

January 20, 2010

VIA FACSIMILE

Probate Court Budget Committee
C/O Probate Administration
186 Newington Road
West Hartford, CT 06110

Dear Judges Yamin, Marino and Knierim,

I have been following the activities of the Committee via the web page set up for this purpose. Thank you very much for making this information readily accessible. Unfortunately your meetings conflict with a class I take and I cannot be in attendance.

I am wondering why the committee is not electing to provide the same benefits for Probate Court employees that Superior Court employees enjoy. I thought our work was equally important, if not more so because we work with families at the most difficult and vulnerable times of their lives. That's what I keep hearing at our Clerk's meetings and education seminars.

I listened with great earnest at the October Clerks Meeting with Judge Knierim and Tom Gaffey explaining Probate Administrations sentiments towards clerks and our importance. While I do not have my notes in front of me I do recall hearing Judge Kneirim state that his goal was for Probate Clerks to have comparable benefits to State Judicial Branch employees. Unfortunately this is not what I saw in the "Employee Benefits: Paid Time Off Policies Effective January 5, 2011".

Please keep these thoughts in mind as you continue your efforts. I understand the volume of work required to bring the consolidation to fruition and am ready, willing, and able to help in any way I can.

Thank you for your time,

Respectfully,



Paula Verrier, a Probate Court Clerk