

Attorney General

Alcoholic Beverage Control

Civil Rights

Consumer Affairs

Criminal Justice

Elections

Gaming Enforcement

Highway Traffic Safety

Law

Racing Commission

State Police

Juvenile Justice Commission



2000 ANNUAL REPORT

New Jersey Department of Law & Public Safety



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Dear Acting Governor DiFrancesco, Members of the State Legislature, and Citizens of New Jersey:

As Attorney General of the State of New Jersey and head of the Department of Law and Public Safety, I am proud to submit the department's annual report for 2000. These pages provide a glimpse of a department with a diverse and dynamic mission.

From protecting consumers to combating crime and from ensuring highway safety to preserving the integrity of elections, this department plays a vital role in the lives of all New Jerseyans.

Through the hard work of its 10 divisions and approximately 8,000 employees, the Department strived in 2000 to increase public confidence in government and to improve the quality of life for all New Jersey citizens.

The year was one marked by a variety of notable accomplishments including, but not limited to, the continued reduction of the state's overall crime rate, significant narcotics seizures, important government corruption and insurance fraud prosecutions and the obtaining of nearly \$26 million in restitution and relief for the victims of consumer fraud.

In addition, my office created a new agency in 2000 — the Office of the Inspector General — with the sole mission of working to ensure public confidence in government by preventing corruption and, where appropriate, investigating and prosecuting such activity.

In response to the burgeoning use of the World Wide Web, the Department also focused considerable effort on investigating and prosecuting illegal activity on the Internet.

Through the efforts of the Internet Working Group — a cooperative, multi-agency effort staffed by highly skilled investigators — and through other initiatives, the Department achieved a number of successes in the war on Internet-related consumer fraud and crime.

Meanwhile, the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control continued its efforts to combat underage drinking and use of the dangerous drug "Ecstasy" among young people through aggressive enforcement and public awareness efforts.

Through the dedication of its personnel and through cooperative efforts with other agencies, the department has been able to make certain that New Jersey continues to be a safe place to live.



Sincerely,

John J. Farmer, Jr.
Attorney General



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Mission Statement

The mission of the Department of Law and Public Safety is centered on the advancement of the quality of life for the people of New Jersey. In this regard, the department:

- protects and enhances the safety and interests of every citizen of New Jersey through an integrated system of law enforcement and regulatory services;
- advocates for the public in matters where the rights and interests of the public are at issue; and
- represents the interests of the state and its agencies in all legal matters.

With 10 divisions as well as independent commissions and boards, the department has wide-ranging responsibilities.

The department performs such critical tasks as overseeing the criminal justice system, defending the state against lawsuits and protecting the rights and safety of the public. The department also regulates the casino, boxing, alcoholic beverage and racing industries. As head of the department, the Attorney General serves as the state's chief law enforcement officer and legal advisor, and is responsible for the management and administration of the department. ♦

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Introduction

Through the hard work of its 10 divisions and approximately 8,000 employees, the Department of Law and Public Safety strived to increase public confidence in government in the year 2000 and to improve the quality of life for all New Jersey citizens.

In pursuit of these vital missions, the Department created strong new mechanisms for ensuring government integrity, waged war on fraudulent and discriminatory practices, prosecuted criminal polluters and employed creative, multi-agency strategies for combating drug activity and other crime.

One of the most noteworthy trends in 2000 was a continued reduction in the state's overall crime rate, an accomplishment that translated directly into safer streets and neighborhoods for those who lived in or visited New Jersey.

According to new Uniform Crime Report (UCR) statistics compiled by the Division of State Police, the overall crime rate — incorporating the seven major crime categories of murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny and vehicle theft — was down for a sixth consecutive year in 2000.

The new data, which covered the first six months of 2000, continued the downward trend shown in statewide UCR statistics for all of 1999. Those statistics showed the overall crime rate plummeting to a 28-year low and the murder rate falling to its lowest point since 1967.

A key ingredient in the Department's continued crime-fighting success was cooperation with other agencies at the local, county, state and federal levels. On a routine basis, state personnel worked side by side with others in law enforce-

ment to prevent, investigate and prosecute crime.

In part because of the successful partnerships it forged at every level, the Department's Division of Criminal Justice had a highly productive year, combating criminal activity and public corruption on a variety of fronts.

In one case, the Statewide Narcotics Task Force — an entity made up mostly of investigators from State Police and the Division of Criminal Justice — arrested six members of an international drug cartel, seizing \$20 million worth of cocaine and \$4 million worth of marijuana in the process.

In the area of government integrity, the Division of Criminal Justice worked cooperatively with local authorities in Bergen County to successfully prosecute and remove the Sheriff there after allegations surfaced that he was engaged in official misconduct. Among other offenses, the Sheriff was accused of coercing employees to contribute to his political campaigns and distributing honorary Sheriff's badges — paid for with public dollars — in return for cash gifts and political contributions.

Meanwhile, the Office of Insurance Fraud Prosecutor obtained 75 criminal convictions in 2000 and opened 69 new criminal prosecutions. In one case, the OIFP filed charges against two Camden police officers accused of using their positions to secure police accident reports that helped facilitate a health insurance scam. In another, two North Jersey pharmacy owners were charged with Medicaid fraud for allegedly submitting reimbursement claims for



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prescriptions of a costly AIDS medication that were never filled.

The Division of Criminal Justice also acted to protect the environment in 2000 by successfully prosecuting a cruise line and a commercial fishing operation in connection with separate incidents of illegal sewage dumping in New Jersey coastal waters. Overall, prosecutions by the Division's Environmental Crimes Bureau resulted in \$1.03 million in court-ordered restitution and more than \$32,000 in fines imposed against criminal polluters.

Elsewhere, in an action designed to further strengthen government integrity efforts, the Attorney General established a new agency devoted exclusively to preventing and prosecuting corruption – the Office of Inspector General.

Located within the Office of the Attorney General, the OIG is empowered to investigate and address allegations of fraud, waste, abuse and misconduct. It is also charged with the responsibility of identifying errors or irregularities in state programs and, where warranted, taking action to correct those problems.

The Inspector General, who reports directly to the Attorney General, has authority to issue subpoenas and to pursue both civil remedies and criminal penalties. However, the OIG's primary role is to prevent potential problems with corruption and waste before they require litigation.

The OIG made one of its first priorities the task of ensuring the integrity of New Jersey's \$12 billion school construction funding program.

The Division of Consumer Affairs continued to aggressively enforce the state's consumer protection laws in 2000 while also expanding outreach efforts aimed at teaching consumers – particularly the elderly, who are a frequent target of unscrupulous vendors – how to protect themselves from fraud and how to respond if they believe they've been victimized.

For the year, Consumer Affairs obtained nearly \$26 million in restitution and relief for consumers victimized by fraud, a 34 percent increase over the previous year. The Division also imposed more than \$28 million in penalties on those who violated state consumer protection laws and returned more than \$3 million in restitution and re-

placement cars to consumers through its highly successful Lemon Law Program.

In response to the burgeoning use of the World Wide Web, the Division also investigated and prosecuted a variety of individuals and businesses for unscrupulous business practices perpetrated via the Internet.

The Division filed charges against a number of Internet vendors for the illegal sale of prescription drugs and, working with the Division on Civil Rights, helped investigate and prosecute a landlord who advertised an apartment for rent to "whites only" over the Internet.

In that case, the Division on Civil Rights ultimately negotiated a settlement whereby the landlord was required to pay substantial fines to both Consumer Affairs and Civil Rights, pay compensation to a prospective renter who had viewed the Internet advertisement, reimburse the government for the cost of its investigation and submit to state monitoring of his rental and advertisement practices for a period of two years.

The year 2000 marked the 55th Anniversary of New Jersey's historic Law Against Discrimination (LAD) and the Division on Civil Rights led the observance by hosting a convention that brought together students, educators, community leaders, law enforcement personnel and representatives of government for a variety of interactive workshops and guest speakers. New Jersey was the first state in the nation to enact an anti-discrimination statute. The New Jersey statute also preceded passage of a federal anti-discrimination law.

The Division also completed a total of nearly 1,400 investigations in 2000 and achieved many significant settlements on behalf of complainants. In all, Division efforts on behalf of the victims of civil rights violations yielded nearly \$3 million in monetary rewards and damages.

In addition to its crime-fighting and government watchdog initiatives, the Department of Law and Public Safety achieved, through litigation, important results in 2000 on behalf of the goals of government accountability, constituent confidence and public protection.

As the result of a historic multi-state negotiation in which New Jersey took part, the state received

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payments totaling approximately \$318 million as of the end of 2000 as part of a Master Settlement Agreement with the tobacco industry.

A significant portion of those monies were used to fund tobacco-related education and health care programs, particularly those aimed at young people. One of 46 states which sued the tobacco industry, New Jersey is projected to receive approximately \$7.6 billion from the settlement over 25 years.

In another public protection initiative, the Division of Highway Traffic Safety (DHTS) mounted an aggressive public awareness campaign in 2000 designed to ensure that all New Jerseyans understood changes to the state’s seat belt law.

Under amendments to the seat belt law enacted in 2000, failure by a driver or front seat passenger to “buckle up” is now a primary motor vehicle offense. That means police can stop a vehicle and issue a summons solely because the driver and/or front seat passenger is not wearing a seatbelt. In the past, police could only charge the “secondary” offense of failure to wear a seatbelt as an adjunct to the issuance of a summons for a primary offense.

As the result of the law change and the accompanying public awareness campaign by DHTS, New Jersey’s seat belt use increased from 63 percent to 74 percent based on the Division’s annual summer survey.

The Department of Law and Public Safety also played an important role in encouraging democracy and preserving the integrity of the state’s electoral process in 2000.

In part through the awareness efforts of the state Division of Elections, approximately 4.7 million New Jerseyans were registered to vote for the 2000 General Election.

The Division of Elections also worked in cooperation with the Division of Motor Vehicles and with county-level officials to help citizens either register to vote or change their voting affiliation through the state’s “Motor Voter” program. Motor Voter enables citizens to register to vote while visiting a DMV agency to conduct a motor-vehicle-related transaction.

The Division of Law, meanwhile, successfully petitioned the courts for appointment of an elec-

tions monitor in Passaic County, where acrimony and factionalism had threatened the county Board of Elections’ ability to ensure fairness during the November 2000 General Election.

Ultimately, three Law and Public Safety divisions — Law, Criminal Justice and State Police — took an active role in ensuring the fairness and safety of voting in Passaic on Election Day. State Police provided enhanced patrol activity to ensure public safety while the Divisions of Law and Criminal Justice supplied Deputy Attorneys General and State Investigators to act as polling place observers. The Division of Law also deployed Deputy Attorneys General on a statewide basis to all 21 counties to handle on-the-spot litigation related to any voting problems that arose.

On another, equally important front, the Division of Law negotiated a historic settlement agreement with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 2000, thereby resolving a four-year-old discrimination lawsuit brought by the NAACP concerning State Police recruiting practices.

Under terms of the agreement, State Police made a commitment to aggressively recruit a diverse pool of applicants to take the written trooper qualification test, a pool that more readily reflects New Jersey’s population.

Seeking to ensure public confidence in the state’s horse racing industry, the New Jersey Racing Commission created an industry-wide task force in 2000. The mission of the task force is to evaluate the harness racing industry and to recommend steps, if needed, to enhance the integrity of the sport.

The Commission also took pro-active measures to address the legality of certain popular forms of off-track wagering, for example, the placing of bets via telephone and the Internet with business concerns outside the state. The Commission agreed with a formal opinion from the Office of the Attorney General that such activity is illegal. As a result, the Commission ordered each New Jersey racetrack permit holder, as well as various out-of-state Internet business operations, to stop accepting such bets from persons contacting them from within New Jersey.

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For the year, the Racing Commission oversaw five operating race tracks which generated a total of \$1.1 billion in pari-mutuel wagers.

Meanwhile, consistent with its mission of ensuring the integrity of the casino industry in Atlantic City, the Division of Gaming Enforcement (DGE) supported legislative efforts to deal with the problem of compulsive gambling.

The Division also undertook a number of significant licensing actions in 2000, actions that worked to enhance public confidence and sent a strong message to would-be violators of casino regulations.

Specifically, the Division filed a report with the Casino Control Commission (CCC) recommending that a former top executive of Caesars Atlantic City Casino Hotel not be permitted to retain his casino key license because of involvement with questionable financial transactions and because the executive violated a 1995 CCC order prohibiting him from gambling.

The Division also filed complaints with the CCC against two prominent professional boxing promoters who had admitted, during a prior federal court proceeding, that they had made illegal payoffs to officials of the International Boxing Federation. In November 2000, the CCC approved an agreement between the Division and Robert Arum and his firm, Top Rank, Inc. as well as promoter Cedric Kushner and his company Cedric Kushner Promotions, Ltd. in which the promoters agree not to do business anywhere in New Jersey until the complaints have been resolved.

The Juvenile Justice Commission, now in its sixth year, continued to meet the evolving needs of the juvenile offenders in its custody through the development of new programs, the construction of new facilities and the renovation of existing ones.

Construction work on a new, \$16 million reception unit designed to house 144 juveniles at the commission's Juvenile Medium Security Facility in Bordentown moved toward a conclusion. The facility was expected to be occupied in 2001.

Youthful offenders in JJC custody also "gave something back" to the state in 2000, with approximately 700 juveniles performing more than 96,500 hours of service projects benefitting communities and/or crime victims.

At the Division of Highway Traffic Safety, a variety of public awareness and training efforts continued to promote the practice of safe, courteous driving in 2000.

The Division conducted a public education campaign about changes to New Jersey's seat belt law which utilized, among other strategies, public service radio spots in both English and Spanish. Under New Jersey's amended law, the offense of failing to wear a seatbelt is now a primary violation, as opposed to a secondary one. The change means that police can stop a vehicle and issue a summons if either the driver or a front seat passenger is not wearing a seat belt.

Elsewhere, the Division expanded its Pedestrian Safety program in 2000 with grants to five municipalities including Elizabeth, Jersey City, Paterson, Perth Amboy and Teaneck. Pedestrian fatalities currently account for more than 20 percent of all roadway deaths in New Jersey.

At the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, another important public safety effort — the Cops in Shops program — had a successful year in 2000 as undercover law enforcement personnel and retail liquor store employees continued working cooperatively to discourage the sale of alcohol to minors. During its summer 2000 initiative, Cops in Shops efforts resulted in the arrest of nearly 300 persons, the highest number of seasonal arrests since the program began five years ago.

ABC also bolstered its public awareness efforts with regard to the popular and potentially dangerous "club drug" Ecstasy, distributing posters and employing other strategies to spread awareness about the harmfulness of the drug. The initiative also focused on raising awareness of the stringent penalties — between five and 20 years in prison, depending on the quantities involved — faced by those caught using or selling it in New Jersey.

Finally, the year 2000 was one of important, measurable progress in the continuing effort to implement numerous State Police reforms outlined by a Consent Decree between the State and the U.S. Department of Justice.

Designed to make the New Jersey State Police a model statewide law enforcement agency for the nation, the reforms include changes to policy

and procedure regarding highway vehicle stops and the use of a computerized data collection system to document such stops. The reforms also include enhanced training in such areas as integrity, ethics and the use of anti-discriminatory procedures.

As of the end of the year, an Independent Monitoring Team appointed by the courts to oversee New Jersey's reform effort had issued two progress reports. Both reports praised the State Police and the OAG's Office of State Police Affairs for the "excellent" progress of reforms to date, the comprehensiveness of the traffic-stop-related data being collected and the commitment shown to "doing the job right."

In 2000, the Department of Law and Public Safety's many vital enforcement, litigation and policy-making initiatives served to both protect and improve the lives of all New Jerseyans.

Through the dedication of its divisions and commissions, the Department added to a continuing legacy of public service and lasting accomplishment. ♦

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Office of the Attorney General

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) functions as the central policy arm of the Attorney General and is responsible for the administration of the Department of Law and Public Safety's 10 divisions. Staffed by specialized legal, administrative and public information personnel, the OAG helps the Attorney General create and implement policy.

The Attorney General serves as the state's chief law enforcement officer, legal advisor and public interest watchdog. The Attorney General also functions as chief executive of a department that employs approximately 8,000 staff members. The OAG is structured to provide support for the Attorney General in the pursuit of these duties. On a daily basis, Assistant Attorneys General work closely with the Attorney General on specific legal cases and on a variety of policy and procedure questions including those relating to civil rights, consumer affairs, environmental crime, highway safety, juvenile justice, law enforcement and legislative initiatives. The OAG also provides direct legal services to selected state agencies, promulgates rules and regulations relating to Law and Public Safety operations and directs the special management activities required to deliver essential public services.



Overview

The year 2000 was one of significant accomplishment in the Attorney General's ongoing effort to ensure government accountability. The Attorney General created a new agency in 2000, the Office of Inspector General, for the exclusive purpose of strengthening state oversight of issues relating to government ethics and integrity. The new agency is responsible not only for investigating and prosecuting cases related to integrity at all levels of government, but for anticipating and preventing public corruption and conflict of interest as well.

In another vital government integrity initiative, the OAG expanded its Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action (EEO/AA) investigative staff in 2000 and combined all of the Department of Law and Public Safety's EEO/AA personnel under one roof at the Hughes Justice Complex. Previously, State Police EEO/AA staff had worked out of State Police Division Headquarters. The expansion and consolidation efforts are expected to provide for a stronger, more cohesive EEO/AA effort.

Meanwhile, in its continuing effort to encourage only the highest standards of professionalism among lawyers who represent government agencies, the Attorney General launched a new enrichment program in 2000 — the Advocacy Institute. Through course offerings, seminars and other training initiatives, the Advocacy Institute's mission is to enhance the skills of state Deputy Attorneys General, prosecutors and other attorneys who represent government agencies.

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**Attorney General,
John J. Farmer**

The year 2000 also brought measurable progress in the implementation of training, data-collection, recruiting and other reforms designed to make the New Jersey State Police a model law enforcement agency for the nation. Implementation of these reforms is being managed by the OAG's Office of State Police Affairs. The reforms, many of which were outlined in the State Police Review Team's Interim and Final reports of 1999, are called for under terms of a Consent Decree between the State of New Jersey and the U.S. Justice Department. Signed in December 1999, the Consent Decree reaffirms New Jersey's commitment to non-discriminatory traffic enforcement, drug interdiction and other law enforcement efforts.

In another action designed to increase accountability and foster public confidence, the OAG issued revised guidelines for the use of deadly force by law enforcement in 2000. The product of a collective effort by the New Jersey Use of Force Advisory Committee, the revised guidelines provide clear, updated instruction on such issues as when the use of deadly force is appropriate and when it is not, requirements for the regular training of police officers on the proper use of force and notification and reporting procedures when a shooting or other use of force by law enforcement results in injury or death.

As an adjunct to the issuing of new guidelines, the Department of Law and Public Safety formed a Shooting Response Team, a unit headed by Division of Criminal Justice staff and comprising highly-specialized and trained investigators, attorneys and support personnel. The Response Team acts as a support and investigative unit responding on an around-the-clock basis to police-related shootings.

The Office of Inspector General

In August 2000, the staff of the newly-created Office of Inspector General (OIG) was sworn in, marking the beginning of a new era in the pursuit of government accountability. Staffed by an experienced group of prosecutors, fraud experts, financial investigators and management improvement specialists, the OIG is designed to serve as a "watchdog" agency, ensuring that government at all levels and those who do business with government act with integrity. The OIG is empowered to investigate and address allegations of favoritism, fraud, waste, abuse and misconduct. It is also charged with the responsibility to look for and address errors and/or irregularities in state programs. As an entity within the OAG, the Office of Inspector General has subpoena power as well as the authority to pursue civil remedies and criminal penalties.

However, the OIG's chief focus is not on prosecution, but on prevention and improvement. One of the OIG's primary tasks will be to ensure the integrity of the bidding process, as well as that of any vendors, involved with a \$12 billion public school construction and expansion initiative now under way in New Jersey.

The OIG's first report to the Attorney General, issued in November of 2000, focused on a property settlement negotiated between the state Department of Environmental Protection and a prominent cranberry grower in South Jersey who had unlawfully transformed a tract of protected Pinelands into a cranberry bog. Under terms of the proposed settlement, the grower was to retain the 22-acre bog and avoided paying hundreds of thousands of dollars in DEP fines in return for donating 74 acres of land for use as a Pinelands park and for agreeing to restrict development on 591 other acres he owned. The OIG recommended against the settlement on grounds that it had the appearance of favoritism and could undermine public confidence. As of late 2000, the DEP was reviewing the matter with an eye toward amending terms of the settlement.

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State Police Superintendent Colonel Carson J. Dunbar, Jr. and DAG Laurie M. Hodian, Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, discuss consolidation of State Police and other Department EEO/AA investigative staff with an attendee (left) during the dedication of their new central office at the Hughes Justice Complex.

Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action

In its continuing effort to conduct employee awareness campaigns, provide training sessions and investigate and resolve workplace discrimination complaints, the EEO/AA Unit expanded its staff in 2000.

As of October 2000, the EEO/AA employed five full-time deputy attorneys general, four investigators and six staffers handling clerical and administrative support work, as well as four enlisted members of the Division of State Police and one civilian State Police employee. In the previous year, the unit consisted of an EEO/AA Officer, two part-time Deputy Attorneys General, two investigators and four staffers assigned to handle clerical and administrative support duties.

In addition to increasing the size of its staff, the EEO/AA Unit also consolidated its operations in newly refurbished offices on the sixth floor of the Hughes Justice Complex. The unit commemorated the formal opening of those offices with an open house in September 2000. Prior to the con-

solidation, State Police EEO/AA personnel had operated from offices located at Division Headquarters several miles away. Through the expansion and consolidation effort, the EEO/AA Unit has mounted a stronger and more cohesive anti-discrimination effort.

For 2000, the EEO/AA Unit opened 195 new complaint cases and resolved 113 complaints. Both figures represent an increase over the previous year. The increases are believed to reflect a greater understanding, through EEO/AA training and awareness efforts, of the need for employees to report incidents of harassing or discriminatory behavior.

The EEO/AA Unit also provided discrimination prevention training to 774 Department employees and supervisors in 2000 and completed the design and publication of the first issue of the unit's newsletter.

For the year 2001, the EEO/AA Unit intends to pursue several new initiatives including creation of a voluntary dispute resolution process. The new process would move departmental discrimination and harassment complaints to a prompt and fair resolution, when appropriate, without the workplace disruptions and acrimony that can result when such complaints are handled through the formal investigative process.

Advocacy Institute

In 2000, the OAG set a goal of making the office a single source for the finest professional enrichment training an attorney can obtain in New Jersey. Through creation of the Attorney General's Advocacy Institute, the OAG expects to realize that goal. Established in May 2000, the Advocacy Institute offers a broad range of programs to address the advocacy skills of lawyers who represent government including deputy attorneys general, county-level and municipal prosecutors, agency attorneys and those who represent other governmental entities.

The Advocacy Institute will offer practical skills programs as well as lectures on substantive areas of the law. In addition, it will produce handbooks and practice manuals for use within the Department.

During 2000, the Advocacy Institute completed eight training programs attended by a total of 450 deputy attorneys general and state investigators. The Institute ran four Distinguished Trial Lawyer Seminars which focused on jury studies, trial preparation, trial openings and cross examination. Deputies from the Divisions of Law, Criminal Justice, Office of Insurance Fraud Prosecutor, Gaming Enforcement and the Office of Inspector General attended the sessions.

The Institute also conducted several learn-by-doing programs that included performance workshops supplemented by lectures. These sessions covered such topics as trial advocacy skills and deposition skills. Faculty for the sessions was diverse and included accomplished attorneys and teachers from law schools, private practice, divisions with the Department and from Attorney Generals' Offices in other states. The Institute is currently working to develop new

programs focused on such advocacy-related topics as persuasive legal writing, negotiation and settlement skills, examination of experts and the use of technology in case development and in the courtroom.



Office of State Police Affairs

Created in the fall of 1999, the Office of State Police Affairs is responsible for ensuring compliance with recommendations from the State Police Review Team's Interim Report on Racial Profiling as well as the recommendations of the Final Report of the State Police Review Team concerning promotions, hiring, employment discrimination, internal affairs and training. The Office provides technical assistance and training to assist State Police in implementing the various recommendations and also has an oversight role in the investigation of alleged State Police misconduct. The Office also provides general legal counsel to the State Police. In 1999, the Office played a lead role in negotiating a Consent Decree with the U.S. Justice Department that sets forth various tasks designed to strengthen State Police policies and procedures and calls for the completion of those tasks in phases.

The required tasks incorporate many changes recommended in the state's own Interim and Final Reports. The reforms include use of on-board audio and video recording equipment in all State Police patrol vehicles, use of a comprehensive, computer-based data collection system for recording all traffic stops and related police actions and the quarterly analysis of collected traffic stop data by supervisors in order to identify potential performance issues.

The reforms also include changes to State Police recruitment and selection practices and development of an enhanced trooper preparation program with particular focus on: revised motor vehicle stop procedures, compliance with search and seizure policies and state-of-the-art training on such issues as ethics, integrity and the avoidance of discriminatory practices.

As of the end of 2000, an Independent Monitoring Team — appointed under terms of the Consent Decree to oversee the State Police reform process — had filed its initial report.

The report lauded State Police and the Office of State Police Affairs for their "excellent" progress in complying with all phases of the Con-

sent Decree and for their demonstrated commitment to “doing the job right.” A second Independent Monitoring Team report, issued in early 2001, cited the continued “significant” progress of the State Police reforms, described the agency’s new traffic stop data collection efforts as among the nation’s best, lauded new training programs as exemplary and praised internal State Police misconduct investigations for their fairness and thoroughness.

In its effort to facilitate change, the Office of State Police Affairs has solicited and received input from members of every State Police rank from Trooper to Colonel. The Office has also solicited input from each of the labor unions which represent State Police members for collective bargaining purposes. Much of this input resulted in the rethinking of certain proposed revisions to State Police operating procedures. In place of those, new revisions to operating procedure were adopted that provide stronger protections for both the public and for State Police members while also promoting the practice of even-handed law enforcement for all citizens.

The Office of State Police Affairs will continue to work in 2001 with the Independent Monitoring Team and other interested parties — among them civil rights groups, State Police management and the unions — to ensure that the New Jersey State Police becomes a model law enforcement agency for the nation. ♦

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Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control

The mission of the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control is to regulate how alcoholic beverages are sold and to foster moderation and responsibility in alcohol consumption. The Division pursues its mission by regulating and licensing the manufacture, distribution, sale and transportation of all alcoholic beverages within the State. Essential to State control of the liquor industry is the concept that licensees are granted a privilege to sell alcoholic beverages and that this privilege can be revoked. If a licensee violates any law or regulation, the ABC Director may suspend or revoke the license or impose a fine and/or other appropriate condition. The ABC is the official repository for licensee ownership information. The Division is also the sole issuing authority of manufacturing and wholesale licenses, as well as a variety of special permits to enable the sale of alcoholic beverages in conjunction with charitable and business-related events.

Overview

In the year 2000, the Division's regulatory bureau reviewed 400 petitions for license renewal, while ABC enforcement actions generated more than \$870,000 in penalties and fines. The Division's licensing bureau reviewed and processed nearly 10,000 retail licenses and also provided training on New Jersey alcoholic beverage control laws to approximately 150 retail distribution licensees and 275 municipal clerks. State-wide, approximately 30,000 different brands of alcoholic beverage products were registered with the Division in 2000. Nearly 10,000 retail licensees sold those beverages to consumers.

Underage Drinking Initiatives

Cops in Shops – This five-year-old program, in which undercover law enforcement officers work cooperatively with retail store personnel to combat the sale of alcohol to minors, had another successful year in 2000. During the summer 2000 initiative, nearly 300 persons were arrested, the highest number of seasonal arrests since the program began. To date, 1,450 persons have been



The Division of ABC, working in cooperation with local and state law enforcement agencies, continued its aggressive efforts to discourage underage drinking.

OVER THE LIMIT by Robb Armstrong



A series of comic strips designed to encourage responsible drinking was published in several college newspapers.

arrested through Cops in Shops, which typically involves the work of two undercover officers deployed as a team — one stationed inside the store and posing as an employee, the other stationed outside the store to combat the problem of adults buying alcoholic beverages for those under 21.

Enforcement Grants — Through a federal grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Division was able to award the cities of New Brunswick and Paterson \$200,000 each for programs to enhance their efforts to combat underage drinking.

Specifically, the grant enables the two cities to expand their Cops in Shops programs and conduct other investigations at locations where underage drinking is a potential problem, including retail stores, bars and private residences.

Comic Strip — The Division provided funding to the Partnership for a Drug Free New Jersey in 2000 which enabled the development of a comic strip focused on issues related to the use of, or abstinence from alcoholic beverages by college students. Developed by a professional cartoonist, the comic strip was created as a pilot project and was published in the student newspapers at Seton Hall University and Ramapo College.

Drug Deterrence in Licensed Establishments

In 2000, the Division stepped up its education efforts with regard to the so-called “club drug” Ecstasy, while also focusing on the use of other illegal drugs among young people. As part of its initiative, the Division distributed posters to schools and to licensed establishments frequented by young people. The Division also continued its enforcement efforts, working with local and county law enforcement agencies to deter the use of Ecstasy in bars and nightclubs, particularly where youthful “rave” parties were frequently held. For example, in Margate, Atlantic County, the Division worked with local police and the Atlantic County Prosecutor’s Office on an enforcement action that resulted in the permanent closing of a nightclub known as Delirium.

Mail Order/Internet Alcohol Sales

The Division is considering private sector initiatives related to the Internet sale of alcoholic beverages. To that end, the Division agreed in 2000 to allow Wineshopper.com to serve as a prototype for Internet alcoholic beverage sales. With the rapid expansion of the Internet and e-commerce, the Division recognizes the need to address the issue of alcoholic beverage sales online. Specifically, the Division is looking at those who sell alcohol via the Internet and are not licensed to do so in New Jersey.

Objectives for 2001

“Hospitality Panel” Expansions — Through a grant of \$138,000 in federal funds to the New Jersey Prevention Network, the Division expects to facilitate the work of newly-created Hospitality Panels in the cities of Newark and New Brunswick. The grant will also help launch a new Hospitality Panel in the City of Long Branch. A Hospitality Panel is an alliance of business associations, government agencies and community groups working to make a community safer through responsible hospitality practices. The newly-formed Hospitality Panels will conduct regular meetings focused on strategies for deterring underage drinking and planning community-based activities that promote the responsible use of alcoholic beverages.

College Summits — Through a \$130,000 grant to the New Jersey Higher Education Consortium, the Division expects to facilitate a series of regional “mini-summits” on the problem of underage drinking, as well as a statewide event focused on the same issue. The summits are expected to bring together community leaders, law enforce-

ment, retailers, prevention specialists and college representatives to further discuss the problems of underage drinking in a college environment.

Cops in Shops — The Division will continue to implement the Cops in Shops program in municipalities throughout the state on a year around basis, with emphasis on college communities during the academic year and resort areas in the summer.

Technology Enhancements and E-Commerce — The Division began efforts in 2000 to work more efficiently through enhanced computerization. These efforts will continue in 2001. New computer systems, systems that could ultimately provide a higher level of service to both municipalities and licensees, are currently under evaluation. The Division has also reviewed its case-tracking process and, as a result, is implementing an internally-developed system expected to improve its ability to monitor cases. The Division is also studying ways to monitor and change license information via the Internet and to allow licensees to make payments on-line in a secure environment. The Division is also planning to institute an automated system that would track all contacts with the public. ♦

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One of two full color posters distributed to nightclubs to deter drug use among patrons.

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Division on Civil Rights

The Division on Civil Rights is responsible for enforcing the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination (LAD) and the Family Leave Act (FLA). The two laws were written to deter discrimination in the workplace, in housing and in public accommodations. By investigating allegations of discrimination, the division serves as a fair and impartial forum for addressing claims that the law has been violated. In a broader sense, the division’s core mission is to foster sensitivity, acceptance and respect among all individuals. The division’s credo holds that if discrimination affects any one individual in New Jersey, it affects every individual in New Jersey. For this reason, the division also sponsors a variety of public awareness and workplace training initiatives.

Overview

In 2000, the Division employed a new case management system, a mediation program, an aggressive caseload reduction initiative and a revitalized special investigations unit to enhance operations. As a result the Division achieved a 14 percent reduction in caseload from the previous year. In addition, the Division completed 1,378 investigations and negotiated many significant case settlements. Through the cooperative efforts of its five branch offices, the division generated monetary rewards totaling approximately \$2.6 million while complainants whose discrimination claims were handled through the Conciliation Program were paid more than \$360,000 in damages.

Case Highlights

Renee Kennedy v. Magnetek — In this case, the complainant charged that she was discriminated against and ultimately discharged from her job as a salesperson because of her gender. The Division’s Paterson office negotiated a settlement in this matter that yielded \$100,000 in back wages.

Enrique Trujillo v. Feller Ford — The complainant, a native of Columbia, charged that he was subjected to a hostile work environment and ultimately fired from his job as an auto mechanic because of his national origin. Through the efforts of the Division’s Newark office, Trujillo was reinstated to his position at a salary of \$31,200 with full fringe benefits.

Vincent Brendan v. WaWa, Inc. — The complainant charged that he was fired from his job after the convenience store chain that employed him learned that he suffered from a manic depressive disorder. The Division’s Atlantic City office resolved the matter through a negotiated agreement when WaWa agreed to reinstate Brendan to his former position at a salary of \$38,500.

Joseph Palella v. Lucent Technologies — The 64-year-old complainant charged that, for a number of years, he had received substandard pay for his work as a department administrator because of his age. In a negotiation handled through the Division’s Trenton office, Palella accepted \$200,000 in compensation to resolve the matter.



Hope Belmonte v. Super Fresh Inc. — The complainant in this case charged that she was fired from her job and denied reasonable accommodation because of a sciatic nerve condition that left her disabled. An agreement negotiated through the Division's Camden office resulted in Belmonte receiving nearly \$24,000 in back pay.

Creation of Mediation Unit

The Division began a mediation program in 2000 to resolve complaints, where appropriate, in as expedient and cost-efficient a manner as possible. The goal of the program is to provide staff with more time to devote to activities that have a more direct impact such as investigating cases of systemic discrimination or developing regulations, policies and practices that enhance public awareness of the LAD.

The Mediation Unit reports to the Director and operates independent of any other unit involved with investigations. Cases for mediation are drawn from newly filed complaints, cases in which conciliation has failed and cases that are pending before the Office of Administrative Law. The Mediation Unit is divided into Northern and Southern units. It is anticipated that, as mediation numbers grow, at least one mediator will be assigned to each of the Division's regional offices.

55th Anniversary of the LAD

New Jersey is the first state to have enacted an anti-discrimination law. In 2000, the Division officially marked the 55th Anniversary Celebration of the Law Against Discrimination with a ceremony and related convention attended by more than 200 persons representing government, law enforcement, public education and the community. In conjunction with the anniversary, the Division produced a taped, 18-minute video documentary on the LAD which was shown at the 55th Anniversary Celebration ceremony.

Expanded Outreach Initiatives

Awareness Campaign — In 2000, the Division recorded several public service announcements which were aired on radio stations throughout New Jersey. The radio campaign featured public awareness ads dealing with such issues as housing discrimination, pregnancy discrimination and the terms of the Family Leave Act. The campaign itself received widespread coverage from the news media including newspapers and television.

Prevention Efforts — The Division began a new program in 2000 aimed at obtaining information, providing education, lending support and establishing relationships with community leaders and groups in designated "hot spots" throughout the state. The goal of the program is to address potential problems before they result in conflicts that require legal action.

Civil Rights Web Site — The year 2000 proved to be a test year for the Division Web site, www.state.nj.us/lps/dcr, which was created in May 1999. The Web site provides the general public with easy access to information on the Division, the Law Against Discrimination and the Family Leave Act. Currently, visitors to the site are able to e-mail questions to the Division and to download Division literature that would otherwise only be obtainable by mail.

Special Investigations Unit

The Special Investigations Unit (SIU) focuses on cases in which there is an apparent pattern or practice of discrimination. One example from 2000 is the case of a man who advertised an apartment for rent via the Internet and specified that the dwelling was available to "whites only." In that case, the Division's SIU coordinated an undercover investigation with the Division of Consumer Affairs. During the investigation, pairs of African-American and white investigators attempted to rent the apartment. The advertiser refused to rent the unit to the African-American in-

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investigators and, several minutes later, offered it to the white investigators. The Division Director subsequently issued a Finding of Probable Cause against the man and, during conciliation proceedings that followed, he agreed to pay fines to both state agencies, and compensate the original complainant for the “pain and suffering” she experienced from viewing his Internet ad. He also agreed to reimburse the Division of Consumer Affairs for attorneys’ fees and other costs and submit to monitoring by the Division on Civil Rights of his advertisement and rental practices for two years.

Objectives for 2001

Increased Focus on Housing Discrimination —

Through the Special Investigations Unit, the Division plans to intensify its focus on the issue of housing discrimination. The SIU intends to target large-scale rental complexes and conduct tests to determine whether their rental practices violate the LAD. In addition, the SIU will be looking closely at retail establishments throughout the state to determine if they meet the requirements of the LAD in terms of accommodating disabled persons.

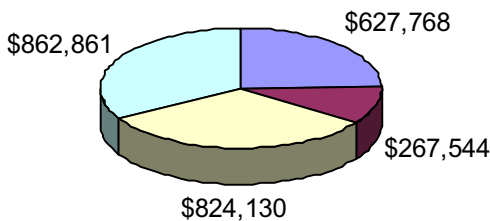
Enhanced Education and Training —

Using outreach to agencies, businesses, corporations, schools and others, the Division will begin in 2001 to “market” its available seminars and training services to prospective users. At the same time, the Division will be offering new seminars and services to those who may already be familiar

with its existing services. The Division has set a number of future goals including the training of 5,000 individuals per year, the creation of a training program geared towards public schools and children and the implementation of a training program on diversity and sensitivity. There will also be an enhanced focus on internal staff training and development, to be designed and structured according to management level, skill assessment and Division needs. In particular, the Division will continue to train staff in investigative skills, case law, report writing and Division operating procedures. The Division’s Bureau of Policy, Bureau of Enforcement and Bureau of Prevention and Citizens Rights will work cooperatively to develop state-of-the-art training programs for staff members.

Regulatory Initiatives — The Division intends to pursue amendments designed to strengthen a variety of rules and regulations regarding civil rights issues including those governing: housing for older persons, pre-employment inquiries concerning job applicants, family leave, public accommodations for those with disabilities and the use of “encouraged to apply” language in employment advertising. ♦

Division on Civil Rights Monetary Awards



- HEARING AND ORDER
- CONSENT ORDER & DECREE
- NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT
- SATISFACTORY ADJUSTMENT

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Division of Consumer Affairs

Created by an act of the Legislature nearly 30 years ago, the Division of Consumer Affairs is responsible for administering and enforcing the laws intended to make New Jersey's commercial marketplace a safe and fair place to do business. The Division's essential mission is to protect consumers against fraud and other types of unscrupulous business conduct, investigate and prosecute those who commit fraud and other consumer-related violations and provide public awareness concerning significant consumer issues. The Office of Consumer Protection, the Enforcement Bureau, the Bureau of Securities, the Office of Weights and Measures, the Charitable Registration Unit and the Legalized Games of Chance Control Commission all fall under the purview of the Division of Consumer Affairs, as do 41 professional and occupational boards.

Overview

The Division of Consumer Affairs continued to aggressively enforce the State's consumer protection laws in 2000 by investigating and prosecuting those who committed fraud and other consumer-related violations. The Division also expanded its outreach efforts in order to provide citizens with useful information on how to protect themselves from unscrupulous business practices and how to proceed if they believe they have been victimized. By year's end, the Division had fielded more than 500,000 complaints and inquiries from consumers who believed they were the victims of fraud.

Relief for Consumers

In 2000, the Division obtained nearly \$26 million in restitution and relief for consumers who were victimized by fraud. That figure represents a 34 percent increase over the previous year. Since 1994, the total amount of relief and restitution obtained by the Division on behalf of consumers is \$142 million.

In addition, the Division imposed more than \$28 million in penalties on violators of consumer protection laws in 2000, bringing the cumulative amount of penalties imposed during the past seven years to \$171 million.

Now in its 11th year, the Division's Lemon Law Program returned more than \$3 million in restitution and replacement cars to consumers in 2000, bringing the total amount returned to car buyers since the program's inception to \$35 million.

E-Commerce

With the ever-increasing use of the Internet, a greater number of consumers are turning to the World Wide Web as a resource for information and advice.

Alarming, many consumers also appear to be using the Internet to obtain medical care.

In 2000, the Division responded to this trend by increasing its Internet policing efforts with a particular focus on health-related sites which operate illegally. Its investigations resulted in the prosecution of nearly a dozen sites that were peddling prescription drugs in violation of New Jersey law.

Among these sites were two online pharmacies, Rx Leader and RB Drugstores. The Division sued the two online pharmacies and their principals for allegedly putting the lives of online customers at risk. The suits accused them of illegally selling prescription legend drugs and controlled dangerous substances over the Internet without requiring their customers to first obtain physical examinations and valid prescriptions.

The cases against Rx Leader and RB Drugstores, which also named a number of out-of-state pharmacies, doctors and pharmacists as defendants, represented the first time Consumer Affairs had prosecuted licensed professionals for their roles in these schemes.

Consumer Protection

The Division also continued to protect consumers through its many professional licensing boards and advisory committees in 2000. For the year, these boards fielded more than 3,500 written consumer complaints against practitioners who allegedly had violated the state laws governing their practices.

Case Highlights

State v. Ward — One of the Division's most notable investigations from 2000, this case involved the conduct of pediatric dentist Dr. Kevin P. Ward, who was accused of injuring 13 minor patients while performing various dental procedures. The Division successfully prosecuted Ward, who agreed to the revocation of his license, the sale of his Union City dental practice and to a stipulation that he not seek reinstatement of his license for at least three years. Ward also agreed to pay \$70,000 in costs, attorneys' fees and penalties.

State V. Caragine — The Division successfully prosecuted orthopedic physician Dr. Paul Caragine, who was accused of fondling 11 female patients and making crude remarks to them during consultations. Following hearings at the Office of Administrative Law, an administrative law judge ruled that Caragine's license should be revoked. The New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners

subsequently ratified that decision and ordered the specialist to pay \$55,000 in civil penalties.

State v. Friedman — The Division's petition to have the license of Paterson pharmacist Burt Friedman revoked was still pending as of the end of 2000. The Division took action against Friedman's license after he allegedly dispensed an excessive dose of a highly toxic cancer drug, resulting in the death of a 24-year-old woman who was suffering from a brain tumor. Friedman is accused of first misreading the instructions that accompanied a doctor's prescription, then ignoring several warning signs that suggested he was dispensing as much as 40 times more of the drug than was recommended.

Elder Fraud

In 2000, the Division sued a Pennsylvania-based cemetery management company for allegedly deceiving elderly and disabled consumers into believing they had won "free burial space" in cemeteries throughout north and central New Jersey and then pressuring the same consumers into buying costly mausoleums and crypts.

The Division's action against the cemetery management firm, CMS Mid-Atlantic, Inc., was still pending as of year's end. CMS owns and operates cemeteries in Perth Amboy, Totowa, Trenton, Union City and East Hanover.

The lawsuit against CMS typifies the Division's commitment to action on behalf of the elderly, a group of consumers who are frequently targeted by unscrupulous business operators.

Through its Elder Fraud Investigative Unit, the Division has devoted special attention to protecting the state's 1.4 million older citizens from fraud. Since the Elder Fraud Unit was formed in 1998, investigators have met with more than 100,000 senior citizens to provide them information on how to avoid being defrauded and what to do if they feel they've been victimized.

Charities

More than 13,000 organizations registered with the Division's Charities Registration Unit in 2000. About three percent of those organizations employ professional fund raisers to help them solicit donations. While many of these relationships produced millions of dollars in lawfully obtained donations, others resulted in fraud.

In November 2000, the Division filed a lawsuit against Community Affairs, Inc., a Woodbridge-based professional fund raising organization, its corporate principals and four corrections unions. The lawsuit accuses the defendants of misleading donors into giving nearly \$2 million in charitable contributions to the unions.

The Division's 12-count action charges that Community Affairs, Inc. violated the state's charities law by using telemarketers to pose as State Troopers and local police. In the course of their telephone conversations with prospective donors, the telemarketers allegedly claimed that they were raising money to buy bullet-proof vests for local police officers and to support widows and orphans and scholarship funds.

In fact, the Division's lawsuit alleges, Community Affairs, Inc. kept \$1.6 million of the \$1.9 million raised as fund raising fees while no more than 1.4 percent — about \$26,000 — of the money went to buy vests.

The suit also named as defendants the Burlington County Corrections Officers PBA Local 249 of Mount Holly and Pemberton; Somerset County Corrections Officers PBA Local 177 of Somerville; Union County Corrections Officers FOP Lodge 123 of Elizabeth and the New Jersey Superior Officers Law Enforcement Association of Vineland.

Objectives for 2001

Consumer Privacy Study — In order to safeguard the privacy rights of consumers, the Division expects to conclude its study of consumer privacy issues and provide the Office of the Attorney General with a report recommending certain actions to ensure privacy rights are preserved as consumers enter into various commercial transactions.

E-Prescription Regulations — In an effort to cut down on prescription errors, the Division expects to adopt regulations that would allow licensed New Jersey physicians to transmit "e-prescriptions" via the Internet to licensed New Jersey pharmacists. Nationwide, prescription errors are responsible for thousands of deaths each year.

Advocate for New Registration Law — In the interest of protecting consumers from fraud and providing recourse in the event a consumer is victimized, the Division hopes to help influence the passage of legislation that would require registration schemes for telemarketers and home repair contractors. ♦

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Division of Criminal Justice

Established in 1970, the Division of Criminal Justice works to protect the rights and safety of the public. This is accomplished through the creation and application of standards for the enforcement and prosecution of criminal laws, the investigation and prosecution of cases of statewide importance through the state grand jury and taking a leadership role in the development of policy related to all aspects of law enforcement. The Division also coordinates and provides leadership to the 21 county prosecutors and other law enforcement agencies to ensure uniformity in the New Jersey criminal justice system.

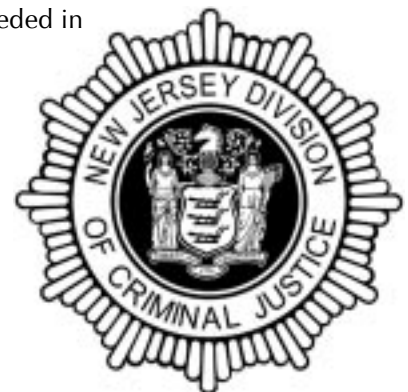
Overview

Working with other law enforcement agencies at every level, the Division of Criminal Justice realized significant accomplishments in 2000 in such areas as government integrity, the investigation of organized crime, narcotics enforcement and environmental prosecution. Working collaboratively with the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office, the Division successfully removed the sitting Sheriff of Bergen County for official misconduct. The Division continued its successful oversight of the Essex County Prosecutor's Office, the largest prosecutor's office in the state. The Division took over operation of Essex in 1999 after management problems led to the resignation of the former prosecutor. Meanwhile, the Statewide Narcotics Task Force, made up of personnel from the Division, State Police and other law enforcement agencies, arrested six suspected members of an international drug cartel and seized cocaine and marijuana with a total estimated street value of

\$100 million. The Division also successfully prosecuted a cruise line and its president for illegally dumping raw sewage into waters off the New Jersey coast and, in a separate complaint, successfully prosecuted a commercial fishing operation for a similar illegal dumping offense. For the year, the Division obtained 168 state grand jury indictments.

Prosecutions Organized Crime and Racketeering

The Organized Crime and Racketeering Bureau continued to prosecute traditional organized crime groups such as La Cosa Nostra in 2000 while redoubling its efforts to infiltrate, investigate and prosecute emerging criminal organizations. In addition, the Bureau's Computer Analysis and Technology Unit (CATU) took part in several investigations that resulted in arrests for such crimes as selling child pornography and/or luring minors via the Internet, fraudulently offering computer parts for sale, and computer "hacking." The unit provided assistance where needed in the forensic analysis of computers seized during the execution of search warrants and also held training sessions throughout the state in the area of computer crime detection.



Case Highlights

State v. Michael “Tona” Borelli, et al. — The Bureau obtained guilty pleas from 15 alleged members and associates of the Genovese crime family operating in Hudson County. Among the defendants were Michael “Tona” Borelli, Peter Grecco and Michael Sciarra. The defendants pleaded guilty to charges of criminal usury/loan sharking and theft. In addition, defendant Vito DiVincenzo was convicted of homicide in connection with a murder in Hudson County two decades ago. DiVincenzo was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

State v. Manelis, et al. — The Bureau obtained eight indictments charging 15 employees and operators of Russian-owned second-hand goods shops in Atlantic City with receiving stolen property, criminal usury and conspiracy. The usury counts were linked to exorbitant interest fees charged of those who pawned jewelry items at the shops in order to keep their items from being resold. After the court upheld the legality of the usury charges through pretrial motions, several defendants pleaded guilty.

State v. Baron Athletic Association, et al. — The Bureau obtained guilty pleas in 2000 from 12 people charged with illegally operating a club in Hamilton Township, Mercer County, known as the Baron Athletic Association. The defendants admitted to such offenses as money laundering, promoting gambling, unlawfully selling alcohol and building on protected wetlands. In consideration of their guilty pleas, as well as the distribution of proceeds from the sale of the club to satisfy fines and forfeiture to the state, individual club members were permitted to enter the state Pre-Trial Intervention program.

State v. Bonanno, et al. (Operation Juice) — In July 2000, the Bureau arrested five alleged members and associates of the Bonanno organized crime family operating in northern and central New Jersey as well as one purported member of another La Cosa Nostra crime family operating in the region. The five suspects were charged with various racketeering offenses including criminal usury, receiving stolen property, illegal gambling and money laundering. Among the defendants were alleged mob soldier Joseph Taormina and Louis Ricco, an alleged member of the Gambino crime family.

Casino Prosecutions

The Casino Prosecutions Bureau is primarily responsible for the prosecution of all criminal offenses occurring in, or relating to, the casino gaming area in each of Atlantic City’s 12 licensed casinos. The Bureau has its headquarters in Atlantic City and is a member of the Atlantic City Money Laundering Task Force, a cooperative effort of federal and state agencies that targets money laundering activities in the Atlantic City casino industry. Bureau prosecutors obtained 259 indictments against a total of 351 defendants during calendar year 2000.

Case Highlights

State v. Dennis Khuc, et al. — The defendants, including a casino dealer who facilitated the fraud, allegedly employed a baccarat cheating method that netted them several hundred thousand dollars before being apprehended. Two defendants, including the casino dealer, pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy and theft by deception and are serving state prison terms.

State v. Majid Farvid — The Bureau obtained an indictment against the defendant for fraudulently obtaining \$1.2 million from an Atlantic City casino. The defendant allegedly obtained the money by falsifying information on a casino credit application and wrote checks on a fictitious bank account.

State v. Shawn Gentry — The defendant was found guilty after a jury trial of robbing elderly patrons in various casinos. He was sentenced to a 15-year state prison term with no parole eligibility for seven years.

State v. Sherrod Spence, et al. — This case deals with a complex, large-scale credit card operation within the Philadelphia-New Jersey region. The defendants allegedly presented various stolen credit cards and false identifications to obtain more than \$100,000 in cash advances from Atlantic City casinos. Spence and 11 others have been indicted by the state grand jury on a variety of charges including racketeering. They are awaiting trial.

Corruption and Government Integrity

The Corruption and Government Integrity Bureau investigates and prosecutes allegations of misconduct by public officials, including elected and appointed officials, government employees and law enforcement officers. In the year 2000, the bureau secured two indictments, 15 accusations and 32 guilty pleas and opened 198 new investigations.

The Bureau has an ongoing initiative to investigate and prosecute violations of the Campaign Finance Act.

Case Highlights

State v. Ciccone — A joint investigative effort by the Bureau and the Bergen County Prosecutor’s Office led to the removal of Bergen County Sheriff Joseph Ciccone for official misconduct. The offenses included the “sale” of sheriff’s officer jobs, transfers, promotions and assignments within the department.

In addition, Ciccone was charged with issuing honorary special deputy sheriff’s badges, paid for by the county, to individuals who made contributions to his campaign. Ciccone was also charged with demanding that employees of the sheriff’s office and vendors who did business with the county jail make campaign contributions. A covert investigation resulted in Ciccone and two other sheriff’s department employees being charged. The State also seized approximately \$230,000 in illegally-obtained campaign funds through forfeiture proceedings.

State v. Mason, et al. — The primary defendants, James and Sydelle Mason, have been charged with multiple counts in connection with their alleged waste and abuse of public education funds. The Masons run Archway Programs Inc., a non-profit corporation that has for years operated a school for children with disabilities in lower Camden County. Public school districts in the home towns of students who attend Archway pay the cost of their special education. As the result of a state Department of Education audit, the Masons are accused of overcharging public school districts for services by approximately \$2.5 million in the 1994-95 fiscal year alone. The Masons are charged with con-

spiracy, official misconduct, theft by deception and corporate misconduct. The case is pending trial.

State v. Ousley, et al. — Currently pending trial, this case involved the alleged misconduct of two corrections officers at the New Jersey Training School for Boys, a medium security facility operated by the Juvenile Justice Commission. In spring of 1999, while a class of high school students toured the facility, some students were verbally abused and physically assaulted by the inmates. The accused corrections officers are charged with allowing the juvenile inmates to take the students into their cells unsupervised. Four juvenile inmates were successfully prosecuted for their role in the incident.

State v. Waldron — Defendant James Waldron was the public safety director for the City of Trenton. In his part-time law practice, he allegedly stole more than \$290,000 from elderly clients. He is charged with second-degree theft and a separate count of second-degree misapplication of entrusted property.

Financial Crimes and Antitrust

The Bureau works closely with other agencies to detect and investigate securities, tax, bank, investment and consumer fraud. The Bureau is also a member of the Disability/Social Security Task Force created in May 2000 as a joint effort of the Division of Criminal Justice and the federal Office of the Inspector General.

In 2000, the Bureau obtained 65 indictments and filed 18 criminal accusations. Bureau prosecutors obtained guilty pleas from 82 defendants and won two convictions at trial. Of the 84 defendants who either pleaded guilty or were convicted at trial, 16 were sentenced to terms in either a county jail or state prison. The courts ordered more than \$3 million in restitution payments in connection with successful Bureau prosecutions and imposed more than \$72,000 in fines against defendants.

Case Highlights

State v. Robert Brennan — Brennan, the former owner and chief executive officer of First Jersey Securities, was indicted by a state grand

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jury on a number of including misapplication of entrusted property, fraud in the insolvency, and failure to make required disposition of property received. Brennan is accused of converting more than half-a-million dollars in casino gambling chips and approximately \$5,900 contained in a wagering account – both assets of Brennan’s bankruptcy estate – for his personal use. In early 2001 Brennan was found guilty of seven counts contained in a federal indictment. State charges are pending.

State v. Joseph Perone — The defendant, former acting director of the state Division of Building and Construction, was convicted in Mercer County of official misconduct and accepting of gifts by a public servant. He accepted bribes and gratuities in connection with the award of state Department of Corrections contracts. Perone forfeited his state position and was sentenced to five years in prison.

State v. James Joyce — The defendant, who had been a fugitive for 10 years, pleaded guilty to two counts of second-degree misappropriation of funds and failure to file an income tax return. Joyce was sentenced to three years in state prison and ordered to pay \$335,245 in restitution.

State v. Cory Tucker — The defendant was convicted of third-degree conspiracy, attempted theft and forgery for his role in a scheme involving the theft of checks from the state Department of Labor and the cashing of those checks using stolen identification. Tucker was sentenced to five years in prison and must serve half of that term before he can become eligible for parole.

Money Laundering

The Division opened 29 cases related to money laundering and other financial crimes in 2000 through the work of its Financial Investigations Unit. Participation in the U.S. Department of Treasury’s Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) Gateway Access Program, which involves the use of a specialized data base, was expanded from eight counties to 12 in 2000. The expansion made New Jersey’s per capita use of FinCEN data the second highest in the nation. In December of 2000, the Division launched the Anti-Money Laundering Group, which includes participation by law enforcement in all 21 counties and by State Police.

Case Highlights

State v. Jeff Burd, et al., — This investigation resulted in the indictment of seven people who were allegedly involved in a \$10 million fraudulent investment scheme. The case is pending.

State v. Peter A. Lovaglio — The defendant, who was the owner of two companies he claimed were full-service brokerage firms, was indicted on numerous charges including failure to make required disposition of property received and securities fraud as well as money laundering. The case, which centers on Lovaglio’s alleged theft of more than \$650,000 of investors’ money for his own use, is pending.

Civil Remedies and Forfeiture

Funds forfeited in 2000 amounted to nearly \$3 million. The Bureau prosecuted 119 cases, opened 34 new cases and closed 42 cases. Based on statistics reflecting the number of cases closed in 1999, Bureau productivity overall increased by 31 percent. In addition to \$2.9 million in cash forfeitures, the Bureau’s efforts resulted in the forfeiture of three vehicles, a 22-foot powerboat and assorted electronic and telephone equipment.

Case Highlights

State v. Baron Athletic Association, Inc. — This action seeks to dissolve the corporation and forfeit cash and real property that was allegedly used to further gambling and other crimes. Settlement negotiations are in progress.

State v. Allied Trauma and Healthcare, Inc. et al. — This case targeted chiropractors Lisa and George Tsilionis, along with other defendants. Court-issued seizure orders enabled the State to prevent offshore transfer of the couples’ assets. The State then obtained a final judgment by default enabling forfeiture of virtually all assets, including a parcel of land.

Environmental Crimes

In 2000, the Environmental Crimes Bureau obtained 12 indictments and accusations, completed 29 criminal investigations and opened 44 new ones. Bureau prosecutions resulted in jail sentences totaling 12 years, court-ordered restitution of more than \$1.03 million and fines imposed on criminal polluters in the amount of more than \$32,000. In addition to investigating and prosecuting cases on a statewide basis, the Bureau continues to coordinate state-level efforts with any criminal enforcement activities undertaken by county prosecutors' offices. In 2000, county prosecutors' offices obtained 10 indictments and accusations involving 15 defendants. Charges included violations of the Clean Water Act and of laws pertaining to air pollution and the disposal of hazardous, medical and solid waste.

Case Highlights

State v. Louis Tucci, Charles Cottrell and U.S. Remedial Services — The defendants pleaded guilty to criminal charges in connection with a scheme to fraudulently obtain subcontractor payments and performance bonds for three separate, unrelated environmental remediation projects in Lyons, Wayne and Wanaque. The value of bonds for the three projects totaled more than \$8 million. Tucci pleaded guilty to second-degree racketeering and is expected to receive a five-year prison term. Cottrell pleaded guilty to second-degree corporate misconduct and received a six-year prison term. In a separate case, Tucci pleaded guilty to second-degree racketeering, admitting that he charged customers a fee for the proper disposal of contaminated soil then dumped the soil illegally in New York instead. As a result of his guilty plea, Tucci is expected to receive a five-year prison sentence to run concurrent with his anticipated sentence in the U.S. Remedial Services case.

State v. Meadowlands Plating and Finishing, et al. — The Bureau obtained a 17-count indictment against defendants Meadowlands, a successor company known as MPF Plating and Finishing, Inc. and four principals of the companies charging them with illegally storing and abandon-

ing vats of electroplating waste as well as drums and tanks of hazardous waste. The defendants are also accused of unlawfully discharging toxic pollutants into the sewer system.

State v. Heterene Chemical Corp. Inc., et al. — The Heterene Corporation pleaded guilty in 2000 to a fourth-degree charge of recklessly creating the risk of widespread injury or damage by releasing a toxic plume from its Paterson facility in 1999. Under terms of its plea agreement, Heterene will pay \$75,000 restitution to be used for health care for Paterson residents and has agreed to curtail several dangerous chemical processes at the facility.

Recreational Water Protection Initiative — In one case Gary Fagan, the owner of Mohawk Fisheries Inc., was sentenced to two years probation and \$10,000 in fines — \$5,000 payable to the Clean Water Enforcement Fund and \$5,000 to the American Littoral Society at Sandy Hook. Fagan and his company pleaded guilty to discharging sewage from a commercial fishing vessel directly into the Shark River in Monmouth County. In another case, Moore's Cruise Line, Inc. and its president, Richard Moore, pleaded guilty to discharging raw sewage from the charter vessel "Royal Teal" into Sandy Hook Bay and the lower bay over a two-year period. The state has recommended that Moore and his firm pay a \$5,000 fine to the Clean Water Enforcement Fund and a total of \$7,500 restitution to fund oyster replenishment programs.

Narcotics Task Force

Composed of detectives from the New Jersey State Police, State Investigators from the Division of Criminal Justice and Deputy Attorneys General, the Statewide Narcotics Task Force conducts investigations and prosecutions of mid-level and upper-level drug traffickers. In 2000, members of the New Jersey National Guard Counter Drug Program were permanently assigned to the Task Force, while members of various county and municipal law enforcement agencies were assigned on a temporary basis.

During 2000, the Task Force was involved in 449 investigations and was responsible for the arrest of 875 suspects. Task Force personnel took

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part in the seizure of more than 1,113 kilograms of powder cocaine, 900 bags of crack cocaine, 4,455 pounds of marijuana, 9 bricks, 1,053 bags and 182 decks of heroin and 101 pounds of methamphetamine. The total wholesale value of drugs seized was estimated to be at least \$40 million. The Task Force also seized 140 “hits” of LSD, 9,645 Ecstasy pills and smaller quantities of other illegally-procured prescription drugs including Valium. Task Force personnel also seized 16 vehicles valued at \$322,000, made currency seizures totaling \$4.75 million and confiscated 58 weapons.

The Division of Criminal Justice component of the Task Force opened 182 new cases in 2000 and closed 216 cases. Members of the Task Force filed 51 indictments and accusations and secured 51 guilty pleas. Thirty-one defendants were sentenced to prison as a result of Task Force actions and a total of \$16,000 in fines were imposed.

Case Highlights

State v. William Carabello, et al. — Six defendants believed to be members of the international Cali drug cartel were arrested on the basis of a Task Force investigation into the trafficking and storage of illegal drugs. While executing a search warrant at a North Jersey warehouse, Task Force personnel seized a van loaded with 850 kilograms of cocaine with an estimated street value of \$85 million. Investigators also seized tractor-trailers containing approximately a ton of marijuana with an estimated street value of \$15 million, a handgun and \$86,000 in cash.

State v. Brian Elliot, et al. — This South Jersey case, centered on an investigation done in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Attorney General’s Office, resulted in the shut-down of five working methamphetamine or “speed” manufacturing laboratories. In addition, the defendants were charged with unlawfully distributing cocaine, marijuana and prescription drugs. Eleven defendants pleaded guilty and were sentenced to prison. Two defendants pleaded guilty to the charge of leader of narcotics trafficking – in accordance with the so-called “Kingpin Statute” – which exposed them to a potential sentence of life in prison.

State v. Jeffrey Suggs, et al. — Via the Internet, undercover Task Force investigators pur-

chased nine “date rape” kits used in the manufacture of the drug GHB (Gamma Hydroxy Butyrate) from two South Carolina men. The defendants, who are brothers, have since pleaded guilty. Records seized at the brothers’ home, and at a storage facility used to warehouse related chemicals and packing materials, indicate that their drug network had distributed chemicals used to make GHB throughout the United States, Canada and Europe. The two defendants are currently awaiting sentencing on conspiracy and illegal drug distribution charges. This case was initiated by investigators at the Division of Consumer Affairs operating through the Attorney General’s Internet Working Group.

Operation Starbuck — In South Jersey, an investigation into an alleged marijuana network importing from the southwestern United States led to the arrest of nine suspects and the seizure of 500 pounds of marijuana valued at approximately \$750,000.

Prosecutors and Police

In 2000, the Prosecutors and Police Bureau provided 4,440 legal advisories, typically in response to questions from county prosecutors’ offices, local law enforcement and/or representatives of municipal government. In addition to handling a litigation caseload, Bureau staff also resolved 663 citizen complaints concerning alleged misconduct by law enforcement; prepared 37 legislative comments on bills and initiatives related to law enforcement; processed 16 immunity petitions and disposed of 14 administrative actions relating to appeals to the Office of Administrative Law by trainees who had been dismissed from law enforcement training academies.

The Bureau prepared the Attorney General’s Juvenile Waiver Guidelines in 2000. The guidelines govern the use of prosecutorial discretion in determining how the most serious juvenile delinquency cases will be handled. The Bureau also revised the Attorney General’s Directive concerning the use of force by law enforcement officers in 2000 and revised the Attorney General’s Directive concerning the required surrender of weapons by law enforce-

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ment officers involved in domestic violence incidents. The latter revision led to creation of an efficient process by which the Division of Criminal Justice reviews the seizure of weapons from state law enforcement officers involved in domestic violence and the elimination of a three-year backlog of related files to be reviewed by the Division.

Case Highlights

Newark Morning Ledger Co. v. City of Newark Police Department et al., — The Division of Criminal Justice joined with the City of Newark in opposing the Star-Ledger’s request to inspect internal affairs investigative reports created and maintained by the Newark Police Department. The matter is pending.

In the Matter of J.M. — The Division of Criminal Justice superseded in this matter after the Essex County Prosecutor’s Office successfully petitioned for certification to the New Jersey Supreme Court. The issue concerns the use of offenses unrelated to Megan’s Law in deciding what category a particular sex offender would be assigned to under the Megan’s Law tiering and notification process. In this case, the offense at issue was a conviction for lewdness. A decision is pending.

Charisse Baker v. DCJ Academy — A former trainee of the Division of Criminal Justice Training Academy, Baker appealed her dismissal, which was based on unexcused absences and the providing of false information. A decision is pending in the matter which, as of this writing, is before the Office of Administrative Law.

Statewide Program Implementation

Law Enforcement Drug Testing — In accordance with guidelines put forth by the Office of the Attorney General authorizing the random drug testing of law enforcement officers, the Prosecutors and Police Bureau assisted the state Toxicology Laboratory and county prosecutors’ offices in implementing a statewide drug testing program.

Program Audits and Reviews

Internal Affairs Audits — The Bureau conducted comprehensive reviews of the internal affairs function of the Bernards Township, Irvington and Orange police departments and the Essex County Prosecutor’s Office.

Cape May County Prosecutor’s Office Review — The Bureau conducted a management review of the Cape May County Prosecutor’s Office to evaluate its functioning and to make recommendations for maximum efficiency.

Monmouth County Prosecutor’s Office Review — The Bureau completed a management review of the Monmouth County Prosecutor’s Office in conjunction with the possible reappointment of the prosecutor to evaluate the functioning of the office and to make recommendations regarding reappointment.

Operations Bureau

The Operations Bureau investigates and prosecutes cases in five major categories: cases that result from activation of the Attorney General’s Shooting Response Team; cases assigned by the Deputy Director of Operations, Chief of Staff or the Director of Criminal Justice; cases referred by the Juvenile Justice Commission; local or county cases superseded by the Division of Criminal Justice and bias-related crimes committed by hate groups. There are three deputy attorneys general, two supervising state investigators and 12 state investigators assigned to the section.

During 2000, the Operations Bureau opened 351 cases and investigated, prosecuted or resolved 225 cases. Deputy attorneys general assigned to the Bureau tried 14 cases to conclusion. Supersession cases, in which the State superseded county prosecutors, accounted for approximately 47 percent of those handled by the Bureau. In 2000, Bureau deputy attorneys general prevailed on every evidence suppression motion and attempt by defendants to have an indictment dismissed. In addition, every Operations Bureau case that came under attack on appeal in 2000 was upheld. Defendants in Bureau-made cases were sentenced to a total of 53 years in prison, 12 years of probation, \$68,134 in restitution and more than \$2,800 in fines.

L&PS Shooting Response Team

During 2000, the Operations Bureau was assigned to carry out the provisions of the Attorney General's newly issued guidelines regarding the investigation and review of police-related shootings. To fulfill this mission, the Division of Criminal Justice has created a core group of highly-specialized and trained investigators, attorneys and support staff. Comprising personnel from the Division and from State Police, this group is on call 24 hours a day and responds directly to the shooting scene. The core group immediately establishes a command post, secures the crime scene, identifies witnesses and evidence and provides a plan of action for investigating the shooting. In 2000, the Shooting Response Team acted as an investigative unit in response to three police-related shootings. In a fourth police-related shooting, the team provided support for the county prosecutor's office.

Juvenile Justice Commission Section

The Operations Bureau's Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) section consists of one full-time deputy attorney general (DAG) and one full-time state investigator. Three part-time deputies are also assigned to assist with cases. Through the Bureau's JJC section, specially trained personnel are on call around the clock to investigate and prosecute juvenile inmates for offenses they have committed while incarcerated. The JJC section also prosecutes crimes committed by third parties and by JJC employees. During 2000, deputies opened 70 cases, obtained 15 indictments, secured one waiver of a juvenile offender to adult court and tried five defendants to a successful conclusion. Defendants were sentenced to a total of 25 years of additional incarceration, received a total of six-and-a-half years of additional probation time and were fined \$2,422.

Appellate Bureau

In 2000, the Appellate Bureau opened more than 2,200 new cases and filed 777 briefs. Among the matters litigated in state courts were selective enforcement/racial profiling issues and death penalty appeals. The Bureau also litigated 41 Appellate Division appeals that resulted in published opinions that established precedents for the lower courts.

In addition to handling appeals, the Bureau also monitors prosecutor misconduct and issues letters of reprimand where appropriate. In 2000, the Bureau issued 14 such letters. The Bureau also undertook successful forfeiture of office actions against a total of six officeholders convicted of crimes, including Camden City Mayor Milton Milan. Milan was found guilty of racketeering and is being held in a federal prison while awaiting sentencing.

Case Highlights

State v. Clark — In this case, the state Supreme Court ruled that an attorney who serves as a municipal prosecutor cannot represent criminal defendants in Superior Court or in any municipal court located within the county in which the municipal prosecutor serves.

State v. Beverley — In this Appellate Division case, the Bureau argued successfully that the defendant's conviction for killing state Corrections Officer Fred Baker should be upheld. Beverly was found guilty of killing Baker while serving time for other offenses at Bayside State Prison in Cumberland County.

State v. Brady — In this case, the Appellate Division extended interpretation of existing law concerning distribution of child pornography to encompass distribution over the Internet.

State v. Presha — The Bureau successfully argued before the State Supreme Court in this case that the confession of a juvenile who had assaulted two senior citizens should be upheld. The case established standards for police interrogation of juveniles.

Office of Bias Crime and Community Relations

During 2000, the Office of Bias Crime and Community Relations investigated or aided in the investigation of more than 30 bias crimes. The office also successfully concluded prosecution of the “Mansfield Swastika Case,” in which a 70-foot swastika had been cut into a Burlington County field. The young adult defendants were accused not only of the swastika vandalism but also of harassing African-Americans and others during a three-year spree. Each pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy to commit bias harassment.

The Office also launched the Institute for Human Relations, a first-in-the-nation training program aimed at eliminating racism and other forms of intolerance. Through course offerings and other initiatives, the Institute provides a forum for learning and discussion with regard to such issues as combating prejudice, stereotyping and discrimination. The Office has also initiated a program entitled *Hate on the Internet*, which instructs parents and educators about hate groups on the Internet and how to protect young people from their influence. Approximately 3,500 people from across the state have attended the program in their schools and communities.

During 2000, the Hate Group/Bias component assisted in the oversight of a Nationalist Movement Rally in Morristown, surveillance and investigation of various hate groups and assisted the Mercer County Prosecutor’s Office in its investigation of bias incidents at the College of New Jersey.

Edward Byrne Memorial Assistance Grant Program

Byrne funds are available through the U.S. Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Assistance. They are used to fund Multi-Jurisdictional Initiatives, at the local and state levels, that combat drugs, violent crime and related problems. In 2000, New Jersey used Byrne funds to supplement an anti-crime strategy focused on reducing drugs and violence and improving the quality of life in communities. Funded programs included:

Multi-Jurisdictional Initiatives

The Statewide Narcotics Task Force opened 277 cases, made more than 600 narcotics-related arrests, confiscated 171 weapons and seized \$4.96 million worth of assets in 2000. Ongoing investigations continue to target money laundering operations, pharmaceutical drug diversion and the trafficking of cocaine and methamphetamine. Statewide, the 21 county narcotics task forces made a total of 5,818 arrests and removed significant quantities of marijuana, cocaine, heroin, hallucinogenic and other drugs from New Jersey’s streets, schools and neighborhoods.

Police Community Partnership Programs

Police Community Partnership Programs are collaborations between local police departments and the communities they serve. In 2000, selected neighborhoods in five urban areas were made safer as a result of these programs. Police officers assigned to the programs continued to gain the trust and cooperation of community residents in addressing crime problems and quality-of-life concerns. Investigations headed by the Violent Offender Removal Task Forces resulted in the arrest and conviction of some of the participating communities’ most prolific drug traffickers. Safe Haven Programs offered constructive after school activities to an average of 150 young children per

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day. Revitalization efforts made substantial improvements in the partnership communities and helped to restore neighborhood pride.

Meanwhile, two complementary urban programs provided opportunities for high-risk youth in 2000. The Youth Entrepreneurial Project gave 62 young people the experience of owning and operating a retail farm stand business. Farm stands operated in seven cities and sold more than \$7,600 in “Jersey Fresh” produce.

Body Armor Replacement Fund

The Body Armor Replacement Fund, signed into law in 1997, provides for a non-lapsing, revolving fund that is financed through a \$1 surcharge attached to all motor vehicle and traffic violation fines and penalties. The fund is used to provide grants for the purchase of body armor by local police departments, the State Police, the state Department of Corrections, the state Division of Criminal Justice, the state Probation Services Division and the state Juvenile Justice Commission. Every eligible agency receives a grant application and instructions. Any agency that files a completed application within the allotted time frame receives a base grant of at least \$500.

Community Justice

Initiated in 2000, the Community Justice Grant Program is a source of funding to county prosecutors’ offices and State Police for locally-based, partnership-driven anti-crime efforts. Individual programs, each tailored to the unique needs of the communities they serve, are currently operating in 20 counties and through the State Police. In support of these programs, the Division of Criminal Justice hosted a two-day conference in the fall of 2000 in Middlesex County that offered a wide range of topics for discussion as well as practical skills training for those involved with community justice efforts. As a result of shared information and the introduction of new ideas, several existing community justice programs are being adjusted and refined. Grants awarded to fund individual community justice initiatives are designed to support those programs for an 18 month period. The Division distributed a total of \$2 million in community justice grants in 2000.

Federal Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program

A total of \$555,000 was awarded to New Jersey in 1999 and 2000 via the federal Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act. Under the law, \$25 million per year in federal grant funds have been dedicated to reimbursing law enforcement agencies for up to half the cost of the bullet-proof vests they buy. As of this report, the state Division of Criminal Justice has notified 14 police agencies in New Jersey of their allocations. Those agencies are in the process of ordering vests and requesting reimbursement from the Partnership fund.

Office of the State Medical Examiner

The State Medical Examiner’s Office supervises the Regional Medical Examiner’s Office, the State Toxicology Laboratory and the Law Enforcement Random Drug Testing Program. The office reviews all autopsies reported to the State Medical Examiner for compliance with related statutes and regulations.

The Medical Examiner’s Office provided a variety of services in 2000 including assistance to the Burlington County Medical Examiner in processing the casualties of a mid-air collision that resulted in multiple fatalities. The Office functioned as Medical Review Officer for the state’s Random Drug Testing Program for police and provided 19 seminars — both in New Jersey and outside the state — on a variety of topics for emergency management, medical and law enforcement personnel. In conjunction with domestic preparedness efforts by the Department of Law and Public Safety in cooperation with the military, the office also readied plans for a surveillance system that would provide early detection of clandestine biological terrorism and took part in a simulation drill at Lakehurst Naval Station designed to evaluate responses to a terrorist nerve gas attack.

Legal Counsel to the State Medical Examiner's Office

The legal counsel to the state Medical Examiner's Office provides legal advice to the office, the Regional Medical Examiner's Office and the state Laboratory. Counsel also responds to complaints from citizens and agencies with regard to the conduct of medical examiner offices throughout New Jersey and answers questions related to death investigations. In 2000, Counsel assisted in the smooth transition of the Regional Medical Examiner's Office to the direct supervision of the state Medical Examiner's Office. Counsel also provided advice and assistance on a number of employment disciplinary matters.

Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor

The Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor was created by the Legislature in May 1998 for the purpose of generating a more consistent, more focused statewide approach to the investigation, prosecution and deterrence of fraud. The OIFP serves as the focal point for all criminal, civil and administrative fraud prosecutions.

In 2000, the OIFP continued to pursue its mission through two basic initiatives — the investigation and prosecution of insurance fraud activity and a broad-based public awareness campaign designed to inform citizens about the far-reaching

effects of fraud. By year's end, the OIFP had filed 69 new criminal prosecutions charging a total of 86 defendants with insurance fraud, Medicaid fraud or related crimes. In addition, the OIFP opened 519 new criminal investigations.

Criminal prosecutors also obtained 75 convictions in 2000 based on OIFP investigations. Of those convicted, 19 defendants were sentenced to jail time. The collective jail time to be served by those defendants adds up to approximately 34 years. Meanwhile, defendants convicted on the basis of OIFP investigations were ordered to pay a total of \$1.13 million in restitution and another \$403,350 in fines related to criminal insurance fraud.

Since its inception in August 1998, the OIFP has obtained 176 criminal convictions and has sent 35 insurance cheats to jail or state prison.

Criminal Case Highlights

State v. Carl Lichtman, et al. — One of the largest insurance fraud prosecutions in State history, the Lichtman case was nearly concluded in 2000. A former licensed psychologist, Lichtman conspired with nearly 200 people to defraud the State Health Benefits Plan and approximately 35 other insurance carriers or health care plans out of \$3.5 million. Lichtman, who pleaded guilty in 1999, submitted bogus claims for the treatment of "neurotic depression" in no-show "clients" then kicked back 25 percent of the money to co-conspirators in return for their insurance information. Lichtman was sentenced to five-and-a-half-years in

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State Prison. Five other defendants were tried, convicted and sentenced to either State Prison or county jail time for their roles in the conspiracy. A total of 190 defendants have been prosecuted to date for their involvement in the Lichtman fraud conspiracy. Fines and restitution were ordered as part of their sentences.

State v. Phillip Major, et al. — A total of 18 defendants pleaded guilty to charges of theft or attempted theft by deception in 2000 as part of the continuing investigation and prosecution of former East Orange police officer Phillip Major. Major previously pleaded guilty to official misconduct and related charges for fabricating police accident reports. Guilty pleas from the 18 defendants accounted for some \$167,000 of the \$900,000 in fraudulent claims which have been tied to Major's malfeasance. In related cases, three defendants — Mark Bendet, Imelda Toquero and Eddie Boyd — were charged with bribery, conspiracy to commit bribery and official misconduct as a result of their alleged involvement with a medical practice known as Metro Medical Services. Bendet, a disbarred attorney, and Toquero, a nurse and Bendet's estranged wife, fled New Jersey and were arrested on a fugitive warrant by authorities in Texas. They were returned to New Jersey to face prosecution on the OIFP charges.

State v. Jerome F. Bollettieri and Thomas DiPatri — The OIFP filed criminal charges against two police officers in Camden City after an investigation revealed that they were allegedly selling Camden Police accident reports to enable fraudulent, auto-related health care claims. Bollettieri is a lieutenant who supervised the police department records section. DiPatri is a retired police sergeant. The two were arrested on an OIFP warrant charging them with conspiracy, official misconduct and bribery.

State v. Hanan Selim, Wail Aly and the Paterson Community Pharmacy — The defendants, owners of the Paterson Community Pharmacy, are charged with conspiracy and Medicaid fraud. In addition, Hanan Selim, a licensed pharmacist, was charged with health care claims fraud as a practitioner and Aly was charged with health care claims fraud as a non-practitioner. The defendants are accused of submitting reimbursement claims for prescriptions of Serostim, a

costly anti-AIDS medication, which were never filled. In addition, they are charged with submitting fake invoices in an effort to create the false impression that the pharmacy contained the amount of drugs "dispensed."

Civil Investigations

The office received nearly 12,000 referrals of suspected insurance fraud in 2000. Of those referrals, approximately 6,600 cases were forwarded to OIFP civil investigators for more thorough review. Civil investigators issued 889 insurance fraud consent orders or agreements seeking \$2.44 million in civil fines. In addition, more than 600 fraud-related matters were referred to the agency's deputy attorneys general in charge of civil litigation, resulting in 244 judgments or settlements and the levying of \$94,412 in penalties. Civil enforcement actions yielded another \$830,762.

Public Awareness Efforts

As part of its ongoing effort to inform the public about the impact insurance fraud has on all citizens of New Jersey, the OIFP continued with a comprehensive public awareness campaign during calendar year 2000. The campaign featured a series of television and radio advertisements that emphasized both the state's commitment to catching insurance cheats and the stringent penalties that can be imposed for insurance fraud. In the ads "Richard," a man who has been engaged in insurance fraud and who appears to have been living well off the profits, is arrested, tried and sent to prison. These stark ads complemented the initial phase of a media campaign entitled "New Jersey's Fed Up" and was designed to inform the public about insurance fraud while also encouraging citizens to refer cases of suspected fraud to the state. The campaign continues to generate calls to the OIFP toll-free tip line.

County Prosecutor Reimbursement Program

In 2000, the OIFP continued its successful campaign to provide financial and technical support to the state's 21 county prosecutor's offices for enhanced insurance fraud enforcement. Sev-

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eral hundred cases of suspected insurance fraud have been or remain under active investigation by these agencies and many have resulted in criminal convictions, jail sentences and court-imposed fines and restitution requirements.

Objectives for 2001

Modernize CJ Training Academy — To more efficiently train the more than 120,000 law enforcement officers who attend the Division of Criminal Justice Training Academy at Sea Girt each year, the Division plans to build a \$3 million addition. The addition will provide extra space needed to train the Juvenile Justice Commission’s custody, internal affairs and parole staff and will provide a location for the in-service and investigatory training of Division personnel, county prosecutors and other state law enforcement officers and firefighters. The planned addition will also feature dormitory space for 60 students and a moot courtroom.

Enhance Cyber-crime Initiatives — To keep pace with this expanding area of criminal activity, the Division will continue to enhance its Computer Analysis and Technology Unit (CATU), expand the Division’s Money Laundering Unit and build on current training and other initiatives in cooperation with the State Police High Technology Crimes Unit as well as with county prosecutors’ offices.

Revise the County Prosecutors’ Manual — In order to make it more “user friendly,” the Division will completely redesign the manual, which is often considered the definitive source for information by the 21 county prosecutors’ offices. For the first time, the manual will be divided into two separate books — an administrative guide for prosecutors and a guide for assistant prosecutors. Both volumes will also be made available on CD-Rom for computer access to the information.

Update Criminal Law Digest – At the request of county prosecutors and the state judiciary, the Division’s Appellate Bureau has undertaken a massive revision of the Criminal Law Digest. When complete, the digest will be available for the first time on CD-Rom for computer, as well as in book form. ♦

Multi-Jurisdictional Narcotics Initiatives

Statewide Narcotics Task Force Actions 2000

Arrests	610
Weapons Seized	171
Assets Forfeited	\$4.96 million
Cases opened	277

Statewide Narcotics Task Force Drug Seizures (2000)

Cocaine	1,113 grams
Crack Cocaine	900 bags
Marijuana	4,455 pounds
Heroin	9 bricks, 1,053 bags and 182 decks
Methamphetamine	101 pounds
Hallucinogenics	LSD, 140 “hits”
Ecstasy	9,645 pills

Drugs Seized by County Narcotics Task Forces 2000

Cocaine	145,769 grams
Crack Cocaine	8,010 grams
Marijuana	1.73 million grams
Heroin	5,146 grams
Stimulants	307 grams
Depressants	41,821 grams
Hallucinogens	1,896 grams

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Division of Elections

Officially established in 1979, the Division of Elections is responsible for accepting all nominating petitions for statewide offices, inspecting and reviewing those petitions for validity, and managing the challenge process. The Division also certifies candidates for the primary and general elections, certifies election results, examines and certifies voting equipment and reviews the accessibility of polling locations. Other responsibilities include the maintenance of election district maps, the provision of voter registration forms to the 21 county commissioners of registration and oversight of the voter registration system required by the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA). The division also provides assistance to county elections officials, county clerks and to the public on administrative matters related to voting and the elections process. Under the NVRA, the Attorney General is the state's Chief Election Official.

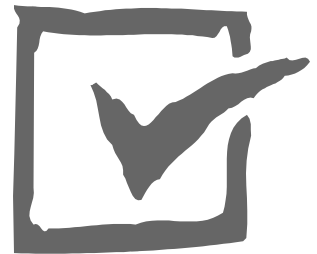
Overview

In 2000, the Division of Elections continued to take a lead role in generating public awareness about the importance of registering to vote while also collecting and certifying statewide election results, presiding at the formal casting of New Jersey's Electoral College votes after the historic 2000 popular election for President and acting as a source of useful, voting-related information for local elections officials, state-mandated agencies and the public. Approximately 4.7 million New Jersey citizens were registered to vote in the 2000 General Election.

Accomplishments

The Division developed a newsletter in 2000, **NVRA Update**, which is published quarterly and provides valuable information related to voter registration issues that emerge under the National Voter Registration Act. The Division also developed an Elections Activity Booklet for elementary school students to educate them about the elections process.

Working in collaboration with the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and with county elections officials, the Division also enabled approximately 230,000 citizens to either register to vote or change their affiliation through the "Motor Voter" program. Through the Motor Voter program, citizens can register to vote at DMV agencies while conducting a motor-vehicle-related transaction.



NJ Army National Honor Guard in colonial garb presenting flags at the opening of the 54th Electoral College.

The Division also acquired new, Y2K compliant computers in 2000 for use by county superintendents of election and commissioners of registration. The Division purchased the new computers in order to bring the county NVRA computer systems into compliance with the State system.

In March of 2000, at the 63rd Annual New Jersey Association of Elections Officials Conference in Atlantic City, the Division hosted the first training session entitled "NVRA Electronic Transfer in the Year 2000 and Beyond."

In addition, the Division oversaw the 2000 National Student/Parent Mock Election in which 592 schools participated and more than 220,000 votes were cast for President and the U.S. Senate.

Objectives for 2001

In its ongoing effort to encourage voter registration, the Division will conduct regional training sessions in 2001 for personnel of the DMV. The effort is designed to ensure the most orderly and successful approach possible to the ongoing "Motor Voter" effort. To further enhance the effort, the Division also hopes to conclude the design and distribution of a new poster in 2001 that would be displayed at DMV offices, as well as at other locations, urging citizens to register to vote. The posters will remind citizens that the mere completion of a DMV transaction does not automatically register them to vote and will provide information on the correct procedure for registering through DMV.

Other objectives for 2001 include the updating and enhancing of the the Division of Elections Internet Web site to be more informative and "user friendly." The Division also plans to oversee the design and creation of new public service announcements, for both broadcast and print media, that would provide information concerning voter registration deadlines.

The Division also hopes to promote voter awareness and understanding of the election process by visiting regional locations, including schools, to discuss the elections process and answer questions from the public. ♦

Division of Gaming Enforcement



The Division of Gaming Enforcement was established in 1977 under the Casino Control Act to ensure the integrity of the casino gaming industry in New Jersey. Its mission is to protect the public interest by maintaining a legitimate and viable industry, free from the influences of organized crime, and ensuring the honesty, good character and integrity of casino owners, operators, employees and vendors. The Division performs its mission through enforcement of the Casino Control Act and related regulations, which were designed to ensure a strictly regulated and economically sound casino gaming industry. Oversight by the Division includes investigations, inspection and audit, as well as criminal and regulatory prosecution. The Division also provides advice, background investigative services and all administrative support to the State Athletic Control Board.

Overview

Through its investigative, prosecutorial and rule-making efforts, the Division of Gaming Enforcement acted to ensure the integrity of the New Jersey gaming industry on a variety of fronts. The problem of compulsive gambling was a particular focus for the Division in 2000, with the Division providing expert testimony for a licensing hearing involving a high-level casino executive who had a gambling problem. The Division also supported legislative and regulatory efforts to help address the issue. The Division also took regulatory action against two licensed boxing promoters based on conduct admitted to during a federal trial. In addition, the Division relocated its Atlantic City offices, including its expanded, state-of-the-art slot laboratory, to a newly-renovated building on Atlantic Avenue.

Compulsive Gambling Actions

Licensing Report re: Gary DiBartolomeo — In August 2000, the Division filed a report with the Casino Control Commission (CCC) concerning the fitness for continued licensing of Gary DiBartolomeo, the former president of Caesars Atlantic City Casino Hotel. In its report, the Division outlined several instances of questionable conduct by DiBartolomeo including his violation of a 1995 CCC order prohibiting him from gambling and a number of questionable financial transactions. The report concluded that DiBartolomeo was not qualified and that his ca-

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A Gaming Enforcement engineer inspects a new slot machine. All electronic games must be approved before they can be used in Atlantic City casinos.

sino key license should be revoked. In the fall of 2000, the CCC held a six-day hearing that led to the revocation of DiBartolomeo's license.

Rule Making Petition — The Division filed a rule-making petition with the Casino Control Commission in 2000 designed to address the problem of compulsive gambling. The petition complements pending legislation that calls for the creation of a master list of problem gamblers who have asked to be excluded from Atlantic City casinos. Via this "self-exclusion" law, the casinos would be empowered to deny credit to compulsive gamblers as well as refuse them check-cashing privileges and complimentary services or "comps." Under the bill, which was signed by Acting Governor Donald DiFrancesco in early 2001, a person who believed that he or she had a gambling problem could, following a certification process, place themselves on the exclusion list. The confidential information contained on the list, including identifying characteristics and a photograph, would be shared with the casinos so that if a problem gambler tried to obtain credit or redeem a jackpot, he or she could be escorted from the property. Compulsive gamblers who wagered and won despite being on the list would be required to forfeit their winnings. A portion of those winnings would then be donated to the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services for the treatment and prevention of compulsive gambling.

Renovations to the Division's Atlantic City office were completed in Fall 2000.



Boxing Industry Actions

Licensing Action Against Boxing Promoters — In October 2000, the Division filed separate complaints with the Casino Control Commission against boxing promoters Robert Arum and Cedric Kushner, both of whom had admitted to paying off officials of the International Boxing Federation. In its complaints, the Division asked the CCC to disqualify both Arum and Kushner from doing business with the casinos because they had admitted to acts which, under New Jersey law, constituted commercial bribery, conspiracy to commit commercial bribery and misconduct by a corporate official. In November 2000, the CCC approved an agreement between the Division and Robert Arum and his firm, Top Rank, Inc. as well as promoter Cedric Kushner and his company Cedric Kushner Promotions, Ltd. in which the promoters agree not to do business anywhere in New Jersey until the complaints have been resolved.

Report on Boxing Regulations — In 2000, the Division presented the Attorney General with a report on the status of the boxing industry in New Jersey. In its report, the Division outlined a number of proposed changes aimed at improving the regulation of boxing, protecting the participants and ensuring the integrity of the events. The Division recommended that the State Athletic Control Board (SACB) tighten its licensing protocols to better assess the character and health of those involved in the sport. According to the report, this would be accomplished by initiating the licensing process further in advance of an event to reduce the amount of work required immediately prior to the event. This would enable the SACB and its commissioner time to thoroughly evaluate the character and health issues upon which licensing depends. In order to be granted a license by the SACB, promoters, managers, seconds and boxers must establish their good character, honesty, integrity and responsibility.

New Facility

Relocation of Atlantic City Office — In November 2000, the Division relocated its principal Atlantic City office to four newly-renovated floors of an office building located at 1300 Atlantic Avenue. Approximately half of the Division's staff is housed in this new facility, including its expanded state-of-the-art slot laboratory which tests, monitors and inspects electric casino games. The building also provides office space for the Division of Criminal Justice's Casino Prosecutions Bureau and the 85 members of the New Jersey State Police who are assigned to the Division.

Casino Integrity

Suspicious Transaction Reporting — In the fall of 2000, New Jersey's suspicious transaction reporting requirements – regulations requiring casinos to report suspicious currency transactions — became effective. Under the regulations, the threshold reporting requirement is a transaction involving at least \$5,000. Reporting is required whenever a casino licensee "knows or suspects" that the transaction relates to a potential violation of law or regulation. The Division is charged with the responsibility of maintaining the suspicious activity forms which are filed and with providing copies to any law enforcement agency without the need for a subpoena.

Casino Entity Licenses — The Division conducted licensing investigations on Park Place Entertainment's three Atlantic City properties and Harrah's. In addition, all investigatory work was completed for the licensing renewal of the Showboat. The Division provided its report on Showboat to the Casino Control Commission in early 2001.

Employee Licensing — The Division completed more than 10,000 employee license application investigations in 2000 and conducted 949 investigations for revocation. The legal staff issued 928 employee licensing reports and filed 296 complaints seeking revocation of employee licenses.

Capture of Fugitives — As a result of computerized background checks conducted on all applicants for a casino license, the Division of Gaming Enforcement was responsible for the capture of 58 wanted criminals in 2000, nearly double the number apprehended as a result of Division licensing investigations the previous year.

Policy and Procedure

Change in Slot Machine Inspections — The Division announced in 2000 that it was changing the procedure by which its Technical Services Bureau inspects and analyzes slot machines in order to speed the process and reduce backlog. The Division placed new responsibility on the makers of slot machines to certify the accuracy of each combination possibly achieved by the machine. This is expected to save valuable time without compromising the integrity of the games because the Division will continue to audit all slot machines to ensure that the makers are performing these certifications and because a chief engineer in the company must sign an affidavit that the certifications have, in fact, been completed. The company can be sanctioned if it is found that this step has been omitted. The Division's goal is to have all slot machine programs, with the exception of new prototypes, through its slot laboratory within 45 days.

Industry Growth

Borgata — The Division examined, evaluated and approved the layout and security features of the Borgata, a new casino being built by the Boyd Gaming Corp. on 27.5 acres of land in the marina district of Atlantic City. A joint venture between Boyd and MGM Mirage, the Borgata will be the first new casino hotel in Atlantic City since the Trump Taj Majal opened in April 1990. The new, \$1 billion facility is expected to be a 40-story building featuring a 120,000-square-foot casino and 2,010 hotel rooms. The new casino hotel is projected to open in mid-2003.

Claridge Acquisition — The Division provided expert testimony at a Casino Control Commission hearing in late 2000 on whether the proposed acquisition of the Claridge Casino Hotel by Park Place Entertainment would result in "undue economic concentration" under the Casino Control Act. Park Place Entertainment is the holding company of three Boardwalk casinos in Atlantic City. The Claridge has been in bankruptcy since 1999. After hearing testimony from several experts and considering a report submitted by an expert retained by the Division, the CCC approved acquisition of the Claridge by Park Place Entertainment in early 2001. ♦

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Division of Highway Traffic Safety

The mission of the Division of Highway Traffic Safety (DHTS) is to protect and promote the safety of the public while driving or walking on the state's 33,000 miles of roads. The Division accomplishes this through the acquiring of grants which fund state and local educational and enforcement programs designed to reduce traffic-related fatalities and injuries.

Overview

Through a variety of public awareness and training efforts, the Division of Highway Traffic Safety continued in 2000 to promote safe, courteous driving along New Jersey's roads. Signs bearing the familiar, animated "Drive Friendly" logo continued to remind motorists to drive courteously and observe rules of the road that foster a safer motoring environment. Citizens could access "Drive Friendly" tips on the division Web site as well as download publications that provided information on safe bicycle riding, the perils and consequences of driving under the influence, the correct use of child car seats and how to teach a child safe pedestrian habits. The year 2000 was also a busy one on the public awareness front, as New Jersey's seat belt law changed to make failure by either a driver or front seat passenger to buckle up a primary, as opposed to secondary, offense. In the wake of the change, and related public awareness efforts by DHTS, seat belt use in New Jersey increased nearly 11 percent.

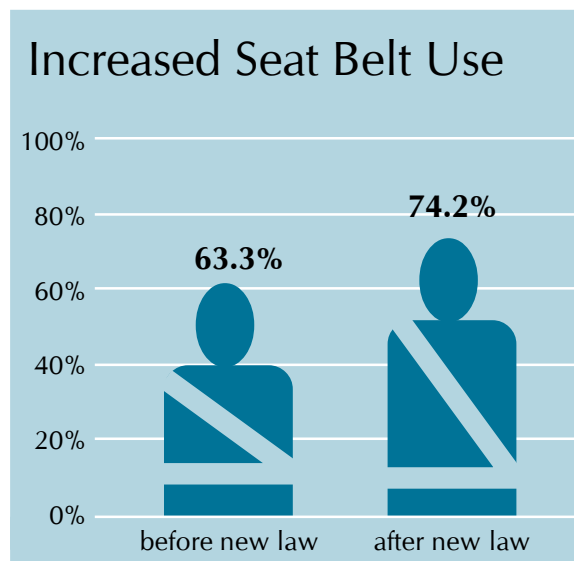


Occupant Protection

New Jersey's seat belt law was upgraded from a secondary to standard (primary) law on May 1, 2000. Law enforcement personnel now can stop a vehicle and issue a summons if either the driver or front seat passenger is not wearing a seat belt.

The Division conducted a public education campaign about the change in the law in the months leading up to May 1. Radio public service announcements were produced in both English and Spanish and aired by radio stations throughout New Jersey. Information cards explaining the new law also were produced and distributed.

Following enactment of the new law, New Jersey's seat belt use rate increased from 63.3% to 74.2%, based on the Division's annual summer survey.





Child Safety Seat Program

The Division continued to train police officers, fire and rescue personnel, nurses and other public safety advocates in how to inspect car child safety seats for proper installation and use. By the end of 2000, each of the state's 21 counties had trained personnel available to aid and assist parents with child safety seats.

The trained personnel, formally called Child Passenger Safety Technicians, conduct free and voluntary inspections of child safety seats to ensure proper installation and use. The first-ever statewide survey of child safety seat use revealed that 93% of these restraints are either not installed or used improperly.

Pedestrian Safety

Pedestrian fatalities in New Jersey account for more than 20% of all roadway deaths, compared to the 13% national average.

A program to increase pedestrian safety education and enforcement on the local level was expanded to include mid-sized communities. After initially funding pedestrian safety programs in the cities of Elizabeth, Jersey City and Paterson, the effort was expanded in 2000 and included grants to Asbury Park, Fort Lee, Morristown, Perth Amboy and Teaneck. ♦

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Division of Law

Through the Division of Law, the Attorney General performs the majority of the duties relating to his statutory role as chief counsel for the state. The Division is charged with the responsibility of protecting the public interest by acting as sole legal counsel to state agencies and by conducting all civil legal matters to which the state is a party.

Overview

Staffed by approximately 500 deputy attorneys general, the Division of Law has a broad-based mission which includes representing the state when it takes legal action and providing representation when the state is a defendant in, or otherwise party to, legal action taken by others. The Division also provides counsel to client state agencies to assist them in avoiding litigation and to help them with the proper administration of legislatively mandated programs.

At any given time, the Division is likely to have more than 35,000 legal matters pending. Whether it involves litigation related to the protection of an abused child, cleanup costs to be paid by a polluter or state actions aimed at ensuring the integrity of the electoral process, the Division of Law is typically involved.

In 2000, the Division handled many litigation matters vital to the public interest including a successful petition to have an Elections Monitor appointed in Passaic County, where acrimony among county Board of Elections members and other problems had called into question the Board's ability to ensure a full and fair 2000 Gen-

eral Election. In another significant public interest case, the Division argued successfully for state oversight of the finances of the City of Camden, where mismanagement had threatened the city with insolvency.

Through formal legal action and skillful negotiation, the Division's Hazardous Site Litigation efforts were also a success in 2000, saving the State millions of dollars it would have spent on environmental remediation projects by prevailing on responsible parties to handle the work instead.

The Division also played a key role in a broad array of other legal proceedings relating to air quality, insurance rates, insolvent HMOs and Division of Youth and Family Services adoption cases, among other issues.

Case Highlights

Charter Schools — The New Jersey Supreme Court affirmed in 2000 the Appellate Division's decisions in favor of the Greater Brunswick, Classical Academy, Englewood on the Palisades and Franklin charter schools. In doing so, the court upheld the constitutionality of the Charter School Act and the permissibility of regional charter schools. The Supreme Court ruling clarified the role of the state Education Commissioner in considering the racial and fiscal impact of a charter school on a school district. It also affirmed the commissioner's timelines for the identification of a charter school and for the acquisition of a facility.

Camden Oversight — In 2000, the Division represented the state Department of Community Affairs in its successful effort to have the City of

Camden's finances placed under state supervision. In response to evidence and legal arguments presented by the Division, the Superior Court issued a finding that Camden officials had managed city finances in violation of state laws and, in doing so, had jeopardized the fiscal integrity of the city. Camden has been subject to oversight by the DCA's Local Finance Board since May 2000.

DYFS Matters

The state Division of Youth and Family Services reported that, with Division of Law Deputy Attorneys General handling termination of parental rights matters, DYFS accomplished 816 adoptions between October 1, 1999 and September 30, 2000. The number of children adopted through DYFS has been steadily climbing since implementation of the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) in 1997.

The work of the Division's DYFS section continues to focus on meeting the requirements of the Adoption and Safe Families Act. Complying with those requirements is important for the benefit of children and families throughout the state and to ensure New Jersey's access to vital federal funding.

Since ASFA was enacted, the Division's termination of parental rights caseload has increased from 437 cases statewide four years ago to 856 pending cases as of October 2000. The increase demonstrates the success of DYFS, as well as the Division deputies with whom the agency works, in securing homes for many more children who otherwise might have lingered in prolonged foster care.

Division Deputy Attorneys General have also been increasingly busy with cases related to DYFS protective services matters. Protective services cases involve attempts to reunite abused and/or neglected children with family members. Compared with 1999, the number of appeals related to protective services cases more than doubled in 2000.

Cost Recovery/ Cost Savings

The Division's Hazardous Site Litigation section is responsible for recovering funds that the state Department of Environmental Protection spends for the cleanup of hazardous waste discharge sites. In calendar year 2000, the Division recovered nearly \$20 million for the DEP. In addition, the Division, by prevailing on the responsible parties to handle the work, saved the DEP from having to spend \$40 million for new spill site remediation efforts or for claims against the Spill Fund or Sanitary Landfill Fund. In addition, Division actions resulted in the recovery of more than \$4.3 million in natural resources damages.

Insolvencies, Department of Banking and Insurance

The Division has worked with the Department of Banking and Insurance to continue the orderly administration of the estates of a number of insolvent HMOs and insurers, most notably HIP-NJ and American Preferred Provider Plan (APPP) and Mutual Benefit Life.

With the assistance of Special Counsel, the Division prepared and filed directors' and officers' actions in HIP-NJ and APPP, seeking to bring tens of millions of dollars into the insolvent estates. In the case of Mutual Benefit, the Division has overcome the objections of creditors to begin the final phase of liquidation in an insolvency matter that is a decade old.

In a matter growing out of the insolvency of HIP-NJ and APPP, the Division has also successfully defended the New Jersey Insolvent HMO Assistance Fund Act of 2000 against a challenge based on allegations that the Act is unconstitutional.

The Act created a mechanism to fund payment of up to \$100 million in provider claims left unpaid as a result of the insolvencies of the HIP-NJ and APPP HMOs.

Mid-West Power Plants

In 2000, New Jersey played a role in several legal matters related to the air pollution being emitted by coal-fired generating plants in the midwest. The cases involved power plants operating in Indiana, Ohio, Virginia and West Virginia. In the case of *U.S. v. Cinergy*, the parties negotiated a Consent Decree requiring Cinergy to reduce plant emissions by up to 70 percent. The agreement also requires Cinergy to spend more than \$1.5 billion on upgrades to its pollution control equipment and to spend \$21.5 million on environmental mitigation projects.

Insurance Rate Cases

The Division has successfully represented the Department of Banking and Insurance in a series of actions flowing out of the 1998 AICRA insurance reforms. These include a significant number of actions involving requests for rate increases by auto insurance carriers, as well as challenges to the regulations promulgated under AICRA and challenges to insurance company policy form provisions approved by the Commissioner.

Elections 2000

The Division of Law provided legal advice in 2000 to the Division of Elections as well as to various County Boards of Elections and Superintendents of Elections. Of particular note was the negotiation of a Consent Decree in Passaic County, entered into between the United States Department of Justice and the State, which addressed issues concerning the treatment of Spanish-speaking voters within Passaic County. Ultimately, through the efforts of both the DOL and the Department of Justice, the courts appointed an independent Elections Monitor to oversee the November General Election in Passaic County. On Election Day, the DOL provided Deputy Attorneys General to act both as polling place observers and to handle, on behalf of the state, any litigation matters that arose with regard to voting issues. ♦

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The New Jersey Racing Commission is responsible for ensuring both the safety and integrity of the horse racing industry through the conduct of investigations, prosecutions and via regular monitoring.

Overview

The Racing Commission regulates horse racing and parimutuel wagering throughout New Jersey. In 2000, the five operating race tracks in New Jersey conducted a total of 562 racing programs generating nearly \$1.1 billion in parimutuel wagering.

The commission monitored the conduct of more than 5,500 individual races, supervised the betting activity associated with those races and collected parimutuel taxes. The commission also monitored the wagering on more than 72,000 horse races simulcast into New Jersey tracks and casinos.

As part of a monitoring program to ensure that no illegal or banned substances are being used, commission employees collected more than 36,000 specimens from horses last year and more than 900 specimens from jockeys, drivers and trainers. State Police chemists analyze the horse specimens for traces of illegal substances that could indicate cheating. The specimens of jockeys and other racing personnel are analyzed to determine alcohol and drug use.



Industry Task Force

In August 2000, the Racing Commission formed a task force to conduct an industry-wide review of the harness racing industry. The task force's mission is to evaluate the consistency of racing trends to determine if they fall within appropriate parameters, to monitor and assess licensing trends, study current drug administration practices, evaluate the effectiveness of the Commission's drug testing program and to investigate other issues that affect harness racing.

The task force was created with the cooperation of the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority, Garden State Park, Freehold Raceway and the Standard Bred Owner's and Breeder's Association of New Jersey. It is administered by Racing



Commission Executive Director Frank Zanzucki and comprises Racing Commissioners Ronald Dancer, Daniel Monaco, Basil J. Plasteras and John J. Tucker. In addition to the task force, the Commission has also formed an industry advisory panel to act as liaison to the task force and ensure that matters of importance to the industry receive appropriate attention.

The task force has taken, and continues to take, important steps to enhance the integrity of racing and maintain public confidence in the sport. These steps include the launching of several major investigations, the questioning of more than 900 harness trainers to ensure compliance with regulatory criteria, a review of Racing Commission regulations with a view toward limited revisions that would strengthen them and, where appropriate, enforcement actions.

Internet and Telephone Wagering

In recognition that New Jersey residents were, either via the Internet or by telephone, placing horse race wagers with business concerns outside the state, the Commission requested a legal opinion from the Office of the Attorney General. Following its receipt of a written opinion from OAG that such wagering in New Jersey was not authorized by law, the Commission notified each race-track permit holder. In addition, the Commission notified various out-of-state Internet business operations of this legal determination and ordered them to stop accepting wagers from persons within New Jersey. The Commission is proceeding in a similar fashion with regard to businesses which accept telephone bets made by individuals calling from New Jersey.

Ongoing Initiatives

Mandatory Safety Vests — Through the action of the New Jersey Racing Commission, New Jersey was the first state in the nation to require that all harness racing participants wear safety vests.

Backstretch Improvements — This initiative is funded through the state Legislature and is designed to improve the quality of life for those individuals who live and work on the racetrack grounds. The program has provided counseling, medical screening, clothing, education and recreation programs.

Automated Parimutuel Accounting System — This system was designed in-house and became operational at all tracks on Jan. 1, 1996. The system was expanded and introduced into the casino simulcasting operation in late 1998. It is currently undergoing an upgrade. This system assists in the distribution of commissions to the state, casinos, tracks, horsemen, breeders programs, agriculture programs, charities and municipalities.

Multi-State Licensing and Fingerprinting — The Racing Commission is a participant in the Association of Racing Commissioners multi-state licensing program. This program allows individuals in certain categories to complete a multi-state license application and send it along with appropriate fees for all states in which they intend to race. The fees and a copy of the application are then sent to the states. Fingerprint requirements have also been included in this multi-state program. The program is designed to streamline the licensing process and reduce costs to licensees by eliminating duplication. The multi-state licensing program will eventually be phased out once New Jersey adopts compact legislation allowing the Commission to offer and accept a national license.

Objectives for 2001

Oversight of Expanded Wagering — The commission is gearing up to provide enhanced regulatory oversight in the event that, as is anticipated, new legislation passes that would permit racetracks to create off-track betting facilities and introduce telephone account wagering networks. The proposed legislation calls for all related Racing Commission costs to be paid from license and permit fees and outstanding parimutuel ticket monies, as well as from assessments levied against permit holders.

Pursuit of National License Legislation — The commission intends to pursue passage of legislation during 2001 that would allow New Jersey to become a member of a National Licensing Compact. As a member of a licensing compact, New Jersey can offer and accept the use of a national license by racing participants. The creation of a national license has long been a desire of the horse racing industry. Previous attempts have failed, primarily because FBI criminal history information, the critical information needed to issue licenses, could not be shared among licensing jurisdictions. The formation of a compact resolves this issue. As of Jan. 1, 2001, five racing jurisdictions have enacted "compact" legislation including Delaware, Florida, Louisiana, Virginia and West Virginia. Participation in a compact will not dilute New Jersey's licensing standards or reduce fees collected by the commission and forwarded to the state treasury. However, legislation enabling the acceptance of a national license would be viewed by the industry as a major enhancement and could lead to increased revenues drawn from all segments of the sport in New Jersey. ♦

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Division of State Police

The Division of State Police is charged with ensuring the safety of the public by providing and maintaining statewide police services, general highway and traffic enforcement, investigative and intelligence services, forensic science and laboratory services, emergency services, local law enforcement support and the maintenance of criminal records and identification systems.

The Division conducts criminal investigations, enforces traffic laws and regulations on New Jersey toll roads and interstate highways, provides forensic science laboratory services to local law enforcement agencies and protects life and property on coastal and inland waters. The Division also provides comprehensive police services to rural communities throughout the state.

Overview

From the enhancement of trooper training to the implementation of new recruiting practices and from successful anti-crime efforts to emergency preparedness, 2000 was a busy and challenging year for the New Jersey State Police. Troopers assigned to the Division's five patrol areas logged millions of hours and thousands of miles protecting New Jersey's rural communities, busy roadways and interstate transportation network. The mainstay of State Police activity, road patrols, continue to yield rewarding results in the form of reduced highway fatalities and auto accidents.

The Division also provided for the safety of more than 100,000 visitors, celebrities and officials attending the Op-Sail festivities at Liberty State Park in July. The overall Op-Sail 2000 pro-

gram took place along New York Harbor and featured a parade of naval vessels, tall ships and public events, culminating with a Fourth of July fireworks display.

New Standards and Procedures

Recruitment Practices

Under revised standards implemented in 2000, potential recruits applying to the State Police for the 119th through the 123rd recruit training classes are now required to have a minimum of 60 college credits plus two years of work experience or a Bachelor's degree. During the selection process, the State Police achieved several "firsts" including the use of a blind initial screening process to evaluate applications, use of a new State Police entrance examination and changes to the physical qualification test to reflect the same performance requirements expected of all State Police enlisted personnel and affording candidates several opportu-



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nities to take the test during a four-week period. The applicant interview process was revamped to include two members of the State Police as well as a state-employed Human Resource Specialist. The process was also amended to include an in-depth review of those recommended for disqualification during the background investigation. That review is conducted by a Bureau Chief, a Section Supervisor, the Superintendent of State Police and, finally, by the Office of State Police Affairs within the Attorney General's Office.

Education and Training Enhancements

The Division's Training Bureau implemented significant changes during 2000. State Police recruits are now being trained in the use of police computer systems and each new trooper will utilize a portable laptop computer. Through use of the laptop computer, troopers can enter police reports directly into the enhanced State Police data collection systems and police-related information can be quickly and accurately obtained. Through exhaustive classroom and practical training, trooper recruits are also being trained extensively with regard to the proper use of search and seizure procedures.

Recruits also participate in extensive training and role-playing exercises focused on cultural diversity awareness and sensitivity, community relations and community policing and in responding to situations involving domestic violence.

In the area of cultural diversity, recruits receive extensive and detailed instruction from experts outside of the Division, including representatives from groups such as the Anti-Defamation League and other ethnic, cultural and professional organizations. Such interactive training includes lectures, practical exercises and role playing.

Trooper Youth Program

The successful Trooper Youth Program continued to move forward in 2000 as young adults interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement completed their Trooper Youth training experience. During two separate, one-week training sessions, nearly 200 high school senior and junior students experienced the rigors of State Police training as they participated in the program.

Police Functions & Internal Review

In a restructuring move designed to ensure public confidence by providing for increased State Police accountability, the Division created a new Office of Professional Standards in 2000. The move represents a significant change in the handling of internal affairs matters, from the filing of complaints by members of the public to the way internal investigations are managed and the public accountability of the internal affairs process. In the first four months of calendar year 2000, both citizen complaints and the number of investigations increased. This trend was anticipated in light of an extensive State Police public information campaign geared to increase awareness of how and where to file complaints and the implementation of easy-to-read complaint forms available in both English and Spanish. In keeping with its commitment to fully investigate every legitimate complaint, the Division increased the staffing of its Internal Investigation Unit and its Administrative Proceedings Unit.

Cooperative Street Level Drug Enforcement

From inner-city streets to rural patrol areas, State Police anti-narcotics efforts focused in 2000 on the identification, permanent disruption, arrest and prosecution of persons involved in open-air, street-level narcotics trafficking operations and drug sales. Such cooperative anti-drug operations with local police departments and county prosecutors' offices remain a top priority, particularly in the inner-cities.

Throughout the year, undercover State Police detectives assigned to the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force worked the streets of urban centers in an effort to restore a climate of neighborhood security and safety.

In one case, Division investigators arrested six suspected members of an international drug cartel and seized more than 850 kilos of cocaine, along with nearly a ton of marijuana, during a raid on a North Jersey warehouse. The seizure was the product of an extensive, multi-agency investigation which targeted the importation of illegal drugs by large-scale traffickers. Estimated street value of the cocaine was \$85 million while the estimated street value of the marijuana was placed at more than \$15 million.

Specialized Enforcement Efforts

The Division's Street Gang Unit conducted two, week-long Criminal Street Gang Awareness and Recognition Training Seminars in 2000. A total of nearly 350 law enforcement officials attended these sessions. In addition, unit members made 40 specialized presentations to various audiences that included representatives of law enforcement, community groups, schools and youth service organizations.

Federal law enforcement grant funding allowed the Division's High Technology Crimes and Criminal Investigations Support Unit to acquire additional computer equipment and to expand its investigative and training efforts. During the course of the year, the number of computer crimes reported to State Police

increased 300 percent. In 2000, the High Technology Crimes unit conducted 82 criminal investigations and arrested 35 people. Investigations focused on theft, credit card fraud, identity theft, endangering the welfare of a child, distribution of child pornography, terroristic threats, illegal computer access and cyber stalking. Unit personnel also completed 49 analyses on computers submitted to the High Technology Crimes unit by outside law enforcement agencies.

As a direct result of federal grant funding for equipment and training support, the Cargo Theft and Robbery Unit of the State Police recovered \$2.73 million in stolen property. Unit members initiated 35 investigations resulting in the arrest of 52 suspects on 130 assorted charges related to cargo theft and robbery. In addition, Unit members provided 48 hours of training to more than 200 representatives of law enforcement agencies, civic groups and private industry.

Technology

Recognizing that individual lawbreakers and criminal cartels have been advancing their illegal enterprises through the use of technology, the Division continued in 2000 to further its related investigative and enforcement efforts.

Among the objectives was to identify and dis-



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rupt emerging crime trends, whether they involved use of the Internet or employed sophisticated computer networks such as those maintained by certain illegal narcotics distributors and organized crime groups.

The Division also continued to implement new technology throughout 2000 by advancing priority projects in the Special and Technical Services Section, the Records and Identification Section and the Field Operations Section.

Throughout 2000, the Records and Identification Section continued to work toward implementation of the NCIC 2000 Project. The NCIC 2000 Project is an enhanced system that allows State Police patrol vehicles to be fitted with specialized, high-tech mobile data computers capable of confirming an individual's identity through the use of fingerprints and digital photographs.

In a related area, State Police equipment known as the Fully Integrated Fingerprint Identification System, commonly referred to as the "Live Scan" program, continued to provide the state's law enforcement community with the latest in digital scan fingerprint technology.

The system electronically transmits fingerprints to a central data bank at Division headquarters in West Trenton, where the impressions are scanned, searched and verified. The results are then transmitted back to the originating police agency for

immediate identification and confirmation.

Another vital technological advancement completed in 2000 was the Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) System. With CAD operational in all State Police patrol cars, Troopers now have an efficient, computerized data collection system that will ultimately reduce the time required for report writing and record keeping. The CAD program also serves as an advanced supervision tool enabling State Police to measure and analyze the various law enforcement tasks, thus allowing for timely and informed decisions on the deployment of resources.

Work also continued in 2000 on enabling the Division's overall communications system to accommodate such new technologies as the Automatic Vehicle Location System and Mobile Data Computers for patrol vehicles. In addition, the State Police and the Department of Transportation initiated a joint effort known as the Transportation Incident Management Program. The overall goal of the program is to keep New Jersey's traffic moving over the state's highway system by using technology to better detect, respond to and recover from incidents that disrupt traffic flow.

Public Safety Initiatives

Emergency Preparedness

The Division's Office of Emergency Management took the lead in the January 2000 handling of state preparations for any potential Y2K related problems. Throughout the critical 24-hour Y2K "rollover" period, the state Emergency Operations Center was staffed by more than 80 representatives from the Office of Emergency Management and more than 25 representatives of other government and private sector agencies. Ultimately, there were no Y2K incidents impacting on public safety. The Office of Emergency Management also took the lead in 2000 with regard to disseminating evacuation procedures, recommending safety measures and handling emergency preparedness efforts in the event of a hurricane or other violent storm. Numerous coastal storms and named hurricanes did, in fact, threaten the New Jersey coastline during the fall and winter months of 2000, but those weather systems skirted the coast, resulting in minimal damage.

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Emergency Medical Response Activities

Known officially as the Emergency Service Helicopter Response Program, the State Police air ambulance helicopter or Medivac flew more than 1,730 rescue missions during 2000. The life-saving Medivac program transports critically injured patients from accident scenes to area hospitals. When not on an emergency mission, the helicopter is used for general purpose law enforcement responsibilities.

The Division and the New Jersey Turnpike Authority also initiated a pilot program in 2000 in which specially-trained troopers were equipped to respond to medical emergencies they might encounter while patrolling the New Jersey Turnpike. The program involved training three troopers assigned to patrol as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and adding three marked patrol vehicles equipped with Heartstart defibrillators and emergency medical supplies. Expenditures for medical supplies and equipment for the three State Police vehicles totaled more than \$12,500. The troopers have been trained to respond to a variety of medical emergencies including injuries related to motor vehicle accidents, heart attack, fractures, cuts, contusions, choking, respiratory failure, diabetic-related problems, epileptic seizures, drowning, burns, exposure and premature deliveries.

Safe Boating Program

With more and more people taking part in recreational boating and related water sports, troopers assigned to the Division's Marine Services Bureau continued in 2000 to teach young and adult boaters the rules of the water and safe boating procedures. The continuing program works to qualify students ages 16 and under to earn the certificate required to operate power boats or jet-ski water craft and "wave runners." The ultimate goal is to make recreational waters safer for all New Jerseyans.

Getting Guns Off the Streets

In 2000, a joint task force of local, county, state and federal law enforcement personnel, expanded the scope of its unprecedented effort to track and prosecute those who peddle illegal firearms.

By pooling resources and key information, the task force has been instrumental in putting together an effective data base that tracks records of all firearms recovered during the investigation of crimes committed in New Jersey. This information is then used to aid in determining the identities, locations and methods of illegal gun trafficking throughout the state.

Community Policing Overview

Throughout 2000, the State Police Community Policing Program continued its well-established efforts through new initiatives at all general duty State Police Stations. Put simply, the program puts troopers back into the community on a regular basis to interact with residents and community leaders. The effort has engendered a broad base of support and enables local residents to work with their police neighbors to attack not only crime but the community-level problems that can lead to crime.

Community Policing at Work

One of the best examples of the Community Policing Program at work can be found in Cumberland County, where Trooper Bryan M. Everingham has established an exemplary relationship with the residents of a once problem-plagued neighborhood known as Countryside Village.

The State Police Trooper of the Year for 1999, Trooper Everingham is assigned to the Bridgeton Station. Through hard work and a consistent presence, Trooper Everingham has established productive relationships with residents of Countryside Village as well as with area corporations and local government officials.

As a result, the neighborhood has been infused with a renewed spirit of cooperation and a revitalized sense of community pride. Through the collaborative efforts of Trooper Everingham and the community, there has been a 48 percent decrease in the number of calls to Bridgeton Station related to crime and other problems in Countryside Village. Trooper Everingham's work has not only saved the State Police hundreds, if not thousands, of personnel hours, it has vastly improved the quality of life throughout the community. ♦

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Juvenile Justice Commission

Created by statute in December 1995, the Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) is responsible for the care, custody and post-custodial supervision of juvenile offenders committed to the agency by the courts. The JJC's other primary responsibility is the support of local efforts to provide services for at-risk and court-involved youth. The commission is the single agency of state government with centralized authority for planning, policy development and the provision of services in the juvenile justice system.

Overview

At any given time there are 2,000 juvenile offenders in the custody or care of the JJC. Through the operation of day reporting centers, residential group homes, secure custodial facilities and parole/aftercare supervision, the JJC provides a continuum of care — including year round education — for juveniles placed under its supervision. In addition to state law and the discretion of the courts, the specific needs and history of each juvenile determines his or her placement within this continuum.

The year 2000 was one of significant progress in the continuing evolution of the JJC. In an effort to meet the ever-changing needs of its offender population, ground was broken for new JJC facilities and several existing buildings underwent renovation. In addition, the commission introduced new offender treatment programs and launched a major staff training initiative. The JJC also introduced a new medical services program for its residential group centers and established a new agency — the Division of Local Programs

and Services — which is designed to provide funding and support for juvenile justice initiatives at the local community level.

Construction, Renovation and Expansion

In order to provide the best possible facilities for the JJC's custodial, housing, educational, treatment and other needs, the commission launched a variety of construction and redesign projects in 2000.

JJC Reception and Assessment Center — Construction work on a new, 144-bed reception facility in Bordentown continued in 2000 and is expected to be completed in 2001. The \$16 million unit will serve as a comprehensive intake, assessment and classification system for young male offenders. The new unit has been designed to house incoming juvenile offenders until they are formally evaluated, classified and placed, either in a secure facility or in a community-based program.

Hayes Unit — Renovation work on a vacant building on the JJC's Johnstone Campus in Bordentown began in 2000



and is expected to be completed in 2001. When finished, the refurbished building will be divided in order to serve two distinct populations. One section will serve as a 32-bed orientation unit for juvenile offenders entering the Stabilization and Reintegration Program, commonly known as the Boot Camp. Another 48-bed section will be used as a graduated sanction to house juveniles who, through their conduct, are at risk of violating the conditions of their parole.

Mental Health Units — As the number of juveniles with serious emotional problems increases, the JJC is responding. To meet the need, the JJC's newly-expanded Fresh Start Residential Group Center has been designed to accommodate the treatment of 28 male juveniles with serious emotional disorders and special needs. In addition, the JJC will operate a 24-bed program for juveniles with serious mental health problems requiring secure treatment in the new Reception and Assessment Center at Bordentown.

Substance Abuse Treatment Facilities

In 2000, the JJC put in place a comprehensive substance abuse assessment system for juveniles in its custody. Preliminary data from these assessments confirms that substance abuse is a prevalent problem among sentenced youth. In response, the JJC has taken steps to expand and improve its substance abuse treatment services.



For example, the JJC initiated a residential program in 2000 designed specifically to treat the needs of female offenders who are also substance abusers. Known as DOVES (Developing Opportunities through Vocation and Education on Substance Abuse), the program serves as many as six female substance abusers at a time and shares space in Trenton with Florence Crittenton, the JJC's only female residential group center.

Meanwhile, as part of its continuing effort to meet the needs of all juvenile offenders with drug and alcohol problems, the JJC decided in 2000 to convert its Ocean Residential Group Center into a facility that would exclusively house and treat male substance abusers. Now under way, the formal transformation of Ocean Residential, is expected to double the JJC's available bed space for the treatment of substance abusing juvenile offenders.

Education

All juvenile offenders in the care or custody of the JJC attend academic classes, including computer instruction, on a year round basis. The JJC operates on the philosophy that education in general, and literacy in particular, helps juveniles acquire the skills and motivation needed to change the direction of their lives. In addition to studying the state-mandated curriculum, many young offenders develop marketable skills through JJC education initiatives.

The JJC provides juveniles with access to a variety of vocational training programs including upholstery, wood working, video production and editing, optical lab experience, welding and silk screening. Many juvenile offenders advance several grade levels while serving their sentences in JJC custody.

Creation of New Division

Based on the belief that local communities have a unique understanding of their own youth populations, the Commission created a new Division of Local Programs and Services in 2000. The division brings together several funding initiatives and state-level services that encourage the creation and enhancement of community-based ser-

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VICES. These include delinquency prevention programs and alternative sentencing options.

Funding areas include the State/Community Partnership Grant Program, the State Incentive Program, federal block grant funding through the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Program and the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant Program. Through these programs, the JJC awards nearly \$20 million annually to support local delinquency prevention efforts.

Each year, the JJC also awards approximately \$11 million in block grants which are used to fund community-based juvenile justice initiatives. Approximately 4,500 young people take part each year in one or more of the 224 partnership programs available throughout the state. These programs range from mentoring and counseling to substance abuse treatment at day centers or in a residential setting.

In addition, the JJC allocates approximately \$3 million a year in formula grant funds to pay for local delinquency and treatment programs through the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee. Another \$5.9 million in Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grants allows both county and municipal level governments to create youth programs specific to their needs.

Restorative Justice

The JJC's Restorative Justice Initiative requires juvenile offenders to give something back to the community. Of equal importance is that the program helps juveniles to understand the harm created by their actions and to accept responsibility for those actions.

Due to the expansion of its efforts in this area, the JJC spearheaded creation of a new Restorative Justice advisory board in 2000. The advisory board brings together leaders in community involvement, victims' rights advocacy and other programs. The board's mission is to help design guidelines for future Restorative Justice efforts and develop plans for those initiatives.

In 2000, approximately 700 juveniles completed 96,569 hours of victim/community service projects as part of the JJC's Restorative Justice ini-

tiatives. Juvenile offenders taking part in the Community Speakers Bureau gave presentations to an estimated 600 people including members of non-profit organizations, churches, schools, colleges and community groups.

In addition, the JJC's Peer Mediation Group provided services to 277 first-time juvenile offenders and 318 adults through a partnership with the Mercer County Prosecutors Office.

Through its community-based activities and crime scene clean-up and repair crews, the JJC Restorative Justice effort provides valuable service in cities and towns throughout the state.

Meetings between young offenders and those whose lives have been affected by the criminal actions of others are another key element of the program. These sessions help juveniles to understand the impact of their offenses on victims, family members and the community. Recent panels have included perspective from those touched by property crime, violent crime and by serious accidents linked to drunken driving.

A new component of the program allows juveniles and their victims to participate in voluntary mediation sessions. The JJC conducted its first mediation in 2000 and expects to develop guidelines and procedures to expand this initiative.



Community Collaboration

In its ongoing effort to combat recidivism, the JJC took a major step in the year 2000 by creating a Community Involvement Initiative designed to link juvenile offenders with mentors in their home towns and cities.

The commission first laid groundwork for this unique program by holding a series of meetings with faith-based groups around the state. Those meetings were highly productive and helped shape the initiative.

Under the JJC program, mentors are drawn from neighborhoods where the juvenile offenders live, creating both a valuable bridge to available resources and a sense of citizen ownership for the prevention of crime and delinquency in their neighborhoods.

All mentors are trained and work closely with social workers and JJC Aftercare/Parole officers. The JJC is undertaking this unique effort because it recognizes that juvenile offenders have a better chance of ultimately succeeding if they develop substantive ties and positive role models in their home communities.



State Incentive Program

The development of the State Incentive Program (SIP) in 2000 fulfilled a key recommendation of the JJC's Master Plan by providing a tool to improve the state's juvenile justice system in tandem with the existing State/Community Partnership Program.

The goal of the SIP is to provide judges with expanded disposition options, options that will help them craft sentences which serve the equally vital causes of public safety and offender accountability. These expanded options can also enable juveniles to experience personal growth and skills development through rehabilitation programs.

While the current State/Community Partnership Grant Program services a wide array of young people including non-offenders, the SIP is specifically focused on offenders. SIP funding is provided solely for eligible youth who, if not for the SIP funding, would be committed to the custody of the JJC or placed by the court in a JJC residential group center as a condition of probation.

Through the SIP, eligible youth are handled at the local level, thereby expanding the array of local options begun with Partnership funding and creating an appropriate balance between local and state juvenile correctional initiatives.

Treatment Enhancement

In 2000, a JJC research initiative identified several treatment interventions and strategies shown to be effective in combating recidivism.

These strategies include: family intervention and parent training, aggression replacement training and use of a structured risk and needs assessment instrument known as the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory.

The JJC is now implementing these strategies in a small number of its community-based residential programs. The hope is that these "pilot programs" will serve as laboratories for change. If the commission can show, through systematic evaluation, that

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the use of these strategies leads to better outcomes for young offenders than more traditional approaches, it will introduce them in other JJC settings.

The JJC also received significant federal funding assistance in 2000 that helped offset the cost of substance abuse treatment for juveniles in its custody. The funding came through the U.S. Department of Justice’s Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners Program and was divided between the JJC and the state Department of Corrections. Between the two agencies, a total of 1,025 incarcerated juvenile and adult offenders received substance abuse treatment as a result of this program.

Objectives for 2001

Building on its activities and accomplishments for 2000, the JJC has identified the following as goals for the coming year:

Occupy MSF Reception Unit — The new, 144-bed Reception and Assessment Center in Bordentown is expected to be ready for occupation in summer 2001. The new, \$16 million facility will serve as a comprehensive intake, assessment and classification system for young male offenders.

Transition Services for Sex Offenders — In 2001, the Commission plans to offer new transitional services to juveniles who have committed sexual offenses and have successfully completed the Commission’s treatment program for juvenile sex offenders. The transition program is designed to help juveniles gradually adjust to added responsibility as they prepare to return to their communities. These services will complement the Commission’s comprehensive treatment program designed specifically for juvenile sex offenders at Pinelands Residential Group Center. The Commission will seek proposals from private providers to place up to 12 juveniles.

Community Involvement — Throughout 2001 and into the future, the JJC intends to strengthen and expand its links with faith-based organizations and increase its efforts to pair juvenile offenders who are under Aftercare/Parole supervision with volunteer mentors in their home communities.

Research and Evaluation — Consistent with its mandate to combat juvenile delinquency and protect public safety, the JJC launched a comprehensive

research effort in 2000 aimed at evaluating the effectiveness of its facilities, programs and contracts. A major thrust of the research is to determine the recidivism rates of young offenders. In addition to its focus on recidivism, the research has been directed toward assessing other important outcomes such as the reduction of antisocial attitudes and improvements in anger management. In 2001 and beyond, the JJC plans to use this research in shaping budget and policy decisions. The research data will serve as feedback for JJC administrators, guiding them in making program refinements where a need is indicated. It will also provide information useful in determining the effectiveness of contracted services and whether, on a case by case basis, to continue those contracts. ♦





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