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## Probation Association of New Jersey

*Serving New Jersey Since 1904*

*An affiliate of the American Probation and Parole Association*

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## **NJ 101.5's 'BIG' JOE HENRY NAMED CITIZEN OF THE YEAR BY PROBATION ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY**

*First Assistant Attorney General to Give Keynote Address*

*Atlantic City, N.J.* – New Jersey 101.5's 'Big' Joe Henry was honored by the Probation Association of New Jersey (PANJ) as the organization's 2007 "Citizen of the Year" for his leadership and dedication in supporting charitable community causes. George Christie, president of PANJ, praised 'Big' Joe Henry especially for his dedication to Amanda's Easel, an art therapy program and counseling resource for emotionally and physically abused children and families. Additionally, 'Big' Joe Henry supported the Friends of Amanda Foundation.

"After the 1994 murder of his granddaughter, William Thomas, founded Amanda's Easel which receives support by the Governor and legislators who help these children and families," added Christie. "The program provided art therapy counseling to more than 1,000 abused and traumatized children and their families since it was founded in 1997. "Big" Joe Henry has been incredibly supportive of this program and similar causes around the state," concluded Christie.

Big Joe Henry received his award at PANJ's 65<sup>th</sup> 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, Communicable Health Issues, and Profiling the Stalker.

The association named Assemblyman Gordon Johnson (D-Bergen), Legislator 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.

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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