

NOTICE TO THE BAR

REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE – PUBLICATION FOR COMMENT

This notice publishes for written comment the **Report of the Joint Committee on Criminal Justice**. This report will also be available on the Judiciary's Internet web site at:

http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/pressrel/2014/FinalReport_3_20_2014.pdf

The Joint Committee, chaired by Chief Justice Stuart Rabner, was established in June 2013 and charged with examining issues related to bail and the delays in bringing criminal cases to trial. The Joint Committee was comprised of judges, prosecutors, public defenders, private counsel, court administrators, and staff from the Legislature and the governor's office. The Joint Committee has made a series of 27 recommendations regarding bail reform, pretrial detention, the time frames in which defendants must be indicted and brought to trial, and the processing and management of criminal cases. Chief among these recommendations are: (1) a shift from the current "resource-based" system of pretrial release to an objective, "risk-based" system; (2) the supervision of defendants who are released by pretrial services officers; (3) a constitutional amendment and enabling statute that would permit the pretrial detention of any defendant for whom no conditions could reasonably assure either the safety of the community or the defendant's appearance in court; (4) a speedy trial act to ensure that criminal cases are brought to trial more promptly; and (5) sufficient additional resources in the form of pretrial service officers, judges, prosecutors, and public defenders to implement the recommended changes and enable them to succeed. The specifics of these recommendations are set forth in the Joint Committee's report.

Please send any comments on the Joint Committee's recommendations in writing by **Monday, May 19, 2014** to:

Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts
Comments on Joint Committee on Criminal Justice Report
Hughes Justice Complex; P.O. Box 037
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0037

Comments may also be submitted via Internet e-mail to the following address:
Comments.Mailbox@judiciary.state.nj.us.

The Supreme Court will not consider comments submitted anonymously. Thus, those submitting comments by mail should include their name and address

(and those submitting comments by e-mail should include their name and e-mail address). Comments are subject to public disclosure after the Court has acted.

/s/ Glenn A. Grant

Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

Dated: March 20, 2014