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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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SCALERA CHOSEN AS LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR BY PROBATION OFFICER ASSOCIATION

*Assemblyman Honored for Commitment to Community Safety,
Support of Public Employees*

(NUTLEY) –The Probation Association on New Jersey (PANJ) today announced Assemblyman Fred Scalera (D-Nutley) as the group's 2005 Legislator of the Year in recognition of his commitment to community safety and support of public employees.

“During his brief tenure thus far in the Legislature, Fred Scalera has proven to be a leader in community safety measures, particularly emergency management protocols,” said George Christie, president of PANJ. “His command and working knowledge of appropriate responses to homeland security transcends into a greater understanding of public safety hurdles that we must overcome on a daily basis.”

In just two and a half years as a member of the General Assembly, 26 pieces of legislation that Scalera sponsored have been signed into law. Scalera's achievements include a new law that criminalizes using the Internet to lure or entice individuals into committing a crime; a law providing for state and county coordination of emergency response programs; and legislation that would create the “Emergency Management Act of 2004.”

“We proudly choose Assemblyman Scalera as the Legislator of the Year based upon his exemplary record of service in the Legislature, and look forward to working with him in the future. Certainly, he will continue to be a leader and champion of probation officers and public employees alike,” Christie added.

PANJ will officially present the 2005 Legislator of the Year Award to Scalera at the organization's annual convention to be held Monday, November 21 at the Trump Plaza Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City. Previous honorees include Congressman Bill Pascrell and Assemblywoman Linda R. Greenstein cited for their leadership and involvement in supporting the state's probation officers.

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Awards for the Probation Officer of the Year, Supervisor of the Year, and the John Augustus Award -- which honors an individual of outstanding character and commitment to the community -- also will be presented at the annual conference. Recipients of these awards have not been announced by PANJ to date.

Established in 1904, PANJ represents and protects the interests of more than 2,800 probation officers and supervisors from every corner of the state. The Supervisors and probation officers work in 15 vicinages that cover New Jersey's 21 counties. There are an estimated 130,000 adults and 20,000 juveniles under the supervision of probation officers who have average individual caseloads of 114 probationers.

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