



independence

integrity

fairness

quality service

Annual Report

2007–2008

REPORT OF THE NEW JERSEY COURTS 2007-2008

Table of CONTENTS



The State of New Jersey
Administrative Office of the Courts

Philip S. Carchman, P.J.A.D.
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Theodore J. Fetter
Deputy Administrative Director

David P. Anderson
*Director, Office of Professional
and Governmental Services*

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and Community Relations*

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*Director, Office of Management
and Administrative Services*

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Director, Trial Court Services

James R. Rebo
Chief Information Officer

- 1 Letter from Chief Justice Stuart Rabner
- 2 Letter from Acting Administrative Director Philip S. Carchman, P.J.A.D.
- 3 Retrospective on the Retirement of Chief Justice James R. Zazzali
- 4 Landmark Opinions
- 7 Supreme Court
- 10 Appellate Division of Superior Court
- 12 Trial Court News
- 13 Leadership Transitions in the Trial Courts
- 15 Celebrations
- 17 Family Division
- 19 Criminal Division
- 21 Civil Division
- 23 Tax Court
- 24 Municipal Court
- 26 Probation Services
- 28 Statistical Summary
- 29 Vicinages
- 30 Judges and Justices of the N.J. Judiciary

Inside Back Cover - N.J. Judicial Council



A LETTER FROM CHIEF JUSTICE

STUART RABNER

On behalf of our Judiciary, I am proud to present this report of the New Jersey Courts.

We are indebted to Chief Justice James R. Zazzali and Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz for overseeing and advancing a Judiciary well-positioned to reach the achievements described in this report. They each led the Judiciary with great distinction, preserving and enhancing its reputation for integrity, independence, and the dedicated pursuit of justice.

In the face of rapid changes in leadership, our judges and staff continued serving the public with excellence. They continued to operate our unified organization with clear vision and goals, with sensible, standardized procedures, and with a sense of community fostered by a collegial management structure.

Since assuming the office of Chief Justice, I have had the pleasure of traveling to every vicinage to meet with judges, staff, and members of the local bar associations. Those meetings enabled me to meet countless hardworking and dedicated people and to observe firsthand how the unification efforts of the past 12 years have brought our Judiciary to the

forefront of court management. New Jersey is a national leader in providing consistent, statewide service in every vicinage throughout the state.

As you read about the many successes achieved during the past two years, please keep in mind that while justice remains a fixed star, our system of justice is a work in progress. We constantly seek to develop new programs, to improve our service, and to find better ways of doing business. Many of our most innovative programs, such as drug courts, begin as a pilot in one or more counties. Continuous self-assessment helps us determine when and where to expand. So while we strive for statewide consistency, we must always remain open to new ideas.

Our fellow citizens come to us expecting fair treatment in the courtroom; however, it is equally important to us that they receive fair treatment in every interaction they have with our courts. That commitment to fairness led us to focus this report on the many ways our courts are working to ensure equal access to all—litigants, attorneys, children in court, jurors, volunteers and the public.



I want to acknowledge the exceptional efforts of our judges and staff whose labor is reflected in these accomplishments. We all have reason to be especially grateful to Judge Philip S. Carchman, who will soon return to the Appellate Division, for his leadership, wisdom, and guidance as director of the AOC. We are fortunate that the very talented and experienced Judge Glenn A. Grant has agreed to assume that role this fall.

I feel privileged to be a part of the Judiciary and honored to serve as Chief Justice. I welcome your comments and ideas as we work together on vital matters in the years ahead.

A LETTER FROM ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

PHILIP S. CARCHMAN, P.J.A.D.

I am honored to have the opportunity to report on our recent Judiciary achievements in New Jersey—to celebrate long-standing programs that have served our citizens well; to describe the expansion of more recent programs; to introduce you to our newest initiatives and to celebrate those innovations that have received well-deserved national recognition.

This year, we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Supreme Court Committee on Minority Concerns, along with our many successful efforts to increase the diversity of, eliminate bias in, and expand access to our courts.

As you will read in our report, we are also celebrating the successful statewide expansion of several innovative programs, training and technology initiatives that will help us better serve the public and the culmination of work by Supreme Court committees charged with considering statewide policies on issues affecting the public. During more than a decade of unification efforts, we have dedicated ourselves to ensuring that justice is served equally to all of our citizens. We have strengthened our statewide management structure to enable us to identify innovations in programming and court management around the state and expand those programs and strategies to ensure equal access to high quality justice in every vicinage.

Our concern for accessibility propels other initiatives as well. We have a full-time ombudsman in every vicinage to help litigants—including self-represented litigants—find the forms, offices and information they need to file a case, find an attorney, correct a problem or get assistance from local agencies and services. This year, we added a statewide manager of litigant

services to support the ombudsmen and coordinate statewide programs.

The Special Committee on Public Access to Court Records, chaired by Justice Barry Albin, is working to expand access to the courts by proposing policies and guidelines to make public records available in the courthouses, at public terminals and, in the case of civil and criminal information, online.

Our award-winning Web site, njcourts.com, provides up-to-the-minute information on court news and notices, public statements, our juror reporting Web pages, Webcasts of Supreme Court arguments, court opinions and a plethora of important and useful information about our judiciary.

We are expanding access through enhancement to our information systems for those who access them, including state agencies, law enforcement, attorneys, litigants, and even court employees. Today, every court employee, including municipal court administrators, communicates on one statewide e-mail system and one statewide intranet.

Our concern for equal access to justice led us to expand our Drug Court program statewide. This year, we were recognized by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals for “Taking Drug Courts to Scale” for our successful expansion.

Other accolades include national recognition for our participation in the Annie E. Casey Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative, and a feature article on our backlog reduction program in the Judges Journal, a national publication of the American Bar Association, as a true success story in case management techniques. Those programs, as well, are the result of our commitment to improving the



quality of justice for all of those who come before the courts.

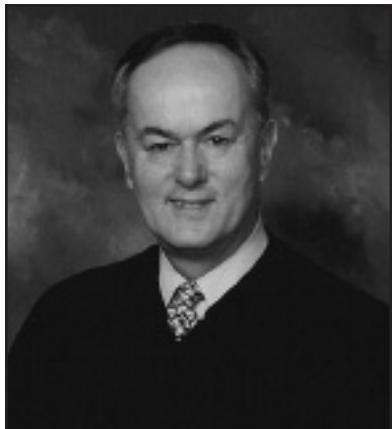
I have had the unique privilege of serving as administrative director under three chief justices in four years, each of whom is remarkable in her or his own right. Each has brought a distinct perspective to the leadership of the Judiciary, but all have shared one goal: to ensure that the New Jersey Judiciary remains among the finest in the nation by meeting the ideal of justice at every level of our judicial system.

I now leave the position of administrative director to return to the relative solitude of the Appellate Division, but I do so knowing that I am leaving the day-to-day administration of the Judiciary to my extraordinarily able colleague, Judge Glenn A. Grant. It has been a pleasure to serve the citizens of New Jersey in this capacity.

As I return to the bench, I want to take the opportunity to thank my colleagues, the judges, managers and staff with whom it has been my great pleasure to work. I am grateful for your enthusiasm, your professionalism, your commitment to the New Jersey Judiciary and, most important, your friendship.

A RETROSPECTIVE ON THE RETIREMENT OF CHIEF JUSTICE

JAMES R. ZAZZALI



Chief Justice James R. Zazzali was sworn into office on Oct. 26, 2006. Appointed to the Supreme Court on April 4, 2000, by Gov. Christine Todd Whitman, he served as an associate justice before being selected by Gov. Jon S. Corzine to head New Jersey's judicial branch. He reached the mandatory judicial retirement age of 70 on June 17, 2007.

Soon after being sworn in, Chief Justice Zazzali visited each vicinage to meet with judges, staff and local bar members. Rather than merely greeting local leaders, Chief Justice Zazzali used his visits to listen to the ideas and concerns of those whose work most directly impacts the public, and he shared his own priorities for the Judiciary. He also met with groups of minority judges and minority attorneys to discuss issues such as diversity on the bench and the preparation of minority judges for leadership roles in the court system.

Chief Justice Zazzali made building public trust and confidence in the court system one of his highest priorities during his brief term leading the Court. He gave several public addresses in a variety of settings, gave interviews, met with the editorial boards of the state's leading news organizations and created a standing Bench, Bar, and Media Committee to promote the public's understanding of and access to the courts.

The Chief Justice's concern for children and families led him to work with the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) to create a joint task force to address the needs of children and parents who are victims of domestic violence.

L.W. v. Toms River Regional Schools (2007) 289 N.J. 381

The Supreme Court held a high school liable under the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination, N.J.S.A. 10:5-1 to -49, for not protecting one of its students from biased-based bullying by peers who perceived him to be homosexual. Because the harassment occurred in a school setting, the school was required to take reasonable action to end the peer-on-peer mistreatment of a student.

Tarus v. Borough of Pine Hill (2007) 189 N.J. 497

A citizen who considered himself a “public watchdog” and critic of the governing body in his municipality attempted to videotape a public meeting from the rear of the room, but was ordered by the mayor to turn off his camera. When he refused, he was escorted out of the meeting at the mayor’s request and cited for disorderly conduct. The Supreme Court ruled that citizens have a right to videotape a municipal council meeting within reasonable limits under common law as well as the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 to -21.

Iliadis v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. (2007) 191 N.J. 88

The plaintiffs, hourly employees of Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., sought class action status in their case against their employer. They were denied class action status in the lower courts, which found that the commonalities of each case were overshadowed by several individual issues in which Wal-Mart sought to defend itself. The Supreme Court ruled that common law questions were predominant. In addition, the Court held that court rules governing class actions should be liberally construed for practical purposes, such as judicial economy, cost-effectiveness, convenience and, just as important, the equalization of adversaries.

Gallenthin Reality Development, Inc. v. Borough of Paulsboro (2007) 191 N.J. 344

In this eminent domain case, the Supreme Court was asked to determine if an undeveloped private parcel met the criteria set out in N.J.S.A. 40A:12-A-5 (e) for “blighted” property. The Court held that the Legislature did not intend for the law to apply in circumstances where the sole basis for redevelopment is that the property is “not fully productive,” but rather properties that are considered unproductive due to specific circumstances involving issues of title, diversity of ownership and similar situations.

Jerkins v. Anderson (2007)
191 N.J. 285

A child's family claimed negligence on the part of an elementary school and the school's principal for failing to supervise the child after a scheduled early dismissal. The child was hit by a car and paralyzed from the neck down. Although the trial court ruled in the plaintiff's favor, the Appellate Division reversed, holding that the district should have foreseen the possibility for injury to occur to a child left unsupervised after school was dismissed. The Supreme Court agreed, holding that school districts have a duty to exercise reasonable care for supervising students' safety at dismissal. It remanded the case to the trial court to determine whether the district had met the standard for reasonableness.

Hojnowski v. Vans Skate Park (2006)
185 N.J. 36

In this case, the Court was asked to decide whether a parent can bind a minor child to either a pre-injury waiver of liability or an agreement to arbitrate. The child's mother had been required to sign a release limiting the skate park's liability and agreeing to submit any claims against the park to arbitration. After the child was injured, his parents filed a lawsuit. The lower courts were divided on the issue. The Supreme Court held that although parents may agree to bind a minor child to an arbitration provision, they may not bind a child to a pre-injury release of a minor's prospective tort claims resulting from a minor's use of a commercial recreational facility. Such an agreement would not be in the best interest of the child, which the state is obligated to protect.

NPC Litigation Trust v. KPMG LLP (2006)
187 N.J. 353

As independent auditor to a corporation that imploded after several years of fraudulent financial reporting, KPMG eventually discovered and reported to the SEC the accounting irregularities that eventually led the firm to declare bankruptcy. When NCP Litigation Trust, representing the company's shareholders, sued KPMG for negligence, negligent misrepresentation, breach of contract and breach of fiduciary duty, the accounting firm argued that under the imputation doctrine, it could not be held liable for not discovering the fraud in its audits. In its opinion, the Court held that corporate shareholders have the right to try to recover damages from an auditor who did not uncover fraudulent reporting by a company it is hired to audit.

Bubis v. Kassin (2005)
184 N.J. 612

A plaintiff who owned a home across the street from the beach filed a lawsuit against her neighbors after they constructed an eight-foot sand berm planted with six-foot trees, obstructing her view. An 1887 restrictive covenant set the maximum height of any fence in that area at four feet, and a municipal ordinance required that all fences in the area be made of chain link or similar materials; however, the lower courts had ruled that a berm is not a fence and therefore not subject to those restrictions. The Supreme Court reversed the appellate decision, ruling that a berm does constitute a fence and is therefore disallowed by the covenant as well as by the municipal ordinance.

**R.M. v. Supreme Court of New Jersey,
District XIII Ethics Committee and
Office of Attorney Ethics (2005)**
185 N.J. 208

R.M. filed a grievance against her attorney with the District XIII Ethics Committee. On the grievance form was language stating that she must keep all communications regarding the grievance confidential until and unless a complaint was filed by the committee. After concluding its investigation, the committee determined that the attorney had violated the attorney code of ethics, but because the violations were minor, the attorney was eligible for "diversion," in which the attorney accepted responsibility for the infractions but the matter would remain confidential. R.M. filed suit, arguing that her right to free speech had been violated by the restrictions placed upon her, the grievant, in discussing the matter publicly. The Supreme Court agreed, remanding the matter to its Professional Responsibility Rules Committee to draft an amendment to Court Rule 1:20-9 to safeguard the rights of grievants in attorney ethics matters to discuss their grievance publicly.

**State of N.J. v. Sherman Artwell, a/k/a
Timothy Harris (2003)**
177 N.J. 526

A defendant in a drug case argued that the jury who heard his case was prejudiced by the fact that the trial court would not allow an incarcerated defense witness to testify in street clothes and without restraints. The Supreme Court held that the trial court's failure to state on the record its reason for requiring defendant's witness to testify before the jury in restraints was reversible error. In addition, the Court ruled that, in the future, a trial court could not require a defendant's witness to appeal at trial in prison garb.



*Chief Justice
Stuart Rabner*

Chosen to Head Judiciary

Nominated by Gov. Jon S. Corzine on June 4, 2007, Chief Justice Stuart Rabner was sworn into office on June 29, 2007. He is the eighth Chief Justice to lead the New Jersey Supreme Court since the 1947 Constitution.

Born on June 30, 1960, Chief Justice Rabner received a bachelor's degree from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University in 1982 and a law degree from Harvard Law School in 1985. He was a law clerk to U.S. District Court Judge Dickinson R. Debevoise before joining the U.S. Attorney's Office in Newark in 1986. He worked in a number of positions, including first assistant U.S. attorney and chief of the terrorism unit. He was serving as chief of the criminal division when he was named chief counsel to Gov. Corzine in January 2006. In October 2006 he was named attorney general. He served in that position until his nomination to the Court.

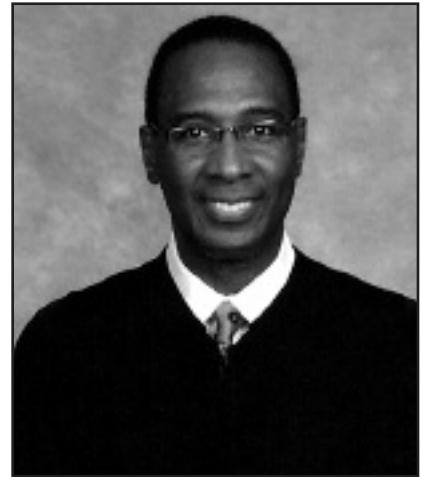


*Acting Administrative Director
Philip S. Carchman, P.J.A.D.*

Returns to Appellate Bench

Appellate Judge Philip S. Carchman's return to the appellate bench after four years as acting administrative director concludes a period of significant transition for the Judiciary. Judge Carchman has overseen the day-to-day operation of the courts under three chief justices since being named acting director in September 2004 by Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz. Under Judge Carchman's leadership, the courts have made strides in expanding and upgrading the technology infrastructure, allowing better communication both internally and with others who rely on the Judiciary's technology systems, such as attorneys, litigants, law enforcement and other government agencies. In addition, the courts have developed and expanded several initiatives to improve efficiency, fairness and quality service for the citizens of New Jersey.

A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School of Finance and Commerce and the University of Pennsylvania Law School, Judge Carchman began his legal career as a deputy attorney general in the Department of Law and Public Safety before going into private practice. While practicing law, he also served as a municipal court judge in Princeton Township and Princeton Borough. Appointed to the Superior Court by Gov. Thomas H. Kean in 1986, he became the assignment judge for Mercer Vicinage in 1995 and was elevated to the Appellate Division in 1997. He has authored more than 100 published opinions.



Glenn A. Grant, P.J.S.C.

Assumes Leadership Role

Superior Court Judge Glenn A. Grant was named acting administrative director of the courts by Chief Justice Rabner effective Sept. 1, 2008. Judge Grant holds a B.A. in political science from Lehigh University and a J.D. from Catholic University, and he has studied at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. He began his legal career as corporate counsel for the City of Newark before being appointed business administrator for the city. He was appointed to the bench in 1988 by Gov. Thomas H. Kean. Assigned to the family division in Essex Vicinage, Judge Grant was named presiding judge of the family division in 2003. In addition to his role on the bench, Judge Grant has served as a member of both the National and State Councils of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and the Supreme Court Committee on Minority Concerns; and as co-chair of the Essex County Youth Services Commission. He has served on the Supreme Court Committee on Domestic Violence and has lectured on family law issues at conferences and seminars throughout the state.

Supreme Court OF NEW JERSEY



The seven members of the New Jersey Supreme Court are appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the state Senate. After serving an initial seven-year term, the justices may be reappointed to serve until the mandatory retirement age of 70.

In addition to Chief Justice Stuart Rabner, the members of the Supreme Court are Associate Justice Virginia A. Long, who was appointed to the court in 1999 and reappointed with tenure in 2006; Associate Justice Jaynee LaVecchia, appointed in 2000 and reappointed with tenure in 2007; Associate Justice Barry T. Albin, appointed in 2002; Associate Justice John E. Wallace, appointed in 2003; Associate Justice Roberto A. Rivera-Soto, appointed in 2004; and Associate Justice Helen E. Hoens, appointed in 2006.

The Supreme Court is New Jersey's highest appellate court. The Court hears cases in which a panel of judges from the Appellate Division of Superior Court has disagreed. Litigants also may file petitions for certification requesting that the Court hear their case even if there was no dissent below. The Court may agree to consider legal issues of great importance to the public as well as legal issues that are the subject of separate, conflicting opinions in the Appellate Division. In deciding cases that come before it, the Supreme Court interprets the United States Constitution, the New Jersey Constitution, state statutes and administrative regulations, as well as the body of common law.

Top row, from left to right:
Justice Roberto A. Rivera-Soto,
Justice Barry T. Albin,
Justice John E. Wallace Jr.,
Justice Helen E. Hoens

Bottom row, from left to right:
Justice Virginia A. Long,
Chief Justice Stuart Rabner,
Justice Jaynee LaVecchia

Supreme Court

	July 2006 through June 2007	July 2007 through June 2008
Appeals added	265	175
Appeals decided	256	183
Petitions for certification filed	1,332	1,284
Petitions decided	1,388	1,313
Motions added	1,616	1,572
Motions decided	1,528	1,601
Opinions issued	127	105

The Supreme Court also oversees the processes by which attorneys are admitted to the Bar as well as the attorney discipline process. Through the Board of Bar Examiners, the Supreme Court admitted 3,107 new attorneys in court year 2007 and 2,856 new attorneys in court year 2008.

The Office of Attorney Ethics (OAE) investigates allegations of attorney misconduct and files formal complaints where warranted. It oversees the 507 volunteers on the state's 17 district ethics committees, the 292 volunteers on the state's 17 district fee arbitration committees, the random audit program and the annual attorney registration process. Disciplinary sanctions are imposed by the Supreme Court and include both final discipline, which is imposed after the completion of an investigation, hearing and review by the Disciplinary Review Board (DRB), and emergent actions, which are imposed

to protect the public while the disciplinary case is pending. The latest report from the OAE shows that the Supreme Court issued 121 orders for final discipline in calendar year 2007.

The DRB serves as the intermediate appellate level of the attorney disciplinary system in New Jersey. It reviews all recommendations for discipline from the district ethics committees and from the OAE. With the exception of decisions involving disbarment, all DRB decisions are final, subject to Court issuing an order to show cause on its own motion or in response to a party's filing a petition for review.

The New Jersey Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection, funded by the state's lawyers and judges, awarded \$1,745,549 million to clients for losses caused by 49 lawyers. The Fund's purpose is to pay on behalf of the honest majority of lawyers for the wrongdoing of the few who are suspended or disbarred for misappropriation. In its 39-year history, the Fund has paid claims against 611 attorneys, approximately three-quarters of one percent of the more than 80,000 lawyers currently licensed in New Jersey.

Supreme Court Committee Recommends Clearer Policies Governing Public Access to Court Records

Chaired by Associate Justice Barry T. Albin, the Special Committee on Public Access to Court Records was created by the Court to conduct a comprehensive review of Court Rule 1:38, which guides public access to court records in New Jersey. In January 2008, the Committee submitted its report to the Court. The report contains a history of public access to court records in New Jersey, a detailed description of court structure and automated court records and a review of current methods of public access to court records. It concludes with a review of the issues considered by the committee, including those incorporated in a proposed court rule and those suggested for consideration in the future. Changes proposed by the committee include a clearer definition of court records and administrative records available to the public; a comprehensive list of records exempt from public access as dictated by court rule and statutes and because of privacy interests or other compelling concerns; a rule barring attorneys and litigants from including certain personal identification numbers, such as Social Security numbers, in papers they submit to the courts; and a process to appeal a decision denying access to a court record.

The committee also made recommendations to make more court records available at public access computer terminals in courthouses across the state; to post addition-

al court records on the Internet; to create a permanent advisory committee on public access; to launch a public education effort on issues related to open court records; and to address the availability of electronic records.

The committee's report was made available for public comment, and the Court conducted a public hearing in May 2008. It will issue its administrative determinations after due consideration of both the report and the comments received from the public.

Minority Concerns Committee Celebrates 25 Years

In court year 2008, the Supreme Court Committee on Minority Concerns celebrated its 25th anniversary by acknowledging the accomplishments of the judges, staff, attorneys and community members who have worked with the Judiciary to address the issue of equality in New Jersey's courts. Over the course of the past 25 years, the Judiciary has developed a number of programs to foster diversity, to eliminate bias, and to ensure equal access to court facilities, programs and services. Many of these programs began with proposals from the Minority Concerns Committee. A short list of Judiciary successes includes



Pictured from left to right: Reginald Johnson, Chair, Middlesex Vicinage Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns (VACMC); Hon. Verna Leath, J.S.C., Chair, Essex VACMC; Belinda Daughtry, Chair, Hudson VACMC; James W. Palmer Jr., Chair, Ocean VACMC; Hon. Ronald J. Freeman, Chair, SCCMC; Hon. Miguel de la Carrera, J.S.C., Chair, Passaic VACMC; Hon. Peter A. Buchsbaum, J.S.C., Chair, Somerset/Hunterdon/Warren VACMC; and Hon. Charles W. Dortch Jr., J.S.C., Chair, Camden VACMC.

- Advancement opportunities for women and minority judges. In 1992, 5.9 percent of the judges serving as assignment judge of a vicinage, presiding judge of a division or appellate judge identified themselves as members of a minority group, and 14.7 percent were women. At the end of court year 2008, 13.9 percent of the judges holding leadership positions were members of minority groups, and 13.2 percent of judges in leadership were women.

- An increase in minorities working for the Judiciary from 23.5 percent in 1992 to 37.9 percent in court year 2008.
- An increase in minority court executives from 5.8 percent in court year 1992 to 23 percent in court year 2008.
- A comprehensive program for recruiting minority law clerks. In court year 2008, the Judiciary hired 96 minority law clerks out of a total of 472, or 20.3 percent.
- Education and training for Judiciary employees to help them work together in a diverse atmosphere.
- A statewide initiative to broaden access to the courts through the development of kits for self-represented litigants.
- An initiative aimed at reducing racial disparity in the juvenile detention population.
- Statewide standards for providing interpreting and translation services to litigants who are deaf or who do not speak English well enough to communicate in court.
- A statewide ombudsman program to assist litigants, including self-represented litigants, navigate the courts.
- Statewide Law Day programming to build the public's understanding of the courts and the legal system.

Committee on Continuing Legal Education Recommends Life-long Learning for New Jersey Attorneys

The Supreme Court has exclusive authority to regulate the practice of law in New Jersey, which includes determining the requirements for attorneys to maintain good standing in the profession. Chaired by former Supreme Court Justice Peter G. Verniero, the Ad Hoc Committee on Continuing Legal Education (CLE) was created to consider continuing legal education requirements for New Jersey attorneys. New Jersey is one of only a handful of states that does not now require all attorneys to take additional courses beyond the initial courses that they must take during the first three years of their legal career. On June 3, 2008, the Committee submitted its report to the Supreme Court. The Committee recommended that mandatory CLE should apply to nearly all holders of a New Jersey law license. It suggested that attorneys be obligated to take 24 credit hours of instruction over a two-year reporting cycle. It also recommended a uniform tracking system of compliance. The Supreme Court has asked for public comment on the draft report before acting on any or all of the recommendations. After the comment period closes, the Committee will file its final report with the Court. If there have been substantive changes, the Court will invite additional comments.

Committee on the Code of Judicial Conduct to Review Rules Governing New Jersey Judges

The New Jersey Supreme Court has created an Ad Hoc Committee on the Code of Judicial Conduct. Chaired by former Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz and consisting of judges and attorneys from around the state, the committee is examining New Jersey's Code of Judicial Conduct and may propose changes to the standards of conduct required of the state's approximately 800 judges, including Supreme Court justices and judges of the Superior Court, the Tax Court, the Municipal Court and the Surrogate Court. The committee will review New Jersey's Code of Judicial Conduct in light of the revised Model Code of Judicial Conduct adopted by the American Bar Association in February 2007.

Electronic Registration for Attorneys

In court year 2007, the Supreme Court launched a new electronic database for the state's approximately 80,000 attorneys. The database was developed to maintain information from a variety of offices, including the Board of Bar Examiners, the Lawyer's Fund for Client Protection, the Lawyers' Assistance Program and the OAE. By accessing the convenient registration Web page through the Judiciary Web site, attorneys can register and pay annual fees online and be sure that their payment was received immediately. The system is updated automatically in real time to ensure that all court offices involved in the regulation of attorneys have access to accurate information. In its first year of statewide operation, more than 11,000 attorneys chose to register and pay their fees online, and more than 17,000 attorneys used the online option in 2008.

New Attorneys Sworn in by Chief Justice in Statewide Ceremony

Under Chief Justice Zazzali, the Supreme Court revived the tradition of swearing in new attorneys in a public ceremony held in the Patriots Theater at the Trenton War Memorial on May 25, 2007. The last statewide swearing-in ceremony had been held in 1993. In attendance were the associate justices of the New Jersey Supreme Court as well as judges and magistrate judges of the U. S. District Court for the District of New Jersey. Attorneys were sworn into the New Jersey bar by the Chief Justice, and they were sworn into the federal bar by Chief Judge Garrett E. Brown Jr.

Chief Justice Rabner has continued the tradition, swearing in new attorneys on Dec. 3, 2007 and on June 10, 2008.

Appellate Division OF SUPERIOR COURT

The Appellate Division is the state's intermediate appellate court. In addition to hearing appeals from the trial courts, it hears appeals and interlocutory motions from the Tax Court and the state's administrative agencies.

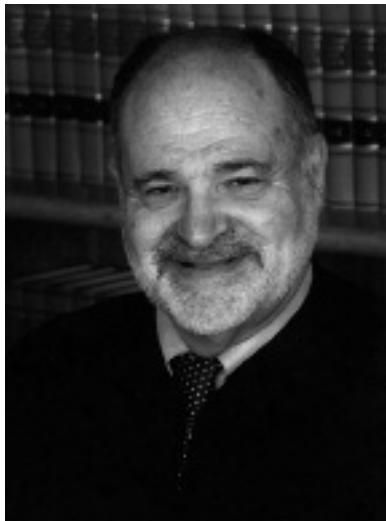
The 33 judges in the Appellate Division are chosen by the Chief Justice to serve on one of eight parts, each of which has statewide jurisdiction. Each case is heard by a panel of two or three judges who issue an opinion in every case. Opinions that set legal precedent are "published" as case law for reference in future cases. Both published and unpublished opinions are posted on the Judiciary Web site, where they remain for two weeks. A link from the opinions page leads users to a searchable archive of published and unpublished opinions on the Web site of Rutgers Law School-Camden.

In court year 2007, the Appellate Division resolved 7,029 appeals. During that time, the division issued 3,517 opinions, of which 305 opinions were approved for publication, meaning that they may be referred to as precedential in subsequent court cases. The division also disposed of 7,591 motions. On June 30, 2007, the Appellate Division had 6,365 cases pending.

Court year 2008 saw a decrease in the number of filings in the Appellate Division, with 6,662 appeals added and 6,780 resolved. During the year the division issued approximately 3,500 opinions, with roughly 300 approved for publication. The division disposed of 7,548 motions. Pending cases numbered 6,247 on June 30, 2008.

Appeals are argued in various locations around the state, including courtrooms in Trenton, Hackensack, Morristown, Mt. Holly, New Brunswick and Atlantic City. The Appellate Division actively seeks to hold oral arguments in additional locations, including Rutgers Law School-Newark, making the appellate process more accessible for litigants, lawyers, students and members of the public.

Administration of the division is centralized through the presiding judge for administration and the Appellate Division Clerk's Office to facilitate efficient court operations. Research, disposition, records, and case management are overseen through Appellate Division offices in Trenton. The Clerk's Office recently reorganized its case management teams to allow for more streamlined resolution of criminal cases, which now are processed by a single team of case managers. The new organization maximizes staff expertise and facilitates communication between the Clerk's Office, public defenders, county prosecutor's offices and the Division of Criminal Justice, allowing for more efficient case resolution.



Judge Stern

New Civil Pro Bono Pilot Program Will Help Indigent Litigants

In the fall of 2007, the Appellate Division began seeking attorneys to participate in a pilot program that would provide free legal representation to litigants who normally would not qualify for legal assistance, such as those seeking to appeal cases of domestic violence, child custody and visitation, small claims and special civil part cases, including landlord/tenant matters. The project was developed by Appellate Division Judge Jose L. Fuentes. The pro bono program gives attorneys valuable experience in the appellate process and in the practice area in which they represent the clients. On behalf of the litigants, participating attorneys or law firms agree to purchase the trial court transcript, which is one of the most expensive aspects of proceeding with an appeal.

Help for Pro Se Litigants

The Appellate Division has available online a number of kits and forms to help self-represented litigants file an appeal or brief. As court staff may not offer legal assistance, the kits offer a basic overview of the appellate process, the required forms, and a list of the documents required to file an appeal. The Division is now developing Spanish versions of these instructions.

New Procedure for Forfeiture of Bail Bonds

The Appellate Division has incorporated into its bail forfeiture procedures new guidelines to ensure that bail companies who have been ordered to forfeit bail amounts because their clients failed to appear in court do not simply file appeals to delay or avoid paying the bail amount. To discourage the practice of filing appeals as a delay tactic for bail companies, the Appellate Division now requires that the amount owed be held by the court in escrow for the duration of the appeal process.

Accelerated Case Management

One of the most critical areas in which the division seeks to minimize the time to resolution is in children-in-court cases, such as appeals of child custody arrangements, termination of parental rights, and child abuse and neglect cases. These appeals are overseen by a single judge with the help of a specialized team in the Clerk's Office to streamline court processes and avoid delays as much as possible. The division resolved 170 children-in-court appeals in court year 2007 and 176 appeals in 2008.

The Civil Appeals Settlement Program (CASP) can expedite the resolution of civil cases by giving the parties the opportunity to meet in conference before oral arguments are scheduled. The pre-argument conference can lead to a settlement agreement, but even if it does not, the conference helps the parties focus on specific issues on appeal rather than the entire case. CASP can shorten significantly the time to resolution of civil cases. CASP assisted the resolution of 456 appeals in 2007 and 381 appeals in 2008.

Similarly, the Excessive Sentence Program speeds resolution in criminal cases where the issue being argued is limited to the length of incarceration rather than the guilt or innocence of the defendant. The parties in sentencing appeals make their arguments without filing lengthy briefs, saving time and money for litigants and their attorneys. In court year 2007, 838 sentencing appeals were disposed of through the program, and 694 were disposed of in 2008.



Trial Court NEWS



Litigant Services Program Brings Statewide Service to All Court Users

An increase in self-represented litigants has led the Judiciary to develop a statewide program to coordinate assistance to self-represented litigants. Each of the state's 15 vicinages has a number of resources to help self-represented litigants, such as an ombudsman to help them locate forms, offices and outside agencies that may offer relevant services. Most vicinages also have law librarians to provide assistance with legal research. In addition, the Judiciary Web site at njcourts.com houses complete packets of information for litigants in certain types of court actions, such as name changes, judgments, expungements and requests for child support. In August 2007, the Judiciary named a manager of litigant services to provide statewide leadership and support to ombudsmen, librarians and others to ensure equal access to justice for self-represented litigants. The manager also ensures that all packets for self-represented litigants meet standards for formatting, content and legal sufficiency; develop training and guidelines that clarify the role of Judiciary staff in helping self-represented litigants; work with judges and managers to identify barriers to access for court users; work with bar associations and Legal Services of New Jersey to find ways to integrate self-represented litigants smoothly into the rhythm of courtroom procedure and practice; and work with Judiciary leaders to enhance the experience of court users.

Online Reporting System Lets Jurors Know When to Report

A new page on the Judiciary Web site allows people summoned for jury service to find out whether they are required to report to the courthouse each day. In order to lessen inconvenience for jurors and reduce costs, jury managers in each county analyze the current trial need for their court and determine the number of jurors needed at the courthouse the following day. Jurors who are instructed not to

report to the courthouse on that day, but who haven't completed their service, still must check if their juror number is called for the following day. The jury reporting page includes a separate link for each county, so jurors can check the link for their county. The information on the link refers to jurors' assigned numbers and not juror names. The online service supplements the long-standing call-in system that plays a recorded message for jurors to find out when they must report. First begun in Burlington and Ocean counties, the online jury reporting system became statewide in June 2008. It is part of the Judiciary's ongoing efforts to improve the experience of serving on a jury.

Wireless Internet Access Now Available in Courthouses Statewide

Providing wireless Internet access in public areas of the county courthouses is another effort to improve the experience of jurors and other court visitors. The Judiciary first provided wireless access in designated courtrooms to attorneys in mass tort cases as a way to help the attorneys litigate their cases more efficiently and effectively. Because mass tort litigation involves multiple court cases and thousands of documents and discovery items, wireless access enabled the parties to bring laptop computers and access remote information when needed rather than carry all relevant items to court each day. Gradually, the usefulness of wireless Internet access to prosecutors, defense attorneys and other members of the bar led the courts to embark on a plan to provide wireless access to those court participants as well. Because the system offers a secure route to the Internet without any threat to the security of the Judiciary's computer systems, the Judiciary was able to expand wireless access to the public areas of the courthouse, allowing all court visitors to access the Internet. Now jurors and litigants, as well as attorneys, may use their laptops in designated waiting rooms and other public areas to access their work, their e-mail, or other areas of the Internet while they await their cases.

Vicinage Leadership TRANSITIONS

In addition to hearing court cases, the assignment judge serves as the chief administrator for the vicinage, working with the vicinage trial court administrator to oversee day-to-day court operations, budgets and staffing. All assignment judges are members of the Judicial Council, a statewide body of leaders who meet monthly to develop strategies and make policy recommendations aimed at continuously improving court management. During the past two court years, four of the Judiciary's 15 assignment judges hung up their judicial robes and wrapped up lengthy careers overseeing local court operations.



Eugene D. Serpentelli, A.J.S.C.
retired

After 29 years on the bench, Ocean Vicinage Assignment **Judge Eugene D. Serpentelli** retired as of July 4, 2007. Judge Serpentelli was appointed in 1978 and served as a judge of the Ocean County Court, with brief stints in the Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage and the Monmouth Vicinage. He was named assignment judge in the Ocean Vicinage

in 1985 and went on to become the longest-serving assignment judge in the Judiciary. Judge Serpentelli chaired a number of Supreme Court committees during his time on the bench, including the statewide Family Practice Committee since its inception in 1982, and he served on the Domestic Violence Working Group, which authored the first statewide manual for resolving domestic violence cases.

Superior Court **Judge Vincent J. Grasso** was named assignment judge of the Ocean Vicinage upon Judge Serpentelli's retirement. He was appointed to the bench on July 14, 1989 and was reappointed with tenure on July 14, 1996. First assigned to the family division, Judge Grasso served as presiding judge of that division for six years before being reassigned to the criminal division. He was serving as presiding judge of general equity when he was named assignment judge. A graduate of Columbia University and Vermont Law School, Judge Grasso worked in private practice before he was appointed to the bench.



Vincent J. Grasso, A.J.S.C.

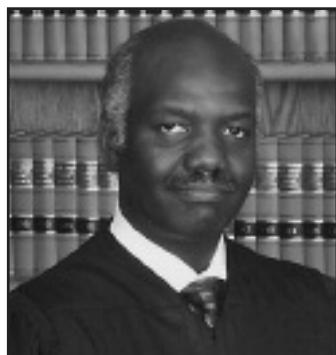


Robert A. Lonhi, A.J.S.C. retired

The Judiciary said goodbye to long-time Middlesex Vicinage Assignment **Judge Robert A. Lonhi** on May 26, 2007. Appointed to the bench in 1973 and reappointed in 1980, Judge Lonhi served the Middlesex Vicinage for 34 years, including 13 years as assignment judge. Judge Lonhi led the vicinage during statewide unification efforts and oversaw both the construction of the family court facility and the major renovation of the old courthouse.

Assignment **Judge Travis L. Francis** was named to lead the vicinage upon Judge Longhi's retirement. Appointed on Jan. 15, 1992, Judge Francis was reappointed with tenure on Jan. 15, 1999. Before being named to lead the vicinage, Judge Francis sat at various times in the family, civil and criminal divisions before being named presiding

judge of general equity. He holds a bachelor's degree from Bradley University, a master's degree from North Carolina State University and a law degree from Rutgers University School of Law-Newark. He served as a public defender and then in private practice before his judicial appointment.



Travis L. Francis, A.J.S.C.

Ohio Northern University College of Law. He was an assistant U.S. attorney for the District of New Jersey before being named chief of the civil division in the U.S. Attorney's Office. He was working in private practice at the time of his judicial appointment.



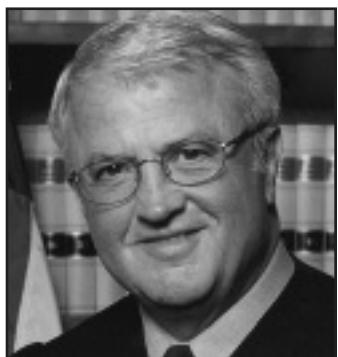
John A. Sweeney, A.J.S.C. retired

The Burlington Vicinage bid goodbye to Assignment **Judge John A. Sweeney** on June 30, 2008. Judge Sweeney took the oath of office on Feb. 4, 1992, and was reappointed with tenure on Feb. 4, 1999. He served in the family, civil and criminal divisions before being named assignment judge effective Sept. 1, 2000.

Judge Sweeney oversaw the implementation of the Drug

Court program in Burlington Vicinage, worked to reduce the backlog of old cases and helped develop stronger relationships with the community, students and members of the local bar. He led many local and statewide initiatives to improve court operations and build public trust and confidence in the courts.

Assignment **Judge Robert J. Passero** of Passaic Vicinage retired on May 30, 2008. Named to the bench on Nov. 1, 1988, Judge Passero first served in the criminal division before moving to the family division and, later, the civil division. He was named assignment judge on Aug. 13, 1999. As the leader of Passaic Vicinage, he oversaw significant backlog reduction efforts and worked to implement best practice standards across all divisions and in the municipal courts.



Robert J. Passero, A.J.S.C. retired

Judge Donald J. Volkert was named to succeed Judge Passero as assignment judge for the Passaic Vicinage. Appointed to the bench on Feb. 11, 1992, Judge Volkert was reappointed with tenure on Feb. 11, 1999. He began his judicial career in the criminal division in the Essex Vicinage and was

named presiding judge of the family division in 1999. He was named presiding judge of the criminal division in September 2003, and served in that capacity until being named to lead the vicinage effective July 14, 2008. Judge Volkert earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Charleston and a law degree from



Donald J. Volkert, A.J.S.C.



Ronald E. Bookbinder, A.J.S.C.

Ohio Northern University College of Law. He was an assistant U.S. attorney for the District of New Jersey before being named chief of the civil division in the U.S. Attorney's Office. He was working in private practice at the time of his judicial appointment.

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Judge Ronald E. Bookbinder was named assignment judge upon Judge Sweeney's retirement. Judge Bookbinder was appointed to the bench on June 19, 1990 and was reappointed with tenure in 1997. He has served in every division of Superior Court. First assigned to the criminal bench in Burlington, he was reassigned to the family bench in 1992 and in 1995 moved to the civil bench, where he served as presiding judge of the civil part from 2000 to 2002. In 2002 he was named presiding judge of general equity, and has served in that capacity until becoming assignment judge. He holds a bachelor's degree from Colgate University and a law degree from the George Washington University School of Law. He began his career in private practice and also filled various municipal appointments before being named to the bench.

Celebrations

National Volunteer Week

In April, the New Jersey Judiciary observes National Volunteer Week by thanking the more than 4,000 volunteers who provide critical services to the courts and the public. Volunteers have been working in the courts for decades, and in 2008 the Judiciary celebrated the 60th anniversary of the Juvenile Conference Committees and the 30th anniversary of Child Placement Review boards, as well as the statewide expansion of the Court Appointed Special Advocate program. Judiciary volunteers make a difference in their communities by working alongside of judges and court staff in many capacities, including

- Child Placement Review boards, who monitor the cases of all children who are placed outside their home by the DYFS;
- Court Appointed Special Advocates, who follow the case of a single child or sibling group to help identify the best option for permanent placement;
- Juvenile Conference Committees, who hear and make recommendations to the court in matters involving juvenile offenders;
- the Supervised Visitation Program, in which volunteer supervise visits between children and their non-custodial parents to help build familial relationships in a safe environment;
- local advisory committees on minority concerns, who examine issues and make recommendations to the Judiciary related to fairness and equitable access;
- a variety of complementary dispute resolution programs, which seek to find mutually acceptable resolutions to disputes between parties in family, civil and municipal court matters; and
- adult and juvenile intensive supervision programs, where clients needing assistance with transportation, budget management or other aspects of community reintegration can rely on community members for guidance and advice.





Adoption Day

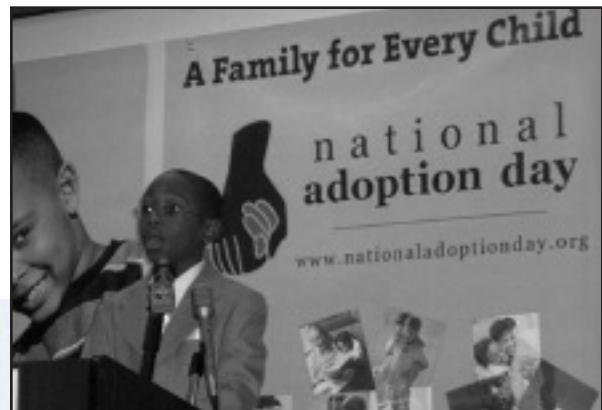
National Adoption Day is celebrated nationwide as an opportunity to build awareness of the thousands of children in foster care who are waiting to be adopted into permanent homes. In New Jersey, Adoption Day is celebrated in various courthouses, often with a number of adoptions scheduled for the same day. Although adoption proceedings are not open to the public, post-adoption celebrations often include family and community members, as well as judges, court staff, and members of the public. Statewide the Judiciary finalized adoptions for 2,298 children in court year 2007 and 2,406 children in 2008.

Law Day

Every May, the New Jersey Judiciary joins states across the nation in observing Law Day, an occasion to consider and appreciate the importance of our system of laws and justice. A signature component of New Jersey's Law Day celebrations is a recorded address by the Chief Justice that is available on the Judiciary Web site and distributed for use in local observances. Commenting on the 2008 Law Day theme, "Rule of Law: Foundation for Communities of Opportunity and Equity," Chief Justice Rabner said,

We take for granted the rule of law and the key elements it needs to flourish, because in our country, power is spread among a number of offices and not concentrated in a single leader or body; because we have transparency in our laws, so that everyone can see that they're followed; and because we have an independent judiciary to help make sure the laws are applied fairly. Sadly, that's not true in other parts of the world.

Led by judges, staff and local bar associations, Law Day celebrations and observances held at courthouses around the state include public ceremonies, proclamations, speeches and musical performances; youth programs such as essay and poster contests, mock trials and youth summits; juror appreciation days; volunteer awards; tours; seminars; and information fairs. Those events underscore the Judiciary's commitment to building the public's awareness of the legal system and familiarity with the work of the courts.





Family DIVISION

The family division resolves disputes regarding dissolution (divorce), domestic violence, juvenile delinquency, child support, foster-care placements, adoption, custody and visitation, kinship guardianship, and termination of parental rights. Because those cases greatly affect the daily lives and personal relationship of the litigants, the Judiciary has adopted very short time goals for resolution. Often those cases are complicated by the involvement of multiple family members as well as representatives from other state agencies, including DYFS, the Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) and the Judiciary's Office of Child Support Enforcement. Judges and staff of the family division collaborate with representatives from many agencies and organizations to develop programs and procedures to improve the services provided to the families and children involved.

Electronic Filing of Temporary Restraining Orders

One critical area of the division's work is the resolution of domestic violence complaints and the issuance of temporary restraining orders (TROs) to protect the victims. The information technology office, municipal court services, automated trial court services and the family division have developed a new process in which domestic violence complaints and TROs can be filed electronically. The electronic TRO (E-TRO) program uses electronic transmission and filing of domestic violence complaints with the family division of Superior Court to help victims of domestic violence obtain needed protections outside of normal court hours.

Before the E-TRO, police officers were required to fill out TRO applications by hand and telephone a judge, per Court Rule 5:7A, to authorize a TRO. The order was faxed to the family division, and would appear on the domestic violence central registry after data entry. The new system allows police to fill out an electronic form, teleconference with the judge, and print out the approved TRO in moments. The information is transmitted automatically to the domestic violence central registry and is available immediately to police anywhere in the state. The courts' family automated case tracking system also receives the information automatically, reducing redundancy and data entry errors on these systems. E-TROs are immediately effective and enforceable, providing more protection for domestic violence victims.

Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative Keeps Youth out of Detention and in Their Communities

In 2004, New Jersey was selected to participate in the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). The goal of the initiative is to reduce the number of youth housed in secure detention facilities by finding alternatives that will allow them to remain in the community while awaiting the outcome of their case. The target population for this initiative is youth who have been accused of a delinquent act and are awaiting the outcome of their court case. Youth defendants may be held in detention because they are considered either a flight risk or a serious threat to public safety.

Detention removes youth from their familiar support system and can harm their connection to the community. Overcrowding in detention centers can create additional suffering for at-risk youth. In addition, minority youth are over-represented in detention populations.

The Judiciary worked with the JJC and other agencies to develop alternatives to detention such as electronic monitoring, night reporting centers, and a series of graduated sanctions for those youth who violate the terms of their probation. Five counties—Atlantic, Camden, Essex, Hudson and Monmouth—were chosen to participate in the pilot program.

The most recent annual figures have shown that in the past four years, the five JDAI sites have decreased the average daily population in detention by 42 percent. In addition, the average length of stay in detention centers—which are intended for short-term placement—decreased by more than 54 percent. Much of that population decline is due to efforts by the agencies involved to reserve detention for only the most serious and chronic youthful offenders, while matters involving less serious violations of the conditions of probation and non-delinquency matters are resolved without the use of detention.

In court year 2007, the Supreme Court approved the pilot testing of a uniform risk-screening tool that uses a point system to provide objective data for the detention admission decision. Court intake officers can use the risk screening point system to determine for each youth if there may be an appropriate alternative to detention, including release, electronic monitoring, night reporting requirements, or a system of graduated sanctions. The use of objective data to make this determination is intended to help reduce detention populations as well as minority over-representation in detention centers.

Pilot Program for Parenting Coordinators Helps Parents Resolve Conflicts

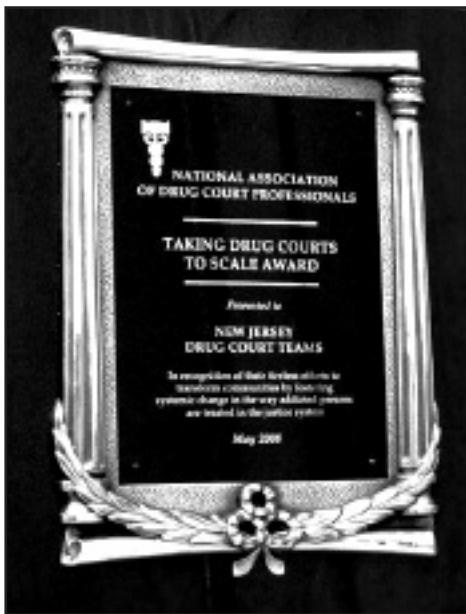
The Bergen, Middlesex, Morris/Sussex and Union Vicinages have joined a pilot program, developed by the Conference of Family Presiding Judges and authorized by the Supreme Court, to standardize the assistance provided to divorced or separated parents who cannot agree on day-to-day parenting issues. The court may appoint a parenting coordinator in cases where a parenting plan has been established but the parties cannot resolve these issues on their own. The coordinator can help parents monitor the existing parenting plan, reduce misunderstandings, clarify priorities, explore possibilities for compromise and develop communication and collaboration between them. The focus of the parenting coordinator is always to protect the best interest of the children by reducing conflict and fostering sound decisions that aid positive child development. Ultimately, the goal of the parenting coordinator is to help parents develop the skills to resume parenting and decision-making roles without the need for outside intervention.

Joint Task Force on Domestic Violence Addresses Needs of Children

The Judiciary and DYFS have formed a joint task force to address the needs of children and parents who are the victims of domestic violence. The announcement was made at the 2007 Domestic Violence Conference, an annual event at which family court judges meet to discuss issues, case law and legislation related to domestic violence. In 2007, the conference was expanded to include DYFS personnel in order to foster a more collaborative approach to the difficult problem of ensuring the safety of children in homes where domestic violence has been found. One of the biggest challenges is weighing the risk of harm to the child in the home, versus the risk of harm that removing the child might cause. The task force will develop recommendations for the Judiciary and the Department of Children and Families to implement collaborative policies and practices that will help safeguard the children of domestic violence.

Criminal DIVISION

Cases involving serious crimes such as murder, rape, robbery and theft are resolved in the criminal division of Superior Court. Criminal trials are conducted before a jury composed of 12 citizens and two alternates. Most criminal cases do not go to trial and instead are disposed of through plea negotiations or other alternative resolutions.



Drug Court Program Receives National Award Four Years after Statewide Expansion

The New Jersey drug court program received the National Association of Drug Court Professionals' "Taking Drug Courts to Scale" award in May 2008. New Jersey received the award for committing the resources and leadership needed to ensure that the drug court program is available for all eligible offenders in the state.

New Jersey's drug court program has shown remarkable success at breaking the cycle of drug abuse and crime. The program provides non-violent drug offenders with rehabilitation and close supervision to help them overcome their addictions. Those who meet strict guidelines are able to avoid incarceration and start rebuilding their lives.

Drug courts are unique in the criminal justice environment because they build a close collaborative relationship between criminal justice and drug treatment professionals. The drug court judge heads a team of court staff, attorneys, probation officers, substance abuse evaluators and treatment professionals who work together to support and monitor each participant's recovery. They maintain a critical balance of authority, supervision, support and encouragement. Drug court programs are rigorous, requiring intensive supervision based on frequent drug testing and court appearances, along with tightly structured regimens of treatment and recovery services. This level of supervision permits the program to support the recovery process, but also allows the drug court judge to react swiftly to impose appropriate therapeutic sanctions or to reinstate criminal proceedings when participants do not comply with the program despite repeated interventions.

New Jersey drug court statistics show low recidivism rates compared to drug offenders who are released from prison. Approximately 14 percent of drug court graduates have been rearrested for an indictable offense within three years from the date of graduation, and 7 percent have been reconvicted of an indictable offense. By contrast, the rearrest rate for drug offenders in the general prison population is 54 percent, and the reconviction rate for those offenders is 43 percent.

With a retention rate of 64 percent, New Jersey's drug court program was praised by the New Jersey Commission to Review Criminal Sentencing in its April 2007 report as an effective and cost-efficient alternative to incarceration for non-violent offenders whose criminal activity was symptomatic of alcohol or drug dependency. In addition, because minorities are overrepresented in prison populations, drug courts help reduce the racial disparity in correctional facilities.

Drug courts also help reunite families by allowing previously addicted drug offenders the chance to regain custody of their minor children, to obtain jobs and support their dependents, and to contribute resources and stability to their communities. The program directs tax dollars toward effective treatment and rehabilitation rather than ineffective punishment and incarceration.

Death Penalty Repealed

P.L. 2007, c. 204 was signed into law on Dec. 17, 2007. The legislation repeals the death penalty and replaces it with a sentence of life imprisonment without parole for certain murders committed where an aggravating factor was present. In response to the legislation, the criminal division and the Trial Judges Committee on Capital Causes have been working to address a number of legal and procedural issues to ensure that the legislation is implemented as seamlessly as possible. They have recommended to the Supreme Court several amendments to the Rules of Court. In addition, they have drafted for consideration new jury charges and verdict forms for use in murder cases in which the potential sentence is life without parole.

Online Manual Explains Criminal Case Management Procedures

A guide to New Jersey's criminal court procedures, developed as an introduction to court staff assigned to the division, has been published on the Judiciary Web site. Used widely by court staff, the Criminal Division Overview is also an important reference tool for attorneys, litigants, law students and members of the public seeking information on how criminal cases are handled by the Judiciary. The 64-page guide includes policies and procedures adopted by the New Jersey Supreme Court, the Judicial Council and the administrative director of the courts to help ensure statewide compliance and consistency in criminal cases.

Training Grant Helps Judges and Staff Assist Victims of Sexual Violence

With the assistance of federal Violence Against Women Act grant funds, approximately 200 criminal division judges and court staff participated in two training conferences about sexual violence. Victims of sexual violence are apt to find their court experiences to be particularly traumatic and the goal of the conference was to help Judiciary members understand the victims' perspective and find ways to reduce stress in their interactions with the court. Training topics included how to communicate with victims of sexual violence, forensic evidence and collection, supervision of sex offenders and the impact and prevalence of stalking. In addition, information provided by victims of sexual violence allowed judges and court staff to see how their actions and communication can have a positive impact on victims.

Electronic Recordation of Custodial Interrogations

In *State v. Cook*, 179 N.J. 533 (2004), the New Jersey Supreme Court called for a study of the protections provided to both the defendant and the state by the electronic recordation of custodial interrogations. In April 2005, the Supreme Court Special Committee on the Recordation of Custodial Interrogations submitted its report to the court and the public was invited to submit its comments regarding its findings and recommendations. In October 2005, the Supreme Court issued an administrative determination requiring recordation for all homicide offenses effective Jan. 1, 2006 and for other criminal offenses specified in Court Rule 3:17(a) effective Jan. 1, 2007.

In May 2007, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) issued a report on the recordation of the 111 custodial interrogations in homicide cases that were completed during the period Jan. 1, 2006 through April 30, 2007. The report shows full compliance by law enforcement agencies with the court's requirements. In 59 of the cases, the recording was done by both video and audio; in 28 cases the recording was done via audio only; in 21 cases the recording was done by video only; three cases were excepted under the recording requirements.

Civil DIVISION

The civil division hears cases in which the plaintiff seeks to recover compensation for injury to person, property, or reputation, or in which the plaintiff believes that his or her rights have been violated. Small claim, involving less than \$3,000, as well as cases involving between \$3,000 and \$15,000 are resolved in the special civil part; there is no monetary limit on cases resolved in the civil part.

Electronic Case Management Provides Convenience and Efficiency in Special Civil

The Judiciary Electronic Filing and Imaging System (JEFIS) is a paperless system for filing and managing special civil cases. JEFIS eliminates the need to maintain hard copies of papers filed in those cases. Instead, documents are filed electronically or are scanned into electronic images and stored in electronic case jackets. The electronic case jackets contain all documents, whether filed electronically or on paper, and they are accessible to the parties, the judges and the court staff at any time, further expediting case processing. The public can view these cases from public terminals located in each courthouse. Participating attorneys receive free access to the automated case management system (ACMS), allowing them to check the status of their cases at any time.

Electronic filing eliminates the need for court staff to enter case information manually into ACMS, providing greater efficiency and fewer clerical errors at critical points in case processing. In addition, electronic filing saves attorneys time, effort and cost in delivering documents to the courts. Those savings can be passed on to litigants.

Practitioners' Guide Now Available Online

In June 2007, the civil division issued A Practitioners' Guide to New Jersey's Civil Court Procedures. The guide is a detailed collection of all existing directives, sample forms, uniform policies, procedures and guidelines concerning practice in the Law Division Civil Part. Designed for use by attorneys in all areas of civil practice, the guide expands and updates information provided to Judiciary judges and staff in the Civil Part Standard Operating Procedures Manual. Some practitioners also may find it a useful research tool for answering questions about unfamiliar issues that may arise only occasionally. Prepared at the request of bar members, the guide is an excellent reference tool for litigants and law students. The guide is updated regularly to ensure that practitioners statewide are kept current on the court system's expectations so they can follow common procedures. It is posted on the Judiciary Web site.

New Training Prepares Team Leaders for Management Challenges

New training for civil team leaders has been developed by the Conference of Civil Division Managers Education Committee along with the Administrative Council Education Committee. Team leaders are being trained in four courses: The Fundamentals of Caseflow Management, Using Statistics as a Management Tool, Using Complementary Dispute Resolution as a Management Tool and Beyond Caseflow Management. The courses are offered as part of a larger program developed to help Judiciary staff perform well in their current positions and to prepare them to take on greater leadership responsibilities. This type of training will be made available to other practice areas in the future. The civil division also has implemented training in landlord/tenant law for staff who serve as mediators in those cases.

Successful Lemon Law Pilot Program Extended

Introduced in January 2006, the lemon law pilot program allows the parties in so-called "lemon law" cases the opportunity to choose the complementary dispute resolution process they prefer: mediation, arbitration, or voluntary binding arbitration, with mediation being the default option. An evaluation on data from the first year of the program revealed that the parties were very happy with the mediators and arbitrators in the program, but in general preferred arbitration to mediation, since arbitration occurs after full discovery and places a monetary value on the case. The Supreme Court approved a two-year extension of the program, with the default option now arbitration instead of mediation, since that is the choice favored by participants. Using data from the first year of the program, as well as the two-year extension, the Judiciary will determine if the program should be expanded to allow the parties to choose the kind of complementary dispute resolution they would prefer in other types of civil cases.

Civil Team Travels Statewide to Ensure Consistency

The civil visitation team, comprising two judges, one vicinage civil division manager, as well as the assistant director of civil practice at the Administrative Office of the Courts, helps standardize operations, find efficiencies, assess performance and assist with local issues in each court. The team spends an entire day in every county, meeting with the civil presiding judge and the civil division manager, the assistant division managers, all civil judges and civil team leaders. They also meet with representatives from the local bar association and invite them to discuss any concerns or issues that they think need to be addressed.

General Equity

General equity cases involve non-monetary disputes, such as business dissolution issues, trade secrets, restrictive covenants, labor injunctions and mortgage and tax foreclosure actions. General equity cases are heard without a jury by a specially assigned judge within the chancery division.

The Office of Foreclosures within general equity received a record number of residential mortgage foreclosure actions during the most recent court year. From July 2006 through June 2007, the courts received 26,182 residential mortgage foreclosure filings, compared to 19,553 for the previous year. The number of filings grew to 47,668 in court year 2008.

A report approved by the Conference of General Equity Presiding Judges offers several proposed court rule changes to give homeowners information about possible surplus money to frustrate "foreclosure specialists" who prey on uninformed property owners. The report recommends that homeowners be made aware in various pleadings that they may be entitled to any surplus money generated by the foreclosure sale and that the court proceeding to obtain surplus money is not onerous or complicated.

In addition, the conference's report addresses the practice of resolving amount due disputes between lenders and homeowners. Although a dispute over the amount due is not a basis to defeat a foreclosure action, resolution of such disputes is important where a homeowner wishes to refinance through a new lender or recast the existing mortgage loan.

Tax COURT



*Joseph C. Small,
Presiding Judge of the Tax Court*

The Tax Court resolves disputes between taxpayers and local and state taxing agencies. Created in 1979, the Tax Court resolves appeals of tax decisions made by county boards of taxation. It also hears appeals on decisions made by the director of the Division of Taxation on such matters as state income, sales and business taxes, and homestead rebates.

The objectives of the Tax Court are to provide expeditious, convenient, equitable and effective judicial review of state and local tax assessments;

- to create a consistent, uniform body of tax law for the guidance of taxpayers and tax administrators, in order to promote predictability in tax law and its application; ;
- to make decisions of the court readily available to taxpayers, tax administrators and tax professionals; and
- to promote the development of a qualified and informed state and local tax bar.

In January 2004, the Tax Court implemented local property tax differentiated case management (DCM) as a statewide pilot program. This program, like best practices in the Superior Court, is an effort to establish uniform state-wide case management procedures, including efficient and fair time to disposition standards. It is anticipated that the Supreme Court will approve the permanent integration of the pilot program's Tax Court DCM program rules into the regular rules set forth in Part VIII, effective September 1, 2008.

In the 2007-2008 court year, 11,760 cases were filed in the Tax Court of New Jersey. Dispositions for that same time period totaled 8,749 cases. On June 30, 2008, there were 18,607 cases pending.

Municipal COURT

The municipal court system in New Jersey comprises 532 local courts of limited jurisdiction that resolve more than 6 million cases annually. By far the largest majority of court cases are filed in municipal court. During court year 2007, the state's municipal courts received 6,511,813 filings and resolved 6,515,409 cases. In 2008, filings totaled 6,547,098, and 6,492,590 cases were resolved.

Cases heard in the municipal courts include disorderly persons offenses; local ordinance matters; traffic violations, including driving while intoxicated cases; and parking violations. For most citizens, their only contact with the court system occurs in a municipal court. Each vicinage has a municipal division that provides support and oversight to the municipal courts. The division consists of a municipal court presiding judge and a municipal division manager who act as liaisons between each municipal court and the statewide court system. As part of this responsibility, the presiding judge and the division manager organize a visitation team to analyze operations in each municipal court and offer feedback on the various functions to help each court comply with statewide operating standards.

Information Technology Upgrades Keep Municipal Courts Connected

New Jersey stands alone among state court systems in operating a centralized, integrated, online municipal court computer system that incorporates traffic and criminal information from every municipal court. The Automated Traffic System and Automated Complaint System (ATS/ACS) provide operating efficiencies for the municipalities and for state agencies, law enforcement, and the MVC, whose own operations are dependent on information from these systems.

The past year saw the completion of a three-year effort to upgrade the technology infrastructure of New Jersey's municipal courts. The AOC sent teams of information technology specialists to each of the state's 532 municipal courts to install updated hardware and software and to train municipal court staff on the new features and functionality. All municipal courts are now connected with technology that enables Web browser functions, and each municipal judge and court administrator has access to the Judiciary's internal Web site (the Infonet) and e-mail system. The interconnection provided by the upgrades greatly improves statewide communication and information exchange with AOC and vicinage offices, as well as among municipal courts. Moreover, the courts benefit from the statewide support provided by fully-staffed information technology office at the AOC. The system has been fully funded by the municipal court information technology modernization fund, created by legislation passed in 2003.

Web Site Enhancements Give Drivers Better Service

NJMCDirect, the Judiciary's municipal court Web site that allows drivers to view tickets and pay penalties by credit card, has been enhanced to offer New Jersey drivers four additional services.

First, the Judiciary worked closely with the MVC to develop a process to resolve license suspensions resulting from unpaid tickets. NJMCDirect now allows those tickets to be paid online. After paying their fines on NJMCDirect, drivers can select a link that will take them directly to the MVC Web page, where they can pay their restoration fees and initiate the process of having their licenses restored.

Second, NJMCDirect now allows drivers to view an electronic copy of their court-ordered time payments and to make required installation payments online. The system provides the driver with an up-to-the-minute payment schedule, including installment amounts, payment due dates and total balance due. Much like the online ticket payment service, the time payment service offers a convenient alternative to mailing a check or traveling to the courthouse.

A third enhancement helps drivers find other tickets that may be outstanding in the state of New Jersey. When a driver enters a single ticket number into NJMCDirect, the enhanced system will initiate a statewide search on that driver's license number and provide the driver with a complete list of other outstanding tickets. Drivers are given the opportunity to view and pay fines before they incur further sanctions, regardless of where in New Jersey the tickets were issued. A final enhancement to NJMCDirect is the addition of driving directions to each of New Jersey's 532 municipal court locations.

NJMCDirect has proven very popular with New Jersey drivers. Since the inception of the NJMCDirect program in 2003, more than 4.5 million tickets totaling \$269.7 million have been paid online. Currently, about 30 percent of all eligible tickets are paid online, providing greater efficiency for the municipal courts and improved access and convenience for the public.

Judicial Education Expanded

Under the Rules of Court, municipal court judges are required to attend periodic training throughout their careers. In court year 2008, the AOC provided a five-day intensive orientation program for 26 new municipal court judges. The orientation addressed a number of topics critical for new judges including ethics, judicial demeanor, case management, traffic and criminal law.

In addition, each of the more than 350 municipal court judges in New Jersey are required to attend the annual conference of municipal court judges. This one-day conference is used to bring each judge up-to-date on the latest changes to policy, procedure and law. In court year 2008, the AOC conducted a second one-day mandatory training. Both judges and court administrators were required to attend the first part of the program, which focused on domestic violence issues. The second part of the program focused on *State v. Chun*, 191 N.J. 308 (2008), the landmark case in which the New Jersey Supreme Court held that the Alcotest 7110 was scientifically reliable and its readings could be admitted as evidence in drunk driving cases.

Municipal Court Administrators Trained and Certified

The Judiciary offers extensive training to municipal court administrators to ensure basic competence in all areas of court operation and to encourage excellence in the services provided by each municipal court. The training covers a wide variety of topics, including standard procedures, case management, ATS/ACS, ethics and communications. During the past 12 months, more than 400 municipal court administrators and staff around the state have received formal training. Administrators who have completed their coursework are eligible to earn certification by passing an examination and completing a project designed to improve operations in their own municipal courts. In 2006, legislation was passed requiring every court administrator to become certified and, to date, 500 administrators have been certified by the Supreme Court. During the past court year, the Supreme Court also adopted new court rules and comprehensive regulations that govern the operation of the municipal court administrator certification program.

Electronic Filing Advances

First introduced in 2006, the municipal courts' electronic criminal complaint system is now in use by every law enforcement agency around the state, including the New Jersey State Police. The new system is faster, allowing for the automatic entry of criminal complaints into ACS. It also eliminates redundancies in data entry and improves efficiency at various points in the processing of criminal and quasi-criminal complaints. The Judiciary is collaborating with the state police to develop infrastructure and standards to facilitate the electronic filing of traffic tickets by law enforcement. The electronic ticket system, called E-Ticket, will allow wireless electronic filing of traffic tickets in the municipal courts directly from police vehicles.



Probation SERVICES

The Probation Division oversees a number of functions, including adult and juvenile supervision, a juvenile intensive supervision program, an early-release program for incarcerated offenders, the collection of criminal fines and restitution, and the collection of child support.

Adult Supervision Measures Success in Rehabilitation

Chief probation officers from around the state worked closely with central office staff to develop a new package of statistical information that better represents the work of probation officers. Some of the information that will be collected includes the number of new cases that each probation officer receives, how many home visits are made, how many discharges are overdue and other indicators of probation workload. Tracking those aspects of supervision will allow the Judiciary to direct resources and evaluate performance more effectively. In recent years, the Judiciary also has begun evaluating the effectiveness of probation programs through outcome-based standards such as how many probationers were employed and how many were current with their fines. Studies have determined that high compliance with those measures reliably indicates successful rehabilitation for offenders under supervision.

On June 30, 2008, the probation services division reported 64,117 adults under supervision and 48,267 adult and juvenile participants fulfilling court-ordered community service and payment obligations.



Intensive Supervision Program Helps Offenders Reintegrate into the Community

The Intensive Supervision Program (ISP) provides an opportunity for non-violent inmates to serve the remainder of their prison term in the community, under strict supervision by specially trained probation officers. Both rigorous and highly structured, ISP emphasizes control, monitoring, surveillance and addiction and/or mental health treatment if needed. ISP has been successful in assisting participants to reenter the community and avoid criminal behaviors that often lead to reincarceration. ISP consistently achieves low recidivism rates, as only 11.3 percent of ISP graduates were convicted of an indictable offense within three years of release. More than 15,000 non-violent inmates have been released to ISP since 1983. In court year 2007, the cost to supervise an ISP participant was \$9,445, compared to \$37,276 for incarceration. This figure represents an overall savings of \$34 million to the state each year. There are 1,218 active participants in the program.

Juvenile Supervision Focuses on Family Support

Juvenile probation supervision emphasizes juvenile and family needs and rehabilitation. The youth, along with the parents or guardians, may be required to undergo counseling or complete educational or vocational programs. Probation officers utilize a continuum of incentives, interventions and graduated sanctions to instill positive behaviors and to help the youth successfully complete their supervision. An individualized case plan is developed to address the court-ordered conditions as well as specific needs of the juvenile. Success indicators such as attending school, maintaining employment, paying court-ordered fines and restitution and performing community service are closely monitored. Detention alternative programs, com-

munity programs and cognitive skills programs help juveniles develop insight into the consequences of their own behavior and to develop positive decision-making skills for the future. Parents and guardians receive guidance and support from probation officers in order to become partners in rehabilitation.

On June 30, 2008, the division was supervising 12,031 juveniles.

Juvenile Intensive Supervision Helps At-Risk Youth Remain in Community

Begun in 1993, the Juvenile Intensive Supervision Program (JISP) provides an alternative to incarceration that is more restrictive than the standard juvenile probation program. In addition to reporting to supervising officers more frequently, clients under JISP must adhere to strict regulations regarding curfews, community service and counseling. The families of JISP clients also are required to participate and fulfill their responsibilities in helping youth comply with all requirements. The benefits of JISP include fewer youth in detention centers and more opportunity for non-violent youth offenders to remain in the community and in the care of their families as they seek to redirect their lives. There are 147 participants in the program.

Comprehensive Enforcement Program Improves Compliance

The comprehensive enforcement program (CEP) enforces compliance of court-ordered restitution, fines, assessments, surcharges and judgments in Superior Court. CEP also enforces compliance of court-ordered community service. There are 48,267 adult and juvenile participants fulfilling court-ordered community service and payment obligations. This enforcement of court orders maintains the respect of the public for the rule of law and the credibility of the judicial process.

Sanctions for non-compliance may include assignment to labor assistance or enforced community service programs. Other sanctions available to CEP include jail time for willful non-compliance, suspension of driving privileges, additional fines, state income tax refund offsets, civil judgments, bench warrants, income withholding, weekly reporting requirements and/or a return of the case to the sentencing court.

CEP also holds hearings for individuals who fail to return a jury questionnaire or who fail to attend when they have been assigned jury duty. Individuals summoned to these hearings can be fined and rescheduled for future jury assignments. Additionally, CEP conducts hearings to enforce judgments and restitution entered in favor of the Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection.

In court year 2008, approximately, \$25,618,292 of the \$36,323,127 in total probation collections was received after strategies for comprehensive enforcement were implemented. More than half of the money collected by probation goes to victims of crime as direct restitution or reimbursement to the Victims of Crime Compensation Board.

Child Support Enforcement Puts Technology to Work

Within the Probation Division, Child Support Enforcement monitors and enforces the collection of court-ordered child support and spousal support. Collections totaled \$1,188,226,359 in court year 2008, or 5.6 percent more than the total collected in court year 2007. During the same period, the number of cases enforced decreased by less than 0.2 percent.

The Judiciary, the Department of Human Services and the Office of Information Technology have been working to develop NJKiDS, a web-based application that will allow both branches of government to store, retrieve and process information on the state's 311,688 child support cases. The new system, which will replace the existing ACSES system, will be user-friendly, will capture more data and will be more reliable. Systems users will adapt easily to the drop-down menus. All data entered will update the system in real time rather than waiting until after hours to update batches of information all at once. The system will interface with the family automated case tracking system, streamlining court processes that affect probation child support, the family division and county welfare agencies, where many child support cases originate.

The Judiciary and the Department of Human Services continue to jointly operate the Child Support Call Center to serve the probation offices in Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset Counties. Customers can call the center to resolve issues during normal business hours. More than 75 percent of the calls can be resolved by call center staff, with the remaining calls being referred to vicinage staff for further action. In court year 2008, the call center received more than 131,000 calls.

Ninety-six percent of all child support payments are distributed electronically, either through direct deposits to their personal bank accounts or through state-issued debit cards. Electronic transfers help keep the funds secure, in addition to making the money available more quickly. Custodial parents in transitional housing can access the funds without worrying that they went to the wrong home address. In addition, electronic transfers save the courts significant costs in printing and postage.

An important measure of success in child support collections is the percentage of child support monies due that are being paid on time. New Jersey ranks 14th in the nation in this area, with more than 65 percent of all payments considered to be current. In addition, New Jersey ranks first with the highest dollar amount of collections per case.

TRIAL COURT FILINGS, RESOLUTIONS AND BACKLOG
BY DIVISION

	Filings			Resolutions			Inventory (Active Cases Pending Within Time Goals)			Backlog (Active Cases Pending Over Time Goals)		
	July 2006 to June 2007	July 2007 to June 2008	percent change	July 2006 to June 2007	July 2007 to June 2008	percent change	June 2007	June 2008	percent change	June 2007	June 2008	percent change
Criminal Division												
Indictable Cases	55,962	54,416	-3%	56,097	55,722	-1%	9,739	9,371	-4%	5,793	6,246	8%
Municipal Appeals	1,288	1,253	-3%	1,268	1,293	2%	300	297	-1%	227	191	-16%
Post-Conviction Relief	808	832	3%	823	822	0%	179	196	9%	646	642	-1%
General Equity	5,154	5,574	8%	5,421	5,286	-2%	1,925	2,245	17%	306	301	-2%
Civil Division												
Civil	104,740	94,539	-10%	94,347	108,752	15%	90,686	77,571	-14%	16,177	15,372	-5%
Special Civil	521,287	607,880	17%	515,574	601,109	17%	48,879	56,257	15%	1,001	950	-5%
Probate	10,108	9,985	-1%	10,152	9,905	-2%	1,577	1,684	7%	144	139	-3%
Family Division												
Dissolution	66,638	67,989	2%	65,765	67,890	3%	17,420	17,278	-1%	767	949	24%
Delinquency	65,492	63,811	-3%	65,227	64,348	-1%	5,296	4,824	-9%	352	285	-19%
Non-Dissolution	157,347	161,517	3%	156,405	160,696	3%	11,277	11,848	5%	420	452	8%
Domestic Violence	56,528	55,460	-2%	56,598	55,331	-2%	1,378	1,547	12%	64	64	0%
Abuse/Neglect	4,220	4,319	2%	4,325	4,263	-1%	5,100	5,174	1%	51	28	-45%
Adoption	2,248	2,412	7%	2,313	2,406	4%	453	462	2%			
Child Placement Review	5,720	5,208	-9%	6,580	5,887	-11%	10,376	9,746	-6%	39	28	-28%
Juvenile/Family Crisis	1,076	919	-15%	1,084	903	-17%	10	26	160%	3	2	-33%
Term of Parental Rights	1,181	1,258	7%	1,089	1,206	11%	441	498	13%	191	189	-1%
Criminal/Quasi-Criminal	10,140	9,593	-5%	9,990	9,669	-3%	850	803	-6%	74	43	-42%
Kinship	1,134	905	-20%	1,203	897	-25%	130	138	6%	13	11	-15%
Total	1,071,071	1,147,870	7%	1,054,261	1,156,385	10%	206,016	199,965	-3%	26,268	25,892	-1%

TRIAL COURT FILINGS, RESOLUTIONS AND BACKLOG
BY COUNTY

	Filings			Resolutions			Inventory (Active Cases Pending Within Time Goals)			Backlog (Active Cases Pending Over Time Goals)		
	July 2006 to June 2007	July 2007 to June 2008	percent change	July 2006 to June 2007	July 2007 to June 2008	percent change	June 2007	June 2008	percent change	June 2007	June 2008	percent change
Atlantic												
Bergen	56,658	52,170	-8%	48,282	64,465	34%	22,783	11,057	-51%	2,916	2,341	-20%
Burlington	75,856	86,276	14%	74,279	84,311	14%	14,488	16,347	13%	1,352	1,474	9%
Camden	49,717	51,512	4%	49,231	52,243	6%	8,742	8,453	-3%	1,650	1,267	-23%
Cape May	75,206	82,205	9%	74,633	82,545	11%	13,984	13,840	-1%	1,340	1,375	3%
Cumberland	13,970	15,288	9%	13,923	15,178	9%	2,220	2,303	4%	181	261	44%
Essex	28,791	31,480	9%	28,645	31,425	10%	4,313	4,354	1%	727	795	9%
Gloucester	154,290	158,766	3%	153,725	159,905	4%	28,067	27,694	-1%	3,250	3,305	2%
Hudson	31,667	35,274	11%	31,542	34,718	10%	5,336	5,770	8%	703	746	6%
Hunterdon	92,488	100,145	8%	93,506	99,349	6%	14,583	15,635	7%	1,121	1,222	9%
Mercer	7,499	8,081	8%	7,396	7,936	7%	1,388	1,465	6%	145	199	37%
Middlesex	48,867	50,448	3%	48,379	50,280	4%	8,662	8,639	0%	1,357	1,656	22%
Monmouth	82,813	90,939	10%	80,320	90,848	13%	19,300	19,473	1%	2,847	2,806	-1%
Morris	67,589	73,091	8%	67,186	72,960	9%	12,382	12,752	3%	2,606	2,481	-5%
Ocean	34,481	36,902	7%	34,474	36,237	5%	5,984	6,720	12%	957	955	0%
Passaic	54,364	61,621	13%	53,526	60,228	13%	9,699	11,134	15%	1,299	1,253	-4%
Salem	67,329	73,531	9%	66,891	73,543	10%	12,075	12,143	1%	1,383	1,330	-4%
Somerset	12,130	12,693	5%	12,096	12,869	6%	1,525	1,550	2%	163	107	-34%
Sussex	24,711	27,532	11%	24,540	27,318	11%	4,336	4,539	5%	688	720	5%
Union	13,731	14,960	9%	13,563	14,877	10%	2,135	2,165	1%	236	304	29%
Warren	67,680	72,697	7%	67,066	72,862	9%	12,370	12,232	-1%	1,151	1,145	-1%
Total	1,071,071	1,147,870	7%	1,054,261	1,156,385	10%	206,016	199,965	-3%	26,268	25,892	-1%

Vicinages

Assignment Judges and Trial Court Administrators Court Year 2008

**Vicinage I Atlantic County
Cape May County**

**Vicinage 10 Morris County
Sussex County**

Vicinage 2 Bergen County

Vicinage 11 Passaic County

Vicinage 3 Burlington County

Vicinage 12 Union County

Vicinage 4 Camden County

Vicinage 13	Hunterdon County Somerset County Warren County
Assignment Judge Trial Court Administrator	Yolanda Ciccone Eugene T. Farkas

Vicinage 5 Essex County

Vicinage 14 Ocean County

Vicinage 6 Hudson County

Vicinage 15	Cumberland County Gloucester County Salem County
Assignment Judge	Georgia M. Curio
Trial Court Administrator	Mark Sprock

Vicinage 8 Middlesex County

Vicinage 9 Monmouth County

Judges and Justices of the NEW JERSEY JUDICIARY

as of June 30, 2008

Supreme COURT

Stuart Rabner, *Chief Justice*

Barry T. Albin
Helen E. Hoens
Jaynee LaVecchia
Virginia A. Long
Roberto A. Rivera-Soto
John E. Wallace

Superior COURT

Allison Accurso	Thomas A. Brown Jr.	Kyran Connor
Salem Vincent Ahto	Peter A. Buchsbaum	Michael R. Connor
Roberto Alcazar	Frank A. Buczynski Jr.	Joseph S. Conte
Christine Allen-Jackson	John L. Call	Robert P. Contillo
John A. Almeida	Kevin G. Callahan	James B. Convery
Carmen H. Alvarez**	Richard C. Camp	Robert A. Coogan
Frances Lawrence	Jane B. Cantor	William J. Cook
Antonin	Ernest M. Caposela	Mary K. Costello
Ross R. Anzaldi	Philip S. Carchman**	Patricia K. Costello
Paul W. Armstrong	Dennis F. Carey III	Gerald J. Council
Valerie H. Armstrong	Harry G. Carroll	James P. Courtney Jr.
Victor Ashrafi	Andrea Carter	Jeanne T. Covert
Eugene H. Austin	Alexander H. Carver III	John J. Coyle Jr.
Francine I. Axelrad **	Michael R. Casale	Thomas J. Critchley
Mark A. Baber	Karen M. Cassidy	Martin Cronin
Max A. Baker	Joseph C. Cassini III	Evan H.C. Crook
Marc M. Baldwin	Thomas W. Cavanagh Jr.	Mary Catherine Cuff**
Peter F. Bariso Jr.	Paul F. Chaiet	Georgia M. Curio
Walter R. Barisonek	Amy Piro Chambers**	Barbara A. Curran
Ann Reynolds Bartlett	Joseph Charles Jr.	Heidi W. Currier
Raymond A. Batten	Lisa F. Chrystal	Roger W. Daley
Linda G. Baxter**	Yolanda Ciccone	John B. Dangler
Robert P. Becker Jr.	Alfonse J. Cifelli	William A. Daniel
Arthur Bergman	James N. Citta	Wendel E. Daniels
Glenn J. Berman	Frank M. Ciuffani	Rachel N. Davidson
Stephen J. Bernstein	Marilyn C. Clark	Lawrence P. De Bello
Maryann K. Bielamowicz*	Susan L. Claypool	Miguel A. De La Carrera
Audrey Peyton Blackburn	Patricia Del Bueno Cleary	Estela M. de la Cruz
James M. Blaney	Denise A. Cobham	Ralph L. De Luccia Jr.
Gwendolyn Blue	Donald S. Coburn**	Francis P. De Stefano
Ronald E. Bookbinder	Eugene J. Codey Jr.	Liliana S. DeAvila-Silebi
Salvatore Bovino	Mary Eva Colalillo	Bernadette N. DeCastro
G. Thomas Bowen*	Claude M. Coleman	Charles A. Delehey
B. Theodore Bozonelis	Edward M. Coleman	William R. DeLorenzo Jr.
Robert J. Brennan	Rudy B. Coleman**	Bernard E. DeLury Jr.
Kathryn A. Brock	Donald G. Collester Jr.**	James Den Uyl
Thomas F. Brogan	N. Peter Conforti	Paul M. DePascale

Harriet E. Derman	Donald S. Goldman	David B. Katz	Thomas M. McCormack
Hector E. DeSoto	Margaret Goodzeit	Deborah Silverman Katz	Ann Graf McCormick
Frederick P. DeVesa	Jane Grall**	John T. Kelley	Frederic R. McDaniel
Michael K. Diamond	Glenn A. Grant	Thomas P. Kelly	Anne McDonnell
Thomas H. Dilts	Vincent J. Grasso	John C. Kennedy	James McGann
Louise D. Donaldson	Ronald B. Graves**	Camille M. Kenny	William J. McGovern III
Michael A. Donio	Anthony J. Graziano	Frederic S. Kessler	F. Patrick McManimon
Joseph P. Donohue	Kenneth J. Grispin	Howard H. Kestin** *	Jean B. McMaster
Richard J. Donohue	Michael A. Guadagno	Fred Kieser Jr.	John T. McNeill III
Charles W. Dortch Jr.	James J. Guida	Honora O'Brien Kilgallen	Margaret Mary McVeigh
Peter E. Doyne	Nestor F. Guzman	Harriet Farber Klein	Daniel P. Mecca
W. Hunt Dumont	Michael J. Haas	Ellen L. Koblitz	William C. Meehan*
Katherine R. Dupuis	Stephan C. Hansbury	Paul T. Koenig Jr.*	Robert J. Mega
Richard W. English	Jamie D. Happas	Teresa A. Kondrup-Coyle	Peter J. Melchionne
Marianne Espinosa	John J. Harper*	Walter Koprowski Jr.	Octavia Melendez
Joseph A. Falcone	John E. Harrington	Melvin S. Kracov	Anthony J. Mellaci Jr.
Nan S. Famular	Craig Randall Harris	Ira E. Kreizman	Louis R. Meloni
James A. Farber	Jonathan N. Harris	Fred H. Kumpf	Julio L. Mendez
Timothy G. Farrell	Rachelle L. Harz	Thomas J. LaConte	Carmen Messano**
Douglas M. Fasciale	Margaret M. Hayden	John J. Langan Jr.	Charles Middlesworth Jr.
Linda R. Feinberg	James C. Heimlich	Catherine M. Langlois	E. David Millard
Bradley J. Ferencz	Sherry A. Hutchins	Lawrence M. Lawson	Robert G. Millenky
Faustino J. Fernandez-Vina	Henderson	Patricia Richmond Le Bon	Elijah L. Miller Jr.
Rudolph A. Filko	Carol E. Higbee	Verna G. Leath	Christine L. Miniman**
Darrell M. Fineman	Francis Hodgson Jr.	Vincent LeBlon	Stuart A. Minkowitz
Lisa A. Firko	Richard S. Hoffman	Steven L. Lefelt** *	Bonnie J. Mizdal
Michael Brooke Fisher	Ronald E. Hoffman	Alexander D. Lehrer*	Philip H. Mizzone Jr.
Clarkson S. Fisher Jr.**	Michael J. Hogan	Betty J. Lester	David W. Morgan
Mark J. Fleming	Stephen M. Holden	Kenneth S. Levy	James J. Morley
Sallyanne Floria	Michelle Hollar-Gregory	Laura LeWinn**	Sybil R. Moses
Terence P. Flynn	Harold C. Hollenbeck	Marie E. Lihotz**	Scott J. Moynihan
William L. Forester	John S. Holston Jr.** *	Jack L. Lintner**	John T. Mullaney Jr.
F. Lee Forrester	Louis F. Hornstine	Lois Lipton	James F. Mulvihill
Michele M. Fox	James P. Hurley	Joseph F. Lisa**	Samuel D. Natal
Travis L. Francis	James F. Hyland	Severiano Lisboa III	Edward M. Neafsey
Sheldon R. Franklin	Eugene A. Iadanza	Louis F. Locascio	Mark J. Nelson
Ronald J. Freeman	Alvaro L. Iglesias	Sebastian P. Lombardi	Michael J. Nelson
Richard M. Freid	Paul Innes	Thomas N. Lyons**	Steven F. Nemeth
Lisa Perez Friscia	David H. Ironson	Roger F. Mahon	Dennis V. Nieves
Jose L. Fuentes**	Joseph V. Isabella	Colleen A. Maier	William E. Nugent
Harold W. Fullilove	David J. Issenman	John F. Malone	Dennis R. O'Brien
Garry J. Furnari	James L. Jackson	Thomas V. Manahan	Thomas E. O'Brien
Maurice J. Gallipoli	Mary C. Jacobson	Maureen B. Mantineo	Amy O'Connor
Edward V. Gannon	Edward A. Jerejian	Julie M. Marino	Edward T. O'Connor Jr.
Robert H. Gardner	Pedro J. Jimenez Jr.	Ronald G. Marmo	Edward M. Oles
Albert J. Garofolo	Nelson C. Johnson	Walter L. Marshall Jr.	Thomas P. Olivieri
Bryan D. Garruto	Harold U. Johnson Jr.	Brian R. Martinotti	Francis J. Orlando Jr.
Richard J. Geiger	Marquis D. Jones Jr.	Bill H. Mathesius	John A. O'Shaughnessy
Melvin L. Gelade	John A. Jorgensen II	Susan F. Maven	Mitchel E. Ostrer
F. Michael Giles	Joseph E. Kane	Jessica R. Mayer	Phillip Lewis Paley
William P. Gilroy**	Paul A. Kapalko	Eugene J. McCaffrey Jr.	Lorraine C. Parker**
Arnold B. Goldman	Michael Kassel	Robert E. McCarthy*	Anthony J. Parrillo**

George W. Parsons Jr.*
Robert J. Passero*
Edith K. Payne**
Stuart L. Peim
Darlene J. Pereksta
Joseph P. Perfilio
Jamie S. Perri
Steven P. Perskie
John A. Peterson Jr.
Michael A. Petrolle
Anthony F. Picheca Jr.
Diane Pincus
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Joseph C. Small

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Stephen H. Womack

*left the bench during the year
**Appellate Division



New Jersey Judicial Council

Seated (left to right): Assignment Judge John A. Sweeney; Assignment Judge Lawrence M. Lawson; Chief Justice Stuart Rabner; Acting Administrative Director Philip S. Carchman; Assignment Judge Francis J. Orlando Jr.

Standing (left to right): Assignment Judge Robert J. Passero; Assignment Judge Walter R. Barisonek; Assignment Judge B. Theodore Bozonelis; Judge Eugene J. Codey Jr. (*Chair, Conference of Civil Presiding Judges*); Assignment Judge Yolanda Ciccone; Judge Glenn A. Grant (*Chair, Conference of Family Presiding Judges*); Assignment Judge Georgia M. Curio; Assignment Judge Maurice J. Gallipoli; Assignment Judge Valerie H. Armstrong; Judge Neil H. Shuster (*Chair, Conference of General Equity Presiding Judges*); Deputy Administrative Director Theodore J. Fetter; Assignment Judge Vincent J. Grasso; Assignment Judge Linda R. Feinberg; Assignment Judge Travis L. Francis; Judge Mailyn C. Clark (*Chair, Conference of Criminal Presiding Judges*); Assignment Judge Patricia K. Costello. [Assignment Judge Sybil R. Moses not in attendance.]



New Jersey Courts

independence
integrity
fairness
quality service