

These minimum standards shall provide, *inter alia*, advisory roles for employees and inmates in establishing this system, priority processing for emergency grievances, protection against reprisals for grievant, and independent review of grievances by someone not under the direct supervision of the institution.

This Act further requires that the Attorney General include in his report to Congress an analysis of the impact of the actions instituted and progress made in each federal institution toward meeting promulgated standards. It also provides that no one reporting conditions which may be a violation of this act shall be subjected to retaliation.

—Moirra Sullivan

#### CRIMINAL PROCEDURE—SPEEDY TRIAL ACT AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1979, 18 U.S.C. §§ 3161-3174 (West 1980)

On August 2, 1979, Congress approved the Speedy Trial Act Amendments Act of 1979. This law, which amends the Speedy Trial Act of 1974 (18 U.S.C. §§ 3152-3156, 3161-3174), states that in any case in which a plea of not guilty is entered, the trial of a defendant, who is charged by information or indictment, must commence within seventy days from the filing of the information or indictment, or from the date on which the defendant has appeared before a judicial officer of the court in which such charge is pending, whichever date last occurs. In addition, if a defendant consents in writing to be tried before a magistrate on a complaint, the trial must commence within seventy days from the date of such consent.

The Amendment further states that unless the defendant consents in writing to the contrary, the trial must not commence less than thirty days from the date on which the defendant first appears through counsel or expressly waives counsel and elects to proceed *pro se*. It is important to note that the Act does consider cases in which the number of defendants makes the case so unusual or complex or presents novel questions of fact or law as to make it unreasonable to expect adequate preparation for trial within the time limits established above.

Persons detained or designated as being of high risk are accorded priority. Examples of such cases involve a detained person who is being held in detention solely because he is awaiting trial and a released person who is awaiting trial and has been designated by the attorney for the government as being of high risk. The trial of these persons is to commence no later than

ninety days following the beginning of such continuous detention or designation of high risk.

The Amendment also empowers the chief judge of the district court to suspend the time limits for a period not to exceed thirty days if the judge concludes that there is great urgency to do so. Additionally, a court retrying a case may extend the period for a period not exceeding one hundred and eighty days from the date the action occasioning the trial becomes final if the unavailability of witnesses or other factors resulting from the passage of time makes trial within seventy days impractical.

—*Jeff Brown*

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW—PINELANDS PROTECTION ACT—N.J. STAT. ANN. §§ 13:18A-1 to 13:18A-29 (West 1980)

The main objective of the Pinelands Protection Act is to protect the Pinelands' endangered plant and animal species and to preserve the area's "unique natural, ecological, agricultural, scenic, cultural and recreational resources. . . ." Reacting to pressures for development in residential, commercial, and industrial areas, the New Jersey Legislature enacted the Pinelands Protection Act to manage and oversee the more than one million acres designated as the Pinelands National Reserve by the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978, 16 U.S.C. § 471i(c) (West 1980).

The Pinelands Protection Act calls for the formation of a Pinelands Commission consisting of fifteen, uncompensated members: seven to be selected by the Governor; one from each of the seven affected counties; and one appointed by the United States Secretary of the Interior.

The Commission, which comes within the Department of Environmental Protection, is charged with effectuating the purposes and provisions of the Federal Act in planning an effective management scheme for the Pinelands National Reserve. August 8, 1980, was established as the date by which the Pinelands Commission must have prepared and adopted a comprehensive management plan for the Pinelands area. The purpose of the plan is to protect, preserve, and enhance the values of the Pinelands' resources consistent with the guidelines set forth in the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978. 16 U.S.C. § 471i(b) (West 1980).

The Pinelands Protection Act outlines criteria to be utilized in forming the Comprehensive Management Plan which provides for resource assessments, detailed maps, local government participation, and the implementa-