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Chief Justice Praises Juvenile Justice Commission

HARRISBURG, May 27, 2010 - Chief Justice of Pennsylvania Ronald D. Castille today issued a statement thanking the Interbranch Commission on Juvenile Justice for "performing a vitally important public service."

The statement was issued after the 11-member commission, created by statute in August 2009, adopted its final Report.

The commission was given a mandate to conduct a noncriminal investigation into failures in the juvenile justice system of Luzerne County, to restore public confidence in the administration of justice and to make recommendations to prevent such an occurrence in the future.

Chief Justice Castille expressed appreciation to members of the commission for completing their work ahead of the deadline and for their dedication and personal sacrifice in carrying out their mission. His statement accompanies this news advisory.

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Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



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RONALD D. CASTILLE
CHIEF JUSTICE

Phone: (215) 560-5663

Statement of Appreciation
The Interbranch Commission on Juvenile Justice
May 27, 2010

With my colleagues on the Supreme Court, I look forward to reviewing the Report and recommendations of the Interbranch Commission on Juvenile Justice.

The members of the commission have performed exceptional service not only in carrying out their statutory mandate, but also in completing their investigation and final Report in advance of the May 31 deadline. The 11 appointed members have served without compensation, taking time from their businesses, professional practices, families, and personal lives, to perform a vitally important public service. The citizens of Pennsylvania owe them a debt of gratitude, as do the leaders of State Government who appointed them. The Supreme Court deeply appreciates the members' dedication and their contribution to this important cause.

It is my hope that through the work of the Interbranch Commission on Juvenile Justice, the travesty of justice that two corrupt Luzerne County judges effectuated in an otherwise sound juvenile justice system in our Commonwealth can be erased and that there never again will be such a scandal anywhere in Pennsylvania. Thank you for your service.

Ronald D. Castille
Chief Justice of Pennsylvania