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### **Glassboro Resident to Head State Probation Services**

Robert P. Sebastian of Glassboro will be the next assistant director of probation services for New Jersey's Judiciary, Judge Philip S. Carchman, administrative director of the courts, today announced. Sebastian, 60, will begin his new duties in early July, following the retirement of the current assistant director, Mary DeLeo.

Mr. Sebastian currently oversees the probation division in the Camden vicinage. He joined the New Jersey court system in 1969 as a senior probation officer and has served probation clients throughout his career. In 1980, he achieved the position of assistant chief probation officer in Camden, and was promoted to chief probation officer in 2001.

"For more than 35 years, Bob not only has served his caseload in Camden, but also established himself as a statewide leader in developing and administering innovative case management programs," said Judge Carchman.

"Probation clients as well as staff around the state will benefit from Bob's leadership and vision. It is a pleasure to welcome him to the central office management team." Carchman added.

"The challenge of leading the dedicated staff of the probation division is one I have prepared for my entire career. I will miss my friends and colleagues in Camden, but knowing that I will continue to work with them and with probation officers and managers in every courthouse in the state will make the transition easier. It is an honor to step in where Mary DeLeo is leaving off," said Sebastian.

Mary DeLeo began working for the courts in 1974 as a probation officer in Middlesex County and also has served in the family and criminal practice divisions. She was assistant director of the family division before being named in 2001 to head the probation division.

"Mary has served the courts by hard work and example throughout her career. Hers is the voice asking 'How will this affect people,' whether we talk about enhanced computer systems, staff training, or revised administrative procedures. She started as a probation officer and brought the faces of her clients with her as she ascended to head the division. Mary reminded all of us of the impact of our work on people's lives. We will miss her and we wish her a long, healthy and happy retirement," said Judge Carchman.

The probation division oversees the activities of more than 120,000 offenders who have been ordered by the courts to pay fines, fees and restitution, to perform community service, to maintain employment or attendance in school, to remain drug free and to avoid further unlawful behavior. The division also oversees collections for court-ordered child support for almost 300,000 New Jersey families.

Sebastian has served on numerous panels and committees to improve probation services in New Jersey. He is co-chair of the conference of chief probation officers and he is a member of the probation visitation team, a group that visits

courthouses to ensure that probation policies and procedures are being followed and are working. He played a key role in the development of the comprehensive automated probation system of computers and is an active participant in the Camden Safer Cities initiative.

Mr. Sebastian holds a B.A. from Rutgers University. He received a certification for new executives in probation from Sam Houston University in Huntsville, Texas. He and his wife Sue, a nurse, have six children. He enjoys woodworking and is a fan of professional auto racing.

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