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Judiciary Web Site Wins International Award

Justice Served has once again singled out the Judiciary Web site as an international leader among court-related Web sites. "What doesn't this site offer online? It's a great one-stop-shop for most court services in the state. Supreme Court webcasts, a mass tort clearinghouse and kids page earn New Jersey a return visit to the winner's circle," said the survey report.

For the 2008 ranking, Justice Served evaluated each Web site using several criteria, including functionality, design, ease of navigation, and the ability of the public to conduct court business online, including filling out forms and making payments. The Judiciary Web site, njcourts.com, received a fourth place ranking out of 4,000 court-related Web sites. The Judiciary also made the top-ten list in 2003 with a fourth place ranking.

Judge Philip S. Carchman, acting administrative director of the courts, praised the Judiciary Web team and other content providers within the Judiciary for their contributions: "Our Web site, which has become an indispensable part of our operation, is a critical resource for the public to find court decisions, pay motor vehicle fines, learn about jobs and volunteer opportunities, download forms and instructions for representing themselves in court, and more. I am delighted that our site has again been recognized for its excellence."

The Judiciary's Webmaster, Antoinette McLaughlin, said that the Web site is the product of close collaboration between her staff and others in the Judiciary who provide the forms, documents and other information housed on the site. "It's a Judiciary-wide effort, really," she said. "We all do business online today, and we all want to make sure the site is not only full of good information, but is reliable, easy to use, and always up-to-date."

Recent enhancements to the Judiciary Web site include an online juror reporting information page that allows those selected for jury service to find out each day if they need to report to the courthouse on the following day; an online attorney registration system that allows attorneys to pay their annual fees using a credit card; and an expanded version of NJMCDirect, the municipal courts page, that allows additional activities such as making time payments and looking up driving directions.

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