

***New Jersey  
State Commission of Investigation***



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Immediate Release**

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**SCI GOVERNING BOARD WELCOMES  
DISTINGUISHED  
APPOINTEES, NEW CHAIR**

TRENTON – Tiffany Williams Brewer, a law professor and the Chief Executive Officer of a nonprofit organization created to empower women to become leaders, began a historic term on the State Commission of Investigation Wednesday, becoming the first Black woman to chair the independent watchdog agency.

During a brief ceremony at the SCI offices, both Mrs. Williams Brewer – appointed and named to helm the agency by Gov. Phil Murphy – and John P. Lacey, Chair of the White Collar Criminal Defense practice at Connell Foley LLP, were sworn in to begin four-year appointments as the newest members of the Commission. Kevin R. Reina, a member of the Commission since 2020, was also sworn in to begin his first full

term as SCI Commissioner after filling an unexpired term. The fourth member of the Commission is Robert Burzichelli, who has served on the panel since 2014.

“Both of our new Commissioners bring impressive credentials, strong legal backgrounds and in-depth knowledge of government that will serve them well at the SCI,” said Executive Director Chadd W. Lackey. “Collectively, with Commissioners Reina and Burzichelli, we have a full panel of accomplished members to oversee and advance the vital work done here at the Commission.”

Under the SCI’s unique enabling legislation, the Governor appoints two Commission members and designates the Chair. The President of the State Senate and the Speaker of the General Assembly each appoint one member.

A former Administrative Law Judge, Mrs. Williams Brewer has an extensive background in the legal industry, government and academia. She succeeds retired Superior Court Judge Joseph F. Scancarella, appointed in 2012 to the Commission by Gov. Chris Christie and named Chair in 2015.

A graduate of Rutgers University, Mrs. Williams Brewer also earned a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from Rutgers University-Camden and a law degree from Northeastern University School of Law.

After starting her legal career in private practice in Boston, Mrs. Williams Brewer became an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey and eventually joined the law firm of Riker Danzig Scherer Hyland & Perretti. She later served as Chief Counsel to the Speaker in the General Assembly, as Deputy Chief Counsel to Gov. Jon Corzine

and as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State. She is currently a law professor, teaching courses on legislation and regulation, evidence and ethics.

In 2010, she founded the Esther Project, a faith-inspired nonprofit to advance leadership opportunities for women and girls, and currently serves as its CEO. An ordained minister, Mrs. Williams Brewer is also the co-pastor of the Transform Church. In addition, she is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Mr. Lacey, who was appointed to serve on the Commission by Gov. Murphy, has decades of experience managing internal investigations, particularly those involving fraud, financial crimes, mismanagement and corruption. He replaces Rosemary T. Iannacone, a member of the Commission since 2015.

A graduate of Arizona State University, Mr. Lacey received his law degree from Seton Hall University. Prior to joining Connell Foley in 1990, he worked as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Newark, where he successfully prosecuted one of the first international terrorists apprehended in the United States. Mr. Lacey is past President of the Association of the Federal Bar of New Jersey. He is also a member of the American Bar Association as well as the New Jersey and New York State Bar Associations.

The Commission wishes to thank both former Chair Scancarella and Commissioner Iannacone for their years of dedicated service at the SCI.



*The State Commission of Investigation is an independent New Jersey watchdog agency established in 1968 to investigate organized crime and corruption, waste of tax money and other abuses of the public trust. Copies of public reports are available at the Commission's offices or via its Web site at [www.state.nj.us/sci](http://www.state.nj.us/sci).*