



NEW JERSEY STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

THOMAS HOFF PROL, PRESIDENT
Ladley Clark & Ryan, LLP
60 Blue Heron Road, Suite 300
Sparta, NJ 07871-2608
973-729-1880 • FAX: 973-729-1224
tprol@lcrclaw.com

September 30, 2016

Honorable Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts Rules Comments
Hughes Justice Complex
Box 037
Trenton, NJ 08625-0037

Re: Comments on Report of the Supreme Court Working Group on the Indiscriminate Shackling of Juveniles in Court

Dear Judge Grant:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Report of the Supreme Court Working Group on the Indiscriminate Shackling of Juveniles in Court. The New Jersey State Bar Association supports the recommendations contained in the report, and urges the Court to adopt them. In particular, the association agrees that juveniles should not be shackled during a court proceeding unless the use of restraints is necessary to prevent physical harm or flight from the courtroom, and there are no less restrictive alternatives available. Further, when restraints are being considered, we agree that both the juvenile's attorney and the prosecutor should have an opportunity to be heard before a final decision is made.

Moreover, we applaud the diligent efforts of the Working Group in formulating these comprehensive and thoughtful recommendations and commend them to you for adoption.

Thank you, once again, for permitting the NJSBA to participate in this process. If you have any questions regarding our recommendations, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Scheck or me.

Sincerely,

Thomas H. Prol
President

C: Robert B. Hille, Esq., NJSBA President-Elect
Angela C. Scheck, NJSBA Executive Director