

**SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
OCEAN VICINAGE**

RICHARD D. PRIFOLD
TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR



JUSTICE COMPLEX

120 HOOPER AVENUE
TOMS RIVER, N.J. 08753
732-929-2042

ERIC MUNIZ
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

ANN MARIE FLEURY, ESQ.
ALTERNATE PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

For further information, contact:
Eric Muniz or Ann Marie Fleury, Esq.
732-929-2042

For immediate release:
September 16, 2008

**Ocean Vicinage to Commemorate 60th Anniversary of
New Jersey Supreme Court's First Session**

Toms River, NJ – Promptly at noon on Sept. 19, a Court Crier from days gone by will announce the Ocean Vicinage 60th anniversary of the New Jersey Supreme Court's first session, and the creation of the modern judiciary under the state's 1947 Constitution, Assignment Judge Vincent Grasso and Trial Court Administrator Richard Prifold invite members of the public to attend the Ocean Vicinage historic display, marking the occasion.

The anniversary will be commemorated in Ocean County's Historic Courtroom 1, at 118 Washington Street, Toms River from noon to 2 p.m. A collection of historical photographs and documents relating to Courthouse events from 1850, when the first court session was held in the county, as well as from 1948, when the modern judiciary went into session, will be on display. Artifacts on display will include a transcript of the first court session ever held in Ocean County on June 4, 1850.

The modern Supreme Court held its first session under the 1947 Constitution on September 15, 1948. Under the previous constitution, ratified in 1844, the Court of Errors and Appeals was the highest court in the state. The name of the court was derived from its function of hearing appeals and correcting previous courts' errors in judgment. The justices of that court also presided over the lower courts. Each court had its own rules and procedures, and the jurisdictions were ambiguous and often overlapped, and litigants often were required to have their disputes resolved in more than one court. As New Jersey's population grew and the primarily agrarian society became more industrialized, the legal system no longer met the needs of the citizens and businesses it served.

“This is an opportunity for members of the public to participate in the court’s celebration of the 60th anniversary and learn about the judiciary’s rich history,” said Judge Grasso. “We hope to see as many Ocean County residents as possible take advantage of this look back into a significant aspect of our State Constitution.”

Judiciary staff will be on hand to answer questions about the display and to guide visitors through the history of the courts. No reservations are necessary.

For more event information, please call Eric Muniz or Ann Marie Fleury, Esq., at 732-929-2042.

###