

JUDICIARY TIMES

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**THE FACES
OF CRIMINAL
JUSTICE
REFORM**



**PUTTING THE
FINISHING TOUCHES
ON CRIMINAL
JUSTICE REFORM**



**TUNING UP
DRUG COURT**



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Putting the Finishing Touches on CJR

By Judge Glenn A. Grant
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts



Judge
Glenn A. Grant

Criminal Justice Reform . . . the foundation has been built . . . the framing has been erected . . . the roof was installed . . . and the drywall has been hung and painted. Now it's time to complete the installation of the major systems, lay down the flooring and finalize the finishing touches.

In the meetings we've held over the past 18 months, I've often equated the long, detailed process of implementing the biggest change in our criminal justice system in decades to building a new house. Every stage represents a building block for the next phase of the process. We have accomplished much to make criminal justice reform a reality. Now that we're just

two months away from officially altering our criminal justice system, I think it's important to review where we were just two years ago and how far we've progressed. Our site selection to begin this new construction was arrived at by reviewing and analyzing the significant flaws in our system of bail and trial management.

Historically, the practice of posting bail was to guarantee a defendant's appearance in court. For several decades, we have recognized that our current bail system is unfair and has a disproportionate impact on minorities. Equally important, we have confirmation that access to money is not a reliable predictor for determining whether a defendant released pretrial will pose a public safety risk or fail to show up in court. Studies have documented how defendants posing minimal risks are oftentimes held in jail pending trial simply because they cannot post a nominal amount of money. The negative consequences of their detention include the loss of employment, housing and connection to family.

On the other hand, we also can demonstrate that someone with financial means who is charged with a serious crime can be released just by posting bail, even if they pose a danger to the community. We have also acknowledged the unfairness of having defendants spend years in custody awaiting trial.

The design phase of this project was based upon the work of the Joint Committee on Criminal Justice, a special committee of the Supreme Court established and chaired by Chief Justice Stuart Rabner to examine the issues of bail and speedy trial reform. The committee included the attorney general, the public defender, judges, county prosecutors, defense counsel, court administrators, representatives of the Legislature, and a representative of the American Civil Liberties Union. The committee developed and issued a series of recommendations that were incorporated into landmark legislation.

Voters in November 2014 approved a constitutional change that becomes effective on Jan. 1, 2017. All three elements serve as the blueprints for construction of our home. The architects and engineers responsible for making this project a reality include representatives from all three branches of government. I proudly note that the Judiciary has assumed the general contractor's role for the project by supervising and monitoring the construction of this new dream house. This vision for this new edifice is connected to our ideals of justice, fairness and community safety. We seek to address the injustice of the current system by relying upon an analytic risk-based tool that is more objective, promotes public safety and is fairer to defendants because it is unrelated to their ability to pay monetary bail. Our view also includes a recognition and understanding that one critical foundation for this project involves disposition deadlines for the processing of cases for those under the new law.

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The chief justice is Stuart Rabner. The acting administrative director of the courts is Judge Glenn A. Grant.

Please send short news articles, photos and suggestions to mike.mathis@njcourts.gov. Submissions are subject to editing and might not be published.

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The Start of Criminal Justice Reform is in Sight

By Mike Mathis
Judiciary Times Editor

When speaking about criminal justice reform to judges and staff, Judge Glenn A. Grant, acting administrative director of the courts, sometimes compares the lengthy process of accomplishing the sea change in how the criminal courts operate to a marathon rather than a sprint.

"This is a race that will last well beyond Jan. 1," Judge Grant said. "Even after that deadline has passed, we'll continue to prepare for and meet the inevitable challenges we, as an organization and a system, will face over the months and years ahead." The reality of criminal justice reform, the most transformational change in how New Jersey's criminal courts operate since the enactment of our current constitution. We are fast approaching the initial finishing line, and the changes to our business is within sight."

On Jan. 1, 2017, the state will shift from a system that relies principally on setting monetary bail as a condition of release to a risk-based system that is more objective, and thus fairer to defendants. An enabling statute also sets deadlines for the timely filing of an indictment and the disposition of criminal charges for incarcerated defendants.

The Judiciary and its partners in local, county and state government have been working for more than a year to make sure staff and judges are trained, employees are hired, new and existing computer systems are integrated and operational and that court rules and policies are revised and new ones are implemented.

The move to reform the state's criminal justice system grew from the work of the Joint Committee on Criminal Justice, a special committee of the Supreme Court established by Chief Justice Stuart Rabner to examine the issues of bail and speedy trial reform. The committee included the attorney general, public defender, judges and representatives of the executive and legislative branches, county prosecutors, defense counsel, court administration and the American Civil Liberties Union. The committee drafted a series of recommendations that were incorporated into landmark legislation.

Voters approved a constitutional change to permit judges to keep high-risk defendants detained without bail. Pilot programs in three vicinages, Camden, Morris/Sussex and Passaic, have been underway since earlier this year. Kickoff events have been held in all 15 vicinages.

Every two weeks for more than 18 months, judges and staff from throughout the state have met to develop a strategy to implement criminal justice reform and to address potential challenges and how to meet them.

The Judiciary has been working with the Arnold Foundation, a criminal justice non-profit organization, to develop the

"We will continue to press forward on various fronts to make sure criminal justice reform is implemented successfully."

— Judge Glenn A. Grant
acting administrative director of the courts

foundation's objective risk-assessment tool that has been validated with data from tens of thousands of actual New Jersey cases. That tool – which will interface with existing state and federal criminal databases – will help judges assess the level of risk of a defendant based on a series of factors. Prosecutors and public defenders will access that information to determine whether an application for pretrial detention should be filed and argued. Judges will have this information within 24 to 48 hours of an arrest. The Judiciary is hiring more than 200 pretrial services officers who will prepare an estimated 70,000 evaluations a year to assist judges making decisions about pretrial releases. The Judiciary also is working with officials in all 21 counties to make sure there is sufficient space for the officers to do their work. The Supreme Court has held public hearings on changes and revisions to court rules related to criminal justice reform. The changes and revisions were borne from two Supreme Court committees, the Criminal Practice Committee and Municipal Court Practice Committee.

The Judiciary also has engaged in extensive outreach with the Attorney General's Office, the Public Defender's Office and others to train the many stakeholders whose participation is essential to the success of criminal justice reform. Outreach efforts also extend to Judiciary staff and the public so that they understand why criminal justice reform is important. These efforts include videos, newsletter articles and columns, broadcast messages and pages at njcourts.gov and on the Judiciary's Intranet site.

To win the marathon that is criminal justice reform, Judge Grant said Judiciary staff must continue to focus on multiple fronts, including technological enhancements and organizational and operational changes, even after the Jan. 1 starting date passes.

"We will continue to press forward on various fronts to make sure criminal justice reform is implemented successfully, and we will continue our outreach efforts to judges, staff and the public so that everyone is aware of what we're doing and why this is so important," Judge Grant said.

Assignment Judge “Trailblazers” Recognized



Chief Justice Stuart Rabner, the state’s assignment judges and others gathered outside the office of Judge Glenn A. Grant, acting administrative director of the courts, on Sept. 29 for the unveiling of a permanent photographic exhibit, *Assignment Judge Trailblazers*. The exhibit recognizes assignment judges who were the first in the state to hold their positions. Those honored were Judge Lawrence M. Lawson of the Monmouth Vicinage, the first African-American assignment judge; the late Sybil R. Moses of the Bergen Vicinage, the first female assignment judge; Judge Julio L. Mendez of the Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage, the first Hispanic assignment judge and Judge Lisa P. Thornton of the Monmouth Vicinage, the first female African-American assignment judge.

Putting the Finishing Touches on Justice Reform

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Our journeymen and technicians have been busy laying both the foundation and the permanent infrastructure to complete this new construction. We have developed new computer programs and are making sure they are seamlessly integrated into our existing systems. Our engineers have drafted new and revised court rules. We are hiring officers for the vicinages’ pretrial services units that will monitor defendants who are released pending trial. We have embarked on comprehensive outreach efforts with stakeholders and the public. The many different experts and technicians involved in construction have proudly announced that we can now test the structure to ensure its habitability for the long haul. In that regard, we have begun testing aspects of the new system in three pilot vicinages - Passaic, Morris/Sussex and Camden. Through the efforts of the judges and staff of these three vicinages, we will be able to determine what punch list items need to be corrected in order to secure a certificate of occupancy.

Other vicinages have been testing the viability of this new construction by conducting kickoff and planning meetings. The real test of whether our work has been successful – whether our house can withstand the likely storms of the future – will begin on New Year’s Day, when our testing period ends, everything goes “live,” and the first defendants will be processed under the new system.

While there most certainly will be some further unexpected challenges and changes, as there inevitably are with the implementation of any new construction, I am certain our home is well-built. Because of the collective efforts of our talented Judiciary craftsmen and the other institutional partners in the criminal justice system, I am confident we will have built a criminal justice home that will weather the storms of the future and be a lasting demonstration of justice and fairness for our state.

Hero for a Day

By Assignment Judge Stuart A. Minkowitz
Morris/Sussex Vicinage

Editor's Note: This article first appeared in the Morris/Sussex Sentinel, the newsletter of the Morris/Sussex Vicinage.

This year, I have had the honor of being part of many special programs and events, but there is one in particular that has touched my heart not only as a judge but as a parent and human being -- Hero for a Day.

The Hero for a Day Program was created by the Morris County Sheriff's Office in collaboration with the Valerie Fund Children's Center, local law enforcement, emergency service agencies and the Judiciary, giving severely ill children the ability to receive recognition for their courage and to enjoy a day as a Sheriff's Officer.

"This unique program helps to brighten the lives of seriously ill children by allowing them to meet real life heroes from public safety. We are proud to work with Morris County law enforcement, fire departments and EMS to help these families," said Morris County Undersheriff William Schievella, who coordinates the program.

This year, we have had two special participants, 7-year-old Ethan, who was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor, and 6-year-old Juliet, who was diagnosed with leukemia. They are heroes for their courage and resilience in undergoing intense treatments, exams and more.



Assignment Judge Stuart A. Minkowitz with Juliet, who the judge hosted for the Hero for a Day Program.

As part of the program, the children are deputized for an entire day and have the opportunity to meet officers, view presentations from the K-9 unit, tour the different departments and even meet with a judge.

When these newly deputized officers enter the historic courtroom, I begin by thanking them for their courage and for protecting us. I explain the importance of the courthouse, the history of the courtroom and I take a moment and ask, "Would you like to know what it's like to be a judge?" Both Ethan and Juliet enjoyed the idea of putting on a judge's robes, sitting at the bench, pounding the gavel and ordering their family to perform one very specific task that they could not refuse. Ethan ordered his mom to "do whatever I ask of her," while Juliet ordered her parents to "buy me ice cream."

I encourage all to explore new initiatives to become involved in these and other diverse programs, which can make a difference in the communities we serve.

Morris/Sussex Hosting Courts Probation Pilot

By Cory V. DiBiase
Court Services Supervisor II
Morris/Sussex Vicinage

"Information technology for us is not an option—it's a requirement." -Judge Glenn A. Grant, acting administrative director of the courts

Ask a probation officer who worked for the Judiciary for at least 25 years about how they used to document their clients' activities, and they will regale you with a smile and a "back in the day" story of scratching down notes and dates in black binders. There have been many technical advancements since then. There is now a computerized database, tablets and email servers. As technology grows, so is probation's reliance on its efficiencies. One such application making its way to probation services is eCourts.

In April, Morris/Sussex agreed to be the state's first probation pilot for a new eCourts platform. Multiple divisions can use eCourts to access resources and perform case management functions. Morris County Probation's Drug Court Unit was tasked with testing a new portal for direct communication

between probation officers and treatment providers. It can be best described as one stop shopping for all treatment communication needs.

Now with a few clicks, drug court probation officers can see their entire caseload. Are clients in outpatient treatment? Are they in compliance with treatment conditions? What are the results of their drug tests?

Notes, test results and progress reports can be shared in real time. eCourts automatically updates case information in the database with fewer steps required by officers, allowing more time to work with clients and less time dealing with data entry.

The results of the testing, training and implementation will soon be seen by the drug courts of every vicinage. It is anticipated that all drug court units will be using this program within the year.

Drug Court Holds Operational Tune-up

By Mike Mathis
Judiciary Times Editor

Twenty years after it was created, the New Jersey Judiciary is fine-tuning one of its most successful and lauded programs.

The National Drug Court Institute, the research arm of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, held the first of three two-day regional trainings in the state on Sept. 19 and Sept. 20 at the Burlington County Emergency Services Training Center in Westampton, Burlington County.

Operational Tune-Up: Retooling Your Program showed New Jersey's drug court professionals how they can apply the latest research and best practice techniques to improve their drug courts and increase the success rate of participants.

A total of 127 drug court team members, in addition to judges, prosecutors and public defenders, were required to participate. "The goal is to make us as efficient as possible and to make us as successful as possible," said Donna Plaza, statewide drug court manager.

"The goal is to make us as efficient as possible and to make us as successful as possible."

— Donna Plaza
statewide drug court manager

Among the topics addressed were how incentives and sanctions motivate participants to comply with program requirements, reducing recidivism, building an effective drug court team and constitutional and legal issues.

Kirstin Frescoln of Facilitated Community Solutions, said punishments levied against those who break the rules of drug court must be consistent and fairly imposed. For instance, she said that imposing a curfew instead of jail for an infraction is often more beneficial to a participant. If clients are given more freedom, she said, they'll accept more responsibility. "They want to please you," Frescoln said. "They want to do the right thing." She said New Jersey has been a national leader in the drug court movement.

"Everyone should know you have this," Hardin said. "Don't be afraid of the great work you do."

"It's nice to see what other states do and to get a better understanding," said Regina Saunders, a senior probation officer in the Burlington Vicinage. "It gives me more ways to determine different incentives and sanctions and to better handle our populations, especially the younger population."

David Reemmer, a team leader in Cape May County who earlier this year transferred from the civil to the criminal division, said the training gave him a better understanding of drug court and how it can be improved. "It's giving me good insight on drug court programs on the national level," said Reemmer, who worked in the civil division for 10 years before transferring to the criminal division earlier this year. "It'll give me new ideas and different ways to help our program." Drug court is a highly specialized team process within the existing Superior Court structure that relies upon a collaborative relationship between criminal justice officials and drug treatment professionals to assist non-violent drug offenders in rehabilitation. Drug court programs are rigorous, requiring completion of four phases during five years of intensive drug and alcohol treatment and testing. The graduates have successfully met all the requirements of the program.

The first voluntary drug courts began in the Camden and Essex vicinages in 1996; they are now mandatory statewide.

Additional trainings were held at the Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex in Trenton on Oct. 3 and Oct. 4 and at the Morris County Public Safety Training Academy in Parsippany, Morris County on Oct. 24 and Oct. 25.



Kirstin Frescoln of Facilitated Community Solutions discusses incentives and sanctions for drug court clients.



Drug court staff take notes during Frescoln's presentation.

Camden Remembers Deceased Judges and Attorneys

By Megan Gallardo
Operations Division
Camden Vicinage

The Camden Vicinage, in partnership with the Camden County Bar Association, hosted its annual Opening of Court and Memorial Ceremony at the Hall of Justice in Camden on Sept. 26. More than 300 people attended the event, including Superior Court, federal and municipal court judges, court staff, attorneys and the public. The courtroom where the ceremony was held and an overflow courtroom equipped with a video link were filled to capacity.

Assignment Judge Deborah Silverman Katz presided over the ceremony, which marks the traditional start of the court year and provides those in attendance an opportunity to recognize Camden County Bar Association members who passed away during the previous year.

“The ceremony is an important event because it honors the memories and celebrates the lives of the departed members of the bar and demonstrates to the families and friends of the deceased that their loved ones are held in high esteem and regard,” Judge Silverman Katz said. Bar Association President Louis R. Moffa and Robert Aaron Greenberg, chair of the association’s memorials committee, also spoke before opening the floor to the friends and family of the deceased who shared fond memories that highlighted the unwavering commitment of their loved ones to the justice system and the people of Camden County.

Those remembered and memorialized were:

Judge Steven P. Burkett
Scott C. Elwell
Terence Lytle
Judge Charles A. Rizzi
Judge Joseph E. Irenas
Joseph H. Kenney

Rosemary Burgo
A. Fred Ruttenburg
Frederick J. Rohloff
Judge William J. Cook
Judge Anthony M. Lario



Assignment Judge Deborah Silverman Katz listens as Louis R. Moffa, president of the Camden County Bar Association, eulogizes Rosemary Burgo.



Above: The Camden County Sheriff’s Department Honor Guard leads the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.



Left: More than 300 people attended the event, which was held at the Hall of Justice in Camden.

Burlington Victorious in Judiciary Olympics

Event is Reward for Youth Compliant with Conditions of Probation

By Mary McGinty Flanagan
Probation Services
Administrative Office of the Courts

Burlington Vicinage took home the first place trophy for the sixth time in seven years in the 29th annual Judiciary Olympics at Rancocas Valley Regional High School in Mount Holly on July 28. Monmouth Vicinage finished second and Mercer Vicinage finished third.

More than 100 youth from 18 counties and the Juvenile Intensive Supervision Program participated in the event, which was sponsored by Juvenile Probation Services' Positive Interventions Committee.

The Positive Interventions Committee is a statewide committee of juvenile probation officers who meet regularly to discuss interventions used in their county to enhance the rehabilitation of their clients. As part of this focus on rehabilitation, the Judiciary Olympics provides an opportunity for the youth to test their athleticism in an environment that also teaches them social skills and good sportsmanship.

Juveniles who are compliant with the conditions of their probation can compete in a variety of sporting activities,

including track events, a football toss, a basketball free-throw, an obstacle course, a softball toss, a jump rope competition and a tug of war. Medals are awarded to first, second and third place winners, and trophies are awarded to the counties with the three highest overall scores.

This was the second consecutive year that the Burlington Vicinage hosted the Judiciary Olympics, with staff providing support with the planning, setup and facilitating of events. Assignment Judge Ronald E. Bookbinder and Presiding Family Division Judge John L. Call Jr. spoke at the opening ceremony and Trial Court Administrator Jude Del Preore was on hand to welcome the attendees.

Vicinage Training Coordinator Frank Carr again served as master of ceremonies and Senior Probation Officer Jenette Stiuiv sang the national anthem. The day concluded with lunch and a ceremony at which Burlington Vicinage Chief Probation Officer Greg Lambard and Cumberland/Gloucester/Salem Vicinage Chief Probation Officer Curtis Hurff presented awards to the recipients.

Burlington Remembers



The Burlington Vicinage held its annual opening ceremony and memorial service on Sept. 7 at the historic Olde Courthouse in Mount Holly. The following Burlington County Bar Association members who passed since last year's ceremony were eulogized: Judge Samuel D. Lenox Jr., Richard J. Dill, Stephen H. Dunbar, Joseph Georgiana and Jeffrey N. Goldstein.

Justice Attends Inn of Court



New Jersey Supreme Court Associate Justice Faustino Fernandez-Vina stands with Hudson Vicinage law clerks at the initial meeting of the Hudson Inn of Court on Sept. 22. An Inn of Court is designed to improve the skills, professionalism and ethics of the bench and bar.

Essex Hosts Criminal Justice Reform Kickoff

**By Debbie Despotovich
Criminal Division Manager
Essex Vicinage**

Essex Vicinage hosted its criminal justice reform kickoff event at Essex County College in Newark on Sept. 15.

Assignment Judge Sallyanne Floria welcomed nearly 450 stakeholders, including judges, attorneys, police officers, elected officials and community leaders. Due to the tremendous response to the event, the seminar was simulcast to the Veterans Courthouse in Newark for employees.

The seminar focused on the reform scheduled to take effect on Jan. 1, 2017. Chief Justice Stuart Rabner and Judge Glenn A. Grant, acting administrative director of the courts, highlighted the importance of the reform, which will shift from a system that relies principally on setting monetary bail as a condition of release to a risk-based system that is more objective, and thus fairer to defendants because it is unrelated to their ability to pay monetary bail. There also are set deadlines for the timely filing of an indictment and the disposition of criminal charges for incarcerated defendants.

Speakers also included Elie Honig, director of the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice; New Jersey Public Defender Joseph Krakora, Acting Essex County Prosecutor Carolyn Murray and Essex County Deputy Public Defender Andrew Rojas. They spoke about how the new laws will impact prosecutors and defense attorneys and the need for cooperation among all agencies.

Essex Vicinage Trial Court Administrator Amy K. DePaul and the Criminal Presiding Judge Ronald Wigler opened the second half of the program. Vance Hagins, chief of the pretrial services unit; Jennifer Perez, director of trial court services; Chief Information Officer Jack McCarthy III and Steven Somogyi, assistant director of municipal court services, spoke about how criminal justice reform will impact the municipal courts.



Among the presenters were (left to right) Acting Essex County Prosecutor Carolyn A. Murray, Public Defender Joseph Krakora and Deputy Public Defender Andrew Chris Rojas.

Judge Glenn A. Grant, acting administrative director of the courts and Chief Justice Stuart Rabner listen to the presenters.

Vance Hagins, chief of the pretrial services unit, discusses how monitoring levels are determined.



Monmouth Hosts Justice Reform Seminar



Chief Justice Stuart Rabner speaks about why the criminal justice system is being reformed.

Monmouth Vicinage hosted a half-day seminar on the scope, nature and impact of criminal justice reform on Sept. 28 at the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office in Freehold.

Above: From left to right—Marc LeMieux, first assistant, Monmouth County Prosecutor; Michael Mazza, assistant criminal division manager; John Tonelli, municipal division manager; Barry Nadrowski, warden, Monmouth County Correctional Institution; John Sorrentino, president, Monmouth County Police Chiefs Association; Michael W. Donovan, undersheriff, Monmouth County; Patrice Bearden, first assistant deputy public defender; James M. Newman, presiding municipal court judge and David F. Bauman, presiding criminal division judge.



Judge Glenn A. Grant, acting administrative director of the courts, addresses why criminal justice reform is being implemented in New Jersey.

Spotlight: Cape May County Courthouse

By Mike Mathis
Judiciary Times Editor

Editor's Note: This story is the first in a series detailing the rich histories of New Jersey's courthouses.

Most people who drive south on the Garden State Parkway toward its southern terminus pass the exit for Cape May Courthouse and likely give little thought to how the town got its name.

A part of Middle Township, Cape May Courthouse is the only town in New Jersey named because the county's court functions are headquartered there. The old Cape May County Courthouse still stands on North Main Street in Cape May. Designed by architect Daniel Hand, the Greek revival/Georgian style structure was built in 1850 and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1981. It is used for ceremonies.

Cape May County was formally created on Nov. 12, 1692 by an Act of the General Assembly of the Province of West New Jersey. It was among the four counties formally created; the others were Burlington, Gloucester and Salem. In April 1723, Cape May County was divided into precincts which coincided along religious lines: Upper Precinct – Quaker Middle Precinct – Baptist Lower Precinct – Presbyterian. On Feb. 21, 1798 the state Legislature formally created the Townships of Upper, Middle and Lower. Early court proceedings in Cape May County were held at Coxe Hall, a two-story manor house built on the bay side of Lower Township and named for Daniel Coxe, an Anglican physician and real estate developer who secured 95,000 acres of the



The old Cape May County Court House was constructed in 1850. The building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1981.

Cape May peninsula from the Lenni Lenape Indians, according to the Cape May County website. A portion of Coxe Hall still exists at Historic Cold Spring Village.

The first recorded court session was held in Coxe Hall in May 1692. The first actual court house was originally the first Baptist church in Cape May County, which was built in 1715 and became the courthouse when the Baptists constructed a new church in 1744. A second court house was built in 1774 by master builder Daniel Hand Jr. on an acre of land donated to the county by his father for use as a courthouse and jail, according to capemay.com.

The old courthouse is flanked by two other significant buildings—the First Methodist Episcopal Church, built between 1854 and 1855 and the prosecutor's office, built around 1885. The current courthouse on North Main Street was built in 1927 and was expanded, renovated and rededicated in 1993. For more information, visit www.capemaycountynj.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2333

Solomon Presides at Burlington Naturalization



Supreme Court Associate Justice Lee A. Solomon and Assignment Judge Ronald E. Bookbinder presided over a naturalization ceremony and administered the Oath of Allegiance to 25 foreign-born residents of Burlington County on Sept. 15 in the historic Olde Courthouse in Mount Holly.

Susan E. Callaghan Named Assistant Director of Criminal Practice at Administrative Office

By Peter McAleer
Communications Manager
Administrative Office of the Courts

Susan E. Callaghan is the new assistant director for the criminal practice division of the New Jersey Judiciary. Callaghan, whose appointment was effective Aug. 13, succeeds Joseph Baracco, who retired after 39 years with the Judiciary.

Callaghan oversees a division that provides support to all local criminal division judges and managers and staff. It includes the Criminal Court Services Unit, the Pretrial Services Unit, the Sentencing/Legal Unit and the Drug Court Unit. A key priority for Callaghan is helping to oversee the daily operation of the new criminal justice reform measures that go into effect on Jan. 1, 2017.

“Sue has been intimately involved in the preparation for criminal justice reform from the earliest stages and will play a central role in its day-to-day execution,” said Judge Glenn A. Grant, acting administrative director of the courts. She brings a practical experience and expertise from both the central office and our local vicinages that makes her well suited to excel in her new role.”

Since 2011, Callaghan served as chief of the Criminal Practice Division’s Court Services Unit. She previously served as an assistant division manager in the criminal divisions of the Monmouth and Essex vicinages and as a



Susan E. Callaghan

team leader in the probation and criminal divisions of the Passaic Vicinage.

“I want to thank Judge Grant for this opportunity,” Callaghan said. “I’ve spent just about all of my working life in the criminal division and it’s an honor to be taking on this new leadership role at such an important time. The implementation of criminal justice reform is clearly a challenge, but it’s a challenge worth embracing because it’s the right thing to do for the state of New Jersey.”

Trial Court Services Director Jennifer Perez said Callaghan’s experience in multiple vicinages and her relationships with judges, managers and other individuals throughout the criminal justice system are invaluable.

“Sue knows how the criminal justice system works, from the ground level to the administrative level,” Perez said. “Her knowledge and her ability to work with others will aid the criminal division as it faces both challenges and opportunities in the coming years.”

Callaghan began her career in the Judiciary in 1989 as a court clerk in the Essex Vicinage Criminal Division. She is a 1989 graduate of the University of Delaware and earned a master’s degree from Rutgers University in 2001.

“Sue has been intimately involved in the preparation for criminal justice reform from the earliest stages and will play a central role in its day-to-day execution.”

— Judge Glenn A. Grant
acting administrative director of the courts