



## Probation Association of New Jersey

*Serving New Jersey Since 1904*

*An affiliate of the American Probation and Parole Association*

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**May 20, 2009**

## **UPDATE ON FURLOUGHS**

### **By GEORGE CHRISTIE, PRESIDENT PANJ**

PANJ has issued a press release bringing everyone up to date, a copy of which is on the website, with regard to the substantial efforts made by PANJ and virtually all Judicial labor organizations and every other labor organization in the State to stop Department-wide furloughs.

This effort continues.

PANJ was successful in a legal action before the Appellate Division on April 16, 2009, which was joined by other law enforcement groups which resulted in the Civil Service Commission Rule on staggered furloughs being declared illegal and stayed. This was a huge victory for all employee groups.

While we were successful obtaining a stay with respect to staggered furloughs, the Appellate Division failed to restrain Department-wide furloughs. As a result, the furlough days scheduled by the Judiciary for all PANJ members will proceed as scheduled on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and June 29<sup>th</sup>. Nevertheless, all legal action is continuing through PERC, the arbitration process and the Courts in an attempt to obtain reimbursement for all PANJ members who are not compensated during Department-wide furloughs in May and thereafter.

With respect to legal action taken at PERC, PANJ, as well as CWA, PBA, FMBA, NJEA and numerous other State and local labor organizations which represent more than 300,000 public employees, submitted applications for interim relief protesting the adoption of the furlough Rule. The interim relief application was vigorously argued by PANJ's attorney David I. Fox on May 14, 2009.

On May 17, 2009, PERC rendered its decision denying any interim relief for any State public employees. PERC found that Department-wide furloughs could proceed as planned. PERC further determined that it was appropriate to exempt certain titles while simultaneously requiring other employees to be temporarily furloughed.

PANJ remains committed to transfer out of the Judiciary to a law enforcement agency. Virtually all law enforcement or public safety employees are exempt in State service from temporary furloughs.

PANJ is continuing this legal action including continuing with the process of having the Department-wide closing declared illegal along with other labor organizations.