



News Release

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Judiciary Celebrates National Probation Week

In recognition of National Probation Week, Chief Justice Stuart Rabner today praised the work of probation professionals and the role they play in helping to supervise and rehabilitate adult and juvenile offenders.

“Through their dedicated efforts and expertise, probation officers in the Judiciary help rebuild lives and families,” Chief Justice Rabner said. “Probation officers maintain close ties to their clients and to the community, helping clients obtain job training, counseling, addiction treatment and mental health treatment. To their clients, they offer discipline, guidance, expertise and compassion. To the community, they offer the assurance that court orders are enforced fairly and conscientiously to maintain the rule of law.”

Probation Week starts Sunday, July 17.

“In our criminal courts and family courts, and through our drug court and mental health programs, probation officers perform work that improves our society,” said Elizabeth Domingo, assistant director of probation services. “They often work evenings and weekends to follow up with clients and make sure they are obeying court orders. During Probation Week, and throughout the year, we are grateful for their commitment and service.”

The Judiciary’s 1,350 probation officers perform a number of vital roles.

Probation officers supervise adult and juvenile offenders, ensuring compliance with court-ordered obligations such as finding and maintaining a job, performing community service, paying fines and restitutions, attending school and substance abuse treatment programs, and adhering to curfews.

Offenders with mental health issues that might affect their ability to comply successfully with court orders are supervised by a group of probation officers with specialized training.

New Jersey’s statewide drug court program relies on probation officers to help non-violent, drug-dependent offenders break the cycle of drug abuse and crime. With intensive treatment, close supervision and a system of rewards and sanctions to encourage compliance, the drug court program has become a national model.

Probation officers also assist the criminal courts by conducting detailed investigations and producing comprehensive sentencing reports that help judges decide on appropriate sentences. In the family courts, probation officers research domestic violence cases and perform risk assessments. They also conduct investigations into child custody disputes and help develop and implement rehabilitation plans for juvenile offenders.

The Office of Probation Services helps children and their families by collecting \$1.3 billion annually in court-ordered child support payments. In addition, about \$29 million in restitution, fines, fees and penalties are collected.

Through the efforts of probation officers, more than 974,000 community service hours are enforced each year, with an estimated value of \$8.4 million in services given back to communities.

“Probation work is both challenging and rewarding,” Chief Justice Rabner said. “To our colleagues in probation, we say thank you for your ongoing, exemplary work.”

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