

February 2, 2010

To: Judge Paul Knierim  
Judge Joseph D. Marino  
Judge Dianne Yamin

We as clerks have been dedicated employees and loyal to the Meriden Probate Court and the Probate Court system for many years. Although we were never given written job descriptions, we have always gone far beyond what would be reasonably expected in our positions.

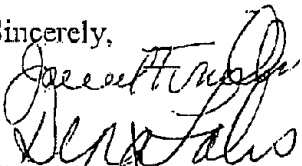
We believe that is unfair and unjust that long-serving clerks with vested benefits are not grandfathered under your proposal. Furthermore, Probate Administration has indicated many times in the past that we clerks are the backbone of the Probate Court System. Meriden has always been cited for the excellence of its work product and the efficiency of the clerical staff.

Our salaries have been frozen for two years and are inferior to salaries of comparable employees of the Judicial Department. To deprive us of our hard earned benefits would only exaggerate the inadequacy. The excuse from the Secretary of State's Office that it can not process differences in benefit packages which would result from grandfathering veteran clerks is unconvincing. And it is our belief that the Legislature did not intend to eliminate the vested employee benefits when it passed Public Act 09-114.

In view of our many years of loyal and dedicated service, simple justice demands that our benefits be grandfathered.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



The Staff at the Meriden Probate Court  
Janet Firulli, Clerk of the Court  
Dina Falis, Assistant Clerk

cc: Governor M. Jodi Rell  
Senator Thomas P. Gaffey  
Emil Altobello, State Representative  
Susan Bysiewicz, Secretary of State  
Richard Blumental, Esq., Attorney General