

### STATE OF CONNECTICUT JUDICIAL BRANCH

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# PRESS ADVISORY: Judicial Branch website enhancements under way; Program to allow online payment of tickets being developed

Enhancements to the Judicial Branch's website, <a href="www.jud.ct.gov">www.jud.ct.gov</a>, are under way, Chief Court Administrator Barbara M. Quinn announced today, including a recently posted statistics page, <a href="http://www.jud.ct.gov/statistics/default.htm">http://www.jud.ct.gov/statistics/default.htm</a>

The statistics page and other improvements to the website are a direct result of the strategic plan developed under the leadership of Chief Justice Chase T. Rogers. "In the end, all of the work we are doing with the website is enhancing access to the Judicial Branch – and that is a key goal of the strategic plan."

"We are especially proud of the statistics page," Judge Quinn added. "We regularly receive statistics requests from the public, the bar, the media and state agencies, and this page provides access to some of the more frequently requested data – cell phone violations and drunken driving offenses, for example."

Other topic areas include: probation; civil cases; criminal and motor vehicle cases; family cases; the foreclosure mediation program; interpreter services; juvenile cases; juvenile detention; protective/restraining orders; and small claims. Data will be updated on a yearly or quarterly basis.

Another enhancement to the Branch's website is a "how-to" video, <a href="http://www.jud.ct.gov/forms/appearance/default.htm">http://www.jud.ct.gov/forms/appearance/default.htm</a>, which walks individuals through the process of filling out an appearance form.

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#### 2-2-2-2 Website

"These types of resources are particularly important for the many self-represented litigants we have in our state courts," Judge Quinn said. "Again, the Judicial Branch is responding to this need through its strategic plan and the work of several committees charged with implementing this road map for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

"Attorneys benefit as well," Judge Quinn said. "When a self-represented litigant is across the table from an attorney and his or her client, the time it takes to explain procedures slows things down for everyone. However, by providing self-represented litigants with resources and some general direction, we will be able to improve the process for all involved."

Also for self-represented litigants, the website now has family forms grouped by case type, including filing for divorce/dissolution with children, filing for divorce/dissolution without children and responding to a divorce/dissolution. Forms are also grouped together in family court matters under the following topics: custody or visitation; motion for modification; motion for contempt; and filing for a restraining order. http://www.jud2.ct.gov/webforms/#FAMILY

Additionally, the Branch is developing a program by which motor vehicle and criminal infractions may be paid online through the Branch's website. "Judicial Branch employees are developing the program in-house at no additional cost," Judge Quinn said, "and we anticipate that the program will be up and running sometime this fall.

"I want to stress, though, that individuals may still plead not guilty, or they may mail in their fine or pay in person at the Centralized Infractions Bureau if they so choose," Judge Quinn said.

For more information, please contact the External Affairs Division at 860-757-2270.