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## **CUMBERLAND COUNTY COURTHOUSE CELEBRATES THE OPENING OF THE COURTS CEREMONY**

**BRIDGETON** – The Cumberland County Courts, in conjunction with the Cumberland County Bar Association, will celebrate its annual Opening of the Courts Ceremony on Sept. 4.

The ceremony will take place in the ceremonial courtroom, Room 312, in the Cumberland County Courthouse, Broad and Fayette streets in Bridgeton at 8:30 am.

The ceremony marks the traditional start of the court year and recognizes the accomplishments of past members of the legal profession and Judiciary. The celebration also is an opportunity to recognize the importance and integrity of our legal system.

The Opening of the Courts Ceremony is a tradition that began when court would recess in the summer and reopen in September. The Cumberland County Courts renewed this tradition in 2006.

“The opening of the courts is a wonderful way to acknowledge our rich past while celebrating the dedication of our judges, staff and members of the legal community,” Assignment Judge Georgia Curio said.

New Jersey Supreme Court Associate Justice John Wallace Jr. will attend the event to recognize the tremendous contributions of Robert Francis, J.S.C. (ret), who passed away during the previous court year. Judge Francis had a distinguished 25-year career on the bench and served as the presiding judge of the chancery division for many years prior to his retirement in 2003.

The event will include the presentation of an official attorney's license from 1894. The license will be presented to the bar association by its current owner, a citizen of Cumberland County.

The license will be displayed in the Cumberland County Courthouse after the ceremony.

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