

How much do you know about the
**United States Probation and
Pretrial Services System?**

Question

**What legislation created the
Federal Probation System and
which President signed it into
law?**

Answer



- The Probation Act of 1925
- Signed by President Calvin Coolidge on March 4, 1925.

Did you know?

Between 1909 and 1925, legislators proposed 34 different bills to form a federal probation system. Most were defeated, in part, because of opposition from the Department of Justice.

Source: Criminal Law Agenda Item, Tab X, Attachment 2 (December 2004)

Question:

True or false, pretrial services were first provided in the federal courts with the passage of the Pretrial Services Act of 1982?

Answer

False. Congress, as part of the Speedy Trial Act, called for a "demonstration" of pretrial services in 10 districts which began in 1975.

Question:

Name the ten districts that piloted pretrial services in the federal system?

Answer

DISTRICTS THAT PILOTED PRETRIAL SERVICES AS SEPARATE OFFICES

- Maryland
- Michigan Eastern
- Missouri Western
- New York Eastern
- Pennsylvania Eastern

DISTRICTS THAT PILOTED PRETRIAL SERVICES THROUGH EXISTING PROBATION OFFICES

- California Central
- Georgia Northern
- Illinois Northern
- New York Southern
- Texas Northern

Question

Who was the first U.S. Probation Officer appointed, in what district was he or she appointed and in what year?

Answer

- Richard McSweeney (pictured at right) was the first ever U.S. Probation Officer
- He was appointed and started work on May 1, 1927 in the District of Massachusetts
- Interesting note: He elected himself president of the National Association of Federal Probation Officers in 1928.



Question

What was the salary and mandatory retirement age posted on the first advertisement for a U.S. Probation Officer position?

Answer

In 1926, the United States Civil Services Commission announced a competitive examination for probation officers, with a starting salary of **\$2,400** a year and mandatory retirement at **age 70**.

In 1930, judges were empowered to appoint officers without reference to the Civil Services Commission list

Source: Criminal Law Agenda Item, Tab X, Attachment 2 (December 2004)

Question

Who was the first FEMALE U.S. Probation Officer, in what district was she appointed and in what year?

Answer

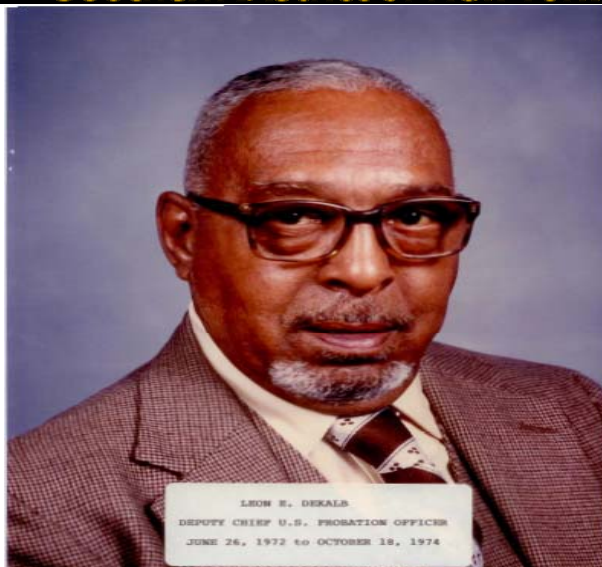


- The first female U.S. Probation Officer was Margaret Staehli (pictured left)
- She was appointed in the District of Minnesota
- She was hired as a clerk typist in 1931 and promoted to officer in 1932.

Question

Who was the first African-American probation officer, when was he/she appointed and in what district?

Answer
Leon E. DeKalb, appointed in 1940 in the Southern District of New York



Question

Who was the first FEMALE chief probation officer, when was she appointed and in what district?

Miriam Spottswood Hairston, appointed chief probation officer on September 2, 1949 in the Southern District of Alabama



FEDERAL PROBATION TRAINING CENTER
Chicago, Illinois
66th Training School - Refresher Course
March 2 to March 6, 1964

Question

Who was the first AFRICAN AMERICAN chief probation officer, when was he/she appointed and in what district?

Answer

George P. Adams was appointed chief probation officer in November 1972 in the Eastern District of Michigan



ADAMS, GEORGE P.

Chief Probation Officer
Eastern District of Michigan

Office Address:
832 Federal Building
Detroit, Michigan 48226

Phone: (313) 226-3196

Born: Rushville, Indiana
[REDACTED] 1920

Home Address:
[REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Question

Who was the first probation staff member killed in the line of duty?

Probation Clerk Marie C. Curtis was the first staff member killed in the line of duty



On December 27, 1966, a female parolee entered the U.S. probation office in Fairmont, West Virginia with a firearm and shot Marie Curtis five times. The parolee then shot and killed herself. Marie survived for a few days until succumbing to her injuries on January 1, 1967.

Source: News & Views (November 21, 1994), Northern District of West Virginia Probation Office

**Thomas E.
Gahl**

**Dangers on the Job
Did you know?**



Photo courtesy of www.odmp.org

On September 22, 1986, while conducting a home contact in the Southern District of Indiana, U.S. Probation Officer Thomas E. Gahl was shot and killed by parolee, Michael Wayne Jackson.

Thomas Gahl was survived by his wife Nancy and two sons, Christopher and Nicholas.

Source: <http://www.insp.uscourts.gov/ThomasGahl.htm>;

**Dangers on the Job,
Did you know?**

The son of Chief Probation Officer Edgar Y. Dobbins (New Jersey) was shot and killed by a probationer who arrived at the Dobbins family home looking for the senior Dobbins. Edgar Dobbins served as chief probation officer in the District of New Jersey from September 9, 1934 to December 31, 1953.

Dobbins' successor, C. Alexander Rheiner was nearly killed, when he was conducting a home contact and the boiler exploded in the building. The blast and resulting fire killed the mother of the probationer, injured four others and forced Rheiner onto the ledge of the building where he was rescued by Jersey City fire fighters.

Source: www.history.njd.uscourts.gov

Dangers on the Job, Did you know?

On October 29, 2009, supervised releasee Eduardo Mendoza conducted a drive-by shooting in Eugene, Oregon---- aiming at the at the federal probation office. Mendoza missed and the bullets shattered the windows of the nearby federal courthouse. Mendoza pled guilty to related charges on September 17, 2010.

Source: www.oregonlive.com (September 17, 2010)

Dangers on the Job, Did you know?

On October 4, 2010, conditional releasee James Dix was arrested on charges that he set fire to the federal probation office in Plymouth, Massachusetts. No one was physically hurt in the fire, but property damage was estimated at \$200,000.

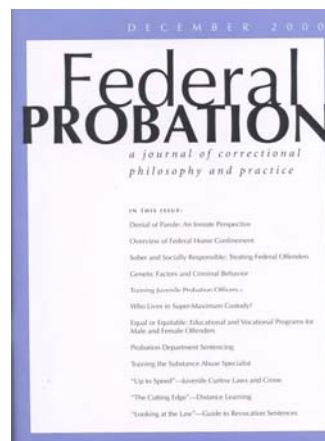
Source: www.bostonherald.com (October 5, 2010)

Question

When did the professional journal *Federal Probation* begin publication?

Answer

Federal Probation began publication in 1937 and continues to offer readers articles on all aspects of criminal justice and corrections.



Question

What publication preceded ***Federal Probation*** and was akin to ***News and Views*** in that provided staff with practical information and updated everyone on personal comings and goings in the Federal Probation system?

Answer



Ye News Letter, published from 1930-37, printed tidbits from all over and provided officers with practical and interesting information.

Question

When did the Federal Probation system move from oversight of DOJ's Bureau of Prisons to the Administrative Office of U.S. Courts?

Answer

On July 1, 1940, oversight of Federal Probation formally transferred from DOJ to the AO.

In support of the transfer, the Chief Justice and Director of the AO argued that probation officers were better affiliated with the AO because probation officers were appointed by district court judges, operated at the court's direction, and were critical to judicial decision making at sentencing and revocation proceedings.

Question

Federal Parole was authorized in 1910, well before the creation of the federal probation system. Who supervised federal parolees before the creation of the federal probation system?

Answer

Although there were “parole officers” assigned to each penitentiary beginning in 1910, those officers did not work outside the prison. Parole officers focused on pre-release (re-entry) issues from inside the prison while the U.S. Marshals Service was responsible for community supervision until federal probation officers took over that responsibility in 1930.

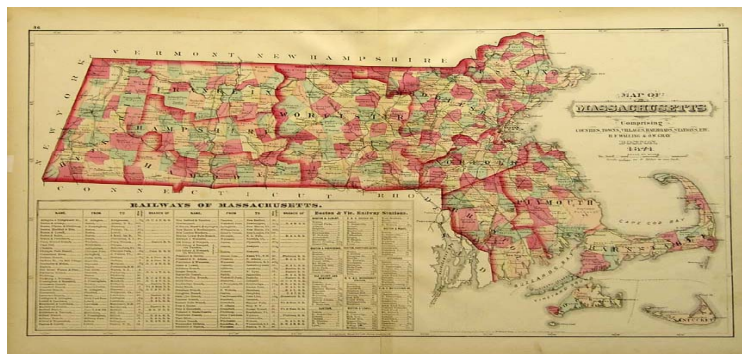
Source: www.justice.gov/uspc/history.htm

Question

What state passed the first statute authorizing probation as a sentence, and when was the statute enacted?

Answer

Massachusetts passed the first probation statute on April 26, 1878



Question

Who is credited with being the "father" of the probation movement in the United States?

Answer

Boston shoemaker John Augustus is considered the father of the probation movement in the United States



Question

How many districts maintain separate pretrial services offices?

Answer: The following districts maintain separate pretrial services offices

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Arizona | 13 Missouri Western |
| 2 California Central | 14 Nebraska |
| 3 California Eastern | 15 Nevada |
| 4 California Northern | 16 New Jersey |
| 5 California Southern | 17 New York Eastern |
| 6 Florida Middle | 18 New York Southern |
| 7 Hawaii | 19 Ohio Southern |
| 8 Illinois Northern | 20 Oregon |
| 9 Louisiana Eastern | 21 Pennsylvania Eastern |
| 10 Massachusetts | 22 Tennessee Western |
| 11 Michigan Eastern | 23 Texas Southern |
| 12 Missouri Eastern | 24 Texas Western |

Question

When did deferred prosecution supervision begin in the federal system?

Answer

Known as the "Brooklyn Plan", the deferred prosecution supervision program formally began on April 26, 1937 with an agreement signed by Chief Probation Officer Conrad Printzlien and U.S. Attorney Leo J. Hickey in the Eastern District of New York .

Question

What former probation chief was a decorated World War II Fighter pilot?

William S. Powell, Jr., Chief in the Western District of New York was a decorated "Tuskegee Airman"

It's a Happy Homecoming For New Probation Officer
First Negro to Serve in Post Here Arrives From Washington; Is UB Grad

Some people hope to change the world. Others, like William S. Powell Jr., 40, hopes to change one person at a time.

A native of Lockport, Mr. Powell reported today for duty as one of three federal probation officers for the 17-county Western District of New York. He is the first Negro to serve in the post here.

A 10-year veteran of federal probation work, most recently in the District of Columbia, he recalled that his interest in social work developed when an adviser at Amherst Central High School "told me he thought I would do very well working with people."

A former fighter pilot and University of Buffalo football player and wrestler, Mr. Powell switched from diagnosing plays to diagnosing peoples' problems and how to solve them.

After a night-long car trip from Washington today, he smiled with wide-awake, pierc-



WILLIAM S. POWELL JR.
Hopes to Help Others

News clipping from the *Buffalo Evening News* (April 15, 1966)

Question

Was operation of the federal probation system impacted significantly by World War II?

Answer

AO memos issued during the war reflect:

A host of "special duties" assigned to officers in coordination with the military, including screening potential selective service violators and supervising military parolees

Rationing of fuel and tires for cars that officers used for field work

Staff being called to military service, for example acting CUSPO Edward J. Hendrick (PAE) and the AO's chief and deputy chief of Probation (Richard A. Chappell, & Victor H. Evjen) were all granted leave for military service.

Yes, operation of the probation system was greatly impacted by World War II

MEMORANDUM NO. 45

TO UNITED STATES PROBATION OFFICERS IN CHARGE OF UNITS:

Re: Rendering Assistance to Military Authorities

On July 20, 1942, in Memorandum No. 20, you were asked to render assistance to the military authorities by making prerelease investigations concerning military prisoners confined in Disciplinary Barracks. The requests have been few and have constituted practically no burden.

We are now informed that military prisoners confined in Disciplinary Barracks are eligible for release under what is known as "home parole." However, it is necessary that they have what is called a "first friend and adviser."

The military authorities have solicited the assistance of the Probation System to aid in supervision. It is desired that upon request from the parole officer from any Disciplinary Barracks the probation officers aid in prerelease planning and also agree to serve as first friend and adviser. In such cases the probation officer will, in fact, serve the Army as a parole officer and undertake supervision much the same as he would with respect to a Federal parolee. Such service will be of great assistance to the Army and if requested, I hope that you will be able to give it.

The requests will be few and the cases will be considered to be unofficial. They are not to be included in the case count. Such cases will be easily distinguished because you will be furnished with a copy of the parole certificate bearing the conditions of parole. The certificate will be signed by an Army official.

Lewis J. Groust
Lewis J. Groust
Chief of Probation

Approved

Question

Name the six districts composed entirely of islands?

**Answer:
The six island districts are**

Hawaii
Guam
Mariana Islands
Puerto Rico
Virgin Islands
New York Eastern

Question

How many islands are within the Eastern District of New York?

Answer

The Eastern District of New York is made up of 66 islands

Long Island and Staten Island are the largest, with most of the islands being unnamed



Question

OPPS staffers come from how many different districts?

Answer: 16 different districts

District	OPPS Staffer	District	OPPS Staffer
Arizona	John Hughes	New Jersey	Tim Cadigan
Arizona	Gene DiMaria	New Jersey	Jean Gabriel
California Eastern	Matthew Faubert	New York Eastern	Matt Rowland
Florida Middle	Janette Sheil	New York Eastern	John Fitzgerald
Iowa Southern	Michelle Spidell	New York Southern	Corey Nguyen
Kansas	Jed Blankenship	Tennessee Middle	Linda Joseph
Maryland	Trent Cornish	Texas Northern	M.J. Gagnon
Maryland	Jay Whetzel	Virginia Eastern	Rafael Borges
Michigan Eastern	Julie Och	Virginia Eastern	Kim Golder
Michigan Western	Jeff Sanderson	Virginia Eastern	Nancy Gregoire
Missouri Eastern	Dan McClintock	Virginia Eastern	Chris Mangione
West Virginia Southern			Ron Ward

Question

The organization now known as the Federal Probation and Pretrial Services Officers Association (FPPOA) was established in 1955. Who was the organization's first president and who is the current president?

Answer

Richard F. Doyle of the Eastern District of Michigan was the first president of the FPPOA.

Barbara Oswald of the Northern District of Georgia is the current FPPOA president



Officer Appointment Standards Over the Years

- 1930
 - High school diploma
 - At least one year paid employment experience
 - Be between the age of 30 and 45
- 1938
 - College degree
 - At least two years employment experience in an accredited family or social service agency
 - Maximum age of 53
 - A "pleasing personality and good reputation"
 - Sufficient physical fitness to meet standards of the U.S. Public Health Service
- 1941
 - Bachelor's degree
 - At least two years experience working for the welfare of others
 - Be between the age of 25 and 45
 - Have exemplary character, good health and be vigorous

Source: www.history.njd.uscourts.gov/courtHist/probation.html