# BARRISTER

PUBLISHED BY THE BARNSTABLE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION



Barnstable Probate and Family Court fundraising day.

# Your courts. Your colleagues. Your community.

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# President's Message



**KARA E. LEARY DOMINGOS**

President, Barnstable County Bar Association

View Kara on LinkedIn

Dear Colleagues,

It is both an honor and a privilege to serve as President of the Barnstable County Bar Association. For those of you I have not yet had the opportunity to meet, my name is Kara Leary Domingos, and I am a family law attorney and partner at Leary Hodgman Law, where I practice with my law partner and friend, Rachel Hodgman. Throughout my career, I have been fortunate to work with so many talented, dedicated, and generous members of our legal community. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve an organization that has long played an important role in bringing us together, both professionally and personally.

One of my goals as President is to continue fostering the sense of community and collegiality that makes practicing law on Cape Cod so special. While our work can be demanding, and we often find ourselves on opposite sides of difficult cases, we share a common commitment to the administration of justice, the integrity of our profession, and the people we serve. I hope that, over the coming year, we can create more opportunities to connect, collaborate, and support one another.

With that in mind, I am excited about several upcoming events and initiatives.

First, I hope you will join us for our Annual Bench and Bar Gathering on Thursday, November 5, at 5:30 p.m. at Alberto's in Hyannis. This is always a wonderful opportunity to spend time with fellow attorneys and members of the judiciary outside the courtroom, strengthen relationships, and enjoy an evening together.

We are also planning a Holiday Social Event, with details and a date to follow. Additionally, we are working to organize a volunteer opportunity with Cape Abilities, giving our members a chance to come together in service to the broader Cape Cod community. On the professional development front, we are developing a seminar focused on tax-related issues, with additional information to be announced as plans are finalized.

I also want to take this opportunity to recognize and sincerely thank the many attorneys who generously give their time and talents in service to others. Whether you accept court appointments to represent indigent individuals, children, or incapacitated persons; volunteer through the Lawyer of the Day or Conciliation Programs; provide pro bono representation; or contribute in any of the countless other ways our members serve the community, your efforts matter. Much of this work takes place quietly, without recognition or fanfare, but it is essential to ensuring meaningful access to justice. Your willingness to step forward reflects the very best of our profession, and our legal community is stronger because of it.

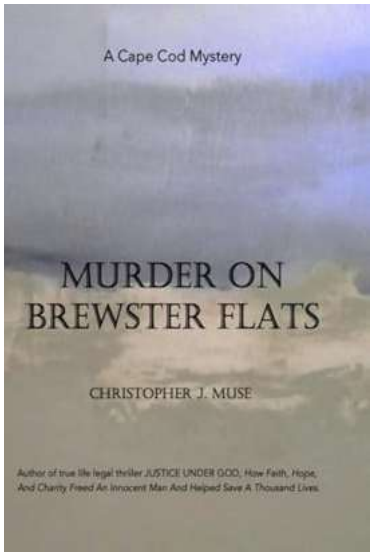
As we look ahead, I encourage each of you to become involved, attend an event, share your ideas, and reconnect with colleagues. The strength of this Association has always been its members, and I believe we have an opportunity to build upon that foundation while continuing to make the Barnstable County Bar Association a welcoming, engaged, and valuable resource for all of us.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President. I look forward to seeing you at Alberto's on November 5 and to a wonderful year ahead.

Warmly,

Kara Leary Domingos, Esquire
President, Barnstable County Bar Association

# Around the Bar




Cover: HeliconWords / AbeBooks listing.

**THANKS, JUDGE MUSE!**

If you know Judge Christopher Muse, you probably know that in addition to everything else on his plate, he found time to write a book – Murder on the Brewster Flats.

It's a throwback to Barnstable County in the 1990s, with gangsters, fishing, sailing, court procedure, a murder trial, and even a little romance.

If you're looking for a Cape-based "whodunit" to accompany you at the firepit this fall, you're in luck!

Judge Muse will be our featured speaker at this year's Bench & Bar Dinner, happening November 5, so be sure to ask him how you can obtain your own copy of Murder on the Brewster Flats.





The Barnstable County Probate and Family Court participated in a pink-wearing, FUNdraising day. Together, they raised $500.00 for the Ellie Fund, which supports breast cancer patients undergoing treatment across Massachusetts.

All departments—Judicial, Registry, Probation and Court Officers—contributed to the fund.

Thank you for sharing with the BCBA!

# Meet our colleagues



**EMILY L. DILLAN, ESQ.**

*Michael I. Flores, PC*

Emily L. Dillan, Esq., joined the firm in September 2025 after spending two years working as a judicial law clerk to the Probate Court. As a Cape native and current Sandwich resident, Emily also interned in Barnstable prior to graduating summa cum laude from UMass Law in May 2023, and prior to law school she worked as a tax preparer and bookkeeper after receiving her Bachelor's in Business Administration, summa cum laude, with a concentration in accounting.

Considering her financial experience, Emily's practice focuses on financially complex matters, including divorce, modifications of support, and partitions, as well as advocating for those suffering abuse and/or substance abuse; she is a twice-published scholar on domestic violence, having documented the evolutionary history of the law and surveying employment protections afforded to survivors of abuse in the Suffolk Law Review and Family Law Quarterly, respectively.

In her free time, she enjoys wellness, gardening and the arts, and most recently she's finally enrolled in her 200-hour yoga teacher training this fall and can't wait to cross it off her bucket list.



**MELISSA BARRY, ESQ.**

*Michael I. Flores, PC*

Melissa recently joined Michael I. Flores, PC as an associate attorney practicing family law. Originally from upstate New York, Melissa earned her bachelor's degree from Boston University before attending New England Law | Boston. After beginning her legal career in the greater Boston area, Melissa relocated to Falmouth and is excited to become more involved in the Barnstable County legal community. Outside of her legal practice, Melissa is a proud member of Best Buddies, dedicated to promoting inclusion and supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

# Your Barnstable County Bar Association

Happy fall, Barnstable County Bar members! Now that you have survived the summer, it's time to think about reengaging with the Bar and all we have to offer. What exactly is that, you might ask? It's the Bench and Bar gathering in November, where we get to chat with judges while sharing good food and all our "war" stories from the year. It's the annual meeting in June, with dinner, drinks, mingling, and great speakers. It's the Court of Appeals holding arguments at Barnstable Superior Court each summer and getting to have lunch with the justices afterward.

And it's so much more.

There are Lawyer of the Day programs in Barnstable Probate and Southeast Housing Court; many of our members serve in these programs and work with the courts to keep them viable. We contract with the courts to provide conciliators for probate and family court cases, and we connect prospective conciliators with the court for training – now including the Islands! We also volunteer in the community with Cape Abilities and other non-profits. We work with the courts to put together seminars on changes in the law, updates to court policy and procedure, and other topics of legal interest, often at no charge. And, we are revitalizing our Young Lawyers Division, so keep your eyes peeled for notices about get-togethers and other ways to make the newest members of our profession feel welcome.

We have fabulous committees that put together all of these events and programs; they always need extra hands, and we are always looking to do more. More gatherings so we can see each other somewhere other than the courthouse and welcome attorneys who are new to the Cape, new to the profession, or both. More seminars to cover more topics of interest. And more outreach to those who need legal help but have trouble accessing it. So if you want to know more, have an interest in helping us do more, or have more ideas, we would love to hear from you. Reach out to one of our Board members, or our Executive Director, Joe Moynihan.

# The BCBA Good-Sports Page

### FY2025–2026 COMPREHENSIVE VOLUNTEER LIST

Thank you to the volunteers whose generosity and commitment sustain our Lawyer of the Day program. By sharing your time and legal knowledge, you help neighbors navigate unfamiliar court processes and find guidance when they need it most. This essential service is one of the most meaningful ways our profession gives back to the community. We are deeply grateful for the care, compassion, and dedication you bring to this work.

Melissa Alden
Pamela Bankert
Paula Barbosa
Erin Barnes
Nicole Barrasso
Jennifer Barth
Robert Brown
Brenden Burchell
Patricia Campanini
Mark Carchidi
Jeremy Carter
Sara Cederholm
Timothy Ciaffoni
Susan Cook
Jessica Croker
Jennifer Cusack
Karyn Morris-Devine
Steven DeYoung
Erin Donovan
Paul Farrell
Kathleen Flannery
Adam Flynn
Mary Gaffney
Gerald Garnick
Oriana Gucciardi
Holly Harney
Karen Hanesian
Genevieve Henrique
Rachel Hodgman
Bettina Holton
Susan Huettner
Sabrina Kane
Lisa Mycock-Kelly
Jan Kendrick
Sara Kohls
Robert Lawless
Kara Leary Domingos
Sandra Lundy
Sarah Manning
Deb Mason
Paul Mayer
Andrea Morris-McKnight
Kristen Menard
Crissa Morton
Elisha Walson-Nagora
Nicole Norkevicious
Michael Pierce
Johnathan Polloni
Christine Powers
Marissa Prescott
Michael Princi
Ann Rascati
Jacqueline Reid
Chantal Rice
Greg Richardson
Donna Robertson
Bethany Rogers
Janna Saad
Caren Schindel
Maureen Shea
Dennis Silva
Kathleen Skolnic
David Sorensen
Michael Suarez
Jennifer Vecchi
Elizabeth West
Brian Widegren
Muska Yousuf
Elisa Zawadzkas

# Oyez, Oyez, Oyez!

### IT'S TIME FOR MOCK TRIAL!

It's back-to-school season, which means it's time for Mock Trial! Each year, just before Halloween, the Mass Bar Association conjures up a case, complete with witness affidavits, exhibits, and a closed universe of facts and law. High schools from all over the state field teams of lawyers, witnesses, and experts to try the case, from opening statements to closing arguments.

Before they even get the case packet, these teams meet to learn the rules of evidence and the parts of a trial, break down the scoring rubric, and jump in with objections at the slightest provocation.

Overall, there are 32 Regions that compete, each with several schools. Over the course of the spring semester, they will go head to head in preliminary rounds, regional competitions, the Sweet 16, the Elite 8, the Final 4, and ultimately the State Championship. State champions go on to compete at Nationals against high schools from across the country.

Did you know – Cape Cod has 2 Regions for Mock Trial?! One encompasses Nauset Regional High School, Monomoy High School, Sturgis East, and Sturgis West. The other covers Barnstable High School, Falmouth Academy, Falmouth High School, Cape Cod Academy, and Saint John Paul II. Historically, Dennis-Yarmouth High has also had a team.

Did you also know – many of your fellow BCBA members are attorney coaches for these teams?

Meaghan King of King & Farrell coaches Sturgis East. Robyn Keating of Sehic Law coaches Sturgis West. Mark Russell coaches Monomoy. Julie Woodward of LaTanzi, Spaulding & Landreth coaches Nauset Regional High (Regional champs 4 years running!) Bonnie Nunheimer, Matt Bober, Kate Parke, Bill Henchy and Trip Barrow have all had a hand in coaching Mock Trial over the years. Some of our members also volunteer as mock trial judges, not only scoring the teams on their performances (which determines who advances), but also rendering verdicts and providing valuable feedback and advice.

The kids love it! You'll love it! Even if you don't jump in with both feet, check out Barnstable District Court starting in mid-January to watch these kids in action. You might even learn a thing or two about impeachment and hearsay objections.

# Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers



**CHRISTOPHER PERRY, LICSW**

Staff Clinician

View Chris on LinkedIn

Christopher Perry, LICSW, joined Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers of Massachusetts (LCL) as a staff clinician in 2026. In this capacity, Chris meets regularly with clients, facilitates groups, writes articles, and makes presentations to the legal community. He is a Cape Cod resident and member of the Barnstable Bar Association. Chris is available for consultations with members of the Cape Cod legal community.

Chris received his MSW from the Bridgewater State University School of Social Work in 2021, where he is currently an adjunct faculty member. Prior to joining LCL, Chris worked as an outpatient clinician at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Jamaica Plain, MA, and later in the same capacity at Cape Cod Healthcare.

Before beginning his career in behavioral health, Chris practiced law in the Boston area for 30 years and spent the bulk of his time in legal practice as a senior partner at Hale and Dorr (now WilmerHale). He is a graduate of Amherst College and Harvard Law School.

LCL is a private, non-profit Massachusetts corporation. As the state's sole lawyer assistance program, LCL assists lawyers, judges, law students and their families. LCL helps the Massachusetts legal community adapt to the many challenges of practicing law.

LCL's mission statement is as follows: "The mission of Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers, Inc. (LCL) is to promote well-being and resilience in the legal community, improve lives, nurture competence, and elevate the standing of the legal profession. To fulfill this mission, LCL provides free and confidential mental health resources, addiction recovery support, and practice management."

LCL's services are designed to help lawyers improve their mental health, substance use recovery, and practice management through individual consultations, support meetings, resources, and presentations to entities of the legal community.

For individual attorneys, LCL's clinical services include consultations, assessments, time-limited counseling, referrals, and support groups. LCL clinicians help lawyers and law students address challenges to a healthy professional mindset – stress, substance use, depression, distraction, anxiety, burnout. For the recovering legal community, LCL offers a support network of recovering lawyers and judges who wish to carry the message of sobriety to members of the profession.

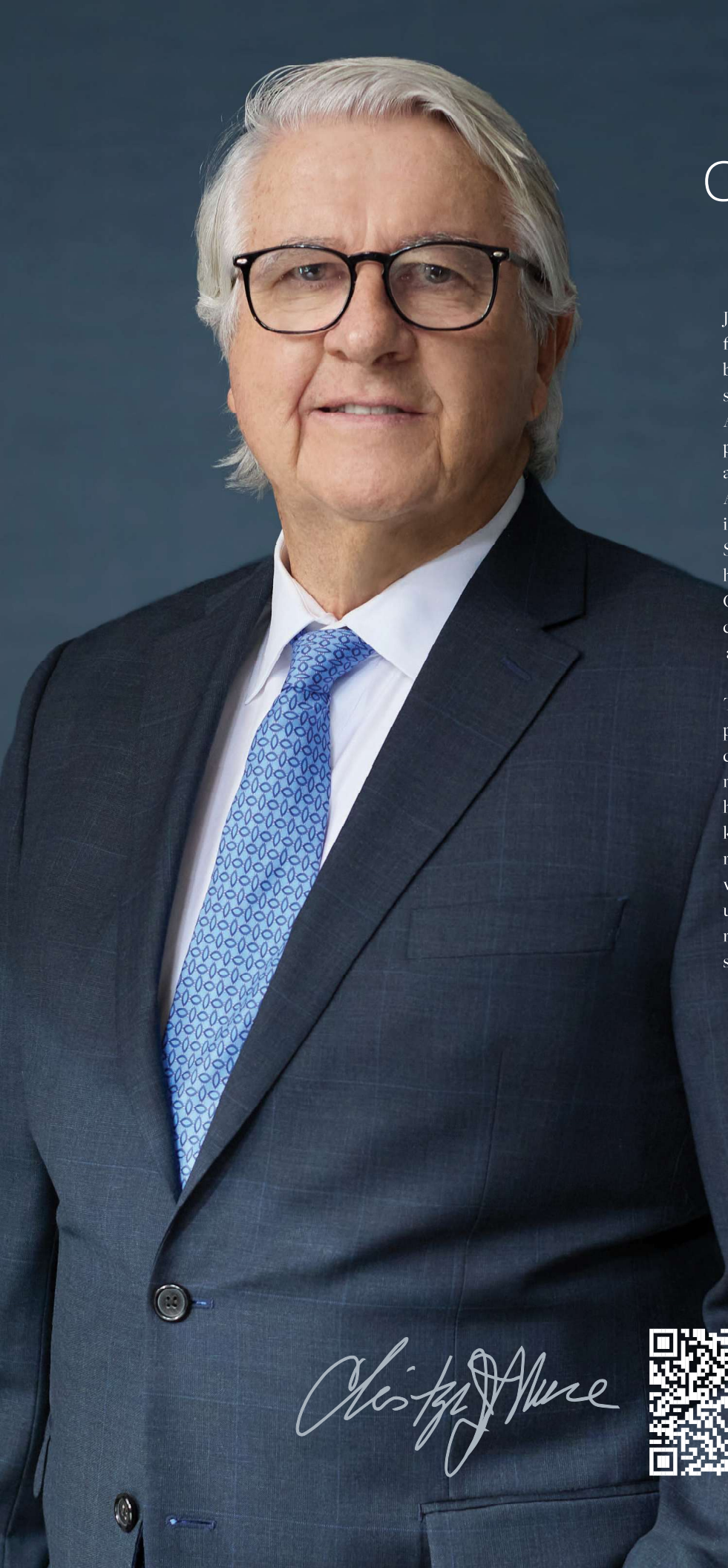
The LCL practice management team helps lawyers address the many challenges of practicing law – career development, technology, IOLTA issues, marketing, and best practices for solo and small firm management. LCL also provides consultations and support for lawyers who may be facing disciplinary proceedings before the Board of Bar Overseers.

LCL participates with other entities in the community to reach the bar at large through educational programming. LCL also collaborates with, but works independently from, the Supreme Judicial Court, the Board of Bar Overseers, the Board of Bar Examiners, state and local bar associations and the bar at large.

Members of the legal community who wish to schedule a confidential consultation with Chris or another member of the LCL professional staff may do so via the scheduling platform on the LCL website (www.lclma.org).

# Fall Bench & Bar Dinner





# HON. CHRISTOPHER J. MUSE (RET.)

Judge Muse brings to Signature Resolution more than five decades on nearly every side of a dispute. He began as a Boston Public Schools teacher and later served six years as legal advisor to the former State Advisory Commission for Special Education. As a public defender and trial attorney, he argued criminal and civil cases before juries and appellate courts. As lead counsel for major public employee unions, including the Boston Police Detectives Benevolent Society, he negotiated dozens of labor agreements at high-pressure tables. And as a Massachusetts Superior Court Justice for 17 years, he presided over contract, construction, employment, and personal injury cases and saw exactly what they cost the people involved.

Today he mediates and arbitrates contract disputes, personal injury claims, and employment matters, with deep experience in education, construction, police misconduct, and civil rights. Lawyers on both sides hire him because he has stood where they stand and knows how a judge and jury will see their case. He reads the full file before every session, not to arrive with a view of where the case should land, but to understand both positions well enough to earn the room's trust. He is warm, patient, and direct, and he stays with a case until it resolves. Parties come away feeling heard, and his settlements hold.

Contact Judge Muse's case administrator, **Donna Orlando**, at (617) 535-9057, or email *dorlando@signatureresolution.com* to inquire regarding your next dispute.

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# Briefly: Barnstable Superior Court



**SUSAN L. MORAN**

Clerk of Courts

View Susan on LinkedIn

Briefly, from Susan Moran, Clerk of Courts, Barnstable Superior Court. October 2026.

We have moved and are expected to be at "Camp Superior" until early summer 2027. Most of you have found us. We are open for business in the upper basement on Level Two in the Barnstable District Court. The aisles between our desks serve as ad hoc workspace, so we ask that you wait at the counter where there is room for us to serve two people at a time. The four clerks' offices are in the back located in the former District Court Library closet. We are grateful every day to our District Court community hosts and their teams, especially Director of Court Services and Law Libraries Sheriece Perry, and Head Law Librarian, Barnstable Law Library Mitzi Krueger, for changing their plans and moving their schedules and, in some cases, their seats, in order to temporarily welcome us.

**BACKGROUND**

As the Court's landlord, Barnstable County required the move due to its restoration of the Historic Barnstable Superior Courthouse. In addition to preservation, the restoration will remedy long-standing concerns such as the leaks in the basement where Court records are stored and the occasional falling ceiling tiles in the Clerk's Office. While several school-quality trailers were considered by the County to temporarily house the Superior Court as was done during some previous repairs of the District Court, given the much longer duration planned for the Superior Court project, the County offered to house all the Superior Court services in the Harborview Conference Room at the top of the campus.

**GRATITUDE TO COURT COLLEAGUES**

However, the Harborview is one room, vastly smaller than the Superior Court building which serves the community and lacking any resemblance to either of its two historic courtrooms, one of which is overseen by the famous Cod. So, where would the lion's share of the court functions move? I approached Barnstable District Court First Justice John M. Julian and Clerk Magistrate Charles Ardito and received the most neighborly response, resulting in huge savings to taxpayers from the alternatives of renting trailers or other properties around Hyannis.

In sum, with creative visioning and determination by the Regional Administrative Justice, Elaine M. Buckley, teamwork of Chief Court Officer Charles Morse, the generosity of the District Court First Justice John Julian and Clerk Magistrate Charles Ardito, Southeast Housing Court First Justice Donna Salvidio and Clerk Joseph McIntyre, the Harborview has been transformed into a very functional security entrance, grand jury venue, civil courtroom and jury trial space and the Housing Court Room has been lent to the Superior Court for use as a criminal courtroom and jury trial space every day except Wednesdays when Housing Court is held. Lastly, with some recent negotiation, Judge Buckley persuaded the County to allow the Superior Court to use a couple of County AquiFund spaces in place of the mechanicals closet which was originally offered as a Judge's Chambers.

Continued on page 12

# Briefly: continued

Since the mid-June move, with some out-of-the-box design, dual purposing, persuasive advocacy and very collegial court colleague collaboration, we have shoehorned spaces for the Superior Court to handle its average of 200 criminal and 750 civil cases in various pockets of the Barnstable County Court Complex.

**TRICK OR TREAT**

While the County's offer of one room to operate all the court functions at first seemed like a trick, the end result was actually quite the treat as the court community offered a full one-year hug until it's time for us to return to the Superior Court Building. For that, let me (virtually) offer some Starburst to everyone at the District Court, Almond Joy to the Library folks, Good and Plenty to the Housing Court, Cinnamon Jaw Breakers to Security, Jellybeans for the RAJ to continue her juggling and lastly, Butterfingers for the County.

**STAFF ARE HEROES**

There is a lot of gratitude in the office to our colleagues as we proudly serve you, our community. In some respects, we are a brand-new Superior Court Clerk's Office, with both stellar new talents still completing training and accomplished experts taking up the slack from the remnants of a court hiring freeze. As outside work on the project recently started, the County required staff to take an Asbestos Awareness course for the daily trek to access the files which remain in the Superior Court Building. Given the extent to which each member of my team has pivoted while we are short-staffed and poured into a shoebox space, I am proud of the creativity and kindness they exhibit each day in serving attorneys, pro se folks and the community. Please treat them to a kindness when you come by.

**WHEREFORE,**

1. Barnstable Superior Court Clerk's Office is now located in the Barnstable District Court Level Two: go through security, down one level, end of the hall, left into the second door of the District Court Library;

2. Main Session is in the Harborview at the top of the hill in the Barnstable County Court Complex and hosts civil matters and non-custody criminal matters;

3. Second Session is located on Level Three and hosts both civil and criminal matters;

4. Fourth Session is in the Housing Court Courtroom, Barnstable District Court Level Two and generally hosts criminal matters; and

5. It is always good practice to check in with the Clerk's Office on the day of your scheduled matter in case it has been moved due to the needs of the Court.

# Probate and Family Court news



**ANASTASIA WELSH PERRINO, ESQ.**

Register / Magistrate

View Anastasia on LinkedIn

Greetings from the Barnstable Probate and Family Court Register's Office!

The following is news from the court:

Thank you all for your patience during the trial court hiring freeze. The court has finally lifted the hiring freeze for all courts after a year. We have been down four employees in our employee headcount for over a year. As of September 26, 2026, we have hired two new employees for our staff. We will be bringing on two more employees in late Fall, which will make us fully staffed.

There is a new Abuse Prevention Order form. The revised c. 209A Order form provides more spacing for readability; includes "coercive control" in the definition of abuse as provided in An Act to Prevent Abuse and Exploitation (Box 1); provides designated space for a judge to insert the distance (in yards) when issuing a stay-away order (Box 3); adds a checkbox for a judge to make a credible threat finding when issuing a firearm surrender order (Box 12); provides a checkbox for use when issuing an order that may be inconsistent with an existing Probate and Family Court Order (Box 14); provides space under Box 14 to issue orders relative to domesticated animals pursuant to G.L. c. 209A, § 11; removes the modification boxes, as the standalone modification form issued in October 2024 is to be used when extending or modifying an order, even if the order was initially issued on a previous form of the order; and adds checkboxes for a judge to indicate whether an order is issued with or without advance notice and opportunity for the defendant to be heard, to facilitate required interagency reporting.

The court has launched a Blue Card initiative. The Blue Card Program is a program designed to better support individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and other neurodivergent court users who interact with court personnel. Modeled in part on the Blue Envelope Program used by state law enforcement agencies, and the first of its kind in the nation, the initiative is intended to promote safe, positive, and effective interactions between court staff and court users who may communicate, respond, or process information differently. The Blue Card (a blue document holder to store court paperwork) will help individuals navigate the courthouse experience while also signaling to the court community that additional patience, clear communication, or assistance may be helpful. If you have a client or know a court user who may need a little extra assistance at the court, please contact the court at barnstableprobate@jud.state.ma.us and mention the blue card program. You may also use this address to request accommodation for a client, and we will forward the necessary forms.

Continued on page 14

# Probate and Family Court: continued

For those who do estates, when you seek to close an estate by filing a Petition for Order of Complete Settlement, the Land Court is now requiring an Affidavit from the Personal Representative (PR) if there are open creditor claims in the case. The Affidavit must refer to the specific claims, to indicate that the PR has not been served with a lawsuit for any of the claims, and there is no notice on file for any of the claims indicating that the claimants have filed a lawsuit.

There are now new forms for a Conservator to make "application" to be granted the powers and duties of a Personal Representative of the estate of their deceased Protected Person pursuant to G. L. C. 190B, Section 5-424 (e). Please see form (MPC 232) Application for Powers of a Personal Representative.

There is a new process for initiating a Standby Guardian of a Minor under G. L. C 190B, Section 5-202(e)(2). The process starts by filing a Petition for Standby Guardian which is now form (MPC 141b), along with other required forms. The statute has been revised by expanding the circumstances under which a parent can appoint a guardian to serve. It also provides for a guardian to appoint another to serve as the next guardian on the occurrence of a specified contingency. The number of contingencies has been increased to death of the parent or guardian, adjudication of incapacity or written determination by a physician that the parent or guardian is no longer able to care for a minor child, or an adverse immigration action has occurred.

If you need to review a file, you are welcome to come in and view any files that are public. We ask that you contact us at barnstableprobate@jud.state.ma.us for an appointment with the date and time that you would like to review the files. Please provide the docket numbers and name on the case so that we can have the files ready for you to review when you come in.

As always, a big thank you to all the Lawyers who volunteer for the Lawyer of the Day Program. Thank you also to all the Lawyers who volunteer in countless other ways at the Barnstable Probate and Family Court whether you serve as an ARC Attorney or Conciliator or in any other volunteer capacity. We appreciate all that you do.

As we approach the holidays, I wish you and your families a happy, healthy Holiday Season!

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me at (508) 375-6717 or at anastasia.perrino@jud.state.ma.us.

Sincerely,

Anastasia Welsh Perrino, Esq., Register/Magistrate
October 2026

# South Coastal Counties Legal Services

South Coastal Counties Legal Services, Inc. (SCCLS) is a private, non-profit law firm which provides free legal help in priority civil matters to low-income residents of Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, Nantucket and Plymouth counties and the towns of Avon and Stoughton in Norfolk County. Together with its wholly owned subsidiary, the Justice Center of Southeast Massachusetts, SCCLS operates fully staffed, community-based law offices in Fall River, New Bedford, Hyannis, and Brockton. Our administrative office is located in Fall River.

SCCLS provides free legal advocacy across a diverse range of practice areas. Our Housing Unit assists tenants facing eviction, rent subsidy terminations, or substandard conditions, as well as homeowners battling foreclosure or seeking affordable housing. The Benefits Unit handles public benefits cases such as SSI, SSDI, unemployment, MassHealth, and SNAP. The Consumer Unit protects vulnerable consumers from debt collection, bankruptcies, scams, and unfair business practices. The Family Law Unit aids individuals, particularly survivors of domestic or sexual violence, with divorce, custody, and abuse prevention, while specialized programs offer civil legal aid to victims of crime. The Elder Law Unit provides legal assistance to individuals age 60 and older who are economically or socially disadvantaged, and priority is given to income maintenance issues, health care, long-term care, nutrition, housing, utilities, protective services, defense of guardianship, abuse, neglect, and age discrimination. Finally, our Private Attorney Involvement (PAI) Program engages private attorney volunteers to fill the gaps and assist any clients we are unable to serve in house. PAI assists clients by hosting clinics and workshops, sending advice and information packets, and providing referral information.

SCCLS' subsidiary, the Justice Center of Southeast Massachusetts (JCSM), provides additional services. The Immigration Unit provides comprehensive humanitarian and family-based immigration representation. The Education Unit provides advocacy for students requiring special education services or facing exclusion from school. The Medical Legal Partnership provides a variety of services to clients referred by local medical providers in Brockton.

SCCLS provides a few clinic opportunities particular to Cape Cod and Island residents. The Elder Law Unit visits two Councils on Aging/Centers for Active Living every Tuesday to provide brief 30-minute advice sessions. The Private Attorney Involvement (PAI) program offers several Estate Planning Clinics at local Councils on Aging, supported by our volunteer attorney network. Prior to the clinic, clients will complete a detailed questionnaire, explaining their wishes regarding estate planning. Clients will be scheduled for an in-person session at the Clinic, where they will meet with their volunteer attorney to review the drafts before signing. Clients will leave the clinic with executed and notarized copies of simple wills, durable powers of attorney, healthcare proxies, and personal property memoranda in hand. Finally, SCCLS also offers help to individuals seeking to seal their eviction record or complete a name change at certain times of the year. To sign up for any of these clinics or see if SCCLS can assist, clients may call Heather Pearce at 774-487-3250 or SCCLS' central intake number 1-800-244-9023. For more information, please visit sccls.org.

# SCCLS: career opportunity

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

## Elder Law Staff Attorney - Hyannis

SCCLS seeks a Staff Attorney for its Elder Law Unit. The ELU provides legal help to socially and/or economically vulnerable older adults as prioritized under the Older Americans Act. This attorney will be based in its Hyannis office serving older adults on the Cape and Islands.

The ELU provides a wide range of legal help to older adults. The attorney will advise and represent clients at various stages of administrative appeal for Medicare, MassHealth, Social Security, Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and other state and federal benefits.

The attorney will advise and represent nursing facility residents about their rights and in discharge hearings.

The attorney will have significant client contact and maintain an active caseload. This position also involves engagement with the community, such as working closely with elder services agencies and conducting outreach to the community.

For more information, please visit: https://sccls.org/careers/elder-law-unit-staff-attorney/

# The Bridge Center



The Bridge Center.

On April 11, 2025, The Barnstable County Sheriff's Office opened the Cape's first reintegration center. Located at the Barnstable County court complex in Barnstable Village, The Bridge Center is a dedicated, community-facing hub for continued support after incarceration, for those who are justice-involved or at risk.

The Bridge Center connects individuals to the services necessary for success in maintaining sobriety, adherence to the conditions of parole or probation, job training and navigation of the complex maze of human services. Our goal in opening The Bridge Center is not to invent new services or create new staff positions — there are hundreds of experts and organizations already in existence — but rather to gather resources throughout the Cape, in one convenient space.

Recently, the Massachusetts Parole Board recognized the usefulness of this model and began adding The Bridge Center to conditions of parole when it's appropriate for individuals getting out of jail in our region. The Parole Board will require designated parolees to complete an intake form (available online or in person) and then our Bridge Center Director Angelica Moore will follow up with a conversation about how we can connect and coordinate their individual needs.

Imagine you have a client getting out on parole with the following conditions: attend counseling for PTSD, maintain sobriety, submit to random drug testing, and attend addiction treatment groups.

For this client, connecting with The Bridge Center would satisfy all their conditions at once. We have Duffy Health Center to provide PTSD counseling. We have High Point Treatment Centers and the PIER Recovery Center of Cape Cod for meetings and ongoing addiction treatment. Appointments can be arranged at The Bridge Center or at the main offices of the partner organizations. Through these partnerships we can offer convenient appointment times and locations, not a small matter given how many people in the criminal justice system lack driver's licenses.

The Bridge Center is part of our strategy called Public Safety 2.0, a modern approach to corrections that begins on the first day of incarceration and goes on for as long as necessary. It establishes a continuity-of-care model in which clinical and practical supports are embedded into a person's custody and maintained after release through strategic connections with community partners.

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# The Bridge Center: continued

The Bridge Center's Director Angelica Moore has deep roots in the Cape's criminal justice and human service fields through her work as a DCF social worker, trainer and supervisor for the last 15 years in Barnstable County.

The Bridge Center has been rapidly growing. Below is a list of current services. Our goal is to fill the calendar with groups, events and resources that help people move on. Otherwise, every sentence is a life sentence. That's not fair and it does not give us public safety.

Stop by The Bridge Center for a visit. Please let us know if there is a service gap that we can fill.

## Services at The Bridge Center

3195 Main St., Barnstable Village, MA 02630

High Point Community Outreach, Tuesdays 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

PIER Recovery Center, Wednesdays 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Duffy Health Center's Moms Do Care, Fridays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

AA, Bridging the Gap, Mondays, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Duffy Health Center's Justice Involved Community Health Worker available Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Attorney Robert Mascali, of Mirick, is available by appointment for free consultations on the 2nd and 4th Friday of every month from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Family Outreach and Support Services, by appointment

MassHire Cape & Islands Career Center, Second Wednesday of the month 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Skilled Purpose, a vocational employment program. Sign up at skilledpurpose.org

Amazing Grace Cape Cod, a program for children with an incarcerated family member. Sign up at amazinggracecapecod.org

Life After Rec, a volunteer-run transportation service

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. or by appointment.

Contact Info/Appointments:
508-563-4225 thebridgecenter@bsheriff.net

Fun Fact: The Bridge Center building has a long history in Barnstable Village. From its construction in 1935 until the 1980s, the white clapboard Colonial Revival was the residence of the Barnstable County Sheriff. Sheriff Donna Buckley has reclaimed the house to serve the public safety needs of the county by providing a continuum of rehabilitation services.

# Teaching Skills, Finding Purpose




Skilled Purpose.

If you're wondering what's going on inside an old shed behind the Barnstable County Sheriff's Office's Bridge Center, please come take a look. Two nights a week the nonprofit Michael English House holds carpentry classes through a program called Skilled Purpose. The 12-week courses are for students who are either incarcerated at the Barnstable County Correctional Facility or in recovery from substance use disorder.

Co-Founder Vincent English, a Yarmouth native, experienced both addiction and incarceration and saw how his well-paying job as a pipefitter enabled him to rebuild everything he lost – home, family and dignity. Skilled Purpose not only teaches a trade but also provides connections with employers and daily support as needed. In September, the Michael English House was awarded a $213,830 Re-Entry Workforce Development Demonstration grant to support the Skilled Purpose program. The Sheriff's Office partnered with Skilled Purpose because we know most people strive for successful lives. But the challenges of reintegration can be so overwhelming they can lose hope and revert to old behaviors that make us all less safe. Skilled Purpose helps the Sheriff's Office build bridges to stable lives and safer communities. To learn more, go to skilledpurpose.org.

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Source: BCBA Officers, Board & Staff webpage, consulted October 19, 2026.

barnstablebarassociation.org/about/officers-board-staff/