

**Statement on Supreme Court decision in *State v. Meyer*
September 19, 2007**

The New Jersey Institute for Social Justice applauds the New Jersey Supreme Court's decision in *State v. Meyer*, which held that drug court supervision should be available to non-violent drug-addicted offenders under both the ordinary probation and "special probation" regimes established by the Criminal Code. By widening the doorway into this strictly-supervised and highly effective drug treatment program, the Supreme Court has provided more people whose criminal behavior is driven by their addictions the opportunity to obtain the help they need to get clean and break the cycle of addiction and criminality.

Across the country, therapeutic courts are achieving positive outcomes that have seemed beyond the capacity of traditional, retributive justice. The New Jersey Supreme Court's recognition that "superior outcomes are achieved" in New Jersey's drug courts, at costs substantially lower than incarceration, is an important step toward making these outcomes available to more New Jerseyans. When non-violent drug addicts get clean, everyone benefits: the individual, his family, his community, and all New Jersey residents and taxpayers.

The Institute thanks Lowenstein Sandler PC, its *pro bono* partnering counsel in this case.

-- Craig R. Levine, Senior Law & Policy Counsel, N.J. Institute for Social Justice

Since 1999, the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice – a non-profit, non-partisan organization – has brought real world solutions to such seemingly intractable big-city problems as high unemployment, abusive lending and criminal recidivism. Called a "social justice think and do tank," the Institute's legal program, policy research and advocacy, and demonstration programs focus on several major areas, including:

- **Economic Opportunity**, which challenges barriers to employment and business opportunities for urban residents;
- **Equal Justice**, which addresses the impact of the state's criminal justice policies and how they affect urban areas and residents; and
- **Regional Equity**, which focuses on overcoming disparities between urban and suburban communities in the state.