15
Sterilization	2	1
Temporary Limited Guardian of Person with Intellectual Disability	1	3
Guardianship Reviews	1,927	2,249
Guardian of Person with Intellectual Disability Other	7,118	7,297

Adoptions and Termination of Parental Rights

Approval/Instruction re: Action by Fiduciary	2	1
Approval of Adoption — Co-Parent or Step-Parent	164	218
Approval of Adoption — Relative	33	27
Approval of Adoption — Statutory Parent (DCF Identified)	3	2
Approval of Adoption — Statutory Parent (DCF Non-identified)	0	1
Approval of Adoption — Statutory Parent (Private Agency Identified)	6	6
Approval of Adoption — Statutory Parent (Private Agency Non-identified)	3	3

Probate Courts By the Numbers

FY24 and FY25 Probate Court Matters

FY24

FY25

Adoptions and Termination Cont.

Approval of Adult Adoption	136	142
Hearing Management/Status Conferences	24	9
Termination of Parental Rights	339	284
Transfer to Superior Court	0	5
Adoption and Termination of Parental Rights Other	265	312

Adult Commitment

Annual Review	144	157
Biennial Review Hearing	7	12
Commitment of Adult — Involuntary	1,479	1,499
Hearing Management/Status Conferences	93	62
Permission for Shock Therapy	208	269
Probable Cause Hearing — Adult Commitment	981	861
Release from Confinement	26	24
Warrant for Examination by Court	7	2
Adult Commitment Other	8	11

Child Commitment

Commitment of Child — Involuntary	2	8
Child Commitment Other	1	10

Drug and Alcohol Commitment

Drug and Alcohol Dependency Commitment	50	56
Drug and Alcohol Dependency Commitment Other	2	1

Other Matters

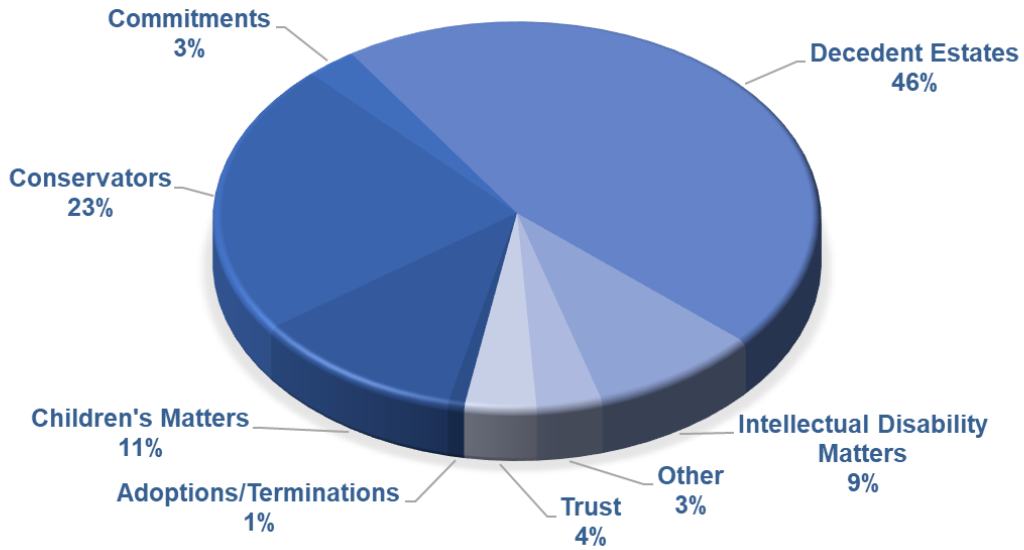
Change of Name Petitions	3,634	4,511
Compel Power of Attorney Accounting	69	68
Compel UTMA Accounting	1	0
Hearing Management/Status Conferences	31	30
Marriage: Request for Permission for a Minor*	0	0
Restore Right to Purchase, Possess or Transport a Firearm	3	4
Other Petitions or Motions	118	115
Fee Waivers	16,168	16,635
Passports	60	26

Total 126,761 128,233

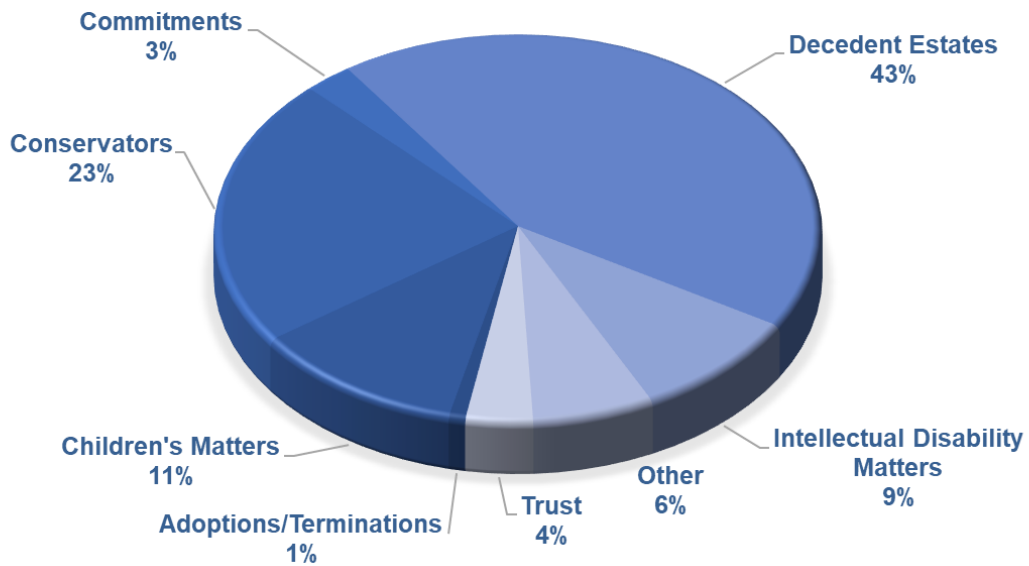


*Effective July 1, 2023, the Legislature passed Public Act 23-44 by which it raised the minimum age to marry to 18 years and repealed Probate Court jurisdiction to hear petitions for permission for a minor to marry.

FY24 PROBATE JURISDICTION



FY25 PROBATE JURISDICTION



Fiscal Biennium in Review

The Connecticut Probate system is unique in that it is mostly funded by the revenue it produces. The source of this revenue is from court petition filing fees and statutory probate fees. However, this funding source can fluctuate each year based on the state of the market and economy. Funds are not limited for use on court operations. Established funds are dedicated to support programs for vulnerable populations such as children and the elderly, as well as for services to indigent parties.

Children in Placement

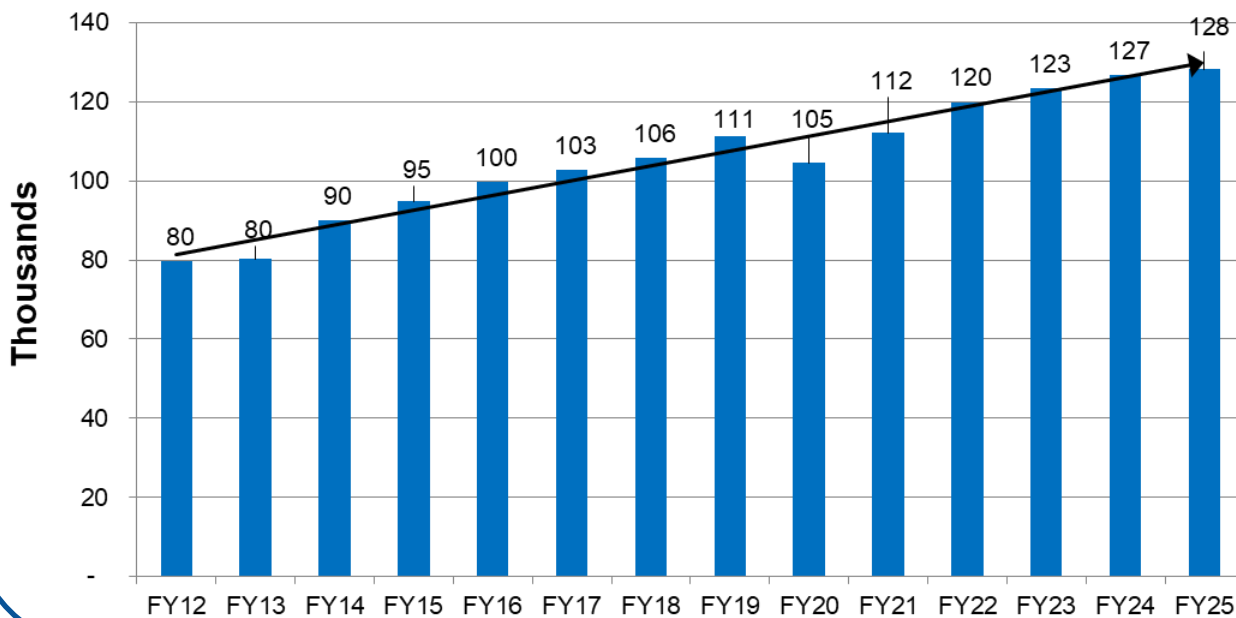
Children in Placement is a Connecticut-based non-profit that provides court-appointed

guardians ad litem to represent and protect the best interests of minor children involved in Probate and Superior court matters. For FY24 the Connecticut Probate Courts expended \$50,000, and in FY25 the Connecticut Probate Courts expended \$44,406 for these services for children.

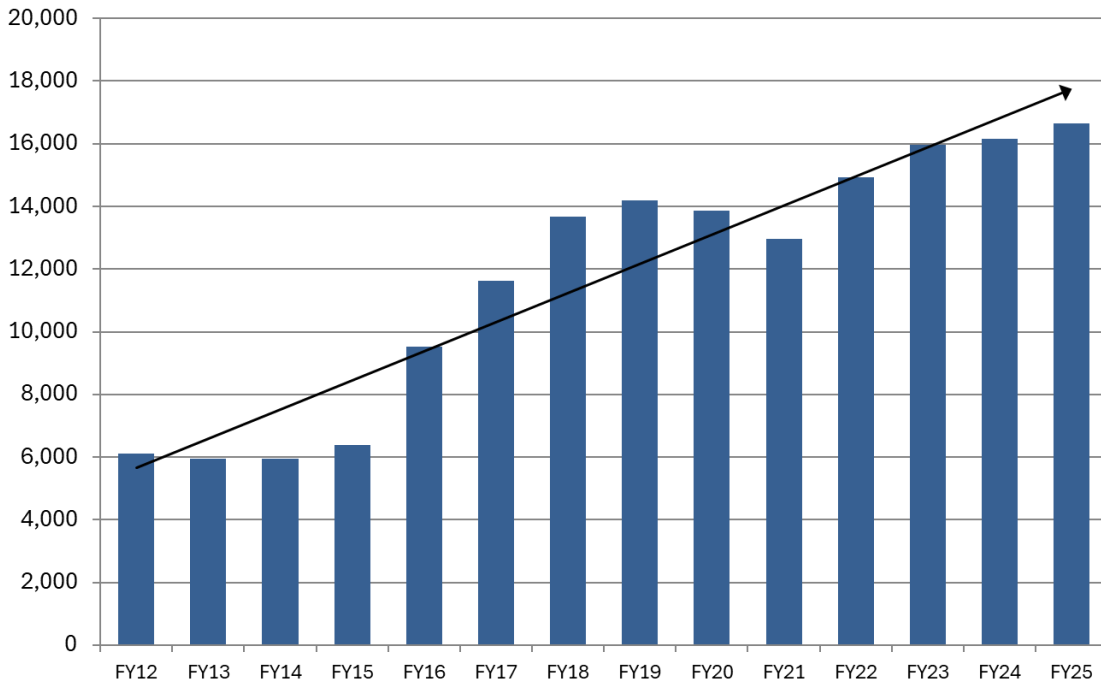
Kinship, Relatives, Grandparents Respite Programs

The Kinship & Respite Programs provides resources for guardians (family and friends) with low income who are appointed by the Probate or Superior courts for children who are unable to live with their parents. Guardians often step in to prevent children from entering the foster care or state system

Activities in Connecticut's Probate Courts



Fee Waivers Granted for Indigency



and are not eligible for monthly stipends like Department of Children and Families (DCF) foster parents. These two programs offer financial assistance to provide for children’s basic needs and expenses, such as health and child care, while separate funds provide caregiver relief by assisting with expenses such as rent and utilities. For FY24 and FY25, the Connecticut Probate Courts allocated \$2 Million to support these guardians.

vacation camp, tutoring or mentoring programs, and for other critical services and enrichment programs. For FY24 and FY25 the Connecticut Probate Courts allocated \$88,800 per year. This fund also supports the New Haven Regional Children’s Probate Court School Attendance and Engagement Clinic at the Celentano Magnet School.

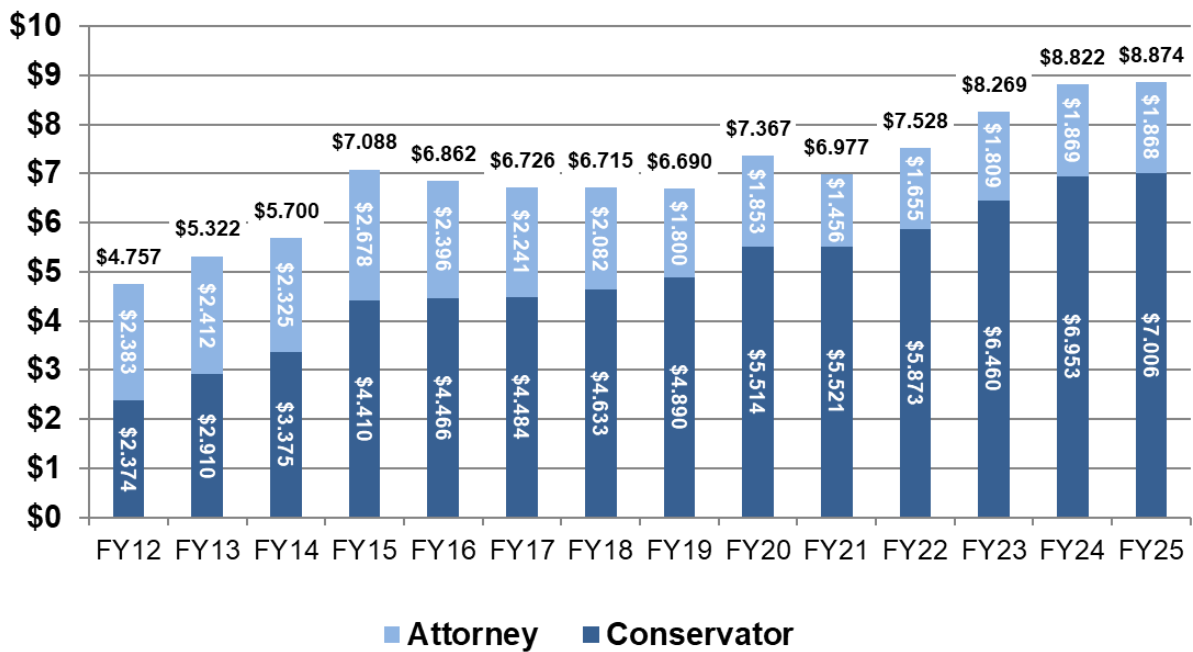
Extended Family Guardianship and Assisted Care Program

For children in the New Haven area cared for by Probate-appointed kinship guardians, this program includes funding grants up to \$1,000 annually for basic needs and expenses, including medical or dental care, nutritional counseling, psychological counseling, school



Conservator and Attorney Expenses For Indigent Persons

(\$ in Millions)



Melissa’s Project / Guardian Ad Litem Services, Inc.

Melissa’s Project is a Connecticut-based non-profit organization that provides case coordination for conserved individuals who have a severe and persistent mental illness and are also clients served by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) living in DMHAS Regions 2 or 5. The services provided by Melissa’s Project have effectively enhanced stable housing and services while decreasing the number of hospitalizations, incarcerations, and arrests for this vulnerable population. For FY24 and FY25 the Connecticut Probate Courts provided \$100,000 each year.

The Connecticut Probate system is mandated by statute to provide support for the needs of indigent individuals. There has been a rapid increase in the volume of cases and expenses for both conservator and attorney expenses. There has also been a rise in the number of cases involving indigent conserved individuals who require the appointment of a third-party conservator where the cost for services are funded by the Probate Court Administration Fund.



Glenn E. Knierim Pro Bono Award

In April 2024, the Connecticut Probate Assembly presents New Britain Attorney Claudia Barbieri with the Glenn E. Knierim Pro Bono award.



Glenn E. Knierim Pro Bono Award

Cheshire-Southington Probate Judge Matthew J. Jalowiec presents Hamden Attorney Christopher Donlin with the Glenn E. Knierim Pro Bono award.



Probate Court Administration Fund Activity

	FY24	FY25
Fund Balance at Beginning of Year	29,734,852	12,000,000
Revenue		
Probate Court fees	56,158,322	59,753,883
General Fund Appropriation	81,024	13,281,024
Pass-Through Funding	133,220	133,220
Interest	450,185	514,173
Investment Income	1,729,097	1,081,331
Probate Court Miscellaneous Funds	840	1,500
Total revenue	58,552,688	74,765,131
Expenses		
PCA - Personnel Expenses		
Salaries and Wages	2,281,874	2,255,589
Fringe Benefits	2,081,565	1,763,258
PCA - Other Expenses		
Computer Equipment and Services	161,517	165,895
Building Repairs, Maintenance and Utilities	91,770	83,221
Office Expenses	51,856	46,644
Professional Services	4,276	13,811
Conservator Audits	4,025	5,300
Dues and Subscriptions	15,147	18,884
Other	19,724	20,415
Court - Personnel Expenses		
Salaries and Wages	23,818,574	24,931,589
Retirement Plan Funding	3,075,943	3,176,504
Fringe Benefits	7,826,097	8,407,629
Retirement Administration	77,239	87,188





FY24

FY25

Court - Other Expenses

Computer Equipment and Services	2,884,251	3,810,477
Court Office Expenses	601,603	624,432
Outside Services	67,782	75,086
Council on Probate Judicial Conduct	74,636	102,865
Mileage, Parking and Tolls	38,453	41,957
Rental of Records Storage Space	26,365	30,987
LEP Interpreting Services and Court Reporters	206,369	240,413
Other	35,351	71,966

Indigency Expenses

Conservators	6,952,751	7,006,062
Court-Appointed Counsel	1,869,410	1,867,660
Marshals, Ads, Newspapers, Physicians	175,280	190,700

Pass-Through Funding

Kinship and Respite Care	2,000,000	2,000,000
Guardianship Project	88,812	88,812
Melissa's Project	100,000	100,000
Children in Placement	50,000	44,406

Total Expenses **54,680,670** **57,271,750**

Transfer to General Fund **(21,606,870)** **--**

Fund Balance at End of Year **12,000,000** **29,493,381**

Probate Judge and Employee Retirement Fund

Benefits Paid to Retired Judges and Employees	7,363,887	7,786,162
Professional Expenses	6,500	12,000
Refunds Upon Death or Termination	174,544	40,530
Interest Paid on Refunds	5,174	1,077

Total Expenses **7,550,105** **7,839,769**

The Connecticut Probate Assembly

Leaders and Committees

Sitting Connecticut Probate Judges are members of the Connecticut Probate Assembly, a statewide professional association. Around 1941, statute established the Probate Assembly to strengthen and standardize procedures, practices, and the administration of justice in all the state's Probate Courts. The assembly's bylaws encourage Probate Judges to volunteer as members of standing and special committees designed to advance and enhance the Connecticut Probate system for all.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee guides the work of the Probate Assembly. Its membership is comprised of elected assembly officers, the immediate past president, chairs of the standing committees, and nine voting members elected on a rotating basis (three per year) to represent Connecticut's eight counties.

Continuing Education Committee

Judge Jeannine Lewis, Chair
In partnership with the Office of the Probate Court Administrator, the Continuing Education Committee develops educational programs focusing on probate law and other related topics and ensures that judges and court staff complete annual continuing education requirements.

Ethics Committee

Judge Michael R. Brandt, Chair
The Ethics Committee conducts periodic reviews of the Code of Probate Judicial Conduct, provides ethics education programs for judges, and serves in an advisory capacity on judicial ethics matters.

Legislative Committee

Judge Gerald M. Fox III, Co-Chair
Judge T.R. Rowe, Co-Chair
The Legislative Committee develops and reviews legislative proposals that affect the Probate Courts. The committee members work closely with the Office of the Probate Court Administrator to update and strengthen statutes, secure support for General Fund appropriations to protect vulnerable individuals, and advance sound public policy to benefit all users of the Probate Court system.

Nominating Committee

Judge Fred J. Anthony, Chair
(as of September 2025)
Judge Joseph D. Marino, Chair
(through May 2025)
The Nominating Committee prepares the annual slate of candidates for Probate Assembly offices, as well as the slate of members for the Executive Committee, the Probate Court Budget Committee, and the





Connecticut Association of Probate Clerks (CAPC)

More than 200 court staff including clerks, staff attorneys, family specialists and retirees are members of the Connecticut Association of Probate Clerks (CAPC), a professional group founded in 1983. The group seeks to “promote the interests of all Probate Court staff throughout the State of Connecticut through education, professional development, collection and distribution of information, the exchange of ideas and advocacy.” Each year, the association holds four meetings that usually have an educational component which offer professional networking and encourages uniformity amongst court staff.

Idaliz Gomez, Co-President
Nanci Howard, Co-President



judge-member on the Council on Probate Judicial Conduct for election at the Annual Meeting.

Planning Committee

Judge Clifford P. Hoyle, Chair
(as of September 2025)

Judge Fred J. Anthony, Chair
(through September 2025)

The Planning Committee studies the role and structure of Connecticut’s Probate Courts and plans for any systemwide changes. The committee also implements any additional duties assigned by the Executive Committee or President-Judge.

Procedures Review Committee

Judge Jennifer L. Berkenstock, Chair

The Procedures Review Committee develops and revises court forms to ensure legal compliance and improve usability. Members also review new legislation and consider recommendations from judges, court personnel, and court users.

Public Information Committee

Judge Lisa K. Wexler, Chair

The Public Information Committee seeks to increase public and general understanding of the Probate Courts, their operations, and jurisdiction. The committee also assists with informational materials intended for distribution to the public that highlight the services Probate Courts provide.

Ad Hoc Court Security Committee

Judge Clifford P. Hoyle, Chair

The Ad Hoc Court Security Committee was created in 2013 to strengthen safety and security in the Probate Courts by developing and reviewing court security and emergency preparedness policies. Based on committee recommendations, all Probate Courts conduct periodic evacuation and safety drills to ensure preparedness for the safety of the public and the courts.

Continuing Education

2023 | SEPTEMBER

Continuing Education Seminar, 9/20

- *Office of The Attorney General: Collections and Child Support Unit:* Carolyn Signorelli, Deputy Associate Attorney General, Chief of the Child Support and Collections Section, Office of the Attorney General; Joan Andrews, Assistant Attorney General, Child Support and Collections Section, Office of the Attorney General
- *CT Human Antitrafficking Response Team (HART):* Tammy M. Sneed, Director, Office of Human Trafficking Services, CT Human Antitrafficking Response Team (HART), Connecticut Department of Children and Families
- *Voluntary Guardianship of 18-20-Year-Olds and Special Immigrant Juvenile Status:* Hon. Mark J. DeGennaro, West Haven Probate Court; Hon. Mathew H. Greene, New London Probate Court; Hon. John J. McGrath, Jr., Windham-Colchester Probate Court



- *Special Immigrant Juvenile Status and Immigration:* Sheila N. Hayre, Clinical Professor of Law, Quinnipiac University School of Law

2023 | OCTOBER

Judges Institute, 10/25

- *Challenges Addressing Limited English Proficiency:* Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Saybrook Probate Court; Hon. Douglas N. Stern, Norwalk-Wilton Probate Court; Hon. Ariana F. Ceneviva, Meriden Probate Court
- *Building and Managing Successful Teams:* Christopher Salem, Business Acceleration Strategist, Corporate Advisor/Trainer, Balancing Life's Issues (BLI); Rosalia Guerette, Vice President of Client Services, ESI Employee Assistance Group
- *Legislative Update:* Hon. Beverly K. Streit, Probate Court Administrator; Heather L. Dostaler, Chief Counsel, Office of the Probate Court Administrator



Continuing Education and Trainings

During 2024 and 2025, the Connecticut Probate Assembly and PCA provided over 35 continuing education programs that offered a total of 134.5 credit hours, including 15.75 hours targeting ethics, diversity, equity, and professionalism.

Approximately 89% of Probate Judges exceeded the 15 hours of continuing education requirement, with a combined total of 2,402 training hours.

Judges and court staff logged collectively in excess of 7,477 hours of continuing education during 2024 and 2025.



- *Probate Jurisdiction*: Hon. Fred J. Anthony, Shelton Probate Court; Heather L. Dostaler, Chief Counsel, Office of the Probate Court Administrator

2023 | NOVEMBER

Biennial Joint Probate Assembly/ Connecticut Bar Association Seminar, 11/14



- *Medicine Meets the Law - Diagnosis, Competency and Influence Make the Playing Field*: Harry E. Morgan, MD, Center for Geriatric and Family Psychiatry Inc.

- *Probate Accountings*: Danielle Ferrucci, Attorney, Shipman & Goodwin LLP; Hon. Michael M. Darby, Greater Manchester Probate Court

- *Elder Abuse/Exploitation Part 1*: Carmine Perri, Attorney, Czepiga Daly Pope & Perri LLC; Paul J. Knierim, Attorney, Czepiga Daly Pope & Perri LLC, former Probate Court Administrator and former Simsbury Probate Court Judge

- *Elder Abuse/Exploitation Part 2*: Andrew Veale, Attorney, Czepiga Daly Pope & Perri LLC;

Hon. Domenick N. Calabrese, Region # 22 Probate Court

- *Trust Modification, Jurisdiction, and Practice*: Kelley Galica Peck, Attorney, Cummings & Lockwood LLC; Hon. William P. Osterndorf, Darien-New Canaan Probate Court

- *Fiduciary and Attorney Fees*: Douglas R. Brown, Attorney, Brody Wilkinson PC; David R. Hermenze, Attorney, Brody Wilkinson PC; Hon. Michael R. Brandt, East Haven-North Haven Probate Court



2024 | JANUARY

Judges Institute, 1/24

- *Interstate Jurisdictional Issues UAPPJA*:

Continuing Education

Hon. Peter C. Barrett, Madison-Guilford Probate Court; Eric H. Rothausser, Attorney, Office of the Probate Court Administrator

■ *Tuberculosis and Probate*: Hon. Kathleen N. Maxham, Fairfield Probate Court

■ *Drug and Alcohol Commitment*: Hon. Carolyn L. McCaffrey, North Central Connecticut Probate Court

■ *Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT): Shock Therapy*: Hon. Evelyn M. Daly, Farmington Regional Probate Court

■ *Commitment of Children for Psychiatric Disabilities*: Hon. Joseph D. Marino, Middletown Probate Court

■ *Voluntary Admissions for Psychiatric Disabilities*: Hon. Joseph D. Marino, Middletown Probate Court

■ *Compelling Medications Against Will*: Hon. Lisa K. Wexler, Westport Probate Court

■ *Ethics: A Review of the Code and Opinions*: Hon. Michael R. Brandt, East Haven-North

Haven Probate Court; Hon. Clifford P. Hoyle, Derby Probate Court

2024 | MARCH

Judges Institute, 3/14

■ *Introduction to Supported Decision-Making*: Deborah A. Dorfman, Attorney, Executive Director, Disability Rights Connecticut, Adjunct Professor, University of CT School of Law; Stephen M. Byers, Staff Attorney, Disability Rights Connecticut; Jonathan Martinis, Attorney, Senior Director for Law and Policy, Burton Blatt Institute, Syracuse University

Daniel F. Caruso Public Service Award

On June 26, 2024 Probate Court Administrator Beverly K. Streit and President Judge Michael M. Darby present Mairead Painter, the Connecticut State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, with the Daniel F. Caruso Public Service Award.



- *Artificial Intelligence: Technology and Ethics*: Jordan A. Jefferson, Director of the Lynne L. Pantalena Law Library and Associate Professor of Law, Quinnipiac University School of Law; Wayne R. Unger, Assistant Professor of Law, Quinnipiac University School of Law

- *Annual Case Law Review*: Jeffrey A. Cooper, Professor of Law, Quinnipiac University School of Law; Attorney John R. Ivimey, Reid and Riege P.C.



Development Specialist, Connecticut Judicial Branch

- *CT State Library: Supporting Probate Courts, Records Management, Preservation, and Access*: Elise Marzik, Records Management Analyst, CT State Library; Damon Munz, Government Records Archivist, CT State Library; Allen Ramsey, Assistant State Archivist, CT State Library; Mel Smith, History & Genealogy Reference Librarian, CT State Library

- *Rule 61: Discovery*: Hon. Ben Gettinger, Milford-Orange Probate Court; Hon. Charles E. Tiernan, III, Branford-North Branford Probate Court

2024 | JUNE

Continuing Education Seminar, 6/26

- *Appeal of Probate Court Decisions*: Hon. Barbara Gardner Riordan, Tolland-Mansfield Probate Court; Eric H. Rothaus, Attorney, Office of the Probate Court Administrator

- *Firearms and Their Appearance in Probate Proceedings*: Hon. Matthew J. Jalowiec, Cheshire-Southington Probate Court

- *Situational Awareness*: Catherine Mazur, Court Planner and Education and



2024 | SEPTEMBER

Continuing Education/Connecticut Bar Association: Child Welfare and Juvenile Law Section Seminar, 9/18

- *Reinstatement of Parents*: Hon. Americo R. Carchia, New Haven Probate Court; Evan C. Brunetti, Deputy Director, External

Continuing Education



Affairs, Office of the Probate Court
Administrator

■ *Trauma and Traumatic Stress Response:* Edith Boyle, LCSW, President & CEO, LifeBridge Community Services

■ *CBA Bench-Bar – Probate and Juvenile Matters: Jurisdiction, Procedure and Protocols:* Hon. Stephanie A. McLaughlin, Connecticut Superior Court, Juvenile Matters; Hon. Michael R. Brandt, East Haven-North Haven Probate Court, Administrative Judge, New Haven Regional Children’s Probate Court

■ *CBA Bench-Bar – Probate and Juvenile Matters: Practice, the Role of the Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) and the Attorney:* Karen O. Damboise, Attorney, Office of the Public Defender, Child Protection Unit; Rebecca M. Goodrich, Attorney, Conti



Levy, Salerno & Antonio LLC; Anthony J. Interlandi, Attorney, Monarch Law LLC

2024 | OCTOBER

Judges Institute, 10/23

■ *Rule 18 and Overlapping Jurisdiction Between CT Probate Courts:* Hon. Peter C. Barrett, Madison-Guilford Probate Court; Hon. Elisa H. Bartlett, Ellington Probate Court; Hon. Kathleen N. Maxham, Fairfield Probate Court

■ *Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA):* Hon. Michael M. Darby, Greater Manchester Probate Court; Hon. Carolyn L. McCaffrey, North Central CT Probate Court

■ *Competency to Vote:* Hon. Matthew J. Jalowiec, Cheshire-Southington Probate Court

■ *What Probate Judges need to know about Rule 61, Discovery:* Hon. Paul J. Ganim, Bridgeport Probate Court; Hon. Ben Gettinger, Milford-Orange Probate Court; Hon. Mathew H. Greene, New London Probate Court; Hon. Robert A. Randich, Newington Probate Court; Hon. Charles E. Tiernan, III, Branford-North Branford Probate Court



National College of Probate Judges

holds its spring conference in Mystic, CT in May 2025. 115 Probate Judges from around the country attended the conference, including nearly 40 judges from Connecticut, in attendance.



- *Legislative Update and 2024 Rules of Procedure:* Hon. Beverly K. Streit, Probate Court Administrator; Heather L. Dostaler, Chief Counsel, Office of the Probate Court Administrator

- *Conservatorships: Administration of Conservatorship Issues and Petitions:* Hon. Lisa K. Wexler, Westport Probate Court; Attorney Eric H. Rothausser, Staff Attorney, Office of the Probate Court Administrator



2024 | NOVEMBER

Judges Institute, 11/20

- *Acquired Brain Injuries: Impact on Judgment & Decision-Making:* Bonnie Meyers, CRC, CBIST, Director of Programs and Services, Brain Injury Alliance of Connecticut (BIAC)
- *Involuntary Conservatorships: Petition to Decision:* Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Saybrook Probate Court; Attorney Evan C. Brunetti, Deputy Director, External Affairs, Office of the Probate Court Administrator
- *Conservatorships: Temporary, Voluntary and Statutory Monitoring:* Hon. Ariana F. Ceneviva, Meriden Probate Court; Attorney Heather L. Dostaler, Chief Counsel, Office of the Probate Court Administrator



2025 | JANUARY

Judges Institute, 1/22

- *Connecticut Uniform Power of Attorney Act:* Arthur T. Corey, SVP, General Counsel & Secretary, Connecticut Bankers Association
- *Conservatorship Proceedings: Medical Evidence and Evaluation:* Hon. Fred J. Anthony, Shelton Probate Court; Hon. Ariana F. Ceneviva, Meriden Probate Court; Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Saybrook Probate Court; Hon. Joseph D. Marino, Middletown Probate Court; Hon. Beverly K. Streit, Probate Court Administrator; Hon. Lisa K. Wexler, Westport Probate Court
- *Judges Most/Least Favorite Statutes:* Hon. Michael M.

Continuing Education



Darby, Greater Manchester Probate Court; Hon. Mark J. DeGennaro, West Haven Probate Court; Hon. Matthew J. Jalowiec, Cheshire-Southington Probate Court; Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Saybrook Probate Court; Hon. Barbara Gardner Riordan, Tolland-Mansfield Probate Court

■ *Uniform Trust Decanting Act*: James I. Dougherty, Attorney, Partner, Dungey Dougherty PLLC; Lisa Goodrich Page, Attorney, Counsel, Dungey Dougherty PLLC

2025 | MARCH

Judges Institute, 3/13

- *Quinnipiac Probate Law Journal*: Gianluca Perrotti, Editor-in-Chief, Quinnipiac Probate Law Journal
- *Business Organizations, Entities, Interests*: Hon. Patrick M. Birney,

Wallingford Probate Court

■ *Probate Judicial Ethics and Code of Conduct*: Hon. Barbara Gardner Riordan, Tolland-Mansfield Probate Court; Hon. Elisa H. Bartlett, Ellington Probate Court; Hon. Michael M. Darby, Greater Manchester Probate Court; Hon. Clifford P. Hoyle, Derby Probate Court

■ *Annual Case Review*: Jeffrey A. Cooper, Professor of Law, Quinnipiac University School of Law; John R. Ivimey, Attorney, Reid and Riege, P.C.

■ *Medical Ethics Committee Panel and Probate*: Jennifer L. Herbst,



Professor of Law & Medical Sciences, Quinnipiac University School of Law, Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine; Benjamin Tolchin, MD, MS, HEC-C, Director of the Center for Bioethics: Yale New Haven Health, Associate Professor of Neurology, Yale School of Medicine; Barbara Bennett Jacobs, PhD, MPH, RN, HEC-C, Vice Chairwoman, Hartford Hospital Ethics Committee, Co-Clinical Lead, Hartford Healthcare Ethics Council, Associate Professor in Residence, University of Connecticut



2025 | JUNE

CT Probate Assembly: Continuing Education Seminar, 6/25

- *De-Escalation Training*: James N. Rascati, LCSW, JNR Consulting, LLC; Richard Fontana, MS, Director, Emergency Operations, City of West Haven

- *Americans with Disabilities Act*: Eric H. Rothausser, Staff Attorney, Office of the Probate Court Administrator
- *Temporary Conservatorships*: Heather L. Dostaler, Chief Counsel, Office of the Probate Court Administrator
- *Phenomena of Childhood Trauma*: Steven Marans, PhD, MSW, Co-Director, Yale Center for Traumatic Stress and Recovery, Yale School of Medicine



Daniel F. Caruso Public Service Award

Probate Court Administrator Beverly K. Streit presents the Daniel F. Caruso Public Service Award to Edith Boyle, LCSW, the President and CEO of LifeBridge Community Services, a community-based, non-profit mental health provider in Bridgeport.



Legislative Committee: Advocating Together



Thanks to the active engagement and advocacy of Probate Judges, clerks, and court staff statewide, the legislative sessions in this biennium proved successful with continued protections for the vulnerable populations we serve as well as improved employee benefits and financial stability for the Probate Court system as a whole.

During FY24-25, the Probate Court Administrator, judges, and staff met with stakeholders and legislative leaders to ensure support for the services that impact the individuals and families who the Probate Courts serve.

Highlights from statutory changes pertaining to the Connecticut Probate Court system taking effect October 1, 2023 or after include:

- Protection for senior citizens from being financially exploited or coerced into making fraudulent bank transfers
- Amendments to existing statutes clarify that a Probate Court may order a genetic test as part of a parentage adjudication proceeding
- Probate Court staff and judge health insurance premium cost share equalized with state rates
- The state Council on Probate Judicial Conduct now has 30 days (increased from 15) to publish a decision after a hearing to determine judicial misconduct to allow for a thorough and thoughtful decision

Other legislative initiatives passed during this biennial time period include:



“The ability to assist some of the most vulnerable members of our society is what I enjoy most.”

*Naugatuck Probate Judge
Hon. Rosa C. Rebimbas*



- Expanding notice to family members in involuntary conservatorship proceedings
- Addressing the ability of DAS to recover state claims against a decedent's estate for state aid and the cost of incarceration
- Providing parents a mechanism to obtain birth certificates for children born outside of an institution before they reach their first birthday
- Expanding the ability of a trustee to modify the terms of a trust or distribute property from a trust to another trust by adopting the CT Uniform Trust Decanting Act
- Supporting partial funding of the Probate Courts through the state budget process by leaving a balance of not less than \$12 million in the Probate Court Administration Fund
- Allowing the Probate Courts to invoice the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for filing fees and other probate expenses
- Eliminating the filing fee for name changes



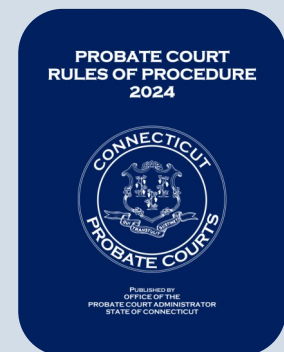
Probate Court Rules of Procedure Advisory Committee

Comprised of judges, attorneys, and financial and fiduciary professionals, the committee convenes on a biennial basis to review and propose revisions to the Connecticut Probate Court Rules of Procedure. The committee's longstanding goals are to ensure an accessible and approachable court system and to develop and revise rules in a clear and plain language format to promote fairness and access to justice. On July 1, 2024, the revised edition of the Rules was issued that addressed new procedures regarding suspicion of financial exploitation of elders, termination of involuntary conservatorships, and procedures relating to reinstatement of parents as guardians of their children.

Probate Court Administrator
Hon. Beverly K. Streit, Chair

Administrator Designees presiding over the public hearing on the rules:

Hon. Peter C. Barrett,
Hon. Michael M. Darby
Hon. Robert A. Randich



Probate Judges Who Served in FY24, FY25

- **Fred J. Anthony**
Shelton Probate Court
Waterbury Regional
Children’s Probate Court*
- **George A. Baker**
Windham-Colchester
Probate Court
- **Peter C. Barrett**
Madison-Guilford Probate
Court
- **Elisa H. Bartlett**
Ellington Probate Court
- **Jennifer L. Berkenstock**
Region #14 Probate Court
- **Patrick M. Birney**
Wallingford Probate Court
- **Michael R. Brandt**
East Haven-North Haven
Probate Court
New Haven Regional
Children’s Probate Court*
- **Edward C. Burt, Jr. (retired)**
Hamden-Bethany Probate
Court
- **Domenick N. Calabrese**
(retired)
Region #22 Probate Court
- **Americo R. Carchia**
New Haven Probate Court
- **Katherine E. Caulfield**
Fairfield Probate Court
- **Ariana F. Ceneviva**
Meriden Probate Court
- **Evelyn M. Daly**
Farmington Regional
Probate Court
Hartford Regional
Children’s Probate Court*
- **Michael M. Darby**
Greater Manchester
Probate Court
- **Joseph DaSilva, Jr.**
Danbury Probate Court
- **Mark J. DeGennaro**
West Haven Probate
Court
- **Steven Boa DeMoura**
Northern Fairfield County
Probate Court
- **Mary C. Deneen**
Greater Windsor Probate
Court
- **Owen P. Eagan**
West Hartford Probate
Court
- **Gerald M. Fox, III**
Stamford Probate Court
- **Paul J. Ganim**
Bridgeport Probate Court
- **Richard P. Gentile**
East Hartford Probate
Court
- **Ben Gettinger**
Milford-Orange Probate
Court
- **Mathew H. Greene**
New London Probate Court
- **William A. Hamzy**
Bristol-Plymouth Probate
Court
- **David W. Hopper**
Greenwich Probate Court
- **Clifford P. Hoyle**
Derby Probate Court
- **Matthew J. Jalowiec**
Cheshire-Southington
Probate Court
- **Gabrielle Labonte**
Northeast Probate Court
- **David K. Labriola**
Region #22 Probate Court
- **Martin F. Landgrebe**
Housatonic Probate Court
- **Elizabeth L. Leamon**
Southeast CT Regional
Probate Court
- **Phrances Leverton**
Szewczyk
Middletown Probate Court
- **Jeannine Lewis**
Saybrook Probate Court

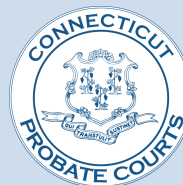
* Indicates Administrative Judge



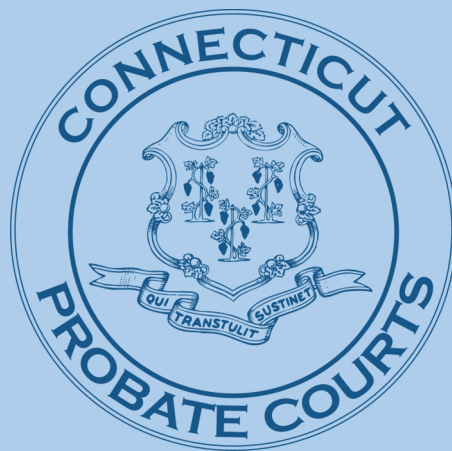


- Daniel N. Mara
Tobacco Valley Probate Court
- Joseph D. Marino (retired)
Middletown Probate Court
Central CT Regional
Children's Probate Court*
- Kathleen N. Maxham (retired)
Fairfield Probate Court
- Carolyn L. McCaffrey
North Central CT Probate Court
- John J. McGrath, Jr. (retired)
Windham-Colchester
Probate Court
Northeast Regional
Children's Probate Court*
(retired)
- Jeffrey A. McNamara
Niantic Regional Probate
Court
New London Regional
Children's Probate Court*
- Charles K. Norris
Norwich Probate Court
- William P. Osterndorf
Darien-New Canaan
Probate Court
- Sean Michael Peoples
Glastonbury- Hebron
Probate Court
- Robert A. Randich
Newington Probate Court
- Rosa C. Rebimbas
Naugatuck Probate Court
- Jordan M. Richards
Litchfield Hills Probate
Court
- Barbara Gardner Riordan
(retired)
Tolland-Mansfield Probate
Court
- William C. Rivera
Berlin Probate Court
- Max L. Rosenberg
Stratford Probate Court
- Carolanne Rowe
Plainfield-Killingly Regional
Probate Court
Northeast Regional
Children's Probate Court*
- T.R. Rowe
Trumbull Probate Court
- Sophia H. Shaikh
Tolland-Mansfield Probate
Court
- David C. Shepard
Simsbury Regional
Probate Court
- Foye A. Smith
Hartford Probate Court
- James P. Steck
Torrington Area Probate
Court
- Douglas N. Stern
Norwalk-Wilton Probate
Court
- Charles E. Tiernan, III
Branford-North Branford
Probate Court
- Matthew P. Vaccarelli
Waterbury Probate Court
- Lisa K. Wexler
Westport Probate Court

The list of all current Probate Judges
can be found on www.ctprobate.gov



* Indicates Administrative Judge



Office of the Probate Court Administrator

186 Newington Road, West Hartford, CT 06110 ■ (860) 231-2442 ■ ctprobate.gov

Hon. Beverly K. Streit
Probate Court Administrator

Heather L. Dostaler
Chief Counsel

Lisa L. Hansen
Director of Financial Services

George Fernandes
Chief Enterprise Technologist

Evan C. Brunetti
Deputy Director of External Affairs

Glendy Aponte
Administrative Clerk II

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Attorney

Amy L. Benjamin
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Administrative Clerk II

Jeannette Brodeur
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Dana M. Masullo
IT Analyst I

Kia Bryan
Accountant I

Melissa Gordon
Executive Legal Assistant

Steven M. Rizza
IT Analyst II

Joanne Descoteaux
Accountant II

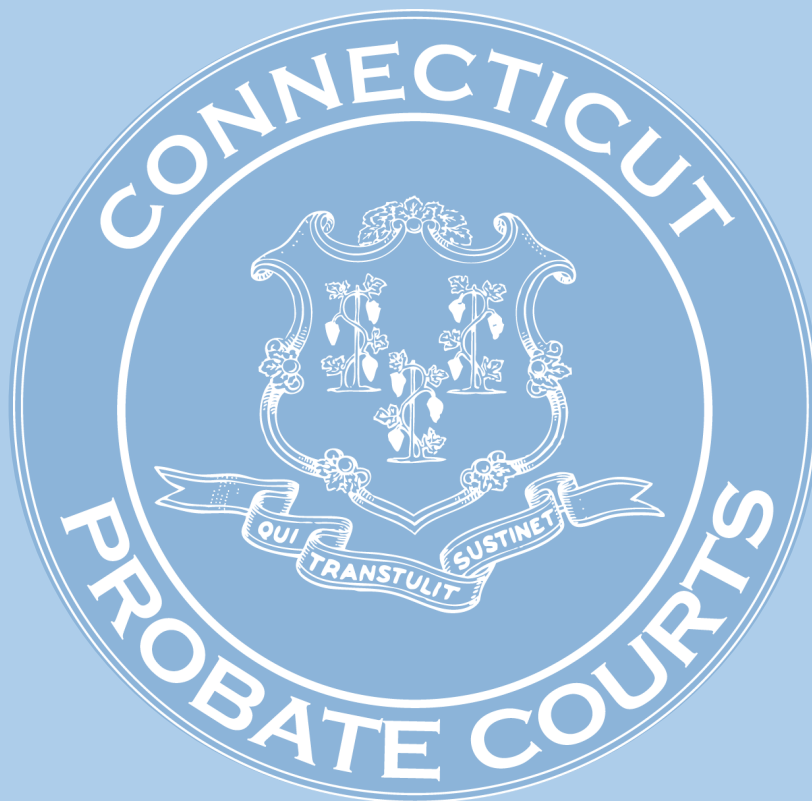
Dalybel Gracia Garay
Executive Assistant

Eric H. Rothausser
Attorney

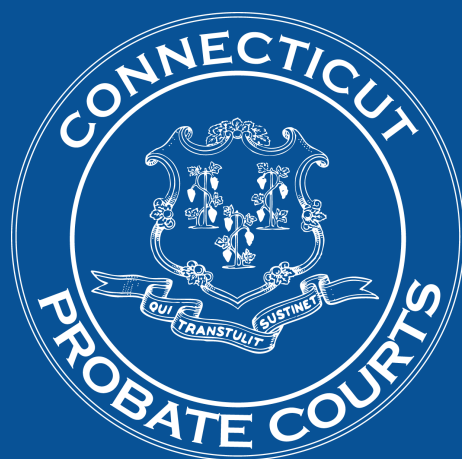
Michelle DiDonato
Administrative Services
Coordinator I

Tim Helmecki
IT Analyst I

Catherine E. Topper
Manager of Human
Resources and Senior
Financial Analyst



Securing futures
Strengthening families
Transforming lives



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