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**Sent:** Wednesday, April 01, 2015 5:21 PM  
**To:** Comments Mailbox  
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**Subject:** Comments/ Recommendations SCCMC 2013-2015 Report  
**Attachments:** NJSCCMC 2013 - 2015 Report.docx

Dear Honorable Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.:

It is an extreme honor for me to have the opportunity to share my comments/ recommendations to such a fine and thorough report regarding the New Jersey Judiciary. I hope the attached information that I have shared will be useful.

Sincerely,

*Kay L. Soltero*

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*Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.*  
*Thomas A. Edison*

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New Jersey  
Supreme Court Committee on Minority Concerns (SCCMC)  
2013 – 2015 Report

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**Comments:**

The SCCMC has introduced yet another invaluable compilation of its great work and thorough research, actions, and recommendations that relate to Judiciary practices and advancements. For example, babies born drug-free to clients in both the Juvenile and Family Drug Court programs; juveniles alternatively placed within the community as opposed to correctional facilities; and the reunification of FDC-involved families have resulted in a potential State savings of several million dollars (pgs. 72-74).

Moreover, the Committee has not only acknowledged the impressive results of the Juvenile and Family Drug Court programs by noting the tremendous economic benefits to the State, but also the explicit positive impact on social outcomes, which aligns with Judiciary goals.

As we ponder new thoughts and ideas as to how we can reflect the Judiciary in a more positive light, these are just a few examples...Babies born drug-free, children reunited with alcohol/ drug free parents, and juveniles alternatively placed within the community outside of a correctional facility equipped with the supports they need to become productive members of society.

**Chapter II**

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The Supreme Court Committee on Minority Concerns since its inception has underscored the importance of ongoing education and training for judges, managers, staff, and court volunteers as a significant means to advance access to justice not only for minority communities but also for the public at large. SCCMC (2013-2015 Report, p. 77).

### **Recommendation for consideration:**

Albeit item "J" speaks to specific types of training such as diversity and cultural competence in which each professional group may have the opportunity to participate, the Committee is also looking into existing training standards as well as those that are under consideration or in development (p. 77).

As a supplement to the aforementioned, I recommend that a provision be made to include cross-training. This measure would help to ensure timely and efficient *access to justice* in the event of any circumstance (i.e. vacation, illness, family loss, etc.) that may otherwise impede the very important work of the courts.

If this is already being implemented, the focus would then be on the manifestation of the inclusive written language.

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### **Comments:**

Additionally, I was impressed with the emphasis on volunteerism and the intent to complete a comprehensive needs analysis for the Volunteer Services Program (p. 109). This stood out to me, as I am a volunteer for the courts in 3 areas (CPR, JCC and Minority Concerns Committee, Camden Vicinage), and grateful to have the opportunity to serve.

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### **Submitted by:**

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