

## Court Watch End of the Year Report 2023

### Current Status:

The Court Watch Team has continued to monitor proceedings in Family Court in the city of Poughkeepsie on a continual monthly basis throughout the 2023-4 year. Observation Forms are filled out and a quantitative analysis of our findings will be conducted when a sufficient number of forms have been completed. As is customary, a final report based on our observations will be issued in the coming months and shared with appropriate parties. Currently, we have developed a new database to cite our observations and have appointed a new data entry person to oversee the results. So far, everything seems to be working smoothly, efficiently, and successfully.

Currently, we are in the process of training two new volunteers who have been attending court with veteran monitors so they will become acquainted with court procedures and monitoring guidelines and protocols. It is hopeful that these new members can officially and fully join the Court Watch Team in the fall.

### Past Concerns:

It should be noted that due to the dwindling number of monitors post-COVID, the Court Watch Team held a crucial meeting this past September to assess whether or not the AAUW Court Watch Initiative should continue. After much discussion and comments from a number of key individuals, it was decided that the initiative was too valuable and its mission too important to dissolve. As a result, Court Watch determined to reassess its mission, re-state its goals, rejuvenate its program, and continue its dedicated work.

In order to attract new monitors to join our team, Court Watch crafted a lengthy article for the AAUW Newsletter describing its program and stating it is open to welcoming new members to support and advance its goals. As a result, a few members have expressed an interest in joining and participating as monitors on our team and they are currently in the process of being trained.

### Continuation and Dedication to Our Mission:

The goal of Court Watch is, as it has always been, sorting out any concerns that jeopardize women's rights in the court, citing these concerns with the hope of making a difference and improving women's experiences in court and the justice system as a whole. Unquestionably, all of us on the Court Watch Team are committed to ensuring fair and equal treatment in court not only for women, but for everyone.

Ann Pinna, *Chair*  
AAUW Court Watch  
May 15, 2024