

PROBATE COURT
DISTRICT OF BRANFORD
P.O. BOX 638
BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT 06405

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PROBATE COURT ADMIN

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JOHN E. DONEGAN, *Judge*
LESLIE S. GEORGE, *Clerk*
PENELOPE D. IVES, *Assistant Clerk*

February 1, 2010

Hon. Paul J. Knierim, Judge, Hon. Joseph D. Marino and Hon. Diane E. Yamin, Judge
Probate Administration
Budget Committee
186 Newington Road
West Hartford, CT 06110-2320

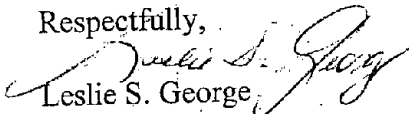
Dear Judges Knierim, Yamin, and Marino:

I write in support of my constituents and on my own behalf as a dedicated employee of the Connecticut Probate Court system, urging your thoughtful consideration in the crafting of a proposal for Probate Court Clerk and staff compensation and benefit plan for implementation on January 1, 2011. Your decisions will impact all Probate Clerks and Court staff who have virtually no input on the edicts that will govern our compensation, benefits and our careers. Subsequent to January 1, 2011, Probate Administration (part of the State of Connecticut Judicial Department), will handle every aspect of our work, compensation and benefits, rendering our Judges helpless except to hire and fire Court staff. Personally, as I contemplate retirement, after 24 years of serving at the "pleasure of my Judge", I ask that my years of service be 'grandfathered' with medical and retirement benefits in tact, as we move forward.

In order to provide fair and equitable compensation to employees of the Probate Court system while they continue to provide continuity of service to their communities and strive to implement a smooth transition in the implementation of the sweeping changes affecting our districts, judges and jobs, it seems reasonable to hope that Probate Court clerks and employees will be offered compensation and benefits parallel to those currently offered to the employees of Probate Administration and state judicial employees.

The membership of the Probate Assembly and our Judges tell us, at almost every gathering, how very important we are to the effective functioning of our system and the public's perception of the Probate Courts. Actions speak louder than words. The time for positive change is now and I urge you take a stand to provide equal opportunities, rights and privileges for all staff of the Probate Court system.

Respectfully,


Leslie S. George