

February 14, 2025

Chairman Plousis Marks the Fifth Anniversary of Reentry Law

Five years ago, Governor Murphy enacted [legislation](#) that gave the Casino Control Commission discretion to issue Casino Key Employee Licenses to recovery court graduates. Recovery court works — At least four out of five recovery court graduates successfully rebuild their lives. In comparison, fewer than half of former offenders who go through traditional court have been able to avoid re-arrest.

The likelihood of long-term success for former offenders is, in a large part, determined by their ability to obtain gainful employment and establish a career. By providing recovery court graduates with [access to jobs](#) in the casino industry, the new law expanded opportunities for them. This has been a real game changer for people who earned a second chance. The casino industry has a notable history of mentoring employees from entry level to key positions. We know for certain that matching recovery court graduates with industry jobs has been a success and it has improved many lives.

The new law also required the Commission to coordinate with non-profit reentry organizations, collaborate with government partners, including the [New Jersey Judiciary](#) and the [State Parole Board](#), and work together to help rehabilitated people overcome barriers. Our community engagement in post-pandemic years has been substantial as well as consistent from year to year.

We are building on that foundation and we intend to redouble our efforts. We will reach a greater number of people, not only recovery court graduates but also the [broader community](#) of people seeking advancement, to provide guidance for navigating the casino key employee license process.

Today, we have elevated Patrick Ealer to the position of Assistant Director of Regulatory Affairs. Patrick will be leading these efforts as he continues to oversee licensing functions. This action is a reflection of the Commission's commitment to this critically important initiative. I thank Patrick for the important work he has already done in this area, and pledge my support as we build more connections and partnerships to improve the lives of New Jerseyans.

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