



## NEW JERSEY STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

TIMOTHY F. MCGOUGHAN, PRESIDENT  
Law Office of Timothy F. McGoughran, LLC  
802 West Park Avenue, Suite 222  
Ocean, NJ 07712  
732-660-7115  
tmcgoughran@mcgoughranlaw.com

May 25, 2023

Honorable Stuart Rabner, Chief Justice  
Greenbrook Executive Center  
100 Passaic Avenue, Suite 230  
Fairfield, NJ 07004

Dear Chief Justice Rabner:

Thank you for attending and participating in the New Jersey State Bar Association's Annual Meeting and Convention. Your support of the meeting is truly appreciated and we are grateful to the many judges and law clerks who bring important insights and energy to the event. On a personal level, it was an honor to have you administer the oath of office as I was sworn in as the 125th president of the organization. That memory is one I will treasure in the years ahead.

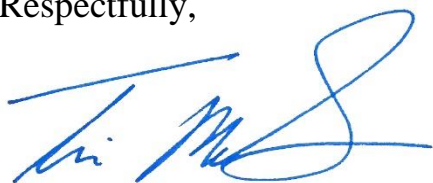
I was particularly intrigued by your comments during the State of the Judiciary about a pilot program that will connect defendants whose interaction with the courts can be traced to their mental health diagnoses. The aim to connect these marginalized people with appropriate resources and services is also an important one to me. This type of program is critically needed, as I have witnessed firsthand how substance abuse and mental health issues are among the primary drivers of crime for many defendants.

Addressing mental health needs in the criminal courts in a uniform way through diversionary programs is a key effort I am undertaking during my term as NJSBA president. I have appointed a new multidisciplinary committee comprised of stakeholders with varying backgrounds to focus on issues faced by court-involved individuals who suffer from mental health issues and to explore the implementation of mental health diversionary programs in every courthouse. It is my hope that the committee will produce a report that can better inform practitioners, professionals and the courts about uniform implementation of programs and how to best treat individuals with mental health conditions to ensure successful outcomes.

I look forward to sharing the committee's report once it is completed. In the meantime, I would welcome the opportunity to learn more about the pilot program that you mentioned so that the work of the NJSBA committee can be complementary to the effort that is already underway. I am sure any details and guidance you can provide about the scope of the pilot program and the initial experiences it has yielded will provide valuable information for our committee to consider and will help inform its ultimate recommendations.

Thank you for any information you can share.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim McGoughran". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "M".

Timothy F. McGoughran, Esq.  
President

cc: Hon. Glenn A. Grant, Administrative Director of the Courts  
Heather Joy Baker, Esq., Supreme Court Clerk  
Steven Bonville, Esq., Chief of Staff, Administrative Office of the Courts  
William H. Mergner, Jr., Esq., NJSBA President-Elect  
Angela C. Scheck, NJSBA Executive Director