



## **Probation Officers Honor Benoit As Legislator of the Year**

In a presentation at Tuesday's Board of Supervisors meeting, Riverside County Supervisor John J. Benoit was honored as Legislator of the Year by the Chief Probation Officers of California, the statewide association of probation professionals. The award, presented by Riverside County's Chief Probation Officer Alan M. Crogan, was given as an acknowledgment of Senator Benoit's bipartisan efforts last year in authoring two major statewide probation reforms.

Karen Pank, Executive Director of the Chief Probation Officers of California, said, "Your leadership in authoring both SB 678 and SB 431 is greatly appreciated. The passage of these bills will have a significant impact in the State of California by providing positive reform in the criminal justice system."

"I am extremely honored by this recognition from the state's probation officers. These were common sense reforms that will improve public safety in tough economic times," said Supervisor John J. Benoit.



Then-Senator Benoit authored SB 431, which requires an adult probationer's county of residence to supervise the offender. Previously, in some California counties, up to 40 percent of the adults on probation were being supervised by a probation officer located in the county where the crime occurred.

Additionally, Benoit coauthored SB 678 with Senate Public Safety Chair Mark Leno, enacting the California Community Corrections Performance Incentive Act of 2009. Based on an Arizona model, the law creates a program that would share state savings with community probation programs when they improve supervision of felony probationers, and, as a result, help lower California's prison admissions.

Both SB 431 and SB 678 were signed into law by Governor Schwarzenegger last October.

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