

HIGH COURT TO REVIEW PROBATION OFFICERS, *PRO BONO* CASES

The New Jersey Supreme Court has agreed to review two key constitutional cases, including one addressing the court's own powers. In *In re Matter of P.L. 2001, Chapter 362*, the Appellate Division said a law allowing probation officers to carry firearms unconstitutionally trampled on the power of the judiciary to control its own employees. In effect, the Supreme Court, which is the final authority for the judicial branch, will be passing judgment on how the doctrine of separation of powers applies to itself. The other case, *Pasqua v. Council*, involves whether indigent parents who renege on child-support obligations have a constitutional right to *pro bono* representation. A Superior Court judge ruled such parents do have the right to have lawyers appointed for them. The Appellate Division reversed, saying the lower court ignored precedent. A stay of the Appellate Division ruling remains in effect. 5-13-05