

Budget Committee
Probate Administration
West Hartford, Ct. 06110

Dear Committee Members:

We all received a letter from the president of CAPS stating that the budget committee was interested in the input of the clerks. We were told at a CAPS meeting last year when the probate court system was being revamped that the clerks would not lose anything that we presently had. We strongly urge the committee to contemplate those words and re-evaluate grandfathering the clerks that are employed.

It took almost 20 years for the probate court system to come up with a viable salary compensation for clerks and in 2008 we were all given the upgrading that was so much deserved. Now, you want to take that away from the judges and give it to a financial department to determine our salaries. The probate court system is a great system with some flaws but the clerks vacation, sick time and salaries are not one of them.

One of our clerks is 62+ and the fact that we have had no raises for 2 years, is going to affect her retirement (last 3 highest years). Please consider all the employees who have provided valuable knowledge and experience through the years and remember that the clerks are the backbone of the probate court system.

Sincerely

May C Wood *Mark Bais* *Rhaine Meeker*
Linda Ciavullo *[Signature]* *Brandi Rutledge*

Clerks of the Middletown Probate Court

CC: Judge Diane Yamin
Judge Knierim
Mary MacGregor
Judge Marino