

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

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PROBATE COURT ADMIN
2010 FEB -3 AM 11:53

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

(203) 488-0318
FAX 315-4715

February 2, 2010

Honorable Paul J. Knierum, Judge
Honorable Joseph D. Marino, Judge
Honorable Dianne E. Yamin, Judge
Probate Administration
Budget Committee
186 Newington Road
West Hartford, Connecticut 06110-2320

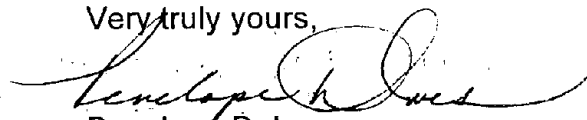
Re: Benefits & Compensation of Clerks and Court Staff

Dear Judges Knierim, Marino, and Yamin:

I am writing today as a thirteen (13) year employee of the Branford Probate Court as Assistant Clerk and as a member of the Connecticut Association of Probate Clerks (CAPC). I am asking that the Budget Committee consider recommending that the clerks and court staff receive the same benefits and compensation as the State of Connecticut Judicial Employees receive. As I understand, our judges as of January 5, 2011, will only have the power to "hire and fire" their clerks and staff. I feel that the clerks and court staff, as new state employees, should have the same benefits and compensation as the judicial employees.

In all my thirteen (13) years as an assistant clerk of the court, I have always been told that the probate courts "could not effectively operate without the knowledge and hard work that every clerk in the system has and does". Now is the time to "put the money where your mouth is". I understand the judges are fighting for their jobs and benefits. Please, as the committee charged with recommending what the benefits and compensation will be for the clerks and court staff, fight for the clerks and court staff that you say the system cannot do without.

Very truly yours,



Penelope D. Ives
Assistant Clerk