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**SYMPOSIUM ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM ASKS: CAN THE
“CULTURE OF CORRUPTION” BE ABOLISHED?**

(Mahwah) - A panel of state and municipal government leaders will participate in a symposium, Campaign Finance Reform: Can the “Culture of Corruption” Be Abolished? on Monday, May 9 from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Trustees Pavilion at Ramapo College of New Jersey.

The Honorable Robert H. Franks, former Republican State Chairman; the Honorable Dennis McNerney, Bergen County Executive (invited); and the Honorable Loretta Weinberg, Assemblywoman (District 37) and Majority Conference Leader (invited) will discuss campaign finance reform.

Following their discussion, GOP Gubernatorial Candidates Honorable Todd Caliguire, Esq., former Bergen County Freeholder; the Honorable Paul DiGaetano, Assemblyman (District 36), the Honorable Steve Lonigan, Mayor of Bogota; the Honorable John Murphy, Freeholder Morris County; and the Honorable Robert Schroeder, Washington Township Councilman, will have the opportunity to outline their proposals to end what has been called “the culture of corruption” in New Jersey politics.

The Honorable Gary S. Stein, a former New Jersey Supreme Court Justice is the guest speaker during the dinner, which begins at 6:45 p.m. He is the former associate justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court, appointed by Governor Thomas Kean. Stein served on the court from 1985 to 2002. During his 17 years on the bench, he authored over 365 opinions including 220 majority ones. Among his prominent decisions are *State*

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v. Novembrino (1987), *State v. Pierce* (1995), *State v. D.R.* (1988) and *State v. Brunson* (1993). He also authored many significant dissenting opinions, including those in *Abbott v. Burke* (2002).

A native of Irvington, Justice Stein graduated from Duke University and with distinction from the Duke University School of Law where he was associate editor of the *Duke Law Journal* and a member of the Order of the Coif. He practiced law until being appointed by Governor Thomas Kean to the position of director of the Governor's Office of Policy and Planning, which he held from 1982 to 1985. Stein is currently counsel to the Hackensack firm of Pashman Stein.

The symposium is offered without charge as a community service by The Ramapo College Foundation and the School of Administration and Business in conjunction with the Center for Business and Public Policy. Registration and refreshments begin at 4:30 p.m.; the program is scheduled for 5 p.m. Advance registration will be accepted by calling 201.684.7373, faxing 201.684.7957 or e-mailing cbpp@ramapo.edu.

The Center for Business and Public Policy at Ramapo College provides a nonpartisan forum for the examination of issues that affect the economic well being and quality of life of New Jersey's citizens. The Center's focus is on taxation, health care, education and business regulation. The Center hosts colloquia, workshops, conferences and other programs, and publishes journals and papers.

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