

# **The Civil Consequences of Criminal Convictions: Issues for Policy & Practice in New Jersey**

Symposium and Training Session

Sponsored by

**The New Jersey Institute for Social Justice and Seton Hall Law School**

March 18, 2005

Seton Hall Law School

8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

## Overview

It is broadly understood that individuals convicted of crimes in New Jersey are subject to a range of criminal sanctions, from probation and fines to incarceration and parole supervision. What is less acknowledged and well understood are the civil penalties that are also imposed as the result of criminal convictions, penalties that restrict future employment, civil rights, immigration status, and access to housing, education, and public benefits. With 70,000 individuals expected to be released from New Jersey prisons over the next five years, with more leaving juvenile facilities and jails also with criminal convictions, the issues surrounding the imposition of these civil sanctions and their impact on reintegration and recidivism have gained new prominence and urgency.

While recent initiatives in New Jersey focused on prisoner and juvenile reentry have noted the significance of this issue and the need for change, there has yet to be an opportunity for a more focused discussion on the potential and potential pitfalls of both policy and practice reform.

This one-day event, sponsored by the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice and Seton Hall Law School will include a morning symposium addressing policy and practice reform followed by an afternoon training session to provide practical strategies to help front line advocates and service providers assist clients affected by civil sanctions. Both morning and afternoon sections will feature leaders and experts from New Jersey and around the country, providing a comprehensive examination of this critical issue and an opportunity for provocative and informative exchange of ideas.

The agenda for the day is attached, followed by a registration form. This event is free of charge, but advance registration is required, as space is limited. Please register **prior to March 15<sup>th</sup>** by faxing the attached registration form to the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice at 973.624.0704, or by contacting Ms. Rita Simmons at 973.624.9400.

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## AGENDA (as of 3/8/05)

8:30 – 9:00: Sign in and continental breakfast

### Morning Symposium

9:00 – 9:20

Welcome and Introduction

**Patrick Hobbs**, Dean, Seton Hall Law School

**Ken Zimmerman**, New Jersey Institute for Social Justice

**Judge Barnett Hoffman**, New Jersey Commission to Review  
Criminal Sentencing

9:20 – 9:50

*Presentation:*

Civil Sanctions in New Jersey

*Detailed overview of the existing legal and regulatory framework of collateral civil sanctions and other legal consequences of convictions.*

**Nancy Fishman**, New Jersey Institute for Social Justice

**Ann Cammett**, New Jersey Institute for Social Justice

9:50 – 11:25

*Panel Discussion*

New Jersey in the National Context: Ideas and Models for Change

*Should New Jersey change how it approaches the imposition of civil sanctions on those convicted of crimes? What other approaches are possible? What has been the experience of other states?*

### *The National Context*

**Robert Johnson**, ABA Criminal Justice Section,  
District Attorney, Ashoka County, MN

**Elizabeth Nevins**, Project Coordinator, Criminal Justice  
Programs, Council of State Governments

**Deborah Mukamal**, Director, Reentry Institute,  
John Jay College of Criminal Justice

*State Perspectives*

**Senator Robert J. Martin**, District 26; Professor, Seton Hall Law School

**Assemblyman Wilfredo Caraballo**, District 28; Professor, Seton Hall Law School

**Robert Del Tufo**, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, Former New Jersey Attorney General

**Hon. Edwin H. Stern**, Presiding Judge, Appellate Division, New Jersey Commission to Review Criminal Sentencing

*(10 min. break)*

11:35 – 1:00

*Panel Discussion*

Civil Sanctions and the Courts: Opportunities for Changing Practice

*Should civil sanctions be addressed at the point of sentencing? What should be the role of judges, defense attorneys and prosecutors in providing notice of or otherwise addressing these issues? Should judicial discretion to tailor or provide relief from civil disabilities be changed?*

**Yvonne Segars**, New Jersey Public Defender; New Jersey Commission to Review Criminal Sentencing

**Judge Paul J. Vickness**, Superior Court, Essex County

**Michael Rubbinacio**, Morris County Prosecutor; Treasurer, New Jersey County Prosecutors Association

**Richard S. Lehrich**, Criminal Defense Attorney, New Jersey State Bar Association representative to New Jersey Commission to Review Criminal Sentencing

1:00 – 1:10

*Concluding Remarks and Summary:*

Ken Zimmerman, New Jersey Institute for Social Justice

1:10 – 2:10

LUNCH

**AFTERNOON: TRAINING SESSION (see next page)**

Afternoon Training Session

2:10 – 4:00

**Making Change on the Ground: Practical Strategies for Advocates and Service Providers**

*How can front line service providers and advocates better help clients with criminal convictions address legal barriers in areas like employment, housing, immigration, public benefits, and family reunification? This session will provide practical information and strategies for working with individuals facing the civil consequences of convictions.*

**Roberta Meyers-Peeples**, Deputy Director, National HIRE Network

**Mike Bobbit**, Project Director, Safe Return Initiative, Vera Institute of Justice

**Chris Hill**, Staff Attorney, Legal Services of New Jersey

**McGregor Smyth**, Project Director, Civil Action Project, The Bronx Defenders

**Patricia McKernan**, Chief Operating Officer, Corrections Services, Volunteers of America of the Delaware Valley

## Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

I will be attending (check all that apply):

- Morning Symposium
- Lunch
- Afternoon Training

Please mail or fax this form to:

New Jersey Institute for Social Justice  
60 Park Place - Suite 511  
Newark, NJ 07102

Fax number: (973) 624-0704  
Phone number: (973) 624-9400