



JOBS Journal

Fall 2023 Edition



JOBS Success Story Stephanie Brown

Client Stephanie Brown, with Camden Vicinage Probation Officer Natasha Brown, participated in the Apex Solutions Group program with the Judiciary Opportunity (JOBS) program to provide education and management for employment.

Stephanie Brown, a graduate of the Apex Solutions Group program, is a client of the Probation Officer Natasha Brown program.

Since graduating and completing the Apex Solution Group's program in March 2023

**Stephanie Brown
Graduate**

with a certified associate in project management certification, I submitted work

primarily project management-centered jobs, all online. I received responses to a few in person interviews.

Apex gave me the ability to believe in myself again after my graduation from school for over 15 years, I thought I lost it, but the teaching method that if you wanted it, they made sure you would learn it. I appreciate that we not only learned how to be project management professionals but also refreshed our typing, testing, reading, and learning skills. Completing the project management professional certification test and receiving my certification was just the beginning.

I have been in recovery for the past 15 months and attend Recovery Community Center where I provide peer support to people in or considering recovery. I believe recovery is possible by doing service work and giving back to the community that struggled and by encouraging and assisting individuals to find their own recovery.

I serve alongside experienced professionals to gain valuable wide variety of recovery support programs. As a member of participate in multiple community outreach efforts, with the southern New Jersey into a community of hope, inspiration foster long-term recovery.

I am scheduled to graduate from Recovery Corps in December as a peer recovery specialist. I plan to work for the Center for peer specialist and continue to provide support to those in need. I am working at Hello Fresh as a production line supervisor and the Apex training program for this life-changing opportunity to me and my family.

Steven Marshall

Steven Marshall, supervised by the probation division in the Vicinage, completed the Apex Solutions Program in May 2023. Supervised by the probation division in the Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage, completed the Apex Solutions Group Train to Hire project manager certification in May 2023. Senior Probation Officer Jessica Canizzaro referred Steven to the APEX program in May 2013. Steven to the APEX program

After hearing of the partnership between Apex Solutions and the probation officer, Steven recognized the opportunity and enrolled in the program. He had been working in construction-related fields and had a project manager certification. He most enjoyed the people with whom he interacted.

At the start of the course, the class was told it would evolve into a group of friends. Steven recalled everyone looking around in disbelief.

However, that's exactly what happened.

The class not only supported each other during the program, but in the classroom at the library and via chat, they supported each other. Steven said and his classmates appreciated the support they received from the probation officers, who shared in the excitement of their individual accomplishments and provided reassurance.

Steve said the resources he obtained and connections he developed through the program have been invaluable.

Throughout his participation in the course, Steven applied for jobs and was contacted for about 15 interviews. He eventually secured a position as a project manager with the resume he developed, with some guidance from the probation officers. Steven credits the JOBS program and Apex Solutions Group as responsible for his career as a project manager.

He believes that employment is directly related to a person's success on probation and in life. He is thankful for the JOBS program and believes employment is necessary to reduce recidivism.

JOBS Heros

A regular feature of each JOBS Journal is highlighting a JOBS Program hero, someone who demonstrates an extraordinary commitment to helping probation clients with employment and training opportunities.

By Monique Griffith
Court Services Supervisor 2
Monmouth Vicinage

Michelle Madison, a senior probation officer and JOBS liaison in the Monmouth Vicinage, is committed to helping connect probation clients with community, educational and employment resources. She began her career with the Judiciary in 1994.

Michelle has cultivated relationships with employers and provides updates on classes, trainings and certifications. She developed a check-in system for employment and resource fairs, drafted a survey for clients to complete after they attend the fairs and a devised system for officers to follow-up with clients.

During the APEX cohorts, Michelle attended every graduation and ensured officers were present to support their clients and congratulate them.

Her enthusiasm continues to make a lasting impact on the probation division.



Michelle Madison
Senior Probation Officer
Monmouth Vicinage

By Jill Houck
Trial Court Administrator
Atlantic / Cape May Vicinage

Sharnett M. Clark is the Probation Division Manager for the Atlantic / Cape Vicinage. Ms. Clark currently serves as the co-chair for the Probation Conference and participates as a committee member on many statewide and local subcommittees. Thirty-two years of judicial experience and skills have kept her highly focused on EOBS in a fast-paced and demanding judicial system. Sharnett has been a leader and asset to the Vicinage Judiciary Opportunities for Building Success “JOBS” Program, leading the State in employment referrals and jobs added/accepted. She meets with her staff to coordinate employment and resource fairs for probation clients, system partners, and the community. She was involved in recruiting 5 Stockton Students who became Vicinage 1 probation interns; one of the interns was a former recovery court client who received a scholarship to attend Stockton and major in psychology. In addition, two of the interns have since been hired as employees in probation and pretrial services.

Ms. Clark played an intricate role in the successful completion of her client’s participation in the Apex Solutions and Mid-Atlantic States Career and Education Center Cohorts through the DOL grant. Twenty participants graduated from the Apex Cohort, and 16 received their associate certification in project management, which is the largest thus far in the State. Through the vicinage’s collaboration with Mid-Atlantic States Career, over 110 clients completed soft skills employment classes and connected to vocational services.

Ms. Clark works with other vicinages to increase probation’s involvement in the JOBS program in their efforts to support evidence-based practices for probation. As part of a JOBS presentation team comprised of retired Judge Sandson, Maurice Hart, Jaclyn Tortoriello, and Harriett Dickerson, they discuss the inclusion of child support enforcement, review of data analytics, expectations, roles, and



Sharnett Clark
Probation Division Manager
Atlantic / Cape May Vicinage

procedures of the JOBS liaison, probation officers with regards to the JOBS initiative. It's an in-person presentation targeting all supervisors and probation officers focusing on the theme of One JOBS Program.

Administrative Director of the Courts Glenn A. Grant stated, "Ms. Clark, let me echo comments about the great JOBS program work occurring in the Atlantic / Cape May Vicinage under your leadership. Progress and success of this nature doesn't occur by accident and your guidance and inspiration to our workforce and the JOBS' clients are a testament to your commitment to this initiative."

In addition to her achievements, she is a certified court executive through the Institute for Court Managers (ICM) and became a certified court manager in 2002 during the first established set of ICM classes held in the State of New Jersey. She works closely with various stakeholders on initiatives to improve services for our clients, the public and members of the courts. Her motto is "It is said that no man is an island, so we need others to support and transform."

JOBS Program at Work

Burlington

The Burlington Vicinage held a JOBS career and resource fair on Oct. 26 at the Burlington County Human Services Facility in Westampton. A total of 127 people attended and met with 18 potential employers.



Essex

Staff from the Essex Vicinage Probation Division held a job/resource fair on Oct. 20 in East Orange as part of the JOBS program on Judiciary's Opportunities for Building Success (JOBS). More than 100 attendees met employers, received job-related resources and obtained referrals from community organization referrals. They also discussed court-related matters, including the expungement process, with representatives from the vicinage's Essex Ombudsman's Office.



Monmouth

Monmouth Vicinage hosted a job fair on Aug 23. The following employers and agencies were represented: La-Z-Boy Furniture, Seal's Eastern, Goodwill, Shoprite, UPS, 10th Ave Burrito, Brookdale Community College, the Federal Bonding Program, New Jersey Department of Workforce Development, New Jersey Reentry Corporation, Monmouth County Social Services, and the ombudsman and EEO/AA officer from the vicinage.

Seal's Eastern hired four clients. Goodwill hired one client and is reviewing multiple applications.



The vicinage held a resource fair on Sept. 19. A total of 30 vendors attended, and there was a

Narcan demonstration. A budgeting and credit repair seminar was held Oct. 11.

We would like to recognize two probation officers:

Stephen Benedon, who is always the first to send referrals for job fairs and events for the JOBS program.

Brian Jogis, a senior probation officer with the sex offender unit, who persistently worked with a client by following up with employment and resource referrals. The client attended the New Jersey Reentry session, created a resume and was certified to become a participant in the Federal Bonding Program, which was established by the U.S. Department of Labor in 1966 to provide fidelity bonds for at-risk, hard-to-place job seekers.

The client contacted Brian to thank him for his assistance and persistence in motivating him.

“This is the first time I had ever had a resume,” he said, adding that he no longer feels embarrassed about applying to jobs that requires a resume.



Morris / Sussex

Our new JOBS liaison, Senior Probation Office Heather Kull, has been busy working with probation officers in the vicinage to help their clients find jobs.

Morris/Sussex Vicinage probation clients have obtained employment at the following employers after working with our JOBS liaison: Dick's Sporting Goods, AMC Theatres, Panda Express, Walgreens, FedEx, and Bon Chef.

One client who was hired at Dick's Sporting Goods sent Heather a text message thanking her for providing him with the opportunity. He said enjoys working there and would not have been hired without our help.



Representatives from the County College of Morris' Center for Workforce Development visited the probation office in Dover on Sept. 7, providing clients with information about their advanced manufacturing bootcamp. The program provides hands-on training, flexible hours, weekend options and individual counseling/advising for participants.

After completing the bootcamp, participants can interview for an apprenticeship with one of the program's partnering companies.

The Sept. 7 session included a recovery court client who completed the bootcamp program and encouraged the clients to apply.



Ocean

The Ocean Vicinage held two JOBS career and resource fairs at the Ocean County Library in Toms River on Sept, 15 and at the Ocean County Library in Brick on Oct. 5. Representatives from various employers, social services, case management, and treatment services attended, and expungement-related material was available.

Passaic

More than 115 people and 15 vendors participated in a career and resource fair on Sept. 13 at the Passaic Vicinage probation building in Paterson. Representatives from various employers, social services, case management, and treatment services attended and expungement-related material was available.



UPCOMING JOBS FAIRS

November 2023

WHEN

Nov. 29, 2023
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Nov. 30, 2023
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

WHERE

[Monmouth County Probation Division Building](#)
2407 Route 66, Ocean, NJ 07712

[William J. Brennan Jr. Courthouse](#)
583 Newark Ave., Courtroom 2A, Jersey City, NJ 07306

December 2023

Dec. 13, 2023
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

[William J. Brennan Jr. Courthouse](#)
583 Newark Ave., Courtroom 2A, Jersey City, NJ 07306



www.njcourts.gov

STUART RABNER
CHIEF JUSTICE

GLENN A. GRANT
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COURTS