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# Year in Review 2020



*Attorney General Grewal, law enforcement officers and Ridgewood residents march in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement.*

New Jersey Office of the Attorney General



# Year in Review 2020

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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 36 to 53.





## Message from Attorney General Grewal

At the end of my third year as New Jersey’s 61st Attorney General, I have never been prouder of the work that nearly 7,700 employees of the Department of Law & Public Safety do every day to protect and serve our fellow New Jersey residents.

2020 tested us all. The year opened with the outbreak of a deadly virus, and soon New Jersey was on the frontlines of a global pandemic. One year later, the tragedy of the virus is not yet behind us. And just as the COVID-19 public health emergency was calling attention to inequities in the nation’s healthcare system, the senseless killings of George Floyd and too many other people of color added urgency to the Department’s ongoing efforts to remedy racial injustice. The Department’s 16 divisions not only played critical roles in responding to these challenges, but also continued to serve the State in so many other ways.

The Department’s emergency management and law enforcement professionals coordinated the State’s response to the virus and enforced rules that protect our residents. Our attorneys counseled the Governor’s Office and state agencies as they took swift action to promote public health and safety – including conducting an unprecedented election primarily by mail – and defended those actions in court. And through our oversight of licensed professions, we expanded the capacity of the State’s healthcare workforce when we needed reinforcements.

In the midst of the pandemic, we responded to calls for criminal justice and policing reform with sweeping policy changes that limit the use of force by all of New Jersey’s 38,000 state, county, and local law enforcement officers. These efforts, which *The Atlantic* called “the nation’s most ambitious police reform,” were the result of sustained engagement with community advocates, law enforcement leaders, and members of the public, and reflect our shared commitments to protecting the life and dignity of every person who interacts with police.



At the same time, we confronted the root causes of pervasive inequities in education, criminal justice, and other social structures, and proposed a bold agenda for change, while continuing our efforts to remedy longstanding environmental injustice.

We also continued to investigate and prosecute crimes; regulate important industries, such as gaming, boxing, horseracing, and the distribution and sale of alcohol; fund programs to protect the State’s highways; rehabilitate those in the juvenile justice system; and support the victims of crime. And we did all of this in the most trying circumstances imaginable—both for our employees and the members of the public we serve.

Whether they were working from home, supporting our operations from the office, or putting their lives at risk as first responders, the Department’s public servants fulfilled our mission to protect the safety and rights of the people of New Jersey. I could not be more thankful for their dedication and service, and I look forward to building on our accomplishments over the course of this year.



Gurbir S. Grewal  
*New Jersey Attorney General*



*Recruits from the 160th class prepare to graduate from the New Jersey State Police Academy.*

# Introduction

New Jersey faced unprecedented challenges in 2020, and the Department of Law & Public Safety played a central role in navigating the state’s response. Each of the Department’s 16 divisions, offices, and commissions contributed to the effort, working around the clock to keep the people of New Jersey safe during a turbulent time.

This document highlights the extraordinary and essential work performed by the Department’s 7,700 employees over the past year. Unlike prior versions of the “Year in Review,” which were organized around Attorney General Grewal’s key policy initiatives, this year’s document focuses instead on two issues that defined 2020: the COVID-19 response, and the national reckoning on race and policing. This document begins with an in-depth review of the Department’s response to these two issues, and then highlights a number of other significant projects completed over the past year.

But more than anything, this document catalogues the resilience and dedication of the Department’s public servants – the incredible people who work every day to help create a State that is safer, fairer, and more secure for its residents. They were tested in 2020 like never before, and their commitment in the face of adversity reflect the values that define the Department of Law & Public Safety.





# Top Priorities in 2020

## Responding to COVID-19

When Governor Murphy announced New Jersey’s first case of COVID-19 on March 4, 2020, no one fully recognized how the pandemic would upend daily life in the State and across the country. On a moment’s notice, the Department repurposed resources and restructured protocols, working hard to protect the public while also protecting the State’s essential workforce from danger. The pandemic highlighted the many different functions that the Department serves and showcased the commitment of its employees during a time of crisis.

*Left: Drive-through COVID-19 testing site at the PNC Bank Arts Center in Holmdel.*  
*Below: First responders care for a COVID-19 patient.*





Protecting the Health of our Residents

*Supporting statewide efforts to flatten the curve.* The COVID-19 pandemic required residents to make sacrifices like never before—and the overwhelming majority of New Jerseyans rose to the challenge. Unfortunately, a few individuals and businesses refused to comply with social distancing rules. Law enforcement agencies stepped up all across New Jersey to enforce the State’s laws against hosts of large parties, as well as gyms, bars, and other businesses that refused to abide by COVID-19 safety rules—especially at times when cases were at their height. At the same time, the Attorney General successfully defended these rules in state and federal court, including the Supreme Court. By ensuring that individuals and businesses complied with emergency restrictions, the Department’s efforts helped New Jersey flatten the curve.

*Cutting red tape to promote public health.* Throughout the pandemic, the Department worked tirelessly to eliminate obstacles that might slow the delivery of medical care in the State. The Department adopted a process to allow healthcare professionals in other states to quickly become licensed in New Jersey and licensed more than 30,000 professionals to meet New Jersey’s healthcare needs; made it easier for retired healthcare professionals to reactivate licenses to support our response to COVID-19, and hundreds did so; announced a first-in-the-nation program to enlist foreign-licensed physicians in the fight against the virus; and authorized pharmacists to administer COVID-19 tests—all of which supported statewide efforts to provide care and save lives at the peak of the pandemic.

*Securing the safety of incarcerated individuals.* As the scale of the COVID-19 pandemic became clear in March, the Attorney General worked swiftly with other partners to ensure that incarcerated individuals who were at heightened risk from COVID-19, and who did not pose a threat to public safety, could be released into the community. In the first measure of its kind in the country, the Attorney General, County Prosecutors Association, Office of the Public Defender, and American Civil Liberties Union reached an agreement allowing for the courts to release hundreds of inmates incarcerated in county jails for low-level convictions. This action substantially reduced the incarcerated population at a key moment in the pandemic, helping to protect the health of individuals who were released and those who remained incarcerated alike.

*Prioritizing the health of youth in New Jersey’s Juvenile Justice System.* Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, the Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) began implementing comprehensive safety measures to protect youth and staff in all facilities. The JJC has also worked proactively to reduce its juvenile population through the early release of individuals who were near the end of their terms. Most importantly, New Jersey became the first state in the nation to commit to COVID-19 testing of all youth residing in its secure care facilities. The JJC has taken a transparent approach to testing by offering daily reporting of the number of positive and negative COVID-19 cases for youth and staff online.

*Preventing COVID-19 related harassment.* Although COVID-19 does not discriminate, disturbing reports described increased discrimination and harassment against people of Asian descent and people with actual or perceived disabilities, and other racial or religious discrimination, arising from the pandemic. To address this, the Department issued guidance documents informing residents of their rights to be free from such harassment under the Law Against Discrimination; provided information on job-protected leave for individuals caring for any family members with COVID-19; and coordinated law enforcement investigations and prosecutions of bias crimes.

Protecting our Law Enforcement Officers

*Providing first responders the tools they need to stay safe.* During the pandemic, our brave law enforcement officers and first responders put their lives on the line to keep us safe, reporting to work despite limited supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE). At the start of the pandemic, to ensure that law enforcement and first responders could use PPE effectively and protect themselves, the Attorney General worked with the Department of Health to ensure first responders would know when they were traveling to a home where someone tested positive for COVID-19. Months later, during the second wave of COVID-19 cases, Attorney General Grewal worked with Governor Murphy to announce that law enforcement officers and first responders would be prioritized for receiving the vaccine in light of the health risks they face. That distribution of the vaccine is underway.

Discussing New Jersey’s COVID-19 response efforts with law enforcement leaders at the Regional Operations & Intelligence Center in West Trenton.





**Keeping our officers safe from harm.** Even as law enforcement put their lives on the line to keep our communities safe during this pandemic, some individuals deliberately tried to put them in harm’s way at the height of the pandemic. The Attorney General announced that any individuals who threatened a law enforcement officer or other first responder with COVID-19 would face the maximum penalties, and the Department took over and brought enhanced charges in cases where defendants spat or coughed on officers and then claimed to be infected with COVID-19, or even ripped off face masks to expose officers.

**Enabling law enforcement to focus on the pandemic response.** To ensure that law enforcement could fulfill its duties despite manpower shortages relating to COVID-19, the Attorney General released guidance to identify five ways law enforcement could overcome manpower challenges, including hiring retired cops and coordinating across town lines. At the same time, the Attorney General adjusted a wide range of agency deadlines and general requirements— whenever consistent with public safety — to allow law enforcement to focus on their pressing tasks in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Supporting the resiliency of our officers.** Recognizing that law enforcement officers faced unique stressors associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Attorney General awarded an \$80,000 grant to Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care to fund law enforcement resiliency efforts. This announcement built on the New Jersey Resiliency Program for Law Enforcement—a first-in-the-nation statewide resiliency program to promote the emotional and mental well-being of law enforcement— which the Attorney General launched in 2019.

**Protecting Residents from COVID-Related Offenses**

**Investigating long-term care facilities (LTCs).** In response to high numbers of infections and deaths at certain of New Jersey’s LTCs during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Attorney General announced in April that his office was investigating whether certain LTCs or affiliated individuals broke the law and should face enforcement action for their actions (or lack thereof) during and prior to the pandemic.

**Cracking down on price gouging.** Although New Jersey’s price gouging law prohibits excessive price increases during a state of emergency, some unscrupulous companies tried to illegally jack up their prices on masks, cleaning products, sanitizers, and bottled water. The Attorney General sent over 1,800 cease-and-desist letters to any retailers suspected of price gouging and other illegal practices, issued over 100 subpoenas to investigate COVID-related consumer abuses, and filed violation notices demanding thousands of dollars in penalties when misconduct was confirmed. The largest penalty was assessed against a company offering to sell seven million masks at six times the manufacturer’s retail price. At the same time, the Attorney General issued demands to Facebook, Amazon, Walmart, eBay, and Craigslist, that they crack down on the price gouging taking place on their platforms.

**Going after scammers.** When companies tried to take advantage of consumers through peddling false or unproven claims, the Attorney General took them on directly. The Attorney General assessed penalties against a company that falsely advertised at-home COVID-19 antibody tests; a club that had made unsubstantiated claims about antibody tests available to its members; and a dentist that made misrepresentations about antibody tests for sale to other dental and medical practitioners, among others. In addition to enforcement efforts, the Department of Law and Public Safety also provided guidance to consumers on how best to spot scams, and how to report them.

**Protecting the public from dangerous products.** Not only did some businesses try to sell fraudulent products, but some were downright dangerous. The Attorney General led the creation of a joint Task Force with the U.S. Attorney’s Office and other state and local partners to address fraudsters and other forms of COVID-related misconduct. To take one example, the Attorney General Grewal worked with the Bergen County Prosecutor’s Office to investigate a store alleged to have diluted commercially available sanitizer, repackaged the product in aftermarket bottles, and then sold it the public— where it allegedly then caused chemical burns to a child. The message from such investigations and actions is clear: public safety always comes first, even in a pandemic.

**Protecting at-home kids from online predators.** In 2020, the Attorney General’s Office continued to protect the most vulnerable among us, our children. Disturbingly, cyber tips to the New Jersey Regional Internet Crimes against Children (ICAC) Task Force about potential threats to children online – including tips from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) – increased up to 50 percent in New Jersey since the COVID emergency began in March 2020, compared to the same period the previous year. Many cases stemmed from cyber tips from NCMEC, but others involved undercover chat investigations where perpetrators were attempting to meet children or other individuals online in order to sexually assault children. For example, “Operation Screen Capture” was a collaborative investigation launched in response to this dramatic increase in reports of potential threats to children from online predators during the COVID pandemic. 21 people were charged with sexually exploiting children online.

With a surge in price gouging complaints, investigators from the Division of Consumer Affairs inspect items at a supermarket in early March.







# Top Priorities in 2020

## Building Community Trust

Even as the Attorney General raced to confront the public health challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the murder of George Floyd laid bare a second, simultaneous pandemic — the nation’s long history of racial injustice and inequality, often most tragically manifested as police misconduct and violence toward people of color.

Ensuring that New Jersey’s 38,000 law enforcement officers lead the way with the highest standards of excellence has been a top priority for the Attorney General since he took office. This work long predated 2020, but it took on new urgency last year, accelerating and expanding after tens of millions of Americans marched for racial justice in the largest protests in American history. The groundbreaking efforts of the past year will place New Jersey law enforcement at the forefront of professionalism, accountability, and transparency well into the future, providing a model for how the rest of the nation can strive toward just policing.

*Left: A racial justice march in Glen Rock.*  
*Below: A street painting ceremony in Trenton.*





Implementing the “Nation’s Most Ambitious Policing Reform”

New Jersey is undertaking what *The Atlantic* has called “the nation’s most ambitious police reform.” In the wake of George Floyd’s death, the Attorney General accelerated ongoing efforts to reform New Jersey’s Use of Force Policy, and a groundbreaking new policy was issued in December 2020. Combined with an unprecedented retraining program and enhanced data tracking, the new policy will reduce excessive force and disparities in the use of force, ultimately saving lives.

**Launching a statewide listening tour on police use of force.** The Attorney General and all 21 County Prosecutors held listening sessions to solicit community input on police use of force. Feedback from the sessions and comments from members of the public were useful in the Use of Force Policy revision process. It ensured that this year’s police reforms were informed by what New Jerseyans are experiencing in their communities.

**Unveiling the most comprehensive use of force policy in the nation.** On December 21, 2020, the Attorney General announced sweeping changes to the Use of Force Policy, which governs the conduct of all 38,000 state and local law enforcement officers, and had not been updated in two decades. The revised policy requires officers to at all times preserve and protect the sanctity of human life, including by de-escalating encounters whenever possible, using force only as a last resort and in the least amount necessary, and intervening to stop other officers from using excessive force.

**Training officers on de-escalation.** The Attorney General simultaneously mandated that every law enforcement officer in the state undergo two full days of training on the new policy, ensuring that its principles will translate into actual practice. The new training will be scenario-based, requiring officers to demonstrate understanding of best practices in precisely those difficult situations where excessive force is most likely to be used.

Meeting with members of the Glen Rock community.



**Launching a statewide system to track use of force.** The Attorney General launched a statewide database that now records every use of force by any officer in the state, and features analytical tools to help officials identify patterns of excessive force or disparities in use of force, including racial disparities.

Promoting Excellence in Policing

The Attorney General also launched an array of additional reforms to ensure that New Jersey’s law enforcement officers continue to uphold the highest standards of professionalism in the nation. Building on prior efforts to promote professionalism, accountability, and transparency, these actions establish New Jersey as a national model for community policing.

**Increasing transparency in cases of serious misconduct.** In June 2020, the Attorney General issued directives requiring all law enforcement agencies in the state to annually publish the identities of officers who receive major discipline for serious misconduct — misconduct that resulted in termination, demotion, or suspension for more than five days. He further directed agencies within the Department of Law and Public Safety to identify officers who committed such misconduct within the past 20 years.

**Building a statewide police licensing program.** New Jersey remains one of only five states that does not require a professional license for police officers, enabling some bad apples to join new departments even after they have been separated from previous employers for misconduct. To fix this, the Attorney General called upon the Police Training Commission to support a proposal to establish a licensing program, which was unanimously endorsed. Legislation to establish such a program is expected in 2021.

A community listening session discussing NJ’s use of force policy and the public’s role in the revision process.





**Expanding crisis intervention training.** Crisis Intervention training (CIT) is a proven model to reduce uses of force in law enforcement encounters with individuals experiencing mental health or substance use issues. The Attorney General launched a pilot program expanding such training to several municipal police departments, as a prelude to potentially implementing CIT training statewide.

**Improving methods for tracking and reporting motor vehicle stops.** The Office of Law Enforcement Professional Standards built an electronic dashboard to track State Police motor vehicle stops and post stop enforcement data. The interactive dashboard makes it easier to keep the public informed on the total number of stops conducted, the reason for the stop, the enforcement actions taken, including summonses, warnings issued, the number of searches conducted, and the number of uses of force and arrests. The data includes statistics from over 5 million stops conducted from 2009 to June 30, 2020, broken down by troop and station, and by race.

**Putting the Concerns of the Community First**

If nothing else, the events of the past year have shown that officials with the responsibility to protect the public must constantly engage with all of New Jersey’s many diverse communities, and ensure that all perspectives on law enforcement and criminal justice are heard and considered.

**Expanding virtual community policing forums.** In 2018, the Attorney General introduced the 21 County, 21st Century Community Policing Project, “21/21 Project,” where each of New Jersey’s 21 County Prosecutors would host a

A virtual press conference announcing systemic changes to NJ’s rules on police use of force.



series of town halls where representatives from law enforcement, community stakeholders, and the public, come together to foster discussion on criminal justice topics. When the pandemic struck and made it impossible to conduct these events in-person, the Attorney General moved them online. Despite the circumstances of the pandemic, community forums continued to be held in 2020 in every county in the state on topics including the Attorney General’s Excellence in Policing Initiative and bias incidents and crimes.

**Supporting at-risk children.** On December 3, 2020, the Attorney General issued a law enforcement directive requiring law enforcement to use alternatives to divert youth away from the juvenile justice system whenever appropriate and feasible, so as to limit detention to those cases where it is absolutely necessary for public safety. The Attorney General also worked with the Department of Education to stand up a new “Handle With Care” Program, improving communication and school support for children who have experienced traumatic events in their lives.

**Meeting the needs of crime victims.** While COVID-19 forced the shutdown of in-person services, the Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO) continued its work to make its claims process more convenient while dutifully and compassionately serving New Jersey crime victims. The office implemented temporary COVID-19 measures that improved case management in the teleworking environment. As a result, VCCO, significantly reduced active caseloads, narrowed turnaround time in the claims process and continued to help New Jersey’s most vulnerable individuals.

Aerial view of Black Lives Matter Mural in Trenton.





# In the Spotlight



## Standing Up for New Jersey

**Protecting our democracy.** The right to vote in free and fair elections is a cornerstone of our democracy. Throughout our history, too many Americans have had to fight too hard for that right. And today, we must remain vigilant so that each eligible voter’s vote counts. In 2020, the Attorney General supported States’ authority to make it easier to vote by mail during the pandemic, issued guidance against voter intimidation, and successfully sued to ensure that U.S. Postal Service operations were not disrupted leading up to the election. And when President Trump tried to exclude undocumented people from the statistics used to allocate seats in the House of Representatives – potentially costing New Jersey a vote in Congress – the Attorney General successfully proved that the President’s action was illegal.

**Defending the health care of our residents.** Beyond participating in the statewide response to COVID-19, the Attorney General pursued affirmative litigation in 2020 to address disparities and inequities in health care and to protect New Jerseyans’ rights as healthcare consumers. He challenged Trump Administration rollbacks of anti-discrimination protections in health care and defended the Affordable Care Act before the U.S. Supreme Court. In addition, the State Board of Medical Examiners initiated the process for repealing New Jersey’s outdated regulatory restrictions on access to abortion. And the Office successfully resolved multiple data-privacy investigations to better protect consumers’ private data held by hospitals, pharmacies, and insurers.

**Defending Main Street investors.** Throughout the year, the Bureau of Securities enforced New Jersey’s laws to protect Main Street investors, including through enforcement actions against a New Jersey broker-dealer and its agents who raked in more than \$28 million through unauthorized, unsuitable, and excessive trading schemes. The Attorney General also worked to make our laws stronger by helping secure enactment in January 2020 of new legislation to protect vulnerable adults from financial exploitation.

*A New Jersey resident takes the oath of citizenship at a naturalization ceremony in Jersey City.*



# In the Spotlight



## Securing Environmental Justice

**Addressing air pollution.** In 2020, amidst a respiratory disease pandemic, 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, and against the country’s largest auto auction company for selling tampered, super-polluting vehicles.

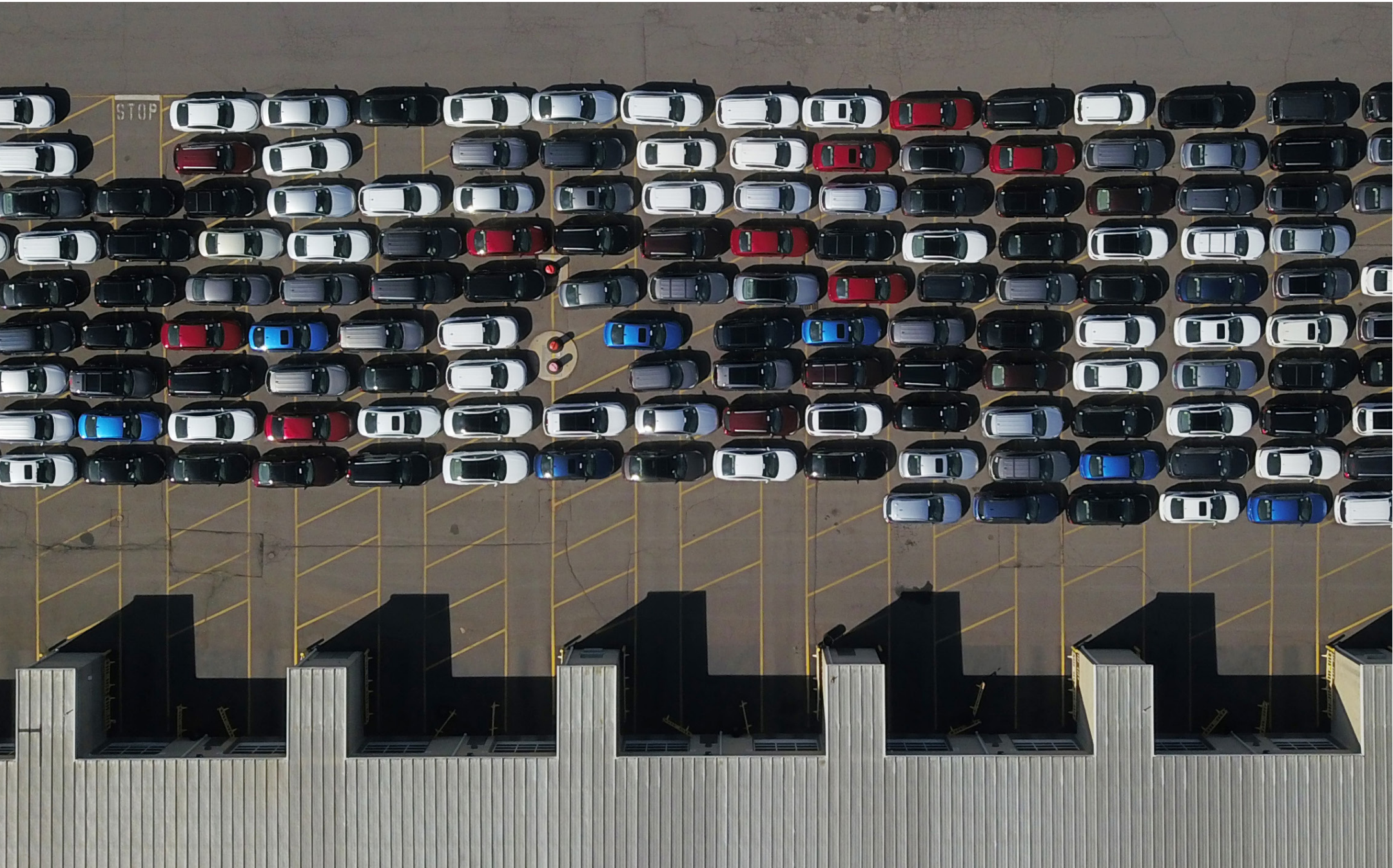
**Protecting clean water.** The Attorney General continued to file major natural resource damage lawsuits in 2020. Two lawsuits filed last year seek compensation for historic pollution – including discharges of toxic “forever chemicals” – at riverfront sites in North and South Jersey. The office also sued the federal government over a rule that unlawfully restricts States’ authority under the Clean Water Act to protect their waters from pollution, and supported stronger rules to protect environmental justice communities from lead in drinking water.

**Securing justice in underserved communities.** The Attorney General also targeted actors throughout the state who illegally polluted or otherwise compromised the health of New Jersey residents, particularly in minority and low-income communities. This included dozens of “Environmental Justice” lawsuits against companies and individuals that illegally dumped hazardous substances on property in low-income communities, and contaminated water sources with toxic chemicals. He also represented the Department of Environmental Protection in an action against the City of Trenton, suing to require the city to take legally mandated actions to safeguard against contamination of its water system.

*The State sued polluters whose contaminated properties threatened the health and safety of residents in minority and lower-income communities, including a site in Jersey City.*



# In the Spotlight



## Protecting New Jersey Consumers

**Enforcing consumer financial protection laws.** Governor Murphy’s pledge to turn the Division of Consumer Affairs (DCA) into a state-level Consumer Financial Protection Bureau continued to deliver results in 2020. While the COVID-19 pandemic left many small businesses and homeowners struggling to make ends meet, the State sued merchant cash advance companies that targeted small businesses with predatory loans and abusive collection practices, a network of companies and individuals offering fraudulent mortgage adjustment services to families trying to hold onto their homes, and sham charities preying on people’s good will in hard times. The Attorney General also reached settlements with one of the nation’s largest subprime auto lenders over predatory lending practices; with a mortgage servicer for violating consumer protection and banking laws in its servicing of residential mortgages; with auto dealerships for using predatory practices to target low-income consumers and repossess their vehicles when they defaulted; and with a company that failed to deliver on its money-back guarantees for services to assist vulnerable consumers and their families obtain Medicaid benefits.

**Protecting student loan borrowers.** In 2020, the Attorney General filed a consumer protection lawsuit against one of the nation’s largest student loan servicers for failing to meet its obligations to New Jersey’s student loan borrowers, and added to the millions of dollars recovered on behalf of New Jersey residents from student loan companies whose predatory practices harmed former ITT Tech students. Meanwhile, New Jersey sued to block the U.S. Department of Education from weakening rules designed to ensure students a fair return when they invest in their education and to provide redress for students who are defrauded by their schools.

**Protecting consumers from anticompetitive conduct.** From preventing unlawful increases in drug prices to addressing efforts to monopolize the flow of information online, the Attorney General wielded New Jersey’s antitrust authority to stand up for New Jersey consumers. In December 2020, the State launched separate antitrust lawsuits against tech giants Facebook and Google, alongside other States, the U.S. Department of Justice, and the Federal Trade Commission. The Attorney General also filed the State’s third major antitrust lawsuit against generic drug manufacturers in the last four years, targeting 26 companies and 10 individuals – many of them based in New Jersey – for conspiring to inflate the prices of over 80 topical drugs.

*The Attorney General reached settlements with one of the nation’s largest subprime auto lenders over predatory lending practices.*



# In the Spotlight



## Fighting Bias & Hate

**Confronting bias among young people.** Following the Governor’s convening of the Youth Bias Task Force in 2019, the Task Force, led by the Division on Civil Rights (DCR), released a groundbreaking report diagnosing the root causes of bias among New Jersey’s youth, and proposing sweeping new policies to fight it. These reforms would establish New Jersey as the first state to require comprehensive anti-bias training and curricula in K-12 schools, and make the state’s hate crimes laws the toughest in the nation. In response, the Governor issued an Executive Order directing agencies to implement the recommendations, and further legislation is expected in 2021.

**Holding social media companies accountable.** The Attorney General led a group of 20 states calling upon Facebook to take further steps to fight hate and disinformation on its platform, and strengthen protections for victims of intimidation or harassment. Facebook later announced significant changes to its policies on hate speech and inflammatory advertising, and committed to allowing greater public scrutiny of its enforcement efforts.

**Improving access to justice for bias victims.** The State Police, Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ), and DCR worked with law enforcement agencies throughout the state to better train officers on anti-bias incidents and streamline policies and procedures for taking and investigating such complaints, resulting in significant improvements in reporting. The Attorney General also launched a new internet portal — the NJ Bias Investigation Access System — that for the first time allows residents to file bias complaints online.

**Fighting discrimination in housing.** In 2020, the Attorney General and DCR successfully completed Project HOME, a far-reaching, yearlong initiative to fight housing discrimination against residents who pay rent using public assistance. Project Home included almost 100 enforcement actions and voluntary compliance agreements against landlords who violated anti-discrimination law. DCR also collaborated with the nation’s largest online real estate and rental platforms to stop such discrimination through changes to their advertising policies, and established a model fair housing policy to ensure that housing providers comply with the law.

8th grade students come together for community service projects inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at We the People Day of Service on January 20th.



# In the Spotlight



# Tackling the Opioid Epidemic

**Getting treatment to those who need it.** In 2020, NJ CARES secured additional state and federal funding to continue “Operation Helping Hand,” a diversion program where opioid users who encounter law enforcement are connected straight to treatment and peer support, in all 21 New Jersey counties. Early in the pandemic, the Attorney General rapidly instituted programs to ensure that enough providers were available in the state to maintain such emergency lifelines and recovery services, including by dramatically expanding telehealth services, expanding autonomy for services to treat substance use, and allowing for emergency licensure of social workers and counselors. And to reduce the risk of fatal overdoses, he implemented an emergency rule mandating that physicians, dentists, and other professionals who prescribe opioids for pain simultaneously prescribe lifesaving opioid antidotes like naloxone to certain at-risk patients.

**Holding accountable those who fuel the crisis.** Throughout 2020, the Attorney General maintained efforts to vigorously pursue ongoing lawsuits and investigations against the companies and senior executives who initially triggered the opioid crisis by unconscionably misleading the public about the risks of opioid products. In addition, the New Jersey State Police Opioid Enforcement Task Force has targeted and dismantled the deadliest purveyors of opioids throughout the state by concentrating its enforcement efforts against the suppliers that pose the greatest risk to the public. In 2020, there were 17 major operations against such suppliers, successfully dismantling 16 opioid mills and one fentanyl pill-pressing operation, which distributed drugs linked to hundreds of overdoses. And the Attorney General continued to take aggressive action against reckless and corrupt healthcare professionals, revoking licenses of bad prescribers, including some who accepted kickbacks from opioid manufacturers to prescribe their products.

**Educating the public on the risks of opioid abuse.** As the pandemic has limited in-person education efforts, NJ CARES has brought outreach to the public and to prescribers online, organizing numerous webinars on addiction-related topics that have been attended by thousands of viewers. An educational video produced in partnership with the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association, informing student athletes and their parents about the dangers of opioids, has now been viewed over 40,000 times. And over 2,500 licensed healthcare professionals have received continuing education on opioid addiction through training modules developed in partnership with Rowan University.

*Unveiling the Morris County Sheriff's Office's new Hope One mobile outreach vehicle in Morristown.*



# In the Spotlight



## Combating Gun Violence

**Establishing Hospital-based Violence Intervention Programs.** In January 2020, the Office of the Attorney General announced nine sites throughout New Jersey to receive \$20 million in federal funding through the Victims of Crime Act grant to establish Hospital-based Violence Intervention Programs (HVIPs). One aspect of the program requires the hospitals to partner with community organizations as a way of bolstering local prevention and intervention services. The community partners are receiving intensive training, technical assistance, and capacity building assistance.

**Stopping violent criminals and the weapons they use.** Throughout 2020, the Attorney General worked strategically to target gun traffickers. As an example, in a joint effort with the Pennsylvania Attorney General’s Office and others, “Operation Zombie” dismantled a Philadelphia-based gun trafficking ring illegally trafficking guns and methamphetamine into Camden. 36 guns and over 20 ounces of methamphetamine were recovered.

**Holding companies accountable for selling large capacity magazines (LCMs) into the State.** Under a law signed by Governor Murphy, New Jersey prohibits the possession and sale of LCMs that can hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition. After suing several out-of-state companies for unlawfully selling LCMs into New Jersey in 2019, in 2020, a Nevada firearms dealer agreed to stop selling LCMs into New Jersey and to pay a \$50,000 penalty.

**Stopping the spread of unlawful 3D-printable guns and “ghost guns” into New Jersey.** New Jersey has become a national leader in protecting its residents from novel weaponry like 3D-printed guns and “ghost guns” (partially- or nearly-complete firearms often sold without serial numbers and background checks). But continued flow across state lines requires a stronger federal response. In 2020, the Attorney General went to court to challenge efforts to weaken federal oversight of firearm-designing software files that would enable anyone with a 3D printer to create a gun, and to challenge a decision by the U.S. Department of Justice to exclude ghost guns from federal firearm safety regulations.

Governor Murphy and Attorney General Grewal met with gun safety advocates after a January 29th ceremony announcing the grant recipients for a new statewide program supporting hospital-based violence intervention (HVIP).



# In the Spotlight



## Confronting Sexual Misconduct

**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, the Attorney General 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.

**Addressing sexual harassment in the workplace.** The Division on Civil Rights (DCR) holds employers, landlords, and others accountable for sexual harassment. But we must not merely punish sexual harassment. We must act to prevent it. In 2019, DCR collaborated with the New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault to host statewide public meetings on sexual harassment. In February 2020, a comprehensive report was published based on those meetings, with findings and recommendations for preventing and eliminating sexual harassment in New Jersey. Governor Murphy endorsed DCR’s recommended legislation, which is now pending before the Legislature.

**Protecting casino employees from sexual harassment.** The Division of Gaming Enforcement (DGE) proposed new rules designed to protect persons within the New Jersey casino industry from harassment and discrimination, with a particular focus on preventing sexual harassment. These rules position New Jersey as a national leader in this area. In coordination with a statewide review conducted by DCR, DGE proposed rules that require casino licensees to, among other things, develop a “Plan Prohibiting Harassment or Discrimination” to strengthen protections for prospective and current employees and which are subject to annual review by DGE.

**Deterring and punishing sexual misconduct by trusted professionals.** The privacy of doctors’ offices, massage rooms, and similar settings is unfortunately exploited by some licensed professionals to abuse their patients or clients. Throughout 2020, multiple professional boards in the Division of Consumer Affairs (DCA) cracked down on licensees for engaging in sexual misconduct, either in the scope of their practice or elsewhere. Meanwhile, in February 2020, DCA launched a comprehensive review of how its professional boards address allegations of sexual harassment and assault by licensees and applicants. While the review will continue into 2021, DCA took an interim step in November 2020 by instituting new protocols for considering reinstatement of licenses revoked for sexual misconduct and other egregious violations

*Director Rachel Wainer Apter of the Division on Civil Rights hosts community listening sessions on sexual harassment, resulting in a major report issued in February 2020.*



# Overseeing Sixteen Divisions



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 2020, 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.

*Members of the Attorney General's team join together for a virtual meeting.*





# New Jersey State Police

Colonel Patrick Callahan, *Superintendent*  
[www.njsp.org](http://www.njsp.org)

The New Jersey State Police (NJSP) is the largest law enforcement agency in New Jersey, with nearly 2,900 enlisted and 1,250 civil 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 eighty-nine 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.

- Through the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management, NJSP has coordinated the state’s response to the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, which requires collaboration across state and federal agencies, as well as county and municipal governments and the private sector.
- The Logistics Section, Critical Resource and Procurement Unit, Preparedness Bureau, obtained and delivered critical Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Ventilators to Hospitals and Long-Term Care Facilities. This Unit was initiated in order to solve the problem of the lack of PPE and Ventilators throughout the entire State, which included the delivery of 3,209 ventilators, 8,811,704 N95 masks, 43,646,755 surgical masks, 22,552,690 gloves, 2,810,058, gowns, and 4,307,545 face shields to hospitals, long term care facilities, county Offices of Emergency Management, state agencies, and other stakeholders. Additional PPE was delivered for the November 2020 elections and face coverings supplied for K-12 schools.
- Due to COVID-19, both the training schedule and location of the 160th State Police Academy Class were affected. The 160th Class started on February 24, 2020 with 209 recruits at The National Guard Training Facility in Sea Girt and graduated 165 troopers on September 4th, 2020. One month into training the COVID-19 pandemic forced DHRS to think creatively about how the 160th class training would continue. The recruits began training virtually, and then were utilized to assist with various COVID-19 related details. On July 15th, the 160th class began in-person training (24/7) once again, and the class graduated on September 4, 2020.



# Division of Law

Michelle Miller, *Director*  
[www.njoag.gov/dol](http://www.njoag.gov/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.

- DOL attorneys took part in all aspects of the State’s COVID-19 response, including defending challenges to COVID-19 related Executive Orders, providing procurement and transitional expertise to stand up field hospitals and vaccine mega-sites, and coordinating advice across all of our client agencies, most critically the Department of Health in exercising authority under the Emergency Health Powers Act.
- In the midst of COVID, DOL provided legal advice and counseling as New Jersey contended with holding municipal elections, the Primary Election and the November Presidential/General Election. DOL assisted in drafting Executive Orders and in the review of pending and newly enacted legislation fundamentally altering the way elections are held in New Jersey -- to make elections accessible to the public primarily by mail.
- DOL filed affirmative litigation in both the Natural Resource Damages and Environmental Justice areas. Natural Resource Damages litigations were filed against Solvay concerning a site in Gloucester County, and Quanta and other entities concerning a site in Bergen County, seeking natural resource damages and past and future costs to remediate the contamination to groundwater, surface water, ecological resources and more. Both sites are heavily contaminated with hazardous substances and pollutants. In addition, 12 Environmental Justice complaints were filed in overburdened communities, including Newark, Paterson, Upper Deerfield, Hillside, South Orange, Jersey City, Fairfield Township, and Elizabeth. These actions enforce compliance with site remediation, underground storage tank, air, and clean water requirements vital to protect residents throughout the State.





# Division of Criminal Justice

Veronica Allende, *Director*  
[www.njoag.gov/dcj](http://www.njoag.gov/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 38,000 law enforcement officers. DCJ provides statewide training for prosecutors and law enforcement officers, and administers the Police Training Commission.

- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, DCJ’s State Grand Jury Unit transitioned to entirely remote proceedings. The State Grand Jury was selected for participation in the Virtual Grand Jury pilot program, and in cooperation with the Administrative Office of the Courts, crafted an entirely new system of presenting matters to the Grand Jury, while keeping our jurors, staff, DAsG, and witnesses safe. Since that time, DCJ successfully presented and secured over 50 Indictments on a wide array of matters, ranging from drug and weapons charges, to sensitive child endangerment operations, large-scale corruption matters, and multi-defendant human trafficking cases.
- Despite the challenges encountered due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the detectives and DAsG in DCJ’s Gangs & Organized Crime Bureau conducted a successful investigation of the Get Money Boys street gang – an extremely violent group in the City of Trenton. The “Get Money Boys” were involved in multiple shootings and drug dealing in Trenton. DCJ charged 18 individuals in this case, with crimes including racketeering, murder, aggravated assault, and narcotics violations.
- DCJ and the New Jersey State Police led a collaborative operation with nine County Prosecutors’ Offices and Homeland Security Investigations targeting child predators and those sharing child sexual abuse materials online. Twenty-one major arrests occurred during this operation, which began in March 2020 and culminated in August of 2020.



# Division of Consumer Affairs

Kaitlin Caruso, *Acting Director*  
[www.consumeraffairsnj.gov](http://www.consumeraffairsnj.gov)

The Division of Consumer Affairs (DCA) 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.

- DCA took aggressive action to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, including increasing access to care by expanding telemedicine and launching several emergency licensure programs for out-of-state practitioners, retirees, and recent graduates; establishing health and safety standards for our regulated entities; and taking a stand against those who would prey on their neighbors during this time of need by engaging in price gouging or peddling false tests, cures, or treatments (issuing dozens of notices of violation, over 1,800 cease and desist letters, and over 100 subpoenas).
- DCA successfully increased capacity to take on complex financial matters and filed or resolved several major cases with industry-wide impact, including against a major student loan servicer alleged to be engaged in misleading tactics; a lender alleged to have taken advantage of small business owners by providing cash advances by deceptive means; a Medicaid advisor alleged to have abandoned its clients; a charity alleged to have engaged in fundraising; and a fundraiser who orchestrated larger numbers of sham charities.
- As part of a continuing multi-pronged approach to combatting the opioid epidemic, DCA revoked and sought the revocation of licenses of indiscriminate prescribers, promulgated rules to promote responsible prescribing and increase prescriber education regarding substance abuse disorders, and enhanced the technology platforms available to give prescribers the tools they need to better care for their patients, including integrating the NJ Prescription Monitoring Program into electronic health records used by hundreds of practitioners and providing visual histories of prescriptions and risk alerts.





## Division on Civil Rights

Rachel Wainer Apter, *Director*  
[www.njcivilrights.gov](http://www.njcivilrights.gov)

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 from work to employees to care for or bond with a child within one 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.

- New Jersey’s Interagency Task Force to Combat Youth Bias, chaired by DCR, issued a 103-page report recommending sweeping reforms to the State’s education system, tougher anti-bias laws, and a robust public engagement campaign to address hate, bias, and stereotyping. Those recommended reforms include (1) Significant changes to school curricula to incorporate anti-bias coursework; (2) Expansive anti-bias training for all state educators; (3) Actions by DCR to address racial disparities in school discipline, criminal justice referrals, and the identification of both academically advanced students and students with disabilities; (4) Reforms to make New Jersey’s criminal hate crime laws among the toughest in the nation.
- In September 2020, DCR announced the results of a year-long initiative targeting housing discrimination against those who seek to pay rent with federal, state, or local rental assistance, such as Section 8 housing choice vouchers or the COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program (CVERAP). A combination of enforcement, prevention, and public awareness efforts, the initiative targeted not only the unlawful denial of housing to applicants who seek to pay rent using rental assistance, but also discriminatory advertising meant to discourage those same housing seekers.
- In November 2020, DCR launched the NJ Bias Incident Access System (NJBIAS), an online portal that allows victims of bias, harassment, and discrimination to file complaints online. The Portal dramatically reduced barriers to filing for individuals who have been subjected to discrimination and bias-based harassment and allows Respondents to respond to complaints with our office online.



## Office of Public Integrity & Accountability

Thomas J. Eicher, *Executive Director*  
[www.njoag.gov/opia](http://www.njoag.gov/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.

- With input from the public and law enforcement, OPIA helped lead the creation of the State’s first revisions to its use of force policy in two decades. The policy allows force to be used only as a last resort and only after the officer attempts to de-escalate the situation. It prohibits all forms of deadly force — including chokeholds and strikes to the head or neck — except as an absolute last resort to protect the officer or another person from imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury; prohibits officers from firing at a moving vehicle or engaging in a high-speed car chase, except under narrowly limited circumstances; provides new guidance on use of less-lethal force as an alternative to deadly force; establishes an affirmative “duty to intervene” if an officer observes another officer using illegal or excessive force; and establishes an affirmative “duty to provide medical assistance” after any use of force against a civilian.
- In 2020, OPIA developed and fully implemented a first-in-the-nation Use of Force Portal — an electronic reporting system that captures detailed data on every police use of force in the state. The Portal will enable OPIA and its partners to use tools and analytics to uncover problems, identify racial disparities, and ensure the new Use of Force Policy is properly implemented.
- OPIA worked with outside partners to develop a massive retraining initiative through which all officers in New Jersey will receive multiple days of interactive training on the new Use of Force Policy, designed to transform how they approach encounters with civilians.
- OPIA worked with the Police Training Commission to formally endorse a police licensing system and to launch a major initiative to supplement and enhance the training that law enforcement officers receive at the academy and pursuant to in-service training requirements.





# Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor

Tracy M. Thompson, *Acting Insurance Fraud Prosecutor*  
[www.njinsurancefraud.org](http://www.njinsurancefraud.org)

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.

- Although with limited resources and access to technology, OIFP screened 100% of the nearly 4,500 insurance fraud allegations it received from the industry and community.
- After successfully appealing a Monmouth County judge’s dismissal of the indictment, the Private Bureau secured pleas from Frank and Evan Pescatore, a father /son crime duo. Frank, 73, of Asbury Park, pleaded guilty to second-degree insurance fraud and Evan, 38, of Highlands, pleaded guilty to third-degree insurance fraud.
- Despite the challenges presented by our new digital setting, OIFP presented and obtained indictments from 3 virtual grand juries. They also secured pleas or sentenced 13 defendants in JFK Runner, an \$11 million multistate fraud scheme medicine-for-cash insurance fraud ring, including a plea to second-degree Distribution of Prescription Legend Drugs from Elfatih Ibrahim, the NY-based pharmacist; and obtained a \$3.6 million forfeiture order in that case.



# Juvenile Justice Commission

Jennifer LeBaron, *Acting Executive Director*  
[www.njoag.gov/jjc](http://www.njoag.gov/jjc)

As New Jersey’s lead juvenile justice agency, the Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) provides care, custody, and rehabilitative services to youth committed to the agency by the courts; supervises and coordinates services for youth on parole; and supports local efforts to provide prevention and early intervention services to at-risk and court-involved youth.

- From the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, JJC has prioritized the health of youth and staff in all facilities by implementing comprehensive safety measures and working proactively to reduce its juvenile resident population. After New Jersey became the first state in the nation to commit to COVID-19 testing of all youth residing in JJC secure care facilities, JJC implemented a transparent approach to reporting by publicly offering the daily number of positive and negative COVID-19 cases online.
- JJC continues to serve as a national leader for juvenile justice reform as a model-site for the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s “Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative” (JDAI), which has served as the platform for New Jersey’s broader youth justice reform efforts. Since implementation, the number of youth detained in county facilities has declined by 80%, and the number of youth committed to JJC facilities by the Family Court has declined by 86%, with youth of color accounting for more than 85% of these reductions.
- In 2020, JJC took significant steps to implement regulations and policies consistent with legislative changes to the parole system that reflect an objective, standardized system for parole release decision-making that incentivizes positive behavior and engagement in rehabilitative programming. This approach increases safety and the likelihood of positives outcomes for youth and enhances fairness and consistency in decision-making.
- In 2020, JJC continued to advance its Reform Plan which is focused on expanding opportunities for youth to grow and thrive and to build and sustain strong and healthy relationships. Working with the Inside Circle Foundation, JJC has implemented an intensive process that aims to interrupt the cycle of incarceration by offering transformational group experiences that promote self-awareness, support, personal growth, and connection.





# Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control

James Graziano, *Director*  
[www.njoag.gov/abc](http://www.njoag.gov/abc)

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.

- ABC successfully concluded an investigation into discriminatory practices of wholesalers that benefited favored retail accounts, which resulted in a \$4 million settlement – the largest in ABC history. The investigation included tied house violations, extending credit beyond allowable periods, offering different terms of sales for products and falsifying records to cover up same. Matters were resolved with charges against the two largest wholesalers in the state and some of the largest retailers for monetary penalties and corrective action.
- ABC took decisive action to assist the industry during the COVID-19 pandemic, including issuing special rulings, advisory notices and orders to address the needs of the alcoholic beverage industry. The Rulings address matters such as relaxation of credit regulations and return of product, extensions of permits and license renewal deadlines and advice to the industry on the effect of the Governor’s Executive Orders. In addition, ABC created a new Expansion of Premises Permit which allowed licensed establishments to continue business operations during the pandemic. As of December 9, 2020, ABC issued 2,388 permits and renewed 940 permits.
- As part of its COVID-19 response efforts, ABC conducted 2,937 COVID-19 compliance inspections. ABC has identified 211 licensed establishments to be in violation of Governor Murphy’s Executive Orders. As of December 7, 2020, ABC has issued notice of charges, fine letters, or warning letters against 218 licensed establishments for Executive Order violations.



# Division of Gaming Enforcement

David Rebuck, *Director*  
[www.njoag.gov/dge](http://www.njoag.gov/dge)

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.

- DGE continued to provide a regulatory framework for both Internet Gaming and Sports Wagering oversight for casino gaming and sports book operations. In 2020, DGE oversaw the opening of six new Internet-based casino gaming providers (which includes two mobile sportsbooks) and two brick and mortar sports books. During the first eleven months of 2020 DGE posted \$872 million in Internet-based gross gaming revenue and \$332 million in Sports Wagering revenue, both increases from the same period last year. This past year, the number of Internet gaming and sports wagering submissions to the Division increased by over 60%.
- In 2020, DGE provided the regulatory and legal framework to the Casinos, Sportsbooks, and the Casino Association of New Jersey. To ensure compliance with the Executive and Administrative Orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the various bureaus in the Division handled matters including the review of casino reopening plans and the creation of an online Self-Exclusion system to allow individuals to self-exclude without having to physically enter a DGE office during the pandemic.
- In 2020, DGE oversaw the Caesars Entertainment and Eldorado merger acquisition in an effort to ensure financial stability. This transaction also involved the sale of the Caesars’ Bally’s Atlantic City property to Twin River (now known as Bally’s Corporation), and an interim casino authorization. The merger required the infusion of approximately \$500 million dollars for the purposes of capital improvements to the properties. Of that amount, \$400 million is held in a trust account to ensure improvements at the Caesars’ properties.





# New Jersey Racing Commission

Judith A. Nason, *Executive Director*  
[www.njoag.gov/racing](http://www.njoag.gov/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.

- NJRC adopted 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 adoptions prohibit the use of the riding crop in thoroughbred racing unless necessary for the safety of the horse or rider, restrict the use of the whip in harness racing to wrist action only and authorize the NJRC to postpone or cancel racing for any reason determined to pose a serious risk to the health, safety and welfare of the race participants, including, but not limited to, extreme weather conditions, such as high heat and humidity.
- NJRC established a Race Horse Mortality Review Board in 2020 to investigate equine fatalities that occur in New Jersey. The Board is comprised of NJRC staff, Monmouth Park management and safety personnel, and horsemen representatives. When investigating fatalities, the Board reviews relevant data in an effort to identify risk factors and formulate mitigating strategies.
- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, NJRC assisted the Governor’s Office with the shutting down of the state’s racetracks in March 2020, and coordinated the gradual reopening of the tracks through the review and adoption of their COVID-19 compliance plans.

# State Athletic Control Board

Larry Hazzard, Sr., *Commissioner*  
[www.njoag.gov/sacb](http://www.njoag.gov/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.

- The Atlantic City Police Athletic League Youth Boxing Program concluded its one-year grant period with over 35 participants. As a result of COVID-19, the program transitioned to remote learning with a focus on physical fitness training, life skills seminars, and academic tutorials. Trainers and mentors have also been able to include individual communications with each student to identify and try to address issues, needs and concerns they and/or their families may have as a result of the pandemic.
- Working with Rutgers University, SACB is exploring the study of brain injuries for combative sports contestants. 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 followed prospectively over a three-year interval.



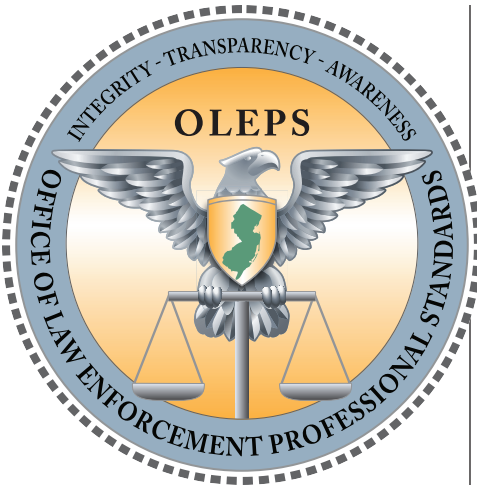


# Division of Highway Traffic Safety

Eric Heitmann, *Director*  
[www.njoag.gov/hts](http://www.njoag.gov/hts)

The Division of Highway Traffic Safety (HTS) works to prevent motor vehicle-related crashes and the resulting property damage, injuries, and fatalities on New Jersey’s roadways. HTS is responsible for administering the State & Community Highway Safety Program, which annually distributes approximately \$15 million in federal funding to develop and implement a statewide highway safety plan. The Director of HTS also serves as the Governor’s representative to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Federal Highway Administration.

- HTS marked the anniversary of New Jersey graduated driver licensing laws, which are among the strongest in the nation. The 20th anniversary of NJ’s GDL Law and the 10th anniversary of Kyleigh’s Law reminded the public of the lifesaving benefits of these laws and provided HTS an opportunity to call for a renewed commitment to safe teen driving. The campaign centered on the slogan SticktoIt and featured a dedicated webpage with a wealth of information on the current laws, their benefits, and a call to action moving forward for parents, teens, and other stakeholders. A pair of videos were released through several platforms to expand the reach of this important messaging. More than 2.2 million impressions were reported to the target groups (stakeholders, parents, and teens) during the first 45 days of the campaign.
- Extensive work on the part of many stakeholders, including HTS, went into the 2020 update of New Jersey’s Strategic Highway Safety Plan, the result being an action-oriented, data-driven, comprehensive multidisciplinary plan integrating the “4Es” of safety: Education, Engineering, Enforcement, and Emergency medical services/response. The SHSP includes emphasis areas that represent important sectors where meaningful safety improvements can be made with added attention and resources. The 2020 SHSP emphasis areas are: Data, Pedestrians and Bicyclists, Other Vulnerable Road Users, Driver Behavior, Intersections, and Lane Departure.
- New Jersey’s Driver Education Program underwent a comprehensive assessment in 2020. The assessment was conducted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and facilitated by HTS. Key recommendations derived from the assessment will help strengthen the state’s driver education program.



# Office of Law Enforcement Professional Standards

Christina Glogoff, *Director*

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.

- In 2020, OLEPS produced multiple internal and public reports in its continued commitment to transparency of law enforcement. For example, OLEPS published its Oversight Report, in which the office reviewed numerous data, motor vehicle digital recordings, and motor vehicle stop reports, among other materials, of over 600 State Police conducted motor vehicle stops.
- In furtherance of its commitment to public transparency of law enforcement actions, OLEPS created an innovative, public facing, interactive dashboard illustrating State Police motor vehicle stop and post stop enforcement aggregate data, which includes data on 5.8 million motor vehicle stops from 2009 to June 30, 2020. Broken down by troop and station, and by race, the dashboard reflects the total number of stops conducted, the reason for the stop, the enforcement actions taken, including summonses, warnings issued, the number of searches conducted, and the number of uses of force and arrests. The data also show the number of criminal charges filed, contraband seizures, and wanted persons taken in to custody.
- OLEPS continued its commitment to Criminal Justice Reform in cooperation with Division of Criminal Justice by analyzing data relating to Bail Reform. The office also worked closely with the State Police on multiple progressive law enforcement initiatives, such as the implementation of the Attorney General training and policy initiatives, including the review of 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.





# Victims of Crime Compensation Office

Mary Ellen Bonsper, *Director*  
[www.nj.gov/oag/njvictims](http://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.

- VCCO significantly reduced its active caseload from approximately 1,400 claims to 657 cases, with an average investigator caseload reduced from approximately 45 claims to 18 claims.
- VCCO reduced the turnaround time in processing claims in accordance with recent statutory changes from 180 to 90 days for new claim applications and 90 to 30 days for supplemental payment requests.
- VCCO successfully implemented and executed teleworking. During this transition, the office continued to meet the needs of crime victims through temporary COVID-19 measures to help vulnerable individuals. When needed, VCCO staff obtained income information from the Department of Labor for claimants when information could not be obtained from their employer due to COVID-19 related business closures or when loss of support documentation could not be provided, and a moratorium was placed on administratively closing claims due to the failure to provide vital information during the State shutdown. Instead, staff focused their time on contacting the victims by phone to help facilitate the claims process – especially victims in emergent need.

# Division of Administration

William Cranford, *Chief Administrative Officer*

The Division of Administration (DOA) is responsible for the day-to-day functioning of the Department of Law & Public Safety. DOA oversees that 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.

- DOA transitioned Department employees to telework beginning in March 2020 as a primary method to halt the spread of COVID-19 within Department facilities. This effort required close coordination between Human Resources, Information Technology, and Facilities sections, and allowed the Department to maintain operations while also keeping its workforce safe.
- DOA’s Grants Management section applied for and received over \$11 million in federal coronavirus relief funds that were used to assist in the Department’s response to the pandemic at a time of fiscal stress for the state.
- DOA’s new compliance office – launched in 2019 – joined the Governor’s Office’s COVID-19 Compliance and Oversight Taskforce as part of the transparency and accountability efforts related to COVID-19 relief funds.



# 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.



**Andrew Bruck**  
*First Assistant  
Attorney General*



**Jennifer Davenport**  
*Principal Law  
Enforcement Advisor*



**Christopher Edwards**  
*Executive Assistant  
Attorney General*



**Jonathan Garelick**  
*Chief of Staff*



**Melanie Armstrong**  
*Senior Counsel to  
the Attorney General*



**Matthew Berns**  
*Senior Counsel to  
the Attorney General*



**Jeremy Feigenbaum**  
*State Solicitor*



**Stephan Finkel**  
*Director of  
Legislative Affairs*



**Steven Barnes**  
*Director of  
Communications*



**Bryn Whittle**  
*Director of  
Community Engagement*



**Lora Fong**  
*Chief  
Diversity Officer*



**Elizabeth Ruebman**  
*Special Advisor for  
Victim Services*



**Lisa Brown**  
*Counsel to the  
Attorney General*



**Christina Broderick**  
*Counsel to the  
Attorney General*



**Kirsten Krueger**  
*Counsel to the  
Attorney General*



*Attorney General Grewal speaks at a  
leadership conference on 21st Century  
Community Policing in early March.*





New Jersey Office of the  
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*Attorney General Grewal and Bergen  
County Sheriff Anthony Cureton take  
a knee and mark a moment of silence to  
remember the murder of George Floyd.*

