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Who We Are

The New Jersey Attorney General oversees the Department of Law & Public Safety, which consists of more than 7,700 employees across 16 divisions, offices, and commissions. In this role, the Attorney General serves as both the state’s chief law enforcement officer and its chief lawyer.

For a full description of the 16 divisions, see pages 54 to 69.
Message from
Attorney General Grewal

Throughout my first two years as New Jersey’s 61st Attorney General, as the chief law enforcement officer for our State, my fundamental mission has never wavered—to protect the safety and rights of the people of New Jersey. And I am prouder than ever of the hard work that the 7,700 employees of the Department of Law & Public Safety perform to serve our community.

The Department of Law & Public Safety serves New Jerseyans in multiple ways, most importantly by ensuring our safety and security. The nearly 2,900 law enforcement officers of our Department, as well as our federal, county, and local law enforcement partners, put their lives on the line to keep all of us safe from harm. Our law enforcement officers run headlong into danger to protect us, a sacrifice that was put into stark relief this year when Jersey City police Detective Joseph Seals was killed in the line of duty. Our officers also labor behind the scenes, doing the hard work of solving crimes and bringing criminals to justice. We are grateful for their service and for their sacrifice and I stand with our law enforcement officers this year and every year.

That is just part of what our Department does. We also stand up for the rights of New Jerseyans every day, whether we are enforcing our civil rights laws in the face of a rising tide of bias and hate, taking companies to task for misleading consumers, or holding major polluters accountable for their actions. We investigate and prosecute crimes, including corruption by elected officials. Our Department regulates important industries, such as gaming, boxing, horseracing, and the distribution and sale of alcohol, and we fund programs to ensure the safety of the State’s highways. We license professionals—from architects to doctors to plumbers to veterinarians—and we step in if they violate their professional duties. We work to rehabilitate those who have entered the juvenile justice system, and we serve and support victims of crime. In these many ways, our employees use all the tools at their disposal to fight for New Jersey and its diverse communities.

I remain extremely grateful for the commitment that the employees of my Department make to our State, and I am excited for the accomplishments still to come.

Gurbir S. Grewal
New Jersey Attorney General
Introduction

Since becoming the 61st Attorney General of New Jersey, Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal has worked hard to maintain the office’s longstanding traditions of integrity and public service while also identifying areas for growth and change. In 2019, Attorney General Grewal continued pushing forward the four key initiatives he identified after assuming office in January 2018:

- Standing up for New Jersey in court;
- Fighting the opioid crisis;
- Reducing gun violence; and
- Strengthening police-community relations.

Over the past year, the Attorney General worked with attorneys, investigators, law enforcement officers, and career staff across the Department of Law & Public Safety to build on the successes of 2018 in each of these areas. The progress that we are making together will not only leave New Jersey fairer and stronger but also leave our residents safer and more confident in their government institutions.

This document highlights the extraordinary work performed by the Department’s 7,700 employees in addressing the Attorney General’s priority areas over the past year. It also highlights a number of the Department’s other significant projects in 2019, from promoting officer resiliency to rooting out public corruption. Most importantly, this document catalogues the exceptional effort of the Department’s career public servants – the people who work every day to help create a State that is safer, fairer, and more secure for all of its residents.
Under state law, the Attorney General has the power to hold accountable those who threaten the safety and well-being of New Jersey residents. One of the Attorney General’s tools for protecting the public is “affirmative litigation” – an umbrella term for lawsuits brought against individuals and companies that violate the law in ways that affect our communities. That includes holding the federal government accountable when it harms New Jersey and its residents. This year, the Attorney General expanded his efforts to enforce New Jersey’s consumer protection, civil rights, and environmental laws on behalf of the State’s residents. 2019 also saw the Attorney General restructure the Division of Law and expand its capacity to pursue affirmative litigation to protect our residents. For the first time, the Division of Law includes new sections focused on affirmative civil
rights and labor enforcement as well as on environmental enforcement and environmental justice. Meanwhile, internal promotions brought new leadership to the environmental, consumer fraud, data privacy and cybersecurity, and government and healthcare fraud sections. And all affirmative civil enforcement attorneys are now overseen by a single Deputy Director with the ability to marshal all of the State’s affirmative litigation resources to better protect the interests of New Jerseyans.

Fighting for New Jersey’s Consumers

Protecting student loan borrowers. As a State whose residents carry more student loan debt than most, New Jersey has a strong interest in combatting unlawful practices by student loan issuers and servicers, predatory practices by schools, and actions by the federal government that put for-profit companies above students. In 2019, the Attorney General entered into settlements that provided over $650 million in debt relief to nearly 200,000 former students of for-profit schools operated by ITT Tech and Career Education Corp., including over $20 million for about 6,500 New Jerseyans, while requiring another for-profit school to remove misleading information from its website. Meanwhile, New Jersey advanced investigations of predatory and fraudulent practices in the student loan industry. And in May 2019, the Attorney General led a coalition of over 50 state and territorial attorneys general in pushing for the federal government to make it easier for totally and permanently disabled veterans to secure student loan relief; the federal government agreed to make the change proposed by the coalition, which is expected to save tens of thousands of veterans over a billion dollars.

Building our “state-level CFPB”. With the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) taking steps to roll back consumer protections, the Attorney General not only pushed back—leading a multistate coalition opposing the elimination of protections for consumers of payday and other high-risk loans—but also stepped up enforcement of New Jersey’s state-law protections for consumers of financial services. Over the past year, the Division of Consumer Affairs has sued auto dealerships for using predatory practices to target low-income consumers and repossessing their vehicles when they defaulted on the loans they couldn’t afford, and has sued a company that failed to deliver on its money-back guarantees for repossessioning their vehicles when they defaulted on the loans they couldn’t afford, and has sued a company that failed to deliver on its money-back guarantees for

Standing up for the Civil Rights of New Jersey Residents

Inaugurating a new era for civil rights in New Jersey, New Jersey’s Division on Civil Rights (DCR) has a storied history dating back to 1945, an ambitious mission of eradicating the cancer of discrimination, and one of the country’s strongest anti-discrimination laws at its disposal. Historically, DCR was primarily reactive and investigated residents’ complaints of illegal discrimination in employment, housing, and places of public accommodation. Under Attorney General Grewal, DCR’s role has expanded to include Director-initiated impact investigations and litigation to address systemic problems beyond the scope of any one individual’s complaint. In 2019, the Attorney General created a new Affirmative Civil Rights and Labor Enforcement section within the Division of Law to handle cases that DCR chooses to pursue for their significant public impact on civil rights in New Jersey.

Taking down hairstyle discrimination. In September 2019, after an investigation into an incident in which a high school athlete’s hair was cut on the mat before a wrestling match, DCR issued statewide guidance to clarify when treating people differently due to their hairstyle may violate the State’s anti-discrimination laws. The same day, DCR announced that it had entered into an agreement with the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association, which included a two-year suspension of the wrestling referee involved in the hair-cutting incident and provided for mandatory implicit bias training for officials and staff involved in high school athletics across New Jersey. Governor Murphy later signed into law a bill that codifies DCR’s application of New Jersey’s anti-discrimination law to hairstyle discrimination.
Fighting federal efforts to harm immigrant families. Just as in 2018, the Attorney General continued his efforts to prevent the federal government from trampling on the rights of New Jersey’s immigrants and asylum seekers. The Attorney General sued to prevent the Trump Administration from building a wall along the Southern border with money Congress had appropriated for other important purposes, like military readiness; challenged the federal government’s “public charge” rule, which seeks to deny legal status to immigrants receiving government assistance; and filed a brief at the Supreme Court fighting for DREAMers by defending the legality of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). At the same time, the Attorney General pushed back against multiple rules that make it harder for residents to seek and obtain asylum, and to work lawfully and productively in this country while they do so.

Protecting the integrity of the Census. New Jersey is committed to ensuring that all of its residents are counted in the U.S. Census – because all New Jersey residents count. In June 2019, the U.S. Supreme Court handed New Jersey a win when it ruled that the federal government had violated the law by adding a new, unnecessary “citizenship question” to the Census. As a result of our litigation, no one will need to explain their citizenship status as part of the Census. The Attorney General followed this Supreme Court victory by intervening in another lawsuit to defend the longstanding practice of counting all U.S. residents in the Census regardless of their immigration status.

Protecting New Jersey’s Environment

Preventing offshore drilling. In 2018, the federal government announced efforts to open areas off the Atlantic coast to offshore drilling. In New Jersey, offshore drilling would endanger public safety, threaten harm to coastal natural resources, and severely undermine the State’s tourism base, putting $44 billion in coastal tourism revenue and more than 836,800 jobs at risk. Along with eight other states, the Attorney General stepped in immediately, challenging federal efforts to grant companies permits to engage in seismic testing, the first step towards engaging in offshore drilling. In light of these efforts, in April 2019, the federal government announced that it was backing down on its efforts to allow drilling off the Atlantic coast.

Stepping illegal dumping. Throughout 2019, the Attorney General has taken numerous actions to hold those accountable who have illegally dumped large quantities of waste across the State. In February, the Attorney General brought criminal charges against an individual for allegedly dumping over 100 cubic yards of solid waste at unauthorized sites underneath highways in Newark. That same month, the Attorney General filed a lawsuit to force the closure of a 75-foot-high pile of soil and solid waste in Sussex County that its owner refused to remove. And in August, the Attorney General took action against the owner and operator of an allegedly unauthorized solid waste dumping operation in Ocean County. These actions confirm the Attorney General’s commitment to bringing lawsuits that hold accountable unscrupulous polluters and that protect local residents’ well-being.

Addressing interstate air pollution. In 2019, the Attorney General pursued a wide range of actions to protect the State’s residents from increased sources of air pollution. Among other things, the Attorney General successfully sued the federal government to require it to do more to regulate the ozone pollution that blows into New Jersey from other states, increasing the risk of harmful health effects like asthma and respiratory infections. The Attorney General also announced lawsuits against the federal government for rolling back key rules that limited interstate greenhouse gas pollution from power plants and vehicles, and announced a major settlement with Fiat Chrysler after the company sold vehicles that emitted excessive amounts of air pollution but hid that fact from government authorities.

Standing up to pipeline companies. In September, the Attorney General won a major legal victory for New Jersey and its environment as part of the ongoing litigation with the PennEast Pipeline Company, which is seeking to build a 116-mile natural gas pipeline across Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Although PennEast tried to condemn approximately 40 parcels of land for its pipeline that New Jersey had preserved for recreation, conservation, and/or agriculture, a federal court agreed with the Attorney General that the company had no right to condemn New Jersey’s lands. This ruling established a powerful precedent that private companies trying to develop a pipeline cannot condemn New Jersey’s property interests without the State’s consent.
Advocating for New Jersey’s Families

**Defending the health care of our residents.** The Attorney General has continued to pursue affirmative litigation to push back on federal efforts to dismantle the Affordable Care Act. In 2019, New Jersey secured a nationwide injunction to preserve women’s rights to access no-cost contraceptive coverage, and then successfully defended the injunction in the court of appeals. The State also persuaded federal courts to strike down federal policies that would have circumvented the Affordable Care Act’s protections for healthcare consumers and allowed healthcare providers to refuse treatment to patients based solely on their own preferences. The office also protected healthcare consumers from misleading marketing, entering into a $116.9 million settlement (of which New Jersey received over $3 million) to resolve allegations that a major drug company misled consumers about the safety and effectiveness of its surgical mesh products.

**Defending residents from increased federal tax burdens.** After the federal government placed limits on the federal tax deduction for state and local taxes (SALT), thereby increasing the tax burden for New Jersey residents, state officials passed a new law to allow residents to donate charitably to their towns and receive a credit for their taxes. After the IRS issued new rules to undermine that program—and the similar charitable programs in 33 other states—the Attorney General led a multistate lawsuit challenging those IRS rules. At the same time, the Attorney General continued challenging the validity of the SALT deduction cap in court, so that New Jersey residents are not saddled with paying more tax than they should owe.

Defending workers from abusive practices. Over the past year, the Attorney General has repeatedly stood up for workers’ rights. In March, the Office sued the federal government over a new rule that would weaken employers’ public reporting obligations for workplace injury and illness information. That same month, the Attorney General entered a multi-state agreement with four major fast-food companies to stop their use of “no-poach” contracts, which restrict the ability of workers to move from one franchise to another. And in June, Attorney General Grewal and Labor Commissioner Robert Asaro-Angelo sent a letter to companies calling for compliance with New Jersey’s increasing minimum wage.

Defending Main Street investors. Throughout the year, the Attorney General enforced New Jersey’s securities laws to protect Main Street investors. The Bureau of Securities took action against companies and individuals for marketing unregistered cryptocurrency securities, against an online trading platform for failing to supervise activity on its platform, and against a New Jersey broker-dealer whose agents raked in more than $28 million through unauthorized, unsuitable, and excessive trading schemes. The Attorney General also took action at the federal level and in court to prevent companies from restricting investors’ ability to sue over securities fraud. And in April 2019, the Attorney General announced the proposal of new commonsense rules to require all investment professionals to place their clients’ interests above their own when making investment recommendations.
Defeating the opioid epidemic will require an all-hands-on-deck approach and collaboration both across state government and with external partners. In 2019, the Attorney General continued to marshal resources from throughout the Department of Law & Public Safety to combat the opioid epidemic. The New Jersey Coordinator for Addiction Responses and Enforcement Strategies (NJ CARES), an office created by Attorney General Grewal in 2018, oversees these efforts and coordinates with external partners, including local law enforcement agencies and healthcare providers.
Holding Accountable Those Who Caused the Epidemic

Dismantling heroin mills. One of the major methods in tackling the opioid epidemic has been to identify and disrupt chokepoints in the drug supply chain. That includes neutralizing heroin mills across the state. In March 2019, the Attorney General announced the takedown of a major fentanyl and heroin mill in Harrison, New Jersey by the New Jersey State Police Opioid Enforcement Task Force. In all, the Task Force has dismantled 11 heroin mills throughout the state. Four of the larger mills were linked to heroin stamps associated with 358 overdoses, 133 of which were fatal. These operations have removed millions of heroin doses off of our streets and saved an untold number of lives.

Suing the individuals and drug companies that fueled the epidemic. In May 2019, the Attorney General filed the fourth of New Jersey’s lawsuits against the pharmaceutical companies and executives responsible for fueling the epidemic. The latest lawsuit seeks to hold eight members of Purdue Pharma’s founding family, the Sacklers, accountable for the greed-driven opioid marketing and sales strategy that fomented the opioid epidemic. After Purdue declared bankruptcy in September 2019, the Attorney General pressed forward, demanding additional documents from the Sacklers and insisting that any resolution come with real accountability for the companies and individuals involved.

Taking criminal and civil action against bad prescribers. In 2019, the Divisions of Law and Consumer Affairs and the State Board of Medical Examiners took disciplinary action against more than two dozen physicians who recklessly disregarded their professional and ethical obligations in over-prescribing opioids. This year also saw the Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor bring criminal charges against a doctor accused of selling prescriptions for highly addictive painkillers without a legitimate medical purpose. These actions make clear that those who seek to monetize their prescription pads through unlawful profiteering on addiction have no place in the medical profession.

Facilitating Treatment and Recovery Services for Those in Need

Diverting addicted individuals to treatment. NJ CARES is committed to the statewide implementation of “Operation Helping Hand,” an innovative diversion program created by Attorney General Grewal when he was Bergen County Prosecutor. After initially expanding the initiative to five counties in June 2018 and then seventeen counties in October 2018, the Attorney General announced in 2019 that all 21 New Jersey counties are now participating in this first-of-its-kind statewide program.

Establishing “Opioid Response Team” pilot programs. In August 2019, the Attorney General awarded funds to Newark, Camden, Paterson, Trenton, and Toms River for the creation of Opioid Response Teams (ORTs), which serve as 24/7 multi-disciplinary teams of police, recovery coaches, and EMTs to help people in crisis access treatment and recovery support services. The participating municipalities were selected based on a data-driven analysis that identified where ORTs could be most impactful in saving lives.
Using our regulatory authority to improve treatment. Throughout 2019, the Division of Consumer Affairs and its professional boards have advanced rules to support the State’s battle against the opioid epidemic. Proposed rules to facilitate the practice of telemedicine and telehealth will improve access to healthcare, particularly in more remote parts of the state. New requirements for checking the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP), a centralized database for monitoring use of opioids, will make the PMP a stronger tool in the fight against over-prescribing and diversion. And rules governing financial compensation for prescribers ensure that they do not receive improper inducements to over-prescribe opioids while facilitating learning opportunities that will enhance patient care.

Educating the Public on the Risks of Opioid Abuse

Educating young athletes about the risks of prescription pain medicine. Because student athletes may be more likely to suffer injuries and feel pressure to get back on the field or the court, they face a higher risk of opioid misuse. In 2019, the Attorney General focused NJ CARES’s outreach efforts on New Jersey’s student athletes through an educational video produced with the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) that uses the personal stories of professional and student athletes to highlight the association between sports injuries and opioid abuse. Beginning with the 2019-2020 winter sports season, all 16,000 student athletes and parents/guardians of those under the age of 18 are required to acknowledge that they have watched the video in order to participate in NJSIAA sports.

Educating prescribers. In partnership with the Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine, the Attorney General launched a series of subsidized continuing education programs for New Jersey health professionals. Trainings for prescribers, pharmacists, and mental health professionals are now online, offering best practices for opioid prescribing and patient care.

Making more data available online to educate the public. The NJ CARES website—www.njcares.gov—provides the public with a real-time snapshot of the State’s opioid epidemic. In 2019, NJ CARES enhanced the website with new data showing how the epidemic has affected each county over time.

Launching an online dashboard to better target state resources. In April 2019, the Attorney General announced the launch of an electronic platform, known as the “Integrated Drug Awareness Dashboard,” to exchange opioid-related data among state agencies and inform how the State fights opioid addiction. Information from the database will paint a holistic picture of New Jersey’s opioid environment and help state agencies target intervention initiatives, enhance public outreach and education efforts, and develop other data-driven solutions to the opioid epidemic.
Initiative #3

Combatting Gun Violence

Gun violence affects far too many New Jersey residents. Even as violent crime rates decline, the Attorney General’s Office has continued ramping up its efforts to protect residents from the scourge of gun violence. Under Attorney General Grewal’s leadership, the Division of Criminal Justice and the State’s 21 County Prosecutors have focused on taking down gangs that traffic weapons into New Jersey from out of state, and have collaborated with federal and local law enforcement partners to remove guns and violent criminals from our streets. At the same time, the Attorney General has sought to reduce the spread of illegal firearms in other ways, by filing suits against the out-of-state companies that sell unlawful weapons into the state, and publicizing the manufacturers of those guns that are used in crime in New Jersey.
**Stopping Violent Criminals and the Weapons They Use**

_Disrupting interstate firearms trafficking._ In the past year, New Jersey law enforcement officers have carried out numerous operations to bring to justice gang members that traffic firearms into New Jersey. For example, law enforcement officers conducted two operations in Trenton, “Operation West End” and “Operation Nine Lives,” that led to the total seizure of more than twenty firearms. In Newark, “Operation Drive Thru” saw the removal of two AR-15 assault rifles, ten handguns, and one tactical shotgun. And in Camden, “Operation Stone Wall” disrupted a criminal network that allegedly trafficked illegal assault rifles known as “ghost guns” into the state. These “ghost guns” are especially dangerous because they are assembled from kits purchased online, which makes them unregistered and untraceable, and enables anyone—including felons and gang members—to have a weapon. Operations like these, and countless others, have ensured that the most dangerous criminals and weapons are removed from our streets in order to protect New Jersey residents.

_Getting violent criminals off our streets._ In July, Attorney General Grewal and the U.S. Marshal for the District of New Jersey, Juan Mattos, announced the arrest of 75 fugitives, including 26 gang members, in Camden and Atlantic City. These arrests were made as part of a multiagency anti-violence initiative known as “Operation Summer in the City 2.” Among those arrested were two fugitives who were wanted for murder. This sweep was critical in making sure the most violent organized criminals were removed from our streets, and it reflects New Jersey’s ongoing commitment to work with local, state, and federal partners to crackdown on gang violence and to ensure the safety of New Jersey’s communities.

**Combatting gun violence in the capital city.** In the wake of two mass shootings in Trenton that left one dead and 15 others wounded during Memorial Day Weekend, the Attorney General announced a new collaborative initiative to fight violence in the capital city involving the U.S. Attorney’s Office, New Jersey State Police, Trenton Police, and other federal, state, and local law enforcement partners. As part of this Trenton Violent Crime Initiative (VCI), federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies meet and review their intelligence regarding the most violent offenders in Trenton, their accomplices, crime trends, and potential leads, and then work together to identify likely violent “hot spots.” Based on this intelligence-sharing, law enforcement officers then execute warrants and engage in other crime suppression efforts to disrupt the cycle of violence in the capital city.

**Targeting Online Retailers that Illegally Sell Guns into New Jersey**

_Preventing the sale of unlawful “ghost guns” into New Jersey._ In 2019, the Attorney General doubled down on efforts to prevent retailers from selling partially- or nearly-complete firearms known as “ghost guns” into New Jersey. Dealers claim that because the weapons are not “fully assembled,” their sale is not subject to existing gun safety laws, such as requirements to print a serial number on the gun or to require that buyers undergo a background check. But New
Jersey law criminalizes the possession or construction of such weapons.) After a California-based online retailer sold a ghost gun kit for an AR-15 assault rifle to undercover agents, the Attorney General filed the nation’s first lawsuit against a ghost gun distributor in March. The suit seeks an order prohibiting the company from selling ghost guns to the state and requiring it to include a disclaimer on its website that ghost guns are unlawful in New Jersey. The lawsuit remains ongoing after the court rejected the company’s efforts to dismiss the case.

**Holding companies accountable for selling large capacity magazines into the state.** This year, the Attorney General sued three out-of-state companies for selling large capacity magazines (LCMs) into New Jersey. (State law prohibits the possession and sale of firearm magazines that can hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition. LCMs allow a shooter to fire an unusually high number of bullets at a time; as a result, violence that involves LCMs can result in more shots fired, persons wounded, and wounds per victim than other attacks.) The first lawsuit, filed in June, alleges that a Nevada-based company sold six LCMs, including a 100-round magazine, to undercover investigators despite these laws. The second and third lawsuits, filed in December, allege not only that two other companies illegally sold LCMs into the state, but also that they refused to turn over records of their prior sales despite receiving a state subpoena. These are the first enforcement actions ever taken by New Jersey to address the unlawful sale of LCMs into the state, and these lawsuits send a clear message that New Jersey will not stand for companies ignoring our firearm safety laws and undermining our public safety.

**Working with Law Enforcement to Improve Firearm Safety**

Issuing first-in-the-nation statewide rules to implement a “red flag” gun safety law. The Extreme Risk Protective Order (ERPO), which Governor Murphy signed into law last year and which took effect in September 2019, creates a process through which a law enforcement officer, family member, or household member may apply for a court order against anyone who presents a significant danger of bodily injury to himself or others by possessing or purchasing a firearm. Issuance of such an order prohibits that individual from possessing or purchasing a firearm or ammunition until the threat abates. The Extreme Risk Directive issued by Attorney General Grewal instructs that officers must educate people on the availability of ERPO petitions, including family and household members at risk of firearm violence. This directive provides law enforcement and the public with another tool to safeguard our communities from gun violence.

Pushing gun manufacturers to protect public safety. Throughout the year, the New Jersey State Police—under the Attorney General’s leadership—publicly released data on gun crime in New Jersey and the states where these crime guns were originally purchased, showing that approximately 80% of all New Jersey crime guns come from out of state. This past March, Governor Murphy and Attorney General Grewal announced that these “GUNStat Reports” would also include information on the manufacturers of those crime guns. This action seeks to spur reforms by firearms manufacturers to ensure that their weapons are not used in crimes.
Initiative #4
Strengthening Police-Community Relations

Attorney General Grewal has made strengthening ties between law enforcement and the community one of his most pressing priorities. In 2018, the Attorney General’s Office established the “21 County, 21st Century Policing Project” and issued the Immigrant Trust Directive. In the past year, the Attorney General’s Office has built on the foundations of those efforts to make law enforcement more accountable and more transparent, and to reach out to communities where trust may not come naturally. In doing so, the Attorney General continues to find ways to make our State safer and more secure for all nine million of our residents.

Left: A community listening session in Atlantic City on the use of force by law enforcement officers.
Below: The annual “National Night Out Against Crime” community event in Newark.
Promoting Excellence in Policing

New Jersey is home to some of the finest law enforcement officers in the country. In December 2019, the Attorney General announced a comprehensive package of policy initiatives designed to reinforce and affirm the State’s commitment to excellence in policing. These statewide reforms are intended to promote the culture of professionalism, accountability, and transparency that are hallmarks of New Jersey’s best law enforcement agencies. Through the Attorney General’s “Excellence in Policing Initiative,” the State is building a national model for strengthening trust between law enforcement officers and the communities they serve.

Ensuring public confidence in use-of-force investigations. There are few investigations more important—or more challenging—that those involving the use of force by law enforcement officers against civilians. As part of the “Excellence in Policing Initiative,” the Attorney General issued a comprehensive statewide policy to ensure that all such investigations are conducted fully, fairly, and independently. Among other reforms, the new policy required that, except in certain narrow circumstances, law enforcement must release any available video footage depicting the incident once investigators complete their initial investigation. In addition, the Attorney General announced the launch of a six-town pilot program to test a new online portal to collect, analyze, and publish use-of-force data statewide. The portal is expected to go live in 2020.

Investing in police training and accountability. One of the most effective ways to strengthen police-community relations is to ensure that all law enforcement officers receive the best possible training. In New Jersey, the Attorney General oversees the Police Training Commission (PTC), which is responsible for setting statewide training standards for all law enforcement officers and police academies. In December 2019, the Attorney General announced plans to reinvestigate the PTC, with new plans to assess national best practices and enhance the professionalism of the State’s law enforcement officers.

Identifying—and helping—at-risk officers before problems escalate. In 2018, the Attorney General mandated that all police departments in New Jersey implement “early warning systems,” which help law enforcement agencies identify officers who are at risk for harmful behavior and provide remedial programs for them before their conduct escalates. In 2019, the Attorney General called for improvements to the early warning system to establish risk indicators that are based on sound science and to eliminate any lingering stigma associated with early warning systems. A new model—a true “early intervention system”—will comprehensively track officer conduct and provide better tools for assessing and assisting officers before problems escalate; building on evidence-based methods and the latest research about effective law enforcement management.

Reestablishing confidence in the criminal justice system.

One of the most important reforms the Attorney General announced in 2019 is the establishment of a statewide Conviction Review Unit. In April 2019, the Attorney General announced the establishment of a statewide Conviction Review Unit (CRU), which is responsible for reviewing claims of actual innocence when all other methods of appeals have been exhausted. To lead the new unit, the Attorney General recruited Essex County Superior Court Judge Carolyn Murray, who stepped down from the bench to build one of the nation’s first statewide CRUs. At the same time, the Attorney General created a statewide “Cold Case Network,” which is responsible for using new technology to solve old crimes. These units are based on a simple pledge: that those who are innocent should not remain in prison, and those who are guilty should not remain on the streets.

Ensuring the timely disclosure of exculpatory and impeachment evidence.

Individuals who have been charged with crimes have a constitutional right to review evidence that might prove their innocence. In December 2019, the Attorney General issued a statewide policy requiring that the Division of Criminal Justice and each County Prosecutor’s Office adopt its own policy to ensure the prompt disclosure of exculpatory and impeachment evidence in criminal cases. Among other things, the policy makes clear that prosecutors must disclose to the defendant past instances where a testifying witness, including a police officer, was found to be untruthful.

Office of the Attorney General • 2019 Year in Review • Key Initiatives

At a Newark press conference, New Jersey State Police Colonel Patrick Callahan discusses a comprehensive package of law enforcement policies designed to promote professionalism, accountability, and transparency.
Working to end mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent drug and property crimes. In June 2019, Attorney General Grewal published an op-ed in the Star-Ledger calling on the Legislature to end mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent drug and property crimes. Six months later, the State’s Criminal Sentencing & Disposition Commission—a thirteen-member body that included the Attorney General and that was tasked with reviewing the issue—published a unanimous recommendation to repeal such sentences. The Attorney General has continued to work closely with Governor Murphy and the Legislature to ensure prompt passage of a corresponding bill and to enact a series of other reforms designed to address racial disparities in the criminal justice system.

Building Trust with All Communities

Strengthening bonds between law enforcement and immigrant communities. In late 2018, the Attorney General issued the “Immigrant Trust Directive,” a statewide policy designed to strengthen trust between New Jersey’s law enforcement officers and the State’s diverse immigrant communities, thereby ensuring that victims and witnesses feel safe reporting crimes. The Directive formally went into effect in March 2019, with more than 36,000 law enforcement officers receiving training across the State on the new policies. In fall 2019, the Attorney General updated the Directive with an additional requirement barring the use of so-called “287(g) agreements,” which allow federal immigration officials to “deputize” local law enforcement officers to enforce federal civil immigration law. This new requirement further underscored the State’s commitment to drawing a bright, clear line between local police and federal civil immigration agents and creating a safe environment for all of the State’s residents.

Bolstering protections for the LGBTQ+ community. On Transgender Day of Remembrance (November 20, 2019), the Attorney General announced three major new steps to strengthen the protections residents enjoy from discrimination or harassment based on sexual orientation or gender identity, in particular in interactions with law enforcement. First, the Attorney General announced the “LGBTQ+ Equality Directive,” which lays out specific provisions officers must follow to ensure that they are not discriminating against LGBTQ+ individuals. Second, the Attorney General announced a new public awareness campaign by the Division on Civil Rights to inform LGBTQ+ individuals of their protections under New Jersey law. Third, the Attorney General announced a new policy for the Juvenile Justice Commission regarding LGBTQ+ juveniles, ensuring that staff provide fair and equal treatment to all juveniles.

Listening to the concerns of our communities. In 2019, the Attorney General hosted listening sessions and community forums in all corners of the state, talking directly with residents about the issues that matter to them most. He spent an evening in Bridgeton discussing ways to reduce unnecessary use of force by police officers. He sat with religious leaders in Lakewood to learn about the growing threat of anti-Semitism. He met with residents in Pompton Lakes to hear their concerns about environmental pollution. And he spent a morning with students at Newark’s Central High School brainstorming ideas for building community trust. These meetings—and many more—reflected the Attorney General’s concern with understanding the needs of everyday New Jerseyans, and making sure that the State’s law enforcement officials were working for all of our residents.
Too many political candidates and public officials today conduct themselves in ways that breed distrust in government. When candidates or officials violate our criminal laws, prosecutors can instill confidence in our democratic institutions by taking action to root out corruption. But the conduct of political candidates and public officials can diminish public confidence in our democracy without violating our criminal laws. Sometimes in these cases, to paraphrase Justice Brandeis, sunlight is the best disinfectant.

Pursuing charges for criminal conduct by candidates and officials. Attorney General Grewal’s commitment to public integrity and accountability means that no public corruption is too petty, and no official is too powerful, to avoid criminal prosecution. After a year of securing sentences for former officials charged with misusing their authority to funnel business to friends and accepting bribes to smuggle drugs to prison inmates, the Attorney General and our Office of Public Integrity and Accountability wrapped up 2019 by announcing public corruption charges against seven state and local officials and candidates in a single week in December. Among those charged were a mayor, a school board president, a county freeholder, and a former Assemblyman.

Keeping criminals out of public office. When the Mayor of Atlantic City pleaded guilty to fraud charges in federal court, the Attorney General acted within hours to have him removed from office, in accordance with state law. When a public official demonstrates through criminal conduct that he or she is not fit for office, the public deserves nothing less than the official’s immediate removal. The Attorney General’s action to remove the Atlantic City Mayor followed an unrelated, comprehensive review to ensure that other officials convicted of public corruption had been properly barred from future employment in state and local government.
Shedding light on dark money. Loopholes in state and federal laws requiring public disclosure of political contributions have led donors to funnel money through “dark money” social welfare organizations that can spend money on politics without disclosing their donors. For decades, these groups have made non-public disclosures of their donors to the federal government and States. When the federal government caved to donors’ pressure to eliminate the federal reporting requirements, New Jersey took action on multiple fronts. Under the Attorney General, New Jersey challenged the federal policy change in court and won. Then, the Attorney General led a coalition of other States in challenging the federal government’s second attempt to change its policies. Meanwhile, New Jersey amended its rules for the registration of charitable organizations to clarify that social welfare organizations must continue to disclose their donors to New Jersey even if the federal government stops requiring their disclosure.

Promoting New Jersey’s anti-corruption reward program. Any New Jersey resident can play a role in our office’s efforts to combat public corruption, and you can be paid for your efforts. As part of Attorney General Grewal’s anti-corruption initiative, we are offering up to $25,000 for tips that result in a conviction. The number for our new toll-free tip line is 1-844-OPIA-TIPS.
In the Spotlight

Promoting Law Enforcement Resiliency

The men and women of law enforcement put their lives on the line every day to protect the citizens of New Jersey. The emotional toll of this work can build over time and contribute to a range of medical and mental health issues—including substance abuse, self-harm, and risk of suicide—for both the officer and the officer’s family. In 2019, Attorney General Grewal launched a first-in-the-nation statewide program to help officers develop the psychological resiliency to deal with the stresses of modern policing. This groundbreaking initiative recognizes that protecting officers’ mental health is just as important as guarding their physical safety, and strives to create a supportive culture free of stigma.

Creating a statewide network of Resiliency Program Officers. In August 2019, the Attorney General issued a directive requiring that every police department in New Jersey appoint at least one “Resiliency Program Officer” (RPO), who is responsible for both training fellow officers on resiliency strategies and serving as a confidential point of contact for officers who wish to discuss professional or personal challenges. Under the program, an officer seeking assistance is permitted to contact the designated RPO in their own agency or any other law enforcement agency in New Jersey.

Hosting the first-ever resiliency summit. In October 2019, the Attorney General brought together more than 1,300 law enforcement officers from around New Jersey to highlight the importance of law enforcement resiliency and share national best practices on the subject. Among other things, the two-day summit provided training to give RPOs the basic tools they need to intervene and help their fellow officers facing mental health and psychological challenges. The summit also brought together a number of existing services for officers, including police chaplains and leaders of the State’s “Cop2Cop” peer support program.

Ending the stigma of mental health treatment. The Attorney General has worked hard to end the stigma associated with mental health treatment, hosting a number of public events to highlight the importance of building psychological resiliency among officers. To reinforce these principles, in December 2019, the Attorney General issued a statewide policy prohibiting law enforcement agencies from taking adverse disciplinary action against an officer for the sole reason that the officer decided to seek medical or psychological treatment for a mental health concern.

Attorney General Grewal announces the Officer Resiliency Directive, a first-in-the-nation statewide initiative to promote the psychological and mental well-being of New Jersey’s law enforcement officers.
In the Spotlight

Fighting Bias and Hate

Hate has no place in New Jersey. It’s a message that can’t be repeated enough. Addressing bias was a top priority from the beginning of Attorney General Grewal’s tenure, with every County Prosecutor required to hold a community-policing forum on bias crimes within the first year. In 2019, the Attorney General’s Office examined the underlying causes of bias and confronted them by mandating implicit bias training for prosecutors and law enforcement officers and by spearheading a statewide task force on youth bias. And when hate-filled murderers struck one of New Jersey’s most diverse cities, the Attorney General visited affected communities so that all of us could heal together and commit to ensuring that similar incidents would never again take place in our State.

Addressing the root causes of bias incidents. For three decades, the New Jersey State Police (NJSP) prepared statistical reports on bias incidents in New Jersey. Under the Attorney General, 2019 was the first year in which the Division on Civil Rights (DCR) supplemented the NJSP data with an analysis of the trends over time and of the root causes of bias incidents. DCR’s analysis identifies and diagnoses a rising tide of hate in New Jersey, and will inform policymakers’ responses to bias incidents for years to come.

Confronting bias among young people. Prompted by DCR’s assessment of the high rate of bias incidents committed by juveniles often on school grounds, the Governor established a Youth Bias Task Force to address how we can prevent the next generation of New Jerseyans from entering adulthood with hate and bias in their hearts. The Director of DCR was tapped to lead the Task Force, which conducted a series of public forums on youth bias, with an eye towards making factual findings and policy recommendations in 2020.
Enhancing standards for bias incident investigations. In April 2019, the Attorney General issued enhanced law enforcement standards establishing best practices for investigating and reporting bias incidents. The new standards include a victim- and community-centered approach by law enforcement, electronic reporting of bias incidents, greater interagency communication, and continuing training for members of law enforcement.

Implicit bias training for officers and prosecutors. The Attorney General required all New Jersey State Troopers, as well as all prosecutors and detectives employed by the Division of Criminal Justice and the 21 County Prosecutor’s Offices, to receive implicit bias training by the end of 2019. Decades of social science research reveals that all people experience some degree of “implicit bias,” the unconscious and often subtle associations that individuals make between groups of people and stereotypes about those groups. But research also shows that the kind of training mandated by the Attorney General can counter the effects of implicit biases by enabling individuals to acknowledge their biases and learn how to recognize when they influence one’s behaviors and actions.

Engaging our communities. In a State as diverse as New Jersey, an attack on any of us is an attack on all of us. After a deadly, bias-motivated attack on our Jewish communities and our police took lives in Jersey City on December 10, 2019, the Attorney General brought a simple message to diverse communities throughout New Jersey: Hate has no home here. Only by coming together to confront bias before it takes root can we hope to stem the hate rising throughout our country.
In the Spotlight

Confronting Sexual Misconduct

Addressing sexual harassment in the workplace. The Division on Civil Rights (DCR) holds employers, landlords, and others accountable for sexual harassment. Penalties in workplace sexual harassment cases handled by DCR have exceeded $250,000 per victim in the most egregious cases. But we must do more than punish sexual harassment. We must act to prevent it. That’s one of the lessons of the #MeToo movement that has called the American public’s attention to the pervasiveness of sexual harassment and assault, as well as its impact on survivors. That’s why, in September 2019, DCR partnered with the New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NJCASa) to host a series of public meetings to hear from victims of sexual harassment and experts about how we can change our laws, policies, and culture to put an end to an environment that has allowed sexual misconduct to go unchecked for far too long. A report on the results of the DCR-NJCASa meetings is expected early in 2020.

Combatting campus sexual assault. When the U.S. Department of Education proposed rules to weaken protections for students who have been sexually harassed or assaulted, Attorney General Grewal led a coalition of attorneys general opposing the federal rollbacks and partnered with Secretary of Higher Education Zakiya Smith Ellis to ensure that New Jersey has strong policies against campus sexual violence. Part of addressing the problem is changing campus culture to reduce the rate of sexual violence, and ensuring that victims know where they can turn when sexual violence does occur. So as part of the Attorney General’s Community Policing Project, all 21 County Prosecutors in New Jersey held community forums on local college campuses around the start of the 2019-2020 school year to discuss sexual assault with new and returning students, faculty, and parents.

Locking up sexual predators. Throughout 2019, the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) worked with the New Jersey State Police and the County Prosecutor’s Offices to investigate and prosecute those who prey on children. In April and October 2019, the Attorney General announced the results of two successful sting operations—Operation Home Alone and Operation Open Door—that targeted

A press conference announcing the arrests of 19 alleged child predators in Operation Open Door.
adults who were using social media in an attempt to lure underage children for sex. In addition, DCJ obtained convictions and lengthy prison sentences for a number of defendants who trafficked in images of child sexual abuse, including individuals possessing hundreds of thousands of images of child pornography.

Deterring and punishing sexual misconduct by trusted professionals. The privacy of doctors’ offices, massage rooms, and similar settings unfortunately is exploited by some licensed professionals to abuse their patients or clients. Throughout 2019, multiple professional boards in the Division of Consumer Affairs cracked down on licensees for engaging in sexual misconduct, either in the scope of their practice or elsewhere. The Board of Massage and Bodywork Therapy also confronted the problem through rulemaking, proposing new rules to help prevent and detect sexual misconduct in the massage therapy industry.

Prosecuting clergy abuse. In September 2018, following allegations of widespread abuse and cover-ups in Pennsylvania, the Attorney General announced the creation of a task force to investigate criminal allegations of clergy abuse in New Jersey. In 2019, calls to the Clergy Abuse Task Force Hotline created by the Attorney General resulted in criminal charges against two Roman Catholic priests for sexually abusing children in separate incidents in the 1990s. The first case has resulted in a guilty plea and four-year prison sentence for a priest who previously led the Youth Ministry for a parish in Woodbridge, New Jersey.
In the Spotlight

Attorney General Grewal and Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Catherine McCabe announce the filing of four NRD lawsuits.

Last year, the Attorney General and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced their commitment to rebuilding New Jersey’s environmental enforcement program after a decade of inactivity. In addition to his work combating offshore drilling and seeking to shut down illegal dumping, in 2019, the Attorney General announced an unprecedented series of actions holding large corporate polluters accountable for the damage they have caused the State’s natural resources and its local communities.

Protecting our natural resources. In 2019 alone, the Attorney General filed eight lawsuits against some of the country’s largest companies for polluting New Jersey’s natural resources and failing to clean up their mess. These lawsuits, known as “Natural Resource Damage” cases or NRDs, involve claims for the lost value and use of a range of resources, including surface and ground water, soils, and wetlands. NRDs have historically been worth millions, money that is then reinvested to clean up the surrounding communities. In March, the Attorney General filed four actions against E.I. DuPont de Nemours over the pollution at four current or former factories, the Pompton Lakes, Parlin, Repauno, and Chambers Works sites. That same month, he took ExxonMobil to court over the pollution at its Lail property in Gloucester County. And the Attorney General also took action against the companies responsible for selling toxic chemicals in firefighting foam (in May), against Handy & Harman Electronic Materials Corp. for pollution in Montvale (in December), and against The Sherwin Williams Company due to pollution in Gibbstown, Voorhees Township, and Lindenwold (in December). All told, after a decade in which the State did not file such actions against polluters, the Attorney General has filed twelve natural resource lawsuits against large companies—bringing accountability to those who put their bottom line over New Jersey’s environment.
Promoting environmental justice. At the same time as the Attorney General focused on holding accountable the most powerful polluters, he also focused on protecting New Jersey’s most vulnerable residents from environmental harm. As part of his 2019 environmental justice initiative, the Attorney General repeatedly filed lawsuits against polluters in minority and low-income communities, including actions in Newark (2), Trenton (2), East Orange, Kearny, and Camden. (This builds on last year’s actions in Camden, Flemington, Palmyra, Pennsauken, Phillipsburg, and Trenton.) The seven enforcement actions describe a sweeping range of misconduct, including companies that released hazardous substances into the soil and water in urban centers and individuals who allowed massive amounts of waste to pile up in a residential area. Notably, these environmental justice actions included a lawsuit against a plant in the Ironbound section of Newark that is responsible for multiple community complaints of “putrid” and nausea-inducing odors.

Recovering money for environmental cleanups. New Jersey also continued pursuing claims against the oil and chemical companies for damages to New Jersey’s groundwater from their manufacture, blending and distribution of a gasoline additive referred to as MTBE. Lukoil and Getty Property Marketing agreed to settle their share for $22 million, which remains subject to the final approval of the DEP Commissioner and the Attorney General, and court approval. Overall, settlements in the MTBE litigation to date total approximately $354 million.
In addition to the initiatives described earlier, Attorney General Grewal oversaw the management of the various divisions, offices, and commissions that make up the Department of Law & Public Safety. Throughout 2019, these divisions served the people of New Jersey in numerous ways, benefiting from the extraordinary work of the more than 7,700 career public servants that make up the Department.

**Overseeing Sixteen Divisions**

Come rain or come shine, New Jersey’s law enforcement officers are working to keep their communities safe.
New Jersey State Police
Acting Superintendent, Colonel Patrick Callahan
www.njsp.org

New Jersey State Police (NJSP) is the largest law enforcement agency in New Jersey, with nearly 2,900 enlisted and 1,250 civilian members. It has general law enforcement jurisdiction throughout the state, providing statewide enforcement of the criminal, motor vehicle, marine, and alcohol beverage control laws and, on a contract basis, general police services on the New Jersey Turnpike, the Garden State Parkway, the Atlantic City Expressway, and 89 municipalities across the state. In addition, NJSP’s Office of Emergency Management is the lead state agency responsible for the coordination and support of statewide emergency services involving natural and manmade disasters.

2019 Highlights

- In 2019, NJSP graduated 117 new Troopers as part of the 159th State Police Class and began preparations for the training of two additional classes in 2020. At the same time, NJSP graduated two classes of its “Citizens Academy,” an eight-week program designed to help civilians better understand the operations, procedures, and capabilities of the State Police.
- With the opening of “American Dream Meadowlands,” a retail and entertainment complex in East Rutherford, NJSP assumed responsibility for the safety and security of the Meadowlands Complex. As part of this new responsibility, NJSP increased its Troop B staffing and converted the Meadowlands Station into a fully operational road station.
- In October, NJSP was honored by U.S. Attorney General William Barr with the William French Smith Award for Outstanding Contributions to Cooperative Law Enforcement. The award recognized NJSP’s involvement in the multi-agency “Violent Crime Initiative” tasked with addressing gun violence in Newark, New Jersey.
- NJSP’s emergency response team – New Jersey Task Force 1 – responded to natural disasters across the state and nation. In September, for example, NJ-TF1 deployed an 80-member “urban search and rescue” team to Florida and the Carolinas to assist in the wake of Hurricane Dorian.

Division of Law
Director, Michelle Miller
www.nj.gov/oag/dol

The Division of Law (DOL) serves as primary legal counsel for New Jersey state government. Generally speaking, this work takes three forms: providing legal advice to the State’s departments and agencies, defending the State in civil litigation, and bringing civil lawsuits against individuals, corporations, and other entities that violate the law and harm New Jersey and its residents. Staffed by nearly 500 attorneys, DOL’s responsibilities cover a broad swath of legal issues, including those involving banking, child protection, corrections, education, the environment, finance, health, insurance, taxation, and transportation matters.

2019 Highlights

- In 2019, DOL’s attorneys won a number of significant court victories defending the legality and constitutionality of laws recently signed by Governor Murphy, including the Medical Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill Act, P.L. 2019, c.59; the Workplace Democracy Enhancement Act, P.L. 2018, c.15; and a ban on large-capacity firearm magazines, P.L. 2018, c.39.
- DOL’s Financial Affairs Practice Group worked closely with the Fort Monmouth Economic Revitalization Authority to close on several significant property transactions, setting the stage for economic development at the site of the former military base.
- Through their representation of the Division of Children and Families, DOL attorneys in 2019 handled more than 4,500 child protection cases, filing motions (typically on short notice) to protect a child from a parent or guardian that presents a danger to the child’s life, safety, or health.
- DOL recovered tens of millions of dollars for New Jersey and its residents. Significant recoveries included settlements with Career Education Corporation ($19.6 million in debt relief for former students), Equifax ($6.4 million), Johnson & Johnson ($3 million), and Fiat Chrysler ($1.9 million). At the same time, DOL’s Special Litigation Section joined a number of lawsuits to prevent the United States government from repealing a variety of federal regulations designed to protect the health and safety of New Jersey’s residents.
## Division of Criminal Justice

Director, Veronica Allende  
www.nj.gov/oag/dcj

The Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) is responsible for investigating and prosecuting violations of New Jersey criminal laws. With more than 150 detectives and 100 prosecutors, DCJ investigates criminal activity across the state, focusing on high-impact cases that require significant or highly specialized investigative resources. In addition, DCJ assists the Attorney General in his role as the State’s chief law enforcement officer, which pursuant to the Criminal Justice Act of 1970 gives the Attorney General broad supervisory authority over New Jersey’s 21 County Prosecutor’s Offices and the State’s 36,000 law enforcement officers. DCJ provides statewide training for prosecutors and law enforcement officers, and administers the Police Training Commission.

### 2019 Highlights
- In April 2019, the Attorney General issued updated law enforcement standards for investigating and reporting bias incidents in New Jersey—the first such update in nearly two decades. Developed by DCJ, the revised standards required electronic reporting of bias incidents, streamlined communication between law enforcement agencies, and expanded the definition of bias incidents to better reflect the State’s bias intimidation statute.
- DCJ played a key role in launching the Trenton Violent Crime Initiative (VCI), a multi-agency task force designed to reduce gun violence in New Jersey’s capital city. The Trenton VCI is based on an intelligence-driven policing model that has been successfully deployed in Newark and Jersey City, and involves a close partnership with the U.S. Attorney’s Office, New Jersey State Police, and local law enforcement officials.
- Throughout 2019, DCJ continued to aggressively enforce laws that protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation. Through the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) task force, DCJ worked with the New Jersey State Police and multiple County Prosecutor’s Offices to investigate and prosecute child predators, including as part of two successful sting operations – Operation Home Alone and Operation Open Door.

## Division of Consumer Affairs

Acting Director, Paul Rodríguez  
www.consumeraffairsnj.gov

The Division of Consumer Affairs is responsible for licensing and registering a variety of professionals and businesses throughout the state, enforcing laws designed to ensure fairness and integrity in New Jersey’s commercial and investment marketplaces, and assisting consumers with concerns about particular professionals, businesses, or service providers. The Division’s core mission is to protect the public from fraud and misconduct in the sale of goods and services, through education, advocacy, regulation, and enforcement. The Division consists of the Office of Consumer Protection, the Bureau of Securities, the Professional Boards Section, the Office of Weights and Measures, and the Legalized Games of Chance Control Commission.

### 2019 Highlights
- In 2019, DCA took action against several weapons dealers for selling illegal and dangerous products into New Jersey. Those actions included lawsuits against companies for the illegal sale and distribution of weapons and large capacity magazines, as well as a sweep that determined over a dozen companies had stopped offering illegal “ghost guns” for sale in New Jersey.
- The Bureau of Securities issued three cryptocurrency-related actions against companies and individuals who offered and sold unregistered securities in New Jersey. The Bureau also participated in “Operation Cryptosweep,” a nationwide effort which resulted in at least 85 enforcement actions involving cryptocurrency-related investment products.
- The Division took its first public enforcement action under New Jersey’s new fantasy sports law against SportsHub Games Network, Inc. In addition to finding that SportsHub was operating without the required permit, the Division identified inadequacies in the company’s consumer disclosures. SportsHub entered into a consent order, agreeing to stop operating without a permit, to change several of its business practices, and to pay a $30,000 civil penalty.
- The Division’s charities unit entered into agreements with approximately 30 charitable organizations resolving allegations of misuse of charitable donations and regulatory violations.

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Division on Civil Rights

Director, Rachel Wainer Apter
www.civilrightsnj.org

The Division on Civil Rights (DCR) is responsible for enforcing the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination (LAD), which makes it illegal to discriminate in employment, contracting, housing, and places of public accommodation. It also enforces the Family Leave Act (FLA), which requires covered employers to grant time off to work to employees to care for or bond with a child within 1 year of the child’s birth or adoption or to care for a family member with a serious health condition. DCR also provides training to the general public, government agencies, volunteer organizations, and the business community to promote awareness of LAD and FLA, to decrease prejudice and bias, and to educate members of the public about available resources if they believe their rights have been violated.

2019 Highlights

- For the first time in DCR’s history, the Division wrote a Bias Incident Report to analyze reported bias incidents in New Jersey, which rose dramatically in 2017 and 2018. The report discussed possible reasons for the rise in bias incidents both nationally and in New Jersey, and offered suggestions on how to move forward. The Report led to the creation of the Interagency Task Force to Combat Youth Bias, which DCR is chairing.
- After an investigation into an incident in which a wrestler from Buena Regional High School had his locs cut on the mat before a wrestling match, DCR reached a Memorandum of Agreement with the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA), which includes implicit bias training for all officials and staff involved in high school sports across New Jersey.
- DCR partnered with the New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault to host 3 public hearings on sexual harassment around the State. The hearings involved testimony from more than forty survivors, advocates, attorneys, and others.
- DCR accepted 521 new complaints and completed 598 investigations in 2019, compared to 423 complaints accepted and 504 investigations completed in 2018. DCR issued findings of probable cause to believe that the LAD had been violated in 52 cases, compared to 17 cases in 2018. DCR also collected almost $1 million dollars in damages for victims of bias and discrimination. In a particularly egregious case of sexual harassment, DCR issued a final order requiring the Respondent to pay the victim more than $250,000. Finally, DCR conducted 79 presentations and trainings in 2019, reaching more than 5000 people.

Office of Public Integrity & Accountability

Executive Director, Thomas J. Eicher
www.nj.gov/oag/opia

The Office of Public Integrity & Accountability (OPIA) is responsible for strengthening public confidence in government institutions. OPIA is tasked with a dual mission: to investigate violations of public trust and to develop policies that would rebuild faith in both government and our criminal justice system. OPIA includes both criminal prosecutors and trained investigators, who work together to prosecute cases involving public corruption, criminal violations of civil rights laws, and illegal use of force by law enforcement officers. OPIA also includes an Office of Policing Policy, which develops systemic reforms to strengthen policing practices across New Jersey.

2019 Highlights

- In April 2019, OPIA established the Conviction Review Unit (CRU), one of the first statewide conviction review units in the country. The purpose of the unit is to screen applications from inmates who claim actual innocence for the offenses of which they are convicted. Former Superior Court Judge Carolyn Murray became the unit’s first director and, to date, CRU has received almost 300 applications.
- OPIA brought a significant number of corruption cases in 2019, including charges against five former public officials for accepting bribes and illegal campaign contributions, and a former Millville Police Officer who pled guilty to two counts of aggravated assault in connection with the use of excessive force in making arrests.
- In December 2019, the Attorney General announced the “Excellence in Policing Initiative,” a comprehensive package of policing reforms affirming New Jersey’s commitment to professionalism, accountability, and transparency in law enforcement. OPIA played a major role in developing the proposals and overseeing their implementation.
- OPIA oversaw the development of a new statewide portal for collecting, analyzing, and publishing data regarding use of police by law enforcement officers in New Jersey. In December, OPIA announced that it was launching a pilot program with six municipalities, with plans to roll out the portal to the rest of the state in 2020.
Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor

Acting Prosecutor, Tracy M. Thompson
www.njinsurancefraud.com

The Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor (OIFP) is responsible for investigating, prosecuting, and deterring insurance fraud and serves as the statewide coordinator for all anti-insurance fraud efforts in New Jersey. With more than 50 detectives and 20 prosecutors, OIFP investigates a wide range of insurance fraud schemes and serves as a clearinghouse for cases referred by the public, insurance companies, the Medicaid Program, and other law enforcement agencies. In addition, OIFP provides funding to County Prosecutor’s Offices to enable them to investigate and prosecute insurance fraud at the local level.

2019 Highlights

- In 2019, OIFP evaluated more than 5,000 cases of suspected fraud. Of these cases, OIFP retained more than 200 for prosecution, and referred others for county prosecution or civil disposition.
- In March 2019, OIFP announced criminal charges against four Trenton residents and six related companies for their role in a $1.4 million insurance fraud scam. The defendants allegedly created phony bank accounts and deposited forged insurance payout checks stolen from a New Jersey company.
- In May 2019, OIFP announced the dismantling of a major medicine-for-cash insurance fraud ring, with 19 individuals arrested in connection with an $11 million multistate fraud scheme. Among those charged was the alleged ringleader, Elfaith Ibrahim, a Brooklyn-based pharmacist who was charged with arranging payments to Medicaid patients for drugs used to treat HIV and Hepatitis C.
- OIFP worked to advance its efforts to combat the abuse of the elderly and disabled. In April, OIFP announced charges against four defendants in three separate cases tied to residential care facilities. To mark World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, OIFP hosted a statewide symposium of government and private organizations dedicated to protecting seniors from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The “Lifting Up Voices 2019” was held on June 14, 2019.

Juvenile Justice Commission

Acting Executive Director, Jennifer LeBaron, Ph.D.
www.nj.gov/oag/jjc

The Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) oversees New Jersey’s juvenile justice system. JJC is responsible for the care, custody, and rehabilitation of juvenile offenders, supports local efforts to provide services to at-risk youth, and oversees the supervision of youth on parole. JJC currently operates three secure care facilities and eleven residential community programs, with a goal of replacing outdated facilities in coming years as the total number of juvenile offenders continues to decrease.

2019 Highlights

- In 2004, the Annie E. Casey Foundation selected New Jersey to be among the first states to adopt the innovative “Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative” (JDAI) program. New Jersey has gradually expanded JDAI from a pilot program in five counties to an effort that is fully active in all 21 counties and that now serves as the platform for the State’s broader youth justice reform efforts. In 2019, JJC continued to strengthen that model in order to support the youth in its care.
- JJC continued in its efforts to replace large, antiquated congregate care facilities with smaller, more modern, state of the art regional facilities that are closer to the youths’ communities. In 2019, JJC took significant steps to advance this plan—which seeks to reduce the agency’s secure care capacity by 42 percent—by completing a prototype design for these new, smaller facilities.
- In 2019, the Governor’s Task Force for the Continued Transformation of Youth Justice in New Jersey, which is chaired by the Juvenile Justice Commission, developed multiple subcommittees to address various areas, including stationhouse adjustments, investment in community-based programming, residential and secure facilities, and parole, with a final report expected in March of 2020.
- In 2019, the JJC issued an updated LGBTQ+ policy that emphasizes the agency’s commitment to providing the highest quality of services to all young people. The updated policy ensures that youth have a voice in housing decisions, allowing for youth to be housed in line with their gender identity, regardless of the gender they were assigned at birth.
Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control

Acting Director, James Graziano

The Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) regulates the manufacture, distribution, sale, and transportation of all alcoholic beverages in New Jersey. ABC’s statutory mission is to regulate and control the alcoholic beverage industry in order to foster moderation and responsibility in consumption of alcoholic beverages, protect the citizens of New Jersey by assuring lawful, proper, and fair trade practices, maintain the stability of the industry, and protect the collection of state taxes imposed on alcoholic beverages.

2019 Highlights

- In May 2019, after comprehensive discussions with stakeholders, the Division issued a Special Ruling defining the restrictions and privileges of Limited Brewery licensees. There was significant growth in this segment of the industry this year, with 94 licenses issued, compared to 83 in the year prior.

- The ABC Enforcement Bureau prosecuted and settled a case against Fantasies, Inc. in relation to an accident involving a highly intoxicated patron (BAC .25%) that claimed the life of an innocent driver. The licensee agreed to accept a monetary penalty of $300,000 and a license suspension of 135 days. The Division is presently investigating or prosecuting 10 similar cases of highly intoxicated patrons involved in accidents resulting in death or serious injury.

- The Division completed major enhancements to its online licensing system. These changes eliminated paper applications for a variety of State issued permits and now allows municipal clerks and local police chiefs to review and endorse those permits online.

- In August 2019, working closely with local officials and Rutgers University, the Division issued Special Concessionaire Permits which allow the sale and service of alcoholic beverages by an authorized vendor at concession stands throughout SHI Stadium and the Louis Brown Athletic Center. The permits were sought as a result of changes in NCAA rules.

Division of Gaming Enforcement

Director, David Reubuck

The Division of Gaming Enforcement (DGE) is a law enforcement agency and the investigative arm of the casino regulatory system responsible for enforcing the Casino Control Act. DGE’s workforce consists of attorneys, investigators, and accountants, and is supported by New Jersey State Troopers and Division of Criminal Justice prosecutors. DGE investigates, issues reports, and, when necessary, challenges the qualifications of individual and corporate applicants for casino and casino-related licenses; reviews and audits casino-hotel operations; investigates and prosecutes all casino-related crimes; and tests all casino slot machines, casino floor systems, and Internet gaming platform systems prior to use.

2019 Highlights

- DGE continued to provide a regulatory framework for both Internet Gaming and Sports Wagering oversight for casino gaming and sports book operations. In 2019, the DGE oversaw the opening of five new online sports books, one brick and mortar sports book, and four new Internet-based casino gaming platforms. During the first 10 months of 2019, DGE posted $385 million in Internet-based gross gaming revenue.

- In 2019, DGE continued its efforts to stem the tide of illegal online casinos and sports wagering websites. These sites, which are unregulated and untaxed, compete directly with licensed casino operators and present a growing threat to New Jersey’s legal gaming industry. To address the issue, DGE used its licensing process to prevent New Jersey vendors from doing business with illegal operators.

- As part of New Jersey’s all-hands-on-deck response to the opioid crisis, DGE worked with the State’s casinos to ensure that they have the resources necessary to address an opioid overdose at their facilities. In 2019, Director Reubuck worked closely with each Atlantic City casino to ensure that they have a supply of the life-saving Narcan opioid antidote, along with at least one person on staff who is trained to administer the drug.
New Jersey
Racing Commission

Executive Director, Judith A. Nason
www.nj.gov/oag/racing

The New Jersey Racing Commission (NJRC) regulates horse racing, pari-mutuel wagering, account wagering, and exchange wagering in New Jersey and is responsible for ensuring the integrity of the sport. NJRC is a nine-member, bipartisan body appointed by Governor, with a staff of career employees who are charged with conducting the daily functions involving regulation of horse racing, including the permitting and licensing procedures of horse owners, trainers, drivers, and veterinarians involved in the sport. Starting in 2018, NJRC also assumed responsibility of overseeing sports wagering that occurs at New Jersey’s racetracks.

2019 Highlights

- With the assistance of the New Jersey State Police, the Racing Commission obtained a 2-year-old black Labrador dog, who will assist NJRC staff in detecting illegal substances on racetracks and horse farms. In June 2019, the dog – named “Shadow” – graduated from the State Police’s Canine Academy scent detection class, along with an NJRC Investigator.
- In December 2019, the NJRC published several rule proposals intended to promote and protect the health, safety, and welfare of the horses and humans who compete in New Jersey racing. The rule proposals include prohibition of the use of the riding crop in thoroughbred racing unless necessary for the safety of the horse or rider, restriction of the use of the whip in harness racing to wrist action only, authorization for the NJRC to postpone or cancel racing to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the race participants, and required necropsies for most equine fatalities.

State Athletic Control Board

Commissioner, Larry Hazzard, Sr.
www.nj.gov/oag/sacb

The State Athletic Control Board (SACB) is charged with the regulation, supervision, and oversight of all contests and exhibitions of unarmed combat, including boxing, kickboxing, and mixed martial arts. SACB ensures the health and safety of contestants and ensures integrity and fairness in all contests. The agency also develops, prescribes, and charges fees for licensure, and collects ticket and television taxes, licensing fees, and disciplinary fines.

2019 Highlights

- Working with the Attorney General, the SACB made grant funding available to The Atlantic City Police Athletic League’s Amateur Boxing Youth Program. This program focuses on violence prevention and aims to foster positive youth development. The program serves as a New Jersey state model program for future 2020 amateur boxing youth programs in Trenton, Asbury Park, and Paterson.
- The SACB began a partnership with Rutgers University to initiate a Brain Injury Study of New Jersey licensed combative sports participants. The purpose of the study is to determine what, if any, psychological and/or structural brain changes occur in a cohort of combative sports participants over a three-year interval. The benefit of the study is to better educate individuals on the potential risks associated with participating in combative sports.
Office of the Attorney General • 2019 Year in Review • Division Highlights

Office of Law Enforcement Professional Standards

Director, Christina Glogoff
www.nj.gov/oag/oleps

The Office of Law Enforcement Professional Standards (OLEPS) is responsible for reviewing all New Jersey State Police rules, regulations, and standing operating procedures to ensure compliance with state and federal laws. OLEPS is also authorized to conduct operations audits and independent analyses of data to identify any potential disparity or changes in State Police enforcement actions, and to perform other duties as necessary to support county and municipal law enforcement agencies.

2019 Highlights
■ In 2019, OLEPS reviewed 27 State Police policies and State Police Academy training materials to guarantee that they conformed to best practices and enhanced the current State Police practices on cultural awareness, law enforcement, ethics and leadership, and constitutional law, including the law of arrest and search and seizure.
■ OLEPS produced multiple internal and public reports that emphasize a commitment to transparency. OLEPS analyzed trends in law enforcement activity in New Jersey and continued its commitment to Criminal Justice Reform in cooperation with Division of Criminal Justice. OLEPS produced multiple oversight and aggregate reports that reviewed and analyzed State Police conduct and data relating to motor vehicle stops and post-stop interactions, including actions relating to arrest, search and seizure, and equal protection. OLEPS further analyzed data on State Police internal misconduct investigations, including the thoroughness and timeliness of the investigations.
■ In 2019, OLEPS accepted over 25 citizen complaints and compliments relating to State Police conduct, ensuring that the public has an open path of communication.
■ OLEPS participated in various special projects in 2019. OLEPS took part in 13 working groups to further develop policing policy for State Police. In addition, OLEPS works collaboratively with State Police to facilitate the seamless incorporation of the principles of Attorney General Directives into State Police policies, procedures, and training.
Victims of Crime Compensation Office

Director, Louise T. Lester
www.nj.gov/oag/njvictims

The Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO) compensates violent crime victims for expenses incurred as a result of personal injury or death. VCCO’s mission is to provide compensation to innocent victims of violent crime for some expenses they suffer as a result of the crime. In carrying out its mission, VCCO is mindful of the special needs of those victimized by crime and their right to be treated with fairness, compassion, and respect.

2019 Highlights

- In 2019, VCCO paid approximately $11.1 million in claims to crime victims, an increase of more than $2 million from 2018. The increase in total payments was largely the result of regulatory amendments issued by VCCO in February 2019, which increased the monetary limits on payments to victims.
- VCCO made substantial improvements to its case management system, including new processes that make it easier for victims to file an online application. As a result of these improvements, VCCO processed 189 more claims in FY 2019 than in FY 2018.
- VCCO provided assistance to more than 900 victims of domestic violence, awarding approximately $4 million in payments. The financial assistance allowed victims to cover the costs of relocating away from their abusers, as well as loss of support and other services.

Division of Administration

Acting Administrator, William Cranford

The Division of Administration (DOA) is responsible for the day-to-day functioning of the Department of Law & Public Safety. DOA oversees the Department’s operational and administrative units, including those involving budgeting, fiscal management, grant-making, human resources, information technology, and facilities. In addition, DOA houses a general counsel’s office and an office for departmental ethics. DOA’s employees work closely with the Department’s other divisions to ensure that they have the resources and administrative support they need to carry out their mission.

2019 Highlights

- In 2019, DOA launched a new department-wide compliance office. Under the leadership of a Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer, the unit is responsible not only for ensuring that the Department’s divisions adhere to all relevant laws, regulations, and policies, but for proactively identifying ways to detect and mitigate risks across the agency. The new unit was launched by Melissa Lieberman, a compliance expert who previously served as both Acting State Comptroller and Attorney General Grewal’s Chief of Staff.
- DOA helped the Attorney General identify a range of important cost-saving measures across the Department, allowing Governor Murphy to propose a $495 million budget of Direct State Service funds for the Department in fiscal year 2020—an 8% spending decrease from the prior year.
- In 2019, DOA’s grants unit applied for and received 22 federal grants totaling $495 million budget of Direct State Service funds for the Department in fiscal year 2020—an 8% spending decrease from the prior year.
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Leading the Department

To help manage the day-to-day operations of the Department, Attorney General Grewal assembled a diverse leadership team that brought together career public servants and experienced attorneys. Together, they are helping the Department’s employees achieve a vision for New Jersey that is safer, fairer, and more just.

- **Gurbir S. Grewal**
  Attorney General
- **Melanie Armstrong**
  Counsel to the Attorney General
- **Stephan Finkel**
  Director of Legislative Affairs
- **Christina Broderick**
  Special Assistant to the Attorney General
- **Andrew Bruck**
  Executive Assistant Attorney General
- **Jennifer Davenport**
  First Assistant Attorney General
- **Matthew Berns**
  Counsel to the Attorney General
- **Christopher Edwards**
  Counsel to the Attorney General
- **Jeremy Feigenbaum**
  Counsel to the Attorney General
- **Lora Fong**
  Chief Diversity Officer
- **Sharon Lauchaire**
  Director of Communications
- **Kirstin Krueger**
  Special Assistant to the Attorney General
- **Jonathan Garelick**
  Acting Chief of Staff
- **Kirstin Krueger**
  Special Assistant to the Attorney General
- **Bryn Whittle**
  Special Assistant for Community Engagement
- **Lisa Brown**
  Special Assistant to the Attorney General
- **Melissa Medoway**
  Special Assistant to the Attorney General