

Bench Bar Meeting - March 27, 2024, 4PM

Supreme Judicial Court

John Adams Courthouse

Welcome, Introductions and Remarks

Chief Justice Kimberly Budd

Massachusetts Bar Association

President Damian Turco

Boston Bar Association

President Hannah Kilson

Massachusetts Trial Court

Chief Justice Heidi Brieger

Court Administrator Tom Ambrosino

Chief Access, Diversity, and Fairness
Officer Natoschia Scruggs

There will be a Q & A session, a brief tour and reception after the event.



Massachusetts Trial Court Budget Request & Overview FY25

Chief Justice Heidi E. Brieger
Court Administrator Thomas G. Ambrosino

Budget Overview

Maintenance Request:

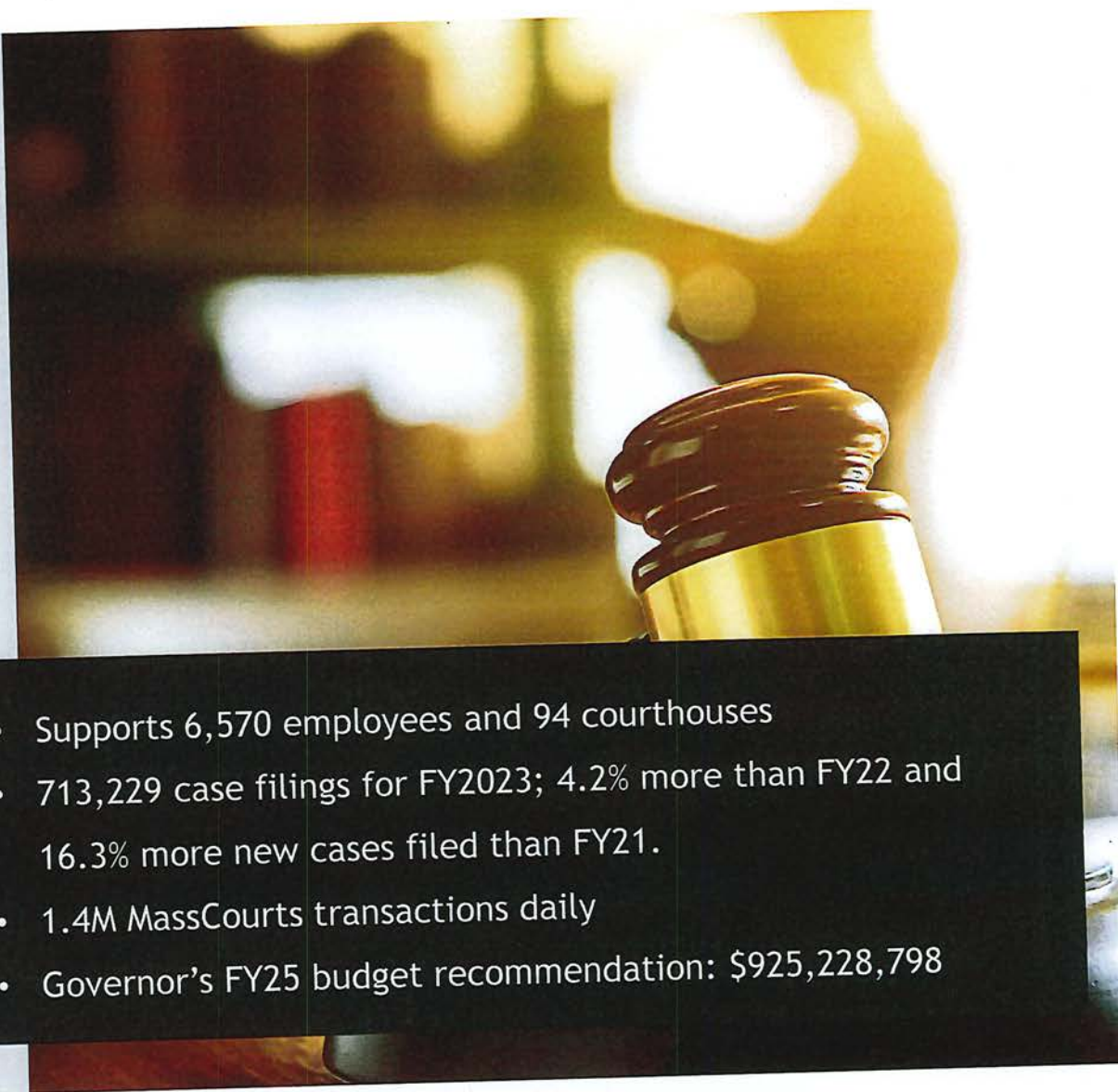
\$925,579,148

Access to Justice Expansion Requests:

\$7.8M

Total Request:

\$933,379,148

- 
- Supports 6,570 employees and 94 courthouses
 - 713,229 case filings for FY2023; 4.2% more than FY22 and 16.3% more new cases filed than FY21.
 - 1.4M MassCourts transactions daily
 - Governor's FY25 budget recommendation: \$925,228,798



Eliminating After Hours Bail Fee:

\$4.8M

- Eliminates \$40 bail fee arrestees currently required to pay before their release from custody, if arrested after court hours
- Places responsibility to pay bail magistrates and bail commissioners on Trial Court
- Authorizes after hours bail to be set remotely to reduce time spent by arrestee in custody

JURORS

Reimbursing Juror Transportation Costs:

\$3M

- Authorizes OJC to reimburse jurors for reasonable out of pocket transportation costs incurred as result of appearing for jury duty
- Addresses burden placed on those for whom jury duty creates financial hardship
- Reduces impact on those communities without free courthouse parking and rural communities where public transportation is unavailable

Advancing IT Bond Funded Projects

Wi-Fi active in 10 courthouses by end of January 2024

Wi-Fi will be active in all courthouses by December 2024

NextGen Networking to meet digital court demands

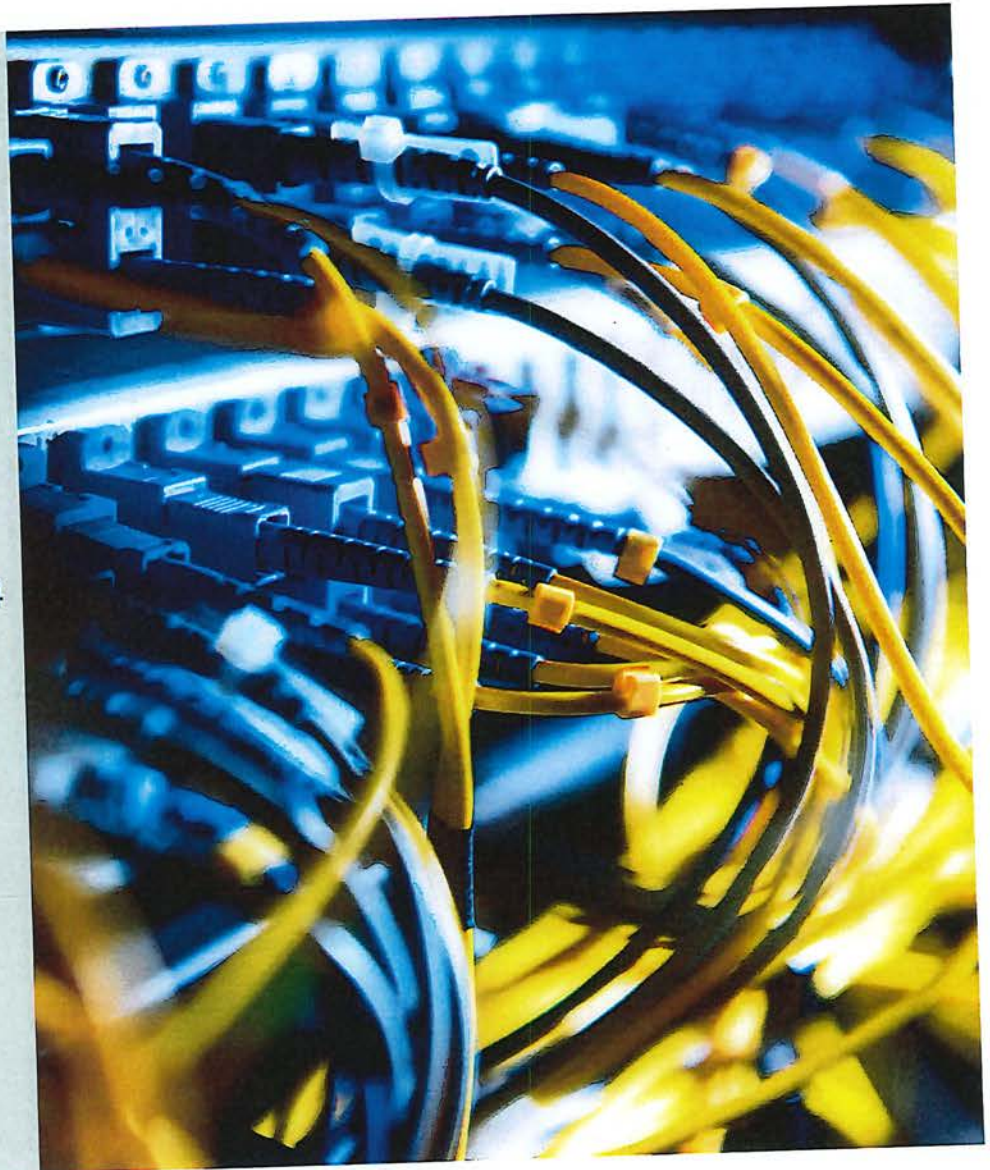
- January 2024 - 50 courthouses networked
- June 2024 - all courthouses will be networked

E-payment system now mobile friendly for court users

Digital signage kickoff in Chelsea February 2024

IT Bond Bill web page now live

- mass.gov/info-details/judiciary-it-bond-bill



Enhancing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion



Mandatory online and in person training implemented for all court staff: *Full Court P.R.E.S.S.*

Moving Our Vision into Reality

Chief Officer of Access, Diversity, and Fairness hired to lead new Access, Diversity, and Fairness Office

2023 Access and Fairness Survey conducted to measure the court's progress towards ensuring access to justice for all court users

MPS implementing department-wide training: *Seeing Racial and Ethnic Disparities* ("RED") focused on unique needs and challenges relative to work of Probation



Delivering Critical Services

18 Community Justice Support Centers (CJSCs)

Cost saving alternative to jail, HOC, or DOC

CJSCs deliver treatment, education, career counseling, and clinical case management

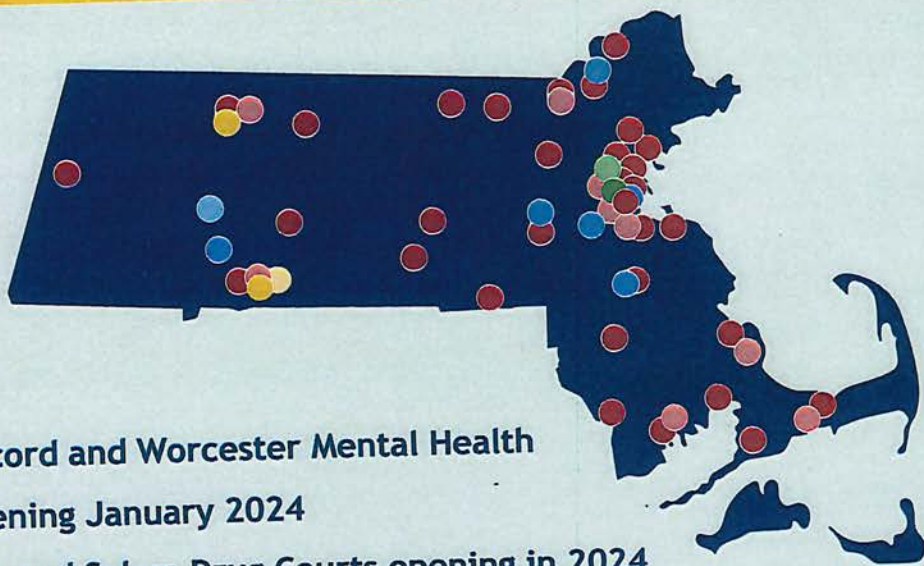
53,525 ancillary service contacts in FY23, which includes after-hours check-ins and special programming

CJSC voluntary post-incarceration participation increased by 279% from FY23 Q1 to FY24 Q1

36% reduction in recidivism among high-risk participants

Addressing Root Causes of Criminal Behaviors

3 Specialty Courts (CY 2023)



Updates:

Ayer, Concord and Worcester Mental Health Courts opening January 2024

Edgartown and Salem Drug Courts opening in 2024

Family Treatment Courts opening in Boston, Fall

River and Lawrence in 2024

		2023
●	Drug Courts / Recovery Courts	31
●	Mental Health Courts	14
●	Veterans Treatment Courts	7
●	Family Resolutions Court	1
●	Family Drug Treatment Court	1
●	Young Adult Court	1
●	Homeless Court	2
●	Community Court	1



Thank You
Questions?

Current Judiciary IT Bond Projects Status

The state court system is underway with enhancing its digital infrastructure and undertaking improvements thanks to \$165.5M of technology bond funding authorized by the Legislature, the first technology bond funding for the courts since 1997. Initial bond funding is enabling, pursuant to the court system's 5-year IT plan, expanded bandwidth and Wi-Fi access across the court system, improved digital security, and detailed planning for future projects.

Digital Courthouse & Courtroom

- Currently, 20 courthouses are fully wired with Wi-Fi capabilities and by the end of this calendar year, we expect that all 94 courthouses will have Wi-Fi.
- Next Generation Networking technology will increase network capacity and alleviate the strain caused by activities such as video conferencing and other digital services. As of late January, improved network solutions were installed in 50 courthouses. We expect this work to be completed in all courthouses by July 1st.
- In 2024, our digital signage pilot will kick off at Chelsea District Court. By mid-2029, we expect that all courthouses will be equipped with digital signage.
- In FY25, we will begin to replace the document management system housing the 21 million documents associated with Trial Court cases, with a FY26 completion date.
- In FY24, comprehensively assessed how technology is being used across each court department and recommendations are targeted for implementation by early FY25.
- The Appellate Courts Case Management System is in the process of being replaced, as it is not sustainable nor upgradable in its current state and will come online in FY26.

Modern & Secure Judiciary

- Over the next five years we will upgrade systems, add cameras, centralize monitoring, and improve duress systems and in-building communication. In FY24, 17 courthouses are scheduled for security system modernization.
- On the cyber side, we are focused on reducing system threats, enhancing our detection and defense capabilities against malicious efforts, and educating our community to identify potential risks. We have seen an 84% reduction in system vulnerabilities across the judicial network. These tools, which include CrowdStrike and Splunk, have already proven invaluable in preventing what could have been a major intrusion in Fall 2023.
- We have implemented a comprehensive education and training program to empower judges and staff in combating cyberthreats. This includes a bi-weekly phishing simulation program that has reduced our vulnerability to phishing attacks by 80%. In FY23, our first annual mandatory training saw a completion rate of 96% and our recently released FY24 training focuses on educating our judges and employees to the Judiciary's data security policy.

More information about upcoming IT Bond funded projects is available at:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/judiciary-it-bond-bill>

Executive Office of the Trial Court of Massachusetts
Office of Access, Diversity, and Fairness (OADF)
natoschia.scruggs@jud.state.ma.us

