

THE BRISTOL BULLETIN



Bristol County Probate & Family Court Registry

Volume 3, Fall 2016

Gina L. DeRossi, Register

MAGISTRATES TO HOLD "INFORMAL PROBATE SESSIONS"

Bristol County Registry to schedule Informal Probate "Sessions" to assist the Bar



Registry MUPC Magistrates:

*Gina L. DeRossi, Register of Probate
Stephanie Desrosiers, Deputy Asst. Register
Kimberly Pedro, Deputy Asst. Register
Jason Caton, Asst. Register (pending)*

Inaugural Informal Session:

DATE: October 26th, 2106
TIME: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
**PLACE: Taunton Registry
Lawyer of the Day Office.**

This Fall, the Bristol County Probate & Family Court Registry will begin holding "Informal Probate Sessions" in the Taunton Registry. The purpose of these sessions are to provide the Bar with direct access to our MUPC Magistrates to review and process Informal Probate filings quickly and efficiently.

A schedule will be issued by the Registry on a monthly basis providing the days and times of these sessions. There will be 1 to 2 Magistrates on hand to answer questions and provide guidance on informal estate filings. The goal of these Informal Probate Sessions will be to provide immediate turnaround for all properly completed and filed Informal Probates whenever possible so Attorneys can leave the Registry with their Orders and Letters of Authority in hand.

These Probate Sessions will be rolled out slowly for the first month or two. Thereafter, Register DeRossi is seeking to schedule at least one session per month, per location, depending on demand. Please be patient as we work toward developing this valuable initiative.

NOTICE: *Formal Probate Filings follow a different*

Sign-ups will be handled on a first come, first serve basis.

protocol as they are reviewed by lobby personnel and are not screened by Registry staff.



REGISTRY SPOTLIGHT

Intern Programs - A Mutual Benefit

The Bristol County Probate & Family Court Registry is proud to be a part of the **Autism Higher Education Foundation's Paralegal Support Pilot Program** which began in 2015. This Pilot provides the Registry with an opportunity to partner with local public high schools and special education programs to offer valuable internship opportunities to ASD students between the ages of 18 and 21 and beyond.

The goal of the Program is to assist students who are on the "autism spectrum" to gain valuable vocational skills in paralegal support services. The internships provide valuable work experience that will hopefully lead to employment opportunities within the legal community.



Our Registry has worked with two students over the past year who have made a considerable contribution to the office. Pictured above is the Registry's Intern Coordinator, Sharon Lemrise, and a student working in our office as part of the *Paralegal Support Pilot Program*. If any attorneys or firms are interested in this Program and would like additional information about hiring one of these talented students to assist in their offices, please contact the **Autism Higher Education Foundation** by [clicking here](#) or contact [Register DeRossi](#) directly.

In addition to the *Paralegal Support Pilot Program*, beginning in 2012 the Registry also partnered with Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School serving as a placement site for students in their Externship Program. As a placement site, the Registry staff assists students with developing office skills and providing invaluable guidance for the students' future employment opportunities.

The Registry continues to have a very active **Internship Program** which was originally established in 2011. We have been fortunate to have many student volunteers from UMass Law School, Roger Williams University Law School and Vermont Law School in addition to UMass Dartmouth, UMass Amherst, Bridgewater State University and University of New Hampshire. Our Program has an established curriculum and in many cases these students have received academic credit for their volunteer service. If you know of a student that might be interested in participating in our Registry's **Internship Program** I encourage you to contact our Internship Coordinator, Sharon Lemrise [via email](#).



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