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PRESS RELEASE

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SJC Chief Justice Liacos Discusses Role of Courts at Violence Prevention
Awareness Day at State House

Boston, MA (June 4, 1991)-- In a coordinated effort to help stem the violent crimes plaguing the Commonwealth, Chief Justice Paul J. Liacos of the Supreme Judicial Court today participated as a guest speaker with other top governmental officials at the Violence Prevention Awareness Day program at the State House.

Chief Justice Liacos said, "The court system has a vital role in helping to make our homes and neighborhoods safe. However, the responsibility to make the streets safe starts with the community. The courts must support those efforts by administering swift and effective justice."

Chief Justice Liacos noted that the judiciary has singled out gun cases for special jury sessions in the Boston Municipal Court, which has resulted in expedited dispositions. He said that the Dorchester District Court will also be starting a new jury session this summer.

The Chief Justice added, "Incarcerating convicted criminals is only part of the solution. We, in the legal and law enforcement community, must work together to devise creative and successful strategies to prevent the spread of all types of violence in our society, including domestic violence and child abuse. We will also need, however, adequate resources from our federal and state governments to do the job. The judiciary is currently under siege with burgeoning caseloads, understaffed courts and poor facilities.

With the proper tools, we can do more than just stating our commitment to fighting crime."

Chief Justice Liacos stated, " I commend the Governor, the Attorney General, Rep. Barbara Hildt and the other Violence Prevention Task Force members for their efforts in organizing a coordinated approach to reduce violent crimes in the Commonwealth."

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