

The Judicial Branch's Court Support Services Division recently received the Golden Eagle Award, the American Correctional Association's top honor.

The annual award recognizes superior commitment to the accreditation process and is presented to a state entity in recognition of accrediting every component within its area of responsibility. It also represents the highest commitment to excellence in correctional operations and dedication to enhance public safety and the well-being of those in a particular's entity's care. The association chose CSSD for this achievement because the Bridgeport Juvenile Detention Center, Hartford Juvenile Detention Center, and juvenile and adult probation services all have successfully received accreditation through the association. Connecticut is among only four states that have received the award in recognition of their work regarding juvenile justice.

In 1974, the association created the Commission on Accreditation to review compliance with national standards. The commission evaluates 22 specific areas of correctional and community-based supervision of juveniles and adults. Each audit tool is geared to the population being served and the type of service, and compliance with hundreds of indicators is required.

Both juvenile detention centers were initially accredited in 2003, and reaccreditations occurred in 2006, 2009, 2012 and 2015. The association initially accredited adult probation services in 2006 with reaccreditations occurring in 2009, 2012 and 2015. Juvenile probation services were initially accredited in 2010, with subsequent reaccreditation in 2013.