



**Delaware's Supreme Court Task Force on  
Criminal Justice and Mental Health**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SUPREME COURT TASK FORCE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND  
MENTAL HEALTH TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS  
Community Input Sought Regarding Individuals With Mental Illness  
Involved With the Criminal Justice System**

Delaware's Supreme Court Task Force on Criminal Justice and Mental Health is holding a series of three public forums. The Task Force is reaching out to the community and consumers to gather concerns and observations about the criminal justice system's handling of individuals with mental health issues. A panel of representatives from various agencies such as the Department of Justice, the Public Defender's Office, the Courts, the Department of Correction, law enforcement and treatment providers, will not only be gathering suggestions and input from the community but will also be on hand to answer questions. The goal is to develop strategies to improve the manner in which the criminal justice system assists individuals living with mental illness.

The hearings will be held at 7:00pm on Oct. 13, 2009 at Ursuline Academy, 1106 Pennsylvania Ave., Wilmington, DE (please use the Franklin Street entrance); Oct. 15, 2009 at the Milton Theater, 110 Union St., Milton, De; and on Oct. 22, 2009 at the Department of Correction Employee Development Center, 245 McKee Rd., Dover, DE 19904. All are welcome.

Delaware Supreme Court Justice Henry duPont Ridgely sits as chair of the Task Force. Under Justice Ridgely's leadership, the Task Force has brought together judges, state leaders, legislators and nonprofit organizations to develop ways to improve outcomes for people with mental illnesses engaged with the criminal justice system. In 2009, the Task Force will develop a strategic plan to address this critical issue.

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For additional information on the Supreme Court Task Force on Criminal Justice and Mental Health please visit

<http://courts.delaware.gov/AOC/Mental%20Health%20Task%20Force/>