

MEMORANDUM
February 12, 2009

TO: All Judges, Marital Masters, and Non-Judicial Employees

FROM: Chief Justice John T. Broderick, Jr.
Chief Justice Robert J. Lynn
Hon. Edwin W. Kelly
Hon. David D. King
Donald D. Goodnow
Dale Trombley

We know that many of you have questions about proposals contained in Governor Lynch's budget address. The Governor said that while we face hard economic times, he is optimistic that by working together we can meet these challenges. We agree. Today, we want to briefly address some important issues and remind everyone that this is the beginning of a long legislative budget process that will continue into late June. As this process unfolds, we will keep you informed about important developments.

Layoffs

Governor Lynch made no mention of Judicial Branch layoffs in his remarks. We all remain committed to addressing needed cuts in our budget without resorting to layoffs. We know that the judicial branch depends on its dedicated and loyal employees to fulfill our obligation to the people we serve.

At the level of funding the Governor proposes for the court system for FY 10 and FY 11, we will very likely continue the current hiring freeze.

Court Consolidations

Governor Lynch proposes to consolidate eight district courts. We have been working with the Bureau of Court Facilities and the Governor's Office to evaluate court locations and to find efficiencies. The courts identified by Governor Lynch are:

<u>Current Site</u>	<u>Relocation Site</u>
New London	Newport
Claremont	Sullivan County Facility
Plaistow	Salem
Milford	Merrimack
Hooksett	Concord
Colebrook	Lancaster
Keene	Cheshire County Facility
Hillsboro	Henniker

We know that some of you are concerned about what these proposed changes will mean for you and the people you serve. We want to emphasize again that this is the start of a long process that will include many discussions about the impact of such proposals. Many of these consolidations will require legislative action.

Health Benefits

The Governor is also proposing changes in our health insurance coverage. Like you, we are waiting for details concerning the Governor's proposal and what it will mean to each of us and our families.

Filling Judicial Vacancies

The Governor also proposes to fill judicial vacancies so that civil and criminal trials will move forward expeditiously.

We are committed to working with the Governor and the Legislature to ensure that the judicial branch emerges from these tough economic times able to meet its constitutional duty to the citizens and businesses of New Hampshire. As always, we want to thank you for your dedicated service, and for your patience, as all of us in state government address these difficult issues.