



## Probation Association of New Jersey

*Serving New Jersey Since 1904*

*An affiliate of the American Probation and Parole Association*

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**For Immediate Release:**  
July 13, 2011

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## **Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week** *Probation Association of NJ Recognizing the Critical Role of New Jersey's Probation Officers in the Community*

In celebrating this year's national Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week, the Probation Association of New Jersey (PANJ) implores state, county and local elected leaders to acknowledge the amazing work done by probation, parole and community corrections. Across all spectrums, the probation system is one of the most difficult jobs to execute, and that is before we even realize the tough economy we all face.

The time has come to commemorate these courageous individuals who sacrifice so much to ensure the safety of our communities, the supervision of adults and juveniles, as well as overseeing their rehabilitation back into society. While facing severe budgetary constraints in even rougher economic times, we should honor and celebrate these individuals who have ensured the overall safety of our daily lives.

Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week is memorialized this year from July 17, 2011 to July 23, 2011.

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.

"The responsibilities of being a probation officer are critical to the safety of our daily lives and the community as a whole," Christie said. He continued, "Across the United States, officers oversee approximately 1 in every 32 Americans, so our job is not to be taken lightly. Additionally, we are all aware of the economic challenges that arise in such a rough economy like today. On average, in the U.S. it costs approximately \$40,000 per year to institutionalize an inmate as opposed to the \$1,250 per year it costs to supervise an individual in the probation system."

The modern community supervision system was created in the United States in 1841. Today, there are an estimated 130,000 adults and 15,000 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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