

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, on January 9, 2012, the New Jersey Legislature passed, and on January 17, 2012, the Governor signed into law P.L. 2011, ch. 185, which established a task force to study treatment of veterans diagnosed with post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in judicial proceedings; and

WHEREAS, in November, 2015, the task force held hearings which could lead to the establishment of veterans treatment courts, which are designed to consider the psychological trauma many veterans experience and how to help them, issues often overlooked in the current court system; and

WHEREAS, other leading organizations in the State, such as the Morris County Board of Freeholders, have unanimously passed resolutions urging the state to create Veterans Treatment Courts in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Treatment Court model is based on the success of drug treatment and/or mental health treatment courts, where substance abuse treatment and/or mental health treatment is offered as an alternative to incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Veterans Treatment Courts start with the premise of providing Veterans involved in the criminal justice system with a program of services to overcome the challenges they face; Veterans Treatment Courts would maximize utilization of Department of Veterans Affairs resources and ensure that Veterans receive the treatment they are owed; and typically Veteran mentors assist with the programs; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey is home to 712,000 Veterans, which is the 16th highest Veteran population in the nation, and according to research, some 12,000 Veterans are involved in the criminal justice system, a large majority of whom are eligible for VA services, yet New Jersey remains one of only 15 states without a Veterans Treatment Court system;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Middlesex County Bar Association recognize the work of the New Jersey Veterans PTSD Task Force and urge the Task Force to find in favor of establishing a Veterans Treatment Court system in New Jersey; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Middlesex County Bar Association forward this Resolution in Support of Veterans Treatment Courts to our Legislative Representatives and the Administrative Director of the Courts, urging them to support the establishment of a Veterans Treatment Court system in New Jersey.

Date: March 4, 2016

Craig Aronow

Craig Aronow, President