



Probation Association of New Jersey

Serving New Jersey Since 1904

An affiliate of the American Probation and Parole Association

2409 Paynters Road

Wall, NJ 08736

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

www.panj.org

For Immediate Release:

July 9, 2014

**Contact: Jeanette Hoffman, Capital Impact Group
(609) 989-5885**

PANJ Celebrates Probation, Parole, and Community Supervision Week *PANJ President Calls for Increased Training and Reforms to Address Violent Offenders*

TRENTON, NJ –The Probation Association of New Jersey (PANJ) will recognize and celebrate the work of probation officers and supervisors during Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week from July 13 through July 19, 2014.

“Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week is a time to recognize and celebrate the dedicated and caring individuals who work tirelessly to make our neighborhoods safer,” said PANJ President Dwight Covaleskie. “These professionals are on the frontlines in protecting New Jersey’s communities and helping juvenile and adult offenders re-enter society and lead productive lives.”

PANJ represents 2,800 probation officers and supervisors who oversee 120,000 adults and 15,000 juveniles in New Jersey, making it the 10th largest adult probation system in the nation.

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 family and pre-trial court services, and recommending remanding offenders to jail for violating probation, for violating community service, and for custody investigations.

“Over the past decade, gang members and repeat violent offenders have overrun the system, with probationers committing a growing number of violent crimes each year,” Covaleskie added. “The criminal profile of an average probationer has changed, as has the criminal environment, but the system has not evolved to handle the deepening violent nature of these offenders.”

“Working with the Legislature, we look forward to strengthening New Jersey’s community supervision system by increasing standards for comprehensive training and providing much-needed protections for officers in the most dangerous neighborhoods,” concluded Covaleskie.

About The Probation Association of New Jersey (PANJ)

PANJ represents an estimated 2,800 probation officers and supervisors statewide employed by the Judiciary through two collective bargaining units that include other professional personnel. PANJ is an affiliate member of the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA).

#####