



Probation Association of New Jersey

Serving New Jersey Since 1904

An affiliate of the American Probation and Parole Association

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COMMUNITY SUPERVISION WEEK: WHAT IS BEING DONE TO IMPROVE PROBATION

*Probation Association Recognizing the Critical Role of New Jersey's Probation Officers
in the Community*

Trenton, N.J. – July 17, 2010 – In commemorating this year's national Parole, Probation and Community Supervision Awareness Week, the Probation Association of New Jersey (PANJ) urges state, county and local elected leaders to commit to strengthening the state's community supervision system. PANJ believes that the probation system is headed for a critical crossroads in New Jersey. The demands placed on probation officers are increasing; yet there have not been effective safeguards put in place to protect probation officers or the communities where they work.

National Parole, Probation and Community Supervision Awareness Week is memorialized this year from July 18, 2010 to July 24, 2010.

"Probation officers and staff fulfill a critical role in public safety and the judicial system," said George Christie, president of the Probation Association of New Jersey.

Probation officers and staff are deeply involved in multiple judicial functions such as supervising convicted criminals including sex offenders and violent offenders, overseeing juvenile offenders, ensuring that child support orders are followed, providing pre-trial court services, and recommending remanding offenders to jail for violating probation, for violating community service, and for custody investigations.

(more)

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“Without our services the Courts would not function efficiently, and at great cost savings,” Christie said. “Probation officers are professionals who play an integral role in law enforcement protection and provide other critical services to families as well. In addition to supervising more than 150,000 juvenile and adult offenders, New Jersey probation officers and staff collect more than \$100 million in child support annually. Additionally, probation officers and staff are called on to process domestic violence restraining orders and custody investigations.

The modern community supervision system was created in the United States in 1841. Today, there are an estimated 130,000 adults and 20,000 juveniles in New Jersey’s probation system. Nationwide, there are an estimated 5 million offenders under the supervision of parole or probation.

PANJ represents an estimated 2,800 probation officers and supervisors employed by the Judiciary through two collective bargaining units that include other professional personnel.

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