

# NEW JERSEY LAWYERS CONCERNED FOR LAWYERS

## PRESS RELEASE

### James E. McGreevey honored by Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers

New Jersey Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers Inc. celebrated its 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on November 17, 2015, by presenting its Albert B. Jeffers Award to former Gov. James E. McGreevey for his dedication to helping attorneys and others in the legal profession who are struggling with alcohol and drug addiction.

McGreevey, who served as New Jersey's governor from January 2002 until November 2004, has since become active as executive director of the Jersey City Employment & Training Program, counseling former inmates on returning to society, and also lends support to those in the legal profession fighting to break free of addiction's grip.

Lawyers who have found themselves on the wrong side of the criminal justice system have been among the clients aided by Martin's Place, the Jersey City-based jail re-entry assistance that operates under the purview of Jersey City's Employment & Training Program, where the former Governor is the executive director.

"Governor McGreevey is a natural for this award, as he embodies the spirit of reaching out to help others, which is the cornerstone of our organization," said LCL President Fred W. Hogan. "For people in the legal profession, and those others whom the Governor helps in their re-entry from prison into society, his service to those in need deserves this recognition."

The award was presented to Gov. McGreevey as part of LCL's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner at the New Jersey Law Center in New Brunswick, an event that was emceed by former Morris County Prosecutor Michael Murphy, who recounted his own efforts to get and remain sober and credited LCL as "the people who saved my life."

In accepting the award, the former Governor talked of his work with prisoners who are about to finish their sentences and must struggle to re-enter society while also battling addiction and alcoholism, saying that "70 percent of the people in America's prisons are addicted or alcoholic."

"Whatever way we come to addiction or alcoholism," McGreevey said, "the sad reality is that today we are the most addicted society in our nation's history. We are 5 percent of the world's population, yet we are 25 percent of the world's incarcerated population. Part of what we try to do every day is to help people change their behaviors."

Presenting the award to the former Governor was John Koufos, an LCL member whom McGreevey helped when Koufos himself went to prison. Since released, Koufos now works with McGreevey at Martin's Place. Koufos said: "Through the work Governor McGreevey has done, in counties all across this state, we are going to have facilities that are recovery-based re-entry centers."

For additional information, please contact Fred Hogan at (732) 987-6966 or by e-mail at [fwhogan1982@gmail.com](mailto:fwhogan1982@gmail.com).