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Probation Association of New Jersey

Serving New Jersey Since 1904

An affiliate of the American Probation and Parole Association

United Professional Center, Building Two

617 Union Avenue, Brielle, NJ 08730

Phone (732) 223-1799 Fax (732) 223-8363

Website: www.panj.org

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Business Manager

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Contact: George Christie, PANJ

(732) 223-1799

Lauren J. Smith, Nancy H. Becker Associates

(609) 751-1196

PROBATION ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY HOLDS 65th ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE IN ATLANTIC CITY

Assemblyman Gordon Johnson Named Legislator of the Year

New Jersey 101.5's "Big Joe Henry" Named Citizen of the Year

Atlantic City, N.J. – Assemblyman Gordon Johnson (D-Bergen) was honored by the Probation Association of New Jersey (PANJ) as the organization's 2007 Legislator of the Year for his leadership and dedication to ensuring probationers are properly supervised in New Jersey's communities.

George Christie, president of PANJ, praised Johnson for his sponsorship of a transforming legislative package; Assembly Concurrent Resolution 266 (ACR-266) authorizing a ballot question asking voters to allow for the transfer of probation functions to the State Parole Board. Assembly Bill 4458 (A-4458) will create a Bureau of Probation within the State Parole Board. Finally, Assembly Bill 4360 (A-4360), will grant police powers to officers to more effectively and efficiently perform supervision.

"Assemblyman Johnson's leadership has been extraordinary for the community supervision system. His legislative package will transform the way the state handles convicted criminals; he took the mantle and tirelessly led a great charge," added Christie.

Johnson received his award at PANJ's 65th annual training institute, "Everyone's a Star...What's Your Role," held from November 18 to 20. The annual training institute is a grassroots event sponsored by the PANJ Education Foundation. Workshop topics include: Immigration and Deportation, Predatory Drug's the Rapist's Deadly Weapon, Psychiatric Illness & Substance Abuse, Internet Crime, Health Issues, and Profiling the Stalker.

The association named New Jersey 101.5's "Big" Joe Henry, Citizen of the Year. Awards were presented to four exemplary probation officers: *John Augustus* award winner, Bradley Fairchild of Salem County; *Probation Officer of the Year*, Nicole Yadlosky of Burlington County; *Supervisor of the Year*, Robert Szewczyk of Bergen County, and *Lifetime Achievement* award winner, Kevin Mooney of Middlesex County. First Assistant Attorney General, John Vazquez, gave the keynote address on the state's crime prevention efforts.

There are an estimated 2,800 probation officers and supervisors in New Jersey who oversee approximately 200,000 adult and juvenile probationers.

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