

# News Release



New Jersey Courts

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## **Essex Vicinage to Host Criminal Justice Reform Seminar**

The Essex Vicinage will sponsor a free seminar on Criminal Justice Reform on Saturday, May 5 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at Saint Matthew AME Church, 336 Oakwood Ave., Orange.

The seminar, organized by the vicinage's Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns, will provide information about changes to the criminal justice system that went into effect on Jan. 1, 2017. Under the new law, New Jersey's criminal justice system was transformed from one that relies principally on monetary bail as a condition of pretrial release to a risk-based system that bases pretrial release decisions on an examination of objective factors.

The new system allows defendants who pose a low risk of violence or flight to be released under certain levels of monitoring while awaiting trial. Prosecutors can also seek to detain dangerous defendants until trial. Defendants who are detained are subject to speedy trial rules that set deadlines for the disposition of criminal charges.

The program also will address the roles of the court, prosecutor and public defender; the impact of the risk assessment on pretrial decisions and an explanation of the speedy trial rule. Individual cases will not be discussed.

If interpreting services are required, contact the Office of the Ombudsman and Information and Community Relations Center at 973-776-9300, ext. 56886.

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