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Judiciary Premieres New Video Series on Criminal Justice Reform

Members of law enforcement, elected officials, prosecutors and public defenders from across the state have joined together to appear in a series of You Tube videos in support of criminal justice reform.

The series, *Criminal Justice Reform Perspectives,* premieres today with an interview with Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia Valdes. New videos will be added periodically leading up to the Jan. 1, 2017 kickoff of criminal justice reform.

"We are pleased that such a diverse group of individuals, with a wide range of perspectives on the justice system, have volunteered to speak to the public about the need for criminal justice reform and the positive impact it can have on our community," said Judge Glenn A. Grant, acting administrative director of the courts. "This is truly an historic initiative and its success will depend on continued communication and collaboration between all those involved. I want to thank each of the individuals who participated in the series for their enlightening and informative contribution to the criminal justice reform dialogue."

Under the reform measures, the state will shift from a justice system that relies principally on monetary bail as a condition of pre-trial release to a risk-based system that bases pre-trial release decisions on an examination of objective factors. The new system will allow for defendants who present a risk of violence to be held without bail while low-risk defendants will be released under appropriate levels of monitoring and supervision to await trial. The new law also sets deadlines for the filing of indictments and the disposition of criminal charges for incarcerated defendants.

Installments of *Criminal Justice Reform Perspectives* will be posted on the Judiciary's YouTube page. More information about criminal justice reform in New Jersey can be found here.