



New Jersey Office of the Attorney General

## Year in Review 2021

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# Year in Review 2021



*Acting Attorney General Bruck, local law enforcement, and Salem residents gather for a community walk.*

New Jersey Office of the Attorney General



# Year in Review 2021

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# Who We Are

The New Jersey Attorney General oversees the Department of Law and Public Safety, which consists of more than 7,700 employees across 17 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 divisions, offices, and commissions within the Department of Law and Public Safety, see pages 46 to 63.







## Message from Acting Attorney General Andrew J. Bruck

Being asked by Governor Murphy to serve as New Jersey’s Acting Attorney General has been the greatest honor of my career. After serving alongside the people of the Department of Law and Public Safety for three and a half years as Executive Assistant Attorney General and then First Assistant Attorney General, I can think of no greater privilege than to lead the 7,700 people of the Department in their work on behalf of the people of New Jersey.

The Department’s dedicated public servants touch the lives of New Jersey’s diverse residents in countless ways. We protect them from crime and violence, from frauds and scams, and from discrimination and harassment. We regulate important industries, including gaming, boxing, horseracing, and the distribution and sale of alcohol. We keep our highways safe. We license professionals ranging from accountants to veterinarians to nurses to hairstylists. We support the rehabilitation of those in the juvenile justice system and assist with the compensation of crime victims. And we are the people’s lawyers. Through all of our work, we aim for New Jersey to be a safe, fair, and just place for all of its residents, and to remedy systemic injustices that historically have meant the State is safer, fairer, and more just for some residents than others.

The nearly 3,000 law enforcement officers within the Department of Law and Public Safety are among around 38,000 statewide who are directly or indirectly supervised by the Office of the Attorney General. Enabling them to fulfill their mission—to protect the safety and security of our residents—is our greatest responsibility. We work to fulfill that duty by combatting gun violence, which threatens the lives of community members and law enforcement officers alike, and by promoting good policing policy, which enables us to improve police-community relations through accountability, transparency, and evidence-based strategies.

Any one of the Department’s responsibilities can be daunting even in ordinary times, but our team has fulfilled its responsibilities admirably through a year that posed unique challenges. And they have approached their important work as every public servant should: with integrity, decency, and urgency. I am so proud of what we have accomplished together, and how we have accomplished it.

  
Andrew J. Bruck  
*New Jersey Acting Attorney General*





A press briefing in Paterson.

# Introduction

2021 was a year of transition for the Department of Law and Public Safety. In July, Gurbir S. Grewal stepped down after three and a half years as New Jersey’s 61st Attorney General – the longest tenure for an Attorney General in more than two decades. Governor Murphy announced that Andrew J. Bruck would serve as Acting Attorney General for the remainder of the Governor’s first term. Previously, Bruck had served under Attorney General Grewal as Executive Assistant Attorney General and then First Assistant Attorney General.

It was not only the Department’s leadership that transitioned in July 2021. That month, many of the Department’s employees began returning to the office after working from home for more than a year due to COVID-19. But throughout the year – and whether they were in the office, at home, or on the street as first responders – the Department’s 7,700 employees did exceptional work on behalf of the people of New Jersey under extraordinary circumstances.

On his first day in office, Acting Attorney General Bruck identified three core priorities for the Department:

- reducing gun violence;
- advancing racial justice; and
- promoting good policing policy.

This report highlights the incredible work of the attorneys, investigators, law enforcement officers, and administrative staff of the Department of Law and Public Safety, who have pursued these priorities with a true sense of urgency. We would not have been able to accomplish all that we did for New Jersey residents in 2021 without the exceptional work of the Department’s career public servants.





# Reducing Gun Violence

Across the country, gun violence has been on the rise. New Jersey is not immune, but our comprehensive strategy makes us a national model for gun violence prevention. Our approach to tackling this public health crisis is three-pronged: treating the root causes of violence; keeping dangerous weapons away from those most likely to harm others; and taking swift action against those who break the law.

*Left and below: Cataloging firearms collected at the largest gun buyback events in New Jersey history*





### Treating the Root Causes of Violence

**Interrupting the cycles of violence.** Recognizing that enforcement alone cannot solve the gun violence epidemic, in November 2021, the Attorney General’s Office made available \$12 million in grant funding to reduce gun violence and support crime victims. This includes \$10 million as part of Governor Murphy’s fiscal year 2022 budget to support community-based violence intervention programs—the largest single such investment in New Jersey’s history.

**Enhancing support for justice-involved youth.** In early 2021, the Juvenile Justice Commission created a Community-Based Services Consortium that provides a wide array of prosocial programs—such as art and design, media, music, and self-care and wellness—to youth in secure care settings and residential homes. And in December 2021, the Acting Attorney General and the Juvenile Justice Commission opened the grant application process for \$8.4 million in funding for restorative justice hubs and community-based wraparound services in Camden, Newark, Paterson, and Trenton.

### Keeping Dangerous Weapons away from Those Likely to Harm Others

**Spearheading the largest gun buyback events in New Jersey history.** The Acting Attorney General, County Prosecutors, law enforcement partners, and community stakeholders launched two separate gun buyback days in a combined 12 counties, collecting nearly 4,000 firearms. The first gun buyback event was held in Atlantic, Essex, and Passaic Counties and collected more than 1,000 guns, including assault weapons and rifles. The second gun buyback event was held in eight additional counties, including Bergen, Camden, Cumberland, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Salem, Somerset, and Union, and resulted in nearly 3,000 firearms taken off the streets.

**Providing law enforcement officers with essential tools to stop gun violence before it starts.** More than 300 Extreme Risk Protective Orders (ERPO) have been issued in New Jersey since the landmark ERPO Act went into effect in 2019, which created a process for obtaining a court order against a person who is a danger to themselves or the public by owning or purchasing a firearm. The Attorney General’s Office, in partnership with the Administrative Office of the Courts, conducted 16 training sessions for prosecutors and law enforcement officers on the ERPO Act and on the process to file a petition.

**Enhancing gun violence investigations and prosecutions.** In October 2021, the Acting Attorney General established a statewide task force to enhance gun violence investigations and prosecutions, including through a statewide gun violence intelligence network in all of New Jersey’s 21 counties.

**Supporting common-sense approaches to gun violence nationwide.** New Jersey has some of the strongest gun safety laws in the country, but we know that no state can successfully tackle gun violence alone. The Attorney General’s Office has worked to implement an agreement signed in October 2021 by Governor Murphy with other governors to facilitate the sharing of crime gun data, which will allow for a better understanding of the sources and paths of trafficked firearms, and promote coordinated action to prevent the flow of crime guns across shared

state borders. And, in August 2021, the Acting Attorney General helped lead a coalition of state attorneys general in supporting efforts by the U.S. Department of Justice to strengthen federal regulations governing firearms, including ensuring that federal requirements for serial numbers on firearms and background checks for firearm purchases will apply to products often marked as “ghost guns,” or partially assembled firearms sold with the parts needed to create a fully-operational gun.

### Taking Swift Action Against Those Who Break the Law

**Holding firearms companies accountable.** The Attorney General’s Office uses its civil enforcement authority to take on firearms companies that violate our laws. Many of these actions focus on out-of-state companies that sell or advertise to New Jersey residents products like ghost guns or large-capacity magazines that are illegal or restricted under our laws. In March 2021, we announced a first-in-the-nation settlement with a California company that advertised and marketed ghost guns to New Jersey residents, requiring the company to halt sales to our residents and pay a penalty. This followed a January 2021 settlement in which a Florida company agreed to pay \$135,000 in penalties and stop selling large-capacity magazines anywhere in the United States.

**Targeting illegal gun traffickers and dismantling criminal organizations.** Through ongoing partnership between the Attorney General’s Office and federal, state, and local law enforcement, multiple successful operations targeted dozens of gang members across the State from Trenton to Paterson to Camden, including criminal organizations linked to shootings and weapons trafficking.

A press conference detailing gun violence efforts, including the arrests of violent fugitives and members of a major gang-led drug ring.







# Advancing Racial Justice

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed and exacerbated racial disparities that have long plagued our country and New Jersey. Addressing historic injustices requires systemic changes that the Department of Law and Public Safety cannot make on its own, but there is still a moral obligation to act now to promote racial justice and equity for underserved communities. On his first day in office, Acting Attorney General Bruck announced that promoting racial justice would be one of the top priorities, and instructed each of the Department’s 17 Divisions to develop a six-month action plan for pursuing racial justice with a sense of urgency. Nearly 100 initiatives were identified in response to that call to action, several of which are highlighted in this report.

*Left: A juvenile justice bill signing ceremony in Trenton.*  
*Below: Meeting with members of the Department’s Employee Resource Groups.*





Promoting Equity and Addressing Past Wrongs

**Prioritizing racial justice in civil enforcement.** In December 2021, the Acting Attorney General issued a directive instructing the Department’s civil enforcement divisions to consider how their actions may affect racial justice and equity for underserved communities when they set their investigative and enforcement priorities, to affirmatively identify and prioritize matters that promote racial justice and equity, and to routinely reassess how their actions are advancing those goals. The directive applies to the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, the Division of Consumer Affairs, the Division on Civil Rights, the Division of Gaming Enforcement, and the New Jersey Racing Commission. No other state attorney general’s office has ever issued a directive that so comprehensively incorporates racial justice into its enforcement priorities.

**Pursuing environmental justice.** With the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, our office continued in 2021 to target actors who illegally polluted or otherwise compromised the health and well-being of New Jersey residents in minority and low-income communities. This pollution has been tolerated for too long, and we are committed to remedying the wrongs that have built up over time in these underserved areas. We filed 13 such cases in 2021, bringing the total filed during the first term of the Murphy Administration to 45. These lawsuits have forced polluters to clean up our environmental justice communities and resulted in about \$20 million in judgments.

A momentous event with Garden State Equality righting historical wrongdoings against the LGBTQ+ community, and reaffirming our commitment to equal rights for all.



**Addressing racial equity in child welfare.** During the Murphy Administration, the Department of Children and Families has incorporated racial equity as one of the core approaches to all aspects of its work. In 2021, the Division of Law attorneys who handle child welfare matters have worked with the Department of Children and Families to advance the goals of racial equity and keeping families connected by maintaining kinship relationships for children. These efforts have included trainings on racial equity so that our attorneys can better support the State’s efforts to eliminate racial disparities in the child welfare system.

**Eliminating mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent offenses.** Mandatory minimum laws have fueled the significant increase in New Jersey’s prison population over the last four decades, and have also contributed to the stark racial disparities in the State’s prisons. Black residents constitute 14 percent of the State’s overall population, but 61 percent of its inmate population, with many serving sentences for non-violent drug offenses. In April 2021, the Attorney General’s Office instructed state prosecutors to waive mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent drug offenses. Between the policy’s effective date and the end of the year, over 1,200 individuals charged with qualifying offenses avoided sentences involving mandatory minimums.

Celebrating Asian American Cultural Awareness Day in Atlantic City.





*Promoting equity in grant distribution.* The Division of Administration has been working to create an interdisciplinary grant review team and to revamp the process for evaluating grant applications to promote the equitable distribution of funds. The Department awards millions of dollars of grants every year, many of them to assist underserved individuals or victims of crime. The Division of Administration is leading efforts to make the teams reviewing grants reflect the diversity of applicants in order to better serve populations in need.

*Launching the first-of-its-kind Department-wide initiative to advance racial justice.* Racial justice involves more than promoting diversity and inclusivity. It is uprooting racism and dismantling harmful policies and systems wherever they persist. On day one, the Acting Attorney General requested that all divisions within the Department of Law and Public Safety identify at least three initiatives that promote racial justice statewide. Nearly 100 projects were identified by every division and office, and several are already underway.

Combatting Bias, Discrimination, and Hate

*Addressing discrimination in the licensed professions.* In December 2021, the Acting Attorney General began the process for codifying a rule on discrimination and harassment that, if adopted, will apply to approximately 720,000 licensees overseen by 51 professional and occupational boards. As of today, only three boards have adopted explicit anti-discrimination regulations. Though other boards already have the authority to treat discrimination and bias-based harassment by

licensees as professional misconduct, the rule proposed by the Attorney General will make that authority clearer. Discrimination amounting to professional misconduct warrants discipline regardless of which board issued the offender’s license. No licensee should think otherwise.

*Educating the public and enforcing the law.* The Department’s efforts to combat bias and hate in 2021 have included implementing recommendations of the Youth Bias Task Force, increasing the frequency of our bias incident reporting from annually to monthly, holding public meetings on domestic violent extremism and white supremacy, and improving our outreach to communities with limited English language proficiency so that we can better protect them. Our Division of Criminal Justice has prosecuted hate crimes and secured federal funding to help us confront a rising tide of hate, while the Division on Civil Rights has facilitated bias incident reporting and taken enforcement action to address discrimination of all kinds. Meanwhile, we prevailed in a lawsuit against the federal government to maintain access to federal discrimination complaints so that we can better protect our residents from employment discrimination, and launched a training to help workers understand how to intervene on behalf of coworkers facing discrimination or bias-based harassment in the workplace.

A training session of the New Jersey Bias Crime Officers Association.



The annual “National Night Out Against Crime” community event in Toms River.





Ensuring Fairer Treatment for People with a Criminal History

Because of longstanding racial disparities in the criminal justice system, communities of color, especially Black Americans, are disproportionately hurt when employers deny jobs to individuals with a criminal history, or when housing providers refuse to rent to them. The Murphy Administration confronted these systemic inequities in 2021, and Divisions from across the Department of Law and Public Safety supported those efforts.

*Promoting equitable access to housing.* Everyone deserves a fair chance to find safe and affordable housing. In June 2021, Governor Murphy signed the Fair Chance in Housing Act into law, barring landlords from asking about criminal history on housing applications in most instances and providing other protections for individuals with criminal histories when they look for housing. The Fair Chance in Housing Act will be enforced by the Division on Civil Rights, which quickly promulgated rules to effectuate the law. These actions will not only promote racial equity; they will also reduce housing instability, which is a known driver of recidivism.

*Enforcing New Jersey's law to "ban the box" in employment.* The opportunity to compete act reduces obstacles to employment for people with criminal records, many of whom are disproportionately people of color. For example, employers are barred from soliciting applicants for jobs through advertising that says anyone with a criminal record will not be considered. To promote compliance, the Office of

Meeting with members of the Asbury Park community.



the Attorney General and the Department of Labor and Workforce Development partnered on the largest-ever enforcement sweep under the law. As a result, fifteen companies agreed to stop including language about applicants' criminal history in their job advertisements and/or made other changes to their hiring practices.

*Assisting justice-involved persons in reentering the workforce.* In May 2021, Governor Murphy signed a law to help formerly incarcerated individuals enter the workforce by reducing the barriers they face when seeking a professional or occupational license. The Division of Consumer Affairs has been supporting its 51 professional boards in their implementation of the new law, and has issued guidance to help applicants secure their licenses. Meanwhile, the Divisions of Alcoholic Beverage Control and Gaming Enforcement are working to address barriers to entry for justice-involved persons in the alcohol and casino industries. These vibrant industries provide job opportunities for thousands of New Jerseyans across the State, but too often individuals with histories of criminal justice involvement are precluded from taking part in them.

Student art submissions highlighting efforts to combat hate in New Jersey on display in Trenton.





Addressing Disparities in Our Criminal Legal System.

*Decriminalizing marijuana and loosening penalties for underage possession.* The War on Drugs was carried out with staggering racial bias and Black communities continue to bear the brunt. To address this, Governor Murphy signed three bills that largely decriminalize marijuana, and the Attorney General’s Office provided enforcement guidance to law enforcement that describes the requirements of the new laws.

*Launching restorative justice hubs for youth and families.* New Jersey has a large disparity in the rate of incarceration of Black youth as compared to white youth. To confront these long-lasting disparities, the Murphy Administration signed into law a two-year initiative that focuses on initial and repeat youth involvement with the justice system. The program creates restorative justice hubs in Camden, Newark, Paterson, and Trenton, and community-based reentry wraparound services including mental health services; substance use disorder treatment and recovery; housing support; employment services; financial literacy; education support; community conferences and peace circles to heal and repair harms caused by youth as a result of their behavior.

Acting Governor Sheila Oliver signs legislation to create a two-year “Restorative and Transformative Justice for Youths and Communities” pilot program.



Restoring Fair Housing Protections

*Prohibiting discriminatory practices that perpetuate systemic housing inequity.* The Acting Attorney General joined a coalition of 23 Attorneys General to support efforts by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to restore federal fair housing protections that the Trump Administration attempted to weaken. The proposal reinstates a 2013 rule that addresses when policies and practices violate the Fair Housing Act of 1968, which prohibits discrimination in housing and housing-related services because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status, or disability.

Acting Attorney General Bruck and Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner LaTourette survey the damage caused by an illegal waste dump in Camden.







# Promoting Good Policing Policy

New Jersey has continued as a national leader in the policing profession, pursuing commonsense policies that promote community trust and, ultimately, public safety. In developing these policies, the Attorney General’s Office has engaged with a broad range of stakeholders, including law enforcement leaders and civil rights organizations, to find common ground on the issues that matter most.

*Left: Launching the Monmouth County Prosecutor’s Office’s new Safe Place program.*  
*Below: Law enforcement and faith leaders discuss their unique opportunity to work together.*





### Supporting Community Policing

**Launching mental health responder pilot program.** In December 2021, the Acting Attorney General and New Jersey State Police announced a pilot program that pairs a State Trooper with a certified mental health screener to respond together to calls that involve a behavioral crisis or mental health incident. The ARRIVE Together (Alternative Responses to Reduce Instances of Violence & Escalation) initiative operates out of State Police’s Cumberland County barracks. The Rutgers School of Public Health will perform an assessment of the pilot program that will inform how the initiative can be expanded and scaled across the State.

**Innovating programs that will foster stronger police-community relations.** Through the “Bolstering Police-Youth Trust Program,” the Attorney General’s Office awarded \$165,000 in grants to police departments and municipalities to fund programs that will build relationships between officers and youth. Such efforts are key in promoting trust and enhancing public safety.

**Improving community engagement and calling for a sense of unity.** The Acting Attorney General participated in several community walks across the State, including Atlantic City, Salem, and Wildwood, to help build meaningful relationships with community members, and to listen to their concerns. These community walks were spearheaded by the Coalition for Safe Communities. In Trenton, the Department has conducted outreach visits to communities and areas identified as experiencing public safety challenges (shootings, gang activity, and overdoses) working with community leaders, faith-based leaders, and residents

Discussing mental health and policing with law enforcement and faith leaders in Gouldstown.



to assist them with the development of community programs. Meanwhile, after a shooting in Cumberland County, the Department worked with community leaders, faith-based leaders, non-profits and residents to build relationships and foster dialogue around community policing, public trust, preventing crime and addressing trauma.

### Promoting Transparency and Improving Police Training

**Publicizing use of force data.** In April 2021, the Attorney General’s Office unveiled a publicly available online “use of force” dashboard that catalogues all uses of force by New Jersey’s 38,000 law enforcement officers, the most comprehensive dataset of its kind in the country. Informing the public about instances of use of force will promote transparency and help ensure that New Jersey’s law enforcement is accountable to the public and that law enforcement’s duties are being faithfully executed.

**Expanding body worn camera policy.** In May and June 2021, the Attorney General’s Office issued a policy implementing a 2020 law signed by Governor Murphy that required that all uniformed patrol officers in New Jersey be equipped with body worn cameras, and oversaw the release of millions of dollars in grants to help police departments purchase body-worn cameras. Public trust and the transparency of law enforcement activities will be strengthened by recording a wider range of police-citizen encounters, particularly those with a greater likelihood to result in a use-of-force or internal affairs complaint.

A community walk in Salem.





**Launching Office of Justice Data.** In June 2021, the Attorney General’s Office created the Office of Justice Data to collect, analyze, and publish statewide data on various aspects of the criminal justice system, reinforcing New Jersey’s commitment to evidence-based policymaking. The Office of Justice Data is headed by the Department’s first Chief Data Officer and responsible for coordinating the Department’s various data collection obligations and ensuring that such data is made available to the public in a timely and accessible manner. This office will help guide the Department in ensuring that decision making is informed by data when developing, implementing or revising criminal justice policies.

**Broadening understanding of traffic stops to identify best practices and enhance police training.** In July 2021, the Attorney General’s Office launched the New Jersey State Police Traffic Stop Dashboard, a publicly available online dashboard that catalogues data on 6 million traffic stops performed by the New Jersey State Police over the course of ten years. The dataset is one of the most comprehensive in the country for traffic stop information and gives the public an unprecedented look at how and why the State Police conduct traffic stops. As with other transparency initiatives, this dashboard will help promote better and more responsible policing, protecting the safety of law enforcement and the public, and helping us determine whether other policy changes are needed.

**Ensuring police accountability.** Following a New Jersey Supreme Court decision authorizing the public release of certain police disciplinary information pursuant to a 2020 Attorney General policy, the Attorney General’s Office began publicly releasing the names of law enforcement officers who were subject to “major discipline,” i.e., infractions resulting in termination, demotion, and suspension of more than five days, on a going-forward basis.

Wildwood Police Chief Lloyd chats with young summer campers.



**Issuing policies relating to “no-knock” warrants and First Amendment “right to record” police activity.** In December 2021, the Acting Attorney General issued two major statewide law enforcement policies. The first regulates the application of no-knock warrants in New Jersey to ensure they are used only when necessary to promote officer or civilian safety, and establishes approval and reporting requirements for the rare instances when no-knock warrants are used. The second ensures that the First Amendment’s bounds are as clear as possible—to both civilians and law enforcement alike—with respect to the right to observe, object to, and record police activity.

**Promoting diversity in law enforcement recruiting and hiring.** In December 2021, the Acting Attorney General issued guidelines to law enforcement agencies, pursuant to a 2020 statute signed by Governor Murphy, focused on working toward the goal of reflecting the diversity of the population of the community each agency is charged with protecting, and establishing officer demographic data collection requirements.

New Jersey State Police Troopers gather for a ceremony in Jersey City.





Honoring Our Law Enforcement Officers

**Recognizing excellence in policing.** Beginning in July 2021, the Acting Attorney General launched the “New Jersey Officer of the Week,” an initiative designed to identify and publicize acts of exceptional leadership and service by New Jersey officers on a regular basis. The Department also continued the Excellence in Policing Initiative, which included annual awards to recognize law enforcement officers, professionals, and departments who demonstrated exceptional service and innovation. This year’s awards recognized officers who helped safely evacuate burning apartment buildings; an officer who spearheaded a multi-jurisdictional resilience initiative to bridge the needs of officers recovering from work-related traumatic events and to create an environment accepting of those seeking assistance; an exceptional police chaplain; and an officer who pioneered an impactful program focused on building police relationships with youth with special needs.

**Commemorating fallen officers.** Law enforcement officers too often make the ultimate sacrifice to protect their communities. In September 2021, the Acting Attorney General and Acting U.S. Attorney hosted a ceremony at the Empty Sky Memorial in Liberty State Park to honor fallen law enforcement officers and first responders, and members of our community who still endure the long-term health effects and trauma caused by the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Then, to commemorate the more than two dozen New Jersey law enforcement officers who died from COVID-19 and to honor their service, the Acting Attorney General hosted a formal ceremony in October 2021 and presented a permanent memorial that is featured in the ground floor of the Hughes Justice Complex in Trenton.

A sunset ceremony at Liberty State Park commemorating law enforcement and first responders on the 20th anniversary of 9/11.



**Ensuring charitable funds raised for fallen and injured officers are spent as intended.** In December 2021, the Acting Attorney General and the Division of Consumer Affairs cracked down on a charity and affiliated individuals for allegedly misusing more than \$200,000 in charitable donations that were raised primarily to benefit law enforcement officers and their families, and in particular families of officers killed or injured in the line of duty. Instead, the organization allegedly made direct payments to the board members and financed their personal expenses, including restaurant outings and an extravagant vacation to Walt Disney World. Actions such as this one help ensure that funds raised for such a worthy cause are not misspent.

Honoring New Jersey law enforcement professionals who died from COVID-19.





# In the Spotlight



# Responding to Emergency and Disaster

**Protecting the public from a pandemic.** In 2021, the Department continued to support the State’s response to the pandemic by enforcing and defending Governor Murphy’s Executive Orders and other policies designed to protect residents from the spread of COVID-19. Though many lawsuits challenged these policies, none were successful. Meanwhile, the Department supported Governor Murphy’s moratorium on eviction orders with the announcement of new measures to protect tenants from illegal evictions, which have put families at risk during the COVID-19 pandemic, and helped expand access to mental health care through policies that encouraged mental health professionals to provide free services to low-income, uninsured individuals and frontline healthcare workers.

**Supporting New Jersey’s recovery from COVID-19.** After the first COVID-19 vaccinations in New Jersey were administered in December 2020, the Division of Consumer Affairs played a critical role working with the New Jersey Department of Health in scaling up the State’s vaccination efforts, rolling out a suite of policies to expand the pool of healthcare workers eligible to administer COVID-19 vaccinations. The Murphy Administration’s comprehensive vaccination rollout paved the way for New Jersey’s workforce to return to work, including the Department of Law and Public Safety, which successfully transitioned back to the office beginning in July 2021. As New Jersey reopened, our regulatory divisions were able to keep industries operating and in compliance with health and safety rules, while the Juvenile Justice Commission was able to resume pre-pandemic activities for its residents while protecting the safety of residents and staff.

**Responding to Tropical Storm Ida.** Emergencies compounded each other in September 2021 when Tropical Storm Ida tore through New Jersey in the midst of our efforts to overcome the pandemic. Governor Murphy declared a state of emergency in all 21 counties, allowing a wide array of resources to be deployed quickly throughout the State. With our federal partners, the New Jersey State Police and the Office of Emergency Management played essential roles in assisting residents and served as vital resources during recovery, while the Division of Consumer Affairs protected residents from disaster-related fraud and price-gouging.

New Jersey State Police  
Superintendent Colonel Callahan  
visits Hillsborough to see the  
damage from Tropical Storm Ida.



# In the Spotlight



## Protecting New Jersey Workers

**Ensuring workers are paid prevailing wages.** The Office of the Attorney General wielded both its criminal and civil enforcement authority to crack down on companies that failed to pay their workers the prevailing wages to which they were entitled. In April 2021, the Department secured the guilty plea of a construction company payroll manager who demanded cash kickbacks from employees and failed to pay them for numerous hours of work to circumvent prevailing wage rules. Meanwhile, the company itself agreed to pay \$1 million to the seven workers who were cheated. And in October 2021, the Department reached a \$175,000 settlement in a civil lawsuit under the False Claims Act against a state contractor who did not pay prevailing wages.

**Protecting family leave.** The COVID-19 pandemic reinforced for people across the country the importance of being able to take time off of work to care for a loved one who is sick without putting your job at risk. In 2021, the Division on Civil Rights adopted new rules under the New Jersey Family Leave Act to implement a law signed by Governor Murphy to strengthen the law and add new protections for pandemic-related absences from work. The Division on Civil Rights also took action to enforce the law, including by securing tens of thousands of dollars for a worker who was fired after taking leave to care for his father who was dying from cancer.

**Combating worker misclassification.** Under Governor Murphy, New Jersey has enacted laws to crack down on worker misclassification and strengthen the enforcement tools available to address violations. Working with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, our office has been putting those tools to use, including through the first company-wide stop work order ever issued in the state. Meanwhile, the federal government restored a number of worker protections after the Trump-era rollbacks of those protections were challenged by New Jersey and other states.

Acting Attorney General Bruck  
greets staff from the New Jersey  
Division of Highway Traffic Safety.



# In the Spotlight



## Preserving the Environment

***Standing up to pipeline companies.*** After years of litigation, culminating in a 5-4 decision by the U.S. Supreme Court in June 2021, the PennEast Pipeline Company, which was seeking to build a 116-mile natural gas pipeline across Pennsylvania and New Jersey, announced in September 2021 that the project would be canceled. The pipeline would have destroyed acres of New Jersey’s conserved land and threatened species, making its cancellation a major victory for New Jersey and its environment.

***Addressing air pollution.*** In July 2021, our office secured a victory in our lawsuit against the federal government for failing to take appropriate action on air pollution reduction plans submitted by certain “upwind” states. Our lawsuit alleged that the unchecked pollution from upwind states creates an ongoing threat to the health of residents in New Jersey and the other downwind states and makes it harder for the downwind states to meet federal air quality standards. The federal government must now act on the upwind states’ plans in 2022. We also acted in 2021 to challenge Trump Administration rules on national ambient air quality standards for ozone and particulate matter, greenhouse gas emission standards for airplanes, major sources of hazardous air pollutants, and modifications to existing sources of emissions – none of which adequately protect New Jersey’s environment or the health of our residents. And, after lawsuits by New Jersey and other states, the federal government has already eliminated rules that would have skewed rulemaking procedures in favor of industry.

***Protecting our water.*** With the Department of Environmental Protection, our office took action in January 2021 to address contamination of groundwater and drinking water resources on and around U.S. military bases and other federal facilities in New Jersey. The State’s lawsuit seeks to hold the federal government accountable for contamination related to the use of aqueous film-forming foam, a fire-suppressing substance that contains carcinogenic “forever chemicals.” We also pursued litigation to challenge a pair of Trump Administration rules that would have weakened the Clean Water Act; in both instances, courts sided with the challengers.

*The State takes action to force the immediate clean-up of contamination from an illegal waste dump in Camden.*



# In the Spotlight



# Protecting New Jersey Consumers

**Enforcing consumer financial protection laws.** Under Governor Murphy, the Division of Consumer Affairs has stepped up to protect consumers from frauds involving financial products and services in ways that it never has before, with a focus on predatory practices targeting our most vulnerable residents. In 2021, the State shut down a network offering fraudulent mortgage adjustment services to families trying to hold onto their homes; obtained a \$1.6 million judgment against a company that failed to deliver on its money-back guarantees for services to assist individuals and their families obtain Medicaid benefits; and secured millions of dollars for consumers who were overcharged credit card interest. Meanwhile, we favorably resolved a challenge to a Trump Administration rule that could have undermined efforts to keep predatory lenders from charging exorbitant interest rates.

**Delivering justice for defrauded consumers.** To remedy frauds against New Jersey consumers, the Division of Consumer Affairs reached consumer-fraud settlements with a manufacturer of surgical mesh products over failing to disclose multiple serious health risks; an online florist over failing to compensate customers when it delivered flowers that were not what it advertised; a rental car company over unfairly charging consumers for car damage they did not cause; and multiple gas stations overcharges. The Division of Consumer Affairs also cracked down on social media platforms for putting young people at risk by inducing them to use the platforms in ways that are potentially harmful; on a timeshare service that allegedly defrauded consumers; and permanently shut down a charitable fundraising scam operation that made 1.3 billion deceptive fundraising calls while collecting more than \$110 million dollars from trusting donors.

**Protecting investors in an evolving market.** Among its other significant enforcement actions, in 2021 the Bureau of Securities became a national leader in the regulation of cryptocurrency investments by issuing cease-and-desist orders to two companies selling unregistered securities in the form of interest-earning cryptocurrency products. These companies – which collectively have raised over \$28 billion through unlawful sales – are not regulated by the State or the federal government like traditional banks and brokerage firms, and consumers’ investments are not similarly insured or protected. Further, due to the volatility of the cryptocurrency market and the lack of regulatory oversight, these platforms present a heightened risk of loss to investors. Separately, the Bureau acted to shut down five companies touting fraudulent investment opportunities relating to cryptocurrencies while using tactics common in investment scams to lure investors.

*The Division of Consumer Affairs provides information about regulations, registration requirements, and consumer rights at Kosher Fest.*



# In the Spotlight



# Defending the Rights of Our Diverse Residents

**Protecting reproductive and parental rights.** With constitutional protections for reproductive rights under attack in States around the country and before the U.S. Supreme Court, our office has supported preserving our reproductive freedoms. At the same time, the Murphy Administration recognizes that we must ensure that reproductive healthcare is available, affordable, and safe here in New Jersey. That’s why the State Board of Medical Examiners finally repealed targeted restrictions on abortion providers that had been on the books for decades and were no longer medically necessary. Our office also stands up for the rights of workers who become pregnant or are breastfeeding/chestfeeding when their employers fail to accommodate their status so they can stay on the job. In 2021, the Division on Civil Rights reached settlements and issued findings of probable cause in numerous cases of alleged pregnancy and/or breastfeeding discrimination.

**Confronting discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community.** We cannot always undo the injustices of the past, but we can demonstrate our commitment to recognizing the harms they have caused and take the necessary steps forward to make them right. In 2021, the Office of the Attorney General and the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control publicly apologized for the systematic, discriminatory targeting of gay bars between 1933 and 1967, and vacated 126 enforcement actions that suspended or revoked the licenses of liquor establishments during that era because they served LGBTQ+ patrons. Meanwhile, our office has taken enforcement action to address anti-LGBTQ+ harassment and has advocated at the federal level for legislation to protect LGBTQ+ individuals and for a more inclusive approach to the LGBTQ+ community in federal programs.

**Protecting immigrant families.** The Murphy Administration’s efforts to protect New Jersey’s immigrant families have outlasted the Trump Administration’s attacks on them. In January 2021, a court threw out a federal challenge to the Immigrant Trust Directive, which has helped to foster trust between New Jersey’s police and the State’s historically marginalized communities by drawing a clear line between the work of state law enforcement officers and federal civil immigration officers. In August 2021, the federal court of appeals agreed that our policy is lawful. Meanwhile, we have continued to defend DREAMers in litigation over the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy, led a coalition of Attorneys General in supporting DACA’s codification in federal law, and successfully challenged the federal Public Charge Rule, which sought to punish immigrants who access public benefits.

The annual Jersey City Pride Festival.



# In the Spotlight



## Tackling the Opioid Epidemic

***Holding the pharmaceutical industry accountable.*** After years of legal battles with the companies and senior executives who triggered and fostered the opioid crisis, 2021 saw the Office of the Attorney General begin to reach settlements to change industry practices and recover monetary payments on behalf of the State and its residents. Settlements with the country’s three largest pharmaceutical distributors, a drug manufacturer, a consulting firm, and a former chief executive officer may collectively yield over \$600 million, while investigations and litigation against other industry participants remain ongoing. Unlike some past nationwide settlements that have not helped the communities hurt by corporate misconduct, these agreements are designed to help fund the State’s efforts to prevent overdose deaths for years to come.

***Promoting treatment and harm reduction.*** The Office of the New Jersey Coordinator for Addiction Responses and Enforcement Strategies (NJ CARES) launched and expanded programs designed to ensure that individuals with substance use disorder recognize that law enforcement officers are there to help. NJ CARES issued grant awards to Camden, Newark, Paterson, Toms River, and Trenton so that Opioid Response Teams consisting of a police officer and/or EMS worker and substance abuse recovery advocate can provide 24/7 crisis intervention services at overdose scenes, police stations, emergency rooms, and other locations, with the goal of diverting individuals into treatment. Meanwhile, NJ CARES continued to support the “Operation Helping Hand” program in the County Prosecutors’ Offices, and four professional licensing boards advanced rules to require those who prescribe opioids for the management of chronic pain to also prescribe naloxone to certain patients who face heightened risk of a fatal overdose.

***Prosecuting those who fuel the crisis.*** The Attorney General’s Office and New Jersey State Police seized \$135,000 worth of illegal drugs by taking down two fentanyl pill pressing mills in Passaic County and prosecuted those who ran it. In October 2021, in “Operation Worldwide,” the New Jersey State Police and Division of Criminal Justice arrested the alleged head, supplier, and 10 associates in connection with a drug ring that was dealing heroin, crack cocaine, and fentanyl in Salem City. In addition, the Department charged four individuals including a pharmacist with conspiring to illegally obtain and distribute over 30,000 high-dose oxycodone pills, and continued to revoke and suspend the professional licenses of individuals who indiscriminately prescribe controlled dangerous substances.

*NJ CARES joins the New Jersey Department of Health at their Annual EMS Convention in Atlantic City.*



# Divisions, Offices, and Commissions

The Department of Law and Public Safety could not accomplish all that it does without the hard work of its various divisions, offices, and commissions. Throughout 2021, these entities served the people of New Jersey in numerous ways, benefiting from the extraordinary work of the more than 7,700 career public servants who make up the Department.



Members of the Acting Attorney General's team come 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), which celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2021, is the largest law enforcement agency in New Jersey, with over 3,000 enlisted and over 1,100 civilian members. The NJSP is led by Colonel Patrick Callahan, who was confirmed as Superintendent on December 20, 2021. NJSP 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.

- The Real Time Crime Center (RTCC) Central was officially opened in April 2021 after more than a year of development and planning between NJSP, the New Jersey Office of the Governor, and the Attorney General’s Office. The RTCC is New Jersey’s newest state-of-the-art regional crime center that is managed by Regional Operations and Intelligence Center Section/NJSP personnel, and comprised of a task force of personnel from allied agencies including Trenton Police Department, Mercer County Prosecutor’s Office, Mercer County Sheriff’s Office, and New Jersey Parole. The purpose of the RTCC is to drive down violent crime activity in the City of Trenton and the surrounding region using intelligence-led policing best practices and collaborative information sharing between law enforcement partners. Since its inception less than one year ago, the RTCC Central has already seen the shooting incident and murder rates in Trenton begin to drop.
- NJSP, the Homeland Security Branch, and the Emergency Management Section continued to lead and coordinate the operational response efforts surrounding the COVID-19 public health emergency, including the prioritization and acquisition of PPE for healthcare workers and first responders, and working with healthcare sector partners to meet the demand of COVID-19 testing and vaccination site security.
- NJSP created the Office of Employee Wellness and Community Outreach in January 2021 to enhance community relations and strengthen internal employee resiliency, diversity and inclusion. Since its inception, the Office spearheaded over 750 different statewide intel-led community outreach events.



## 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 over 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 plays an important role in New Jersey elections through its representation of the Secretary of State, the Division of Elections, 21 county boards of elections, and nine superintendents of elections. In March 2021, Governor Murphy signed historic legislation establishing in-person early voting in New Jersey, along with a requirement to use electronic poll books. DOL helped effectuate this expansion of voting rights for the November 2021 general election by working nearly 1,000 shifts to provide representation and support for its clients from early voting through Election Day.
- DOL was instrumental in the procurement of the high-profile Portal North Bridge construction contract. The largest award in NJ TRANSIT’s history, the project will replace the over-100-year-old bridge spanning the Hackensack River that is key to passenger rail service in the Northeast. DOL provided legal support throughout the procurement process, from the pre-advertisement stage through the ultimate bid award.
- DOL represented the State in corporation business tax litigation in which a taxpayer filed multiple cases contesting the Division of Taxation’s denial of refunds for taxes, interest and additional assessments totaling approximately \$377 million. The litigation involved a complex scheme of corporate structures and partnerships, including foreign entities. Ultimately, DOL’s efforts resulted in the State retaining over \$330 million in contested tax revenue.





# Division of Criminal Justice

Lyndsay V. Ruotolo, *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 200 detectives and 140 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.

- DCJ continued to work with their law enforcement partners to target violent criminals and reduce the number of guns on the street. DCJ played a vital role in the creation of a statewide task force to enhance gun violence investigations and prosecutions, and assisted in two major gun buyback events in over 15 different locations that resulted in the collection of 3,747 firearms.
- DCJ led the Attorney General’s Directive Establishing Policies, Practices, and Procedures to Promote Juvenile Justice Reform that was effective in January 2021. The Directive outlined five mechanisms available to police officers and prosecutors to divert youth from the juvenile justice system and limit their likelihood of unnecessary detention, reinforcing New Jersey’s role as a leader on reform. DCJ led state-wide law enforcement training and successfully implemented a Directive that transformed juvenile justice in New Jersey.
- As a member of the New Jersey Regional Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, DCJ assisted in Operation 24/7 which targeted individuals who were using the Internet to harm, abuse, and otherwise exploit children online. In total, beginning in April 2021 through the end of June 2021, New Jersey ICAC Task Force members from across the State arrested 31 persons, charging them with various crimes, including attempted sexual assault, theft by extortion, and endangering the welfare of children for the possession, distribution, and manufacturing of child sexual abuse material.



# Division of Consumer Affairs

Sean P. Neafsey, *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. DCA’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. DCA 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’s broad regulatory and enforcement authority has allowed DCA to play a significant role in furthering the Department’s core priorities of reducing gun violence and advancing racial justice. These efforts include actions to enforce the Consumer Fraud Act against companies that sell or advertise firearms and related products to New Jersey residents without properly disclosing that their use is prohibited or restricted in New Jersey, or through other deceptive and misleading practices. DCA is also pursuing an omnibus rulemaking to address discrimination and bias-based harassment on the basis of race or other protected characteristics within the professions and occupations licensed by the 51 boards supported by DCA.
- DCA vigorously pursued problematic corporate privacy and cybersecurity practices in 2021. DCA entered into a \$21 million multi-state settlement with a medical debt collection agency that failed to prevent a data breach involving more than 246,000 New Jersey residents, as well as several New Jersey-only settlements totaling over \$1 million with HIPAA covered entities and business associates that collectively failed to safeguard the personal information of around 150,000 New Jersey residents. These settlements also required changes to corporate practices to reduce the risk of future violations.
- DCA made important strides in combatting sexual misconduct by licensed professionals. In April 2021, the Attorney General issued a directive ordering sweeping changes to how the Department handles these cases. In addition to carrying out that directive, DCA has continued to revoke and suspend the licenses of practitioners who breach the trust that their patients and clients place in them.





## 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, 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, to care for a family member or the equivalent of a family member with a serious health condition, and for certain other reasons. Beginning in 2022, DCR will also enforce the Fair Chance in Housing Act, which limits housing providers’ ability to consider a person’s criminal history in deciding whether to extend an offer or whether to rent a home after extending an offer. DCR also provides training to the general public, government agencies, volunteer organizations, and the business community to promote awareness of the laws DCR enforces, to decrease prejudice and bias, and to educate members of the public about available resources if they believe their rights have been violated.

- In the Murphy Administration, DCR has expanded its proactive enforcement of New Jersey’s civil rights laws. In 2021, those efforts included an agreement with a Big Four accounting firm to resolve an investigation of a training program for violating the LAD’s prohibition on employment discrimination based on sex, gender identity, and gender expression. The agreement included hundreds of thousands of dollars in relief, as well as reforms to the company’s practices. DCR also sued Jackson Township for wielding its zoning authority to discriminate against Orthodox Jews.
- DCR continues to tackle and stand up to hate and bias on all fronts. DCR marked its 75th anniversary with a convening that included sessions around discrimination and harassment, health equity, anti-racism, youth anti-bias engagement, and fair housing; hosted listening sessions about white supremacy, domestic threats, and youth extremism; and held a student competition through which young people across New Jersey offered submissions illustrating how they stand up to bias and prejudice in their communities.
- DCR built its Education and Training unit in 2021, with a team of trainers who work to proactively educate the public about the Law Against Discrimination and how to recognize and prevent acts of discrimination and bias-based harassment through interactive virtual and in-person trainings. The unit has already offered more than 27 trainings to more than 1,650 participants in New Jersey.



## 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.

- The Office of Policing Policy assisted in the implementation of the Use of Force Policy that was issued by the Attorney General’s Office in 2020. The Policy entailed two separate training requirements. The first is training officers on the new policy. The training consists of eight modules and was developed through collaborative efforts between various agencies. The second requirement includes training all 38,000 law enforcement officers in both Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement and Integrating Communications, Assessment, and Tactics, which is expected to be completed by April 30, 2022. OPIA also helped roll out the use of force reporting portal and public dashboard where all agencies must report use of force incidents.
- In both *State v. Ahmed Mahgoub, Faiza Ibrahim and F&A Transportation, Inc.* and *State v. Shelim Kahlique, Henry Rhodes and A-1 Elegant Transport*, OPIA obtained indictments charging the two school bus companies, as well as their owners and key employees, of defrauding public school districts. Both companies used buses that would not pass safety inspections and drivers who were not properly licensed to transport children. It is alleged that F&A received approximately \$3.5 million in public funds, while A-1 reaped in excess of \$1 million in public funds. OPIA also began investigating allegations that DOC officers and supervisors assigned to the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility in Clinton had used improper and excessive force against inmates during forced cell extractions of inmates. To date, OPIA has charged fifteen corrections officers as a result of that investigation.
- The Integrity Bureau continues to investigate every police fatal encounter. The Conviction Review Unit has screened 127 cases, moved 20 cases into full re-investigation, and moved to set aside the conviction of one individual. The Unit entered into a collaboration with Healing Justice to train staff in trauma-informed approach to victims and families.





# Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor

Tracy M. Thompson, *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. OIFP is led by Tracy Thompson, who was confirmed as Insurance Fraud Prosecutor on June 30, 2021. 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.

- To increase cross-state collaboration and enhance insurance fraud investigations and prosecutions with New York, Pennsylvania, and Delaware, OIFP hosted the first ever Quad-State Insurance Fraud Summit.
- In October 2021, the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit executed search warrants and seizure orders against property held by Dr. Daniel Cassell, a provider who engaged in a long-term scheme to defraud the Medicaid program. It resulted in the seizure of \$2.3 million and 15 passenger vans, with liens being filed against eight real properties. Cassell was charged with second-degree health care claims fraud, third-degree Medicaid fraud, and second-degree theft by deception for a long-term scheme of overbilling Medicaid for services that were not rendered.
- The Private Insurance Bureau continued to investigate and prosecute insurance fraud and related crimes from a mostly in-home and virtual environment due to COVID-19. One case involved an employee of American Family Life Insurance Company of Columbus who was indicted for insurance fraud after he allegedly established nine group accounts and falsified dozens of electronic policy applications for supplemental insurance coverage on behalf of numerous fictitious individuals between March 2018 and July 2018. In doing so, he allegedly created the false impression that he was entitled to commission payments for enrolling individuals into supplemental insurance policies.



# Juvenile Justice Commission

Jennifer LeBaron, PhD, *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, the JJC has prioritized the health of youth and staff in all facilities by implementing comprehensive safety measures and working collaboratively with its partners 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, the JJC implemented a transparent approach to reporting by publicly offering the daily number of positive and negative COVID-19 cases online.
- The 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, 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 86%, and the number of youth committed to JJC facilities by the Family Court has declined by 92%, with youth of color accounting for more than 85% of these reductions.
- In 2021, several components of the JJC’s Reform Plan for Transforming Agency Practice became operational. As part of that plan, 17 community-based service providers began providing a wide array of prosocial services including art, physical recreation, language, music, and self-care and wellness, among many others. The JJC also implemented the Youth Worker Apprentice Program, an initiative to hire youth released from JJC custody as part-time youth worker trainees allowing them to obtain critical training, develop job skills, and enhance their eligibility to apply for full-time employment. In 2021, five Youth Worker Apprentices were hired by the JJC, and one apprentice transitioned into full time employment as a JJC Youth Worker. Lastly, the JJC opened its first independent living home for young people released on parole. This four-bedroom residence provides housing and case management services to youth 18 years of age or older and aims to transition youth into their own stable housing.





# 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 issued Special Ruling, SR 2021-06, where ABC undertook an unprecedented introspective review of its historical role in perpetuating social injustice and discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community. ABC formally acknowledged and condemned its past discriminatory actions, and vacated all disciplinary charges.
- With exclusive jurisdiction to issue liquor licenses at American Dream, ABC issued the first permits allowing alcohol sales at the American Dream retail and entertainment complex in Bergen County. Three permits have been issued and approximately 13 applications are pending as of the writing of this report.
- ABC concluded major enforcement actions against several licensees whose conduct posed a risk to public health, safety, and welfare. This includes actions against a licensee in Wildwood who was suspended for 257 days for serving alcohol to underage individuals on two separate occasions; a licensee in Atlantic City was suspended for 142 days after criminal activity, hindering an investigation, and a brawl led to an off-premise shooting with four victims; and a licensee in Monmouth County agreed to pay a \$400,000 penalty for overserving a patron leading to a motor vehicle death.



# 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 responsible for enforcing the Casino Control Act. DGE’s workforce consists of attorneys, investigators, and accountants, and is supported by NJSP 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 with respect to oversight of casino gaming and sports book operations while continuing to monitor the rapid growth in both areas. Through September 2021, the ten licensed sports wagering operators posted \$557 million in total sports wagering revenue, which was a 150% increase from last year. During this same time frame, the eight licensed Internet Gaming operators posted \$988 million in total Internet Gaming Revenue, which is a 44% increase from the prior year. DGE worked with the providers to create best practices in the areas of Responsible Gaming and Cyber Security to protect the interest of the consumers and the public.
- In November 2021, DGE adopted regulations to implement fixed odds wagering on horseraces – helping to make New Jersey the first state in the country to legalize these wagers after Governor Murphy signed A4909 in August 2021. And through its existing regulatory functions, DGE continued to mitigate illegal, unregulated, untaxed, online casinos, and sports wagering sites, which compete directly with licensed casino operators and present a growing threat to New Jersey’s legal, regulated, licensed gaming industry.
- DGE adopted amendments to its equal employment opportunity regulations to enhance the provisions relating to harassment, including sexual harassment. With the promulgation of those rules, New Jersey continues to ensure strong protections in this area and leads the nation in terms of progressive equal opportunity requirements in its regulation of the gaming industry. And through Acting Attorney General Bruck’s racial justice initiative, DGE will use its authority in this area to address racial inequities, including as it relates to pay equity, hiring, and promotional opportunities, and institute racial justice and implicit bias training.





# 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 the 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.

- The new, thoroughbred riding crop rules, which prohibit the use of the riding crop unless necessary for the safety of the horse or rider, were implemented when Monmouth Park commenced its meet on May 28, 2021. In implementing these rules, the NJRC provided a copy of the new rules and a summary of the new rules in English and Spanish to all jockeys, jockey apprentices, and exercise riders, and NJRC stewards met with them at the time of licensure to answer questions and provide additional information.
- The NJRC implemented a Fingerprint Initiative in 2021 to ensure that all licensees are fingerprinted at the time they obtain an initial license and renewed every five years thereafter. As part of the Fingerprint Initiative, the NJRC hired a Chief Inspector to oversee and train the licensing Inspectors regarding fingerprint procedures, and instituted monthly meetings to review compliance and provide additional training.
- The NJRC adopted amendments to the equine fatality report rules, which require that a trainer must submit the Equine Fatality Report within 48 hours after the death of a horse on any part of the grounds of a New Jersey racetrack or off-track training facility. The amendments include a requirement that a post-mortem necropsy should be conducted at a facility designated by the NJRC and that the attending veterinarian for the deceased horse should submit treatment records for the 30-day period preceding the horse’s death.

# 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.

- Beginning in April 2021, the SACB successfully reopened combat sports activities after a 12-month shutdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the reopening, the SACB has successfully regulated over a dozen combat sports events, including a nationally televised event on Christmas. As a result of the SACB’s strict COVID-19 protocols, including closed-set events, masking, testing, and social distancing practices, there have been no reports of COVID-19 outbreaks as a result of participation in any events held in New Jersey.
- As part of Acting Attorney General Bruck’s racial justice initiative, SACB met with staff members as well as external and internal stakeholders to gain input on how members of certain historically underserved communities may benefit from a careful scrutiny of existing SACB practices and procedures with the objective of improving equity in the way the Commission serves them. After the discussion, the SACB identified potential barriers that may impede access to services or opportunities it provides, considered and determined whether new policies, regulations, practices or processes would reduce or eliminate such barriers, and developed a plan to implement a list of realistic initiatives that will enhance racial equity.
- The SACB made history by regulating for the first time, six consecutive professional mixed martial arts closed-set events, which were promoted by the Professional Fighting League and nationally televised live on ESPN at the Ocean Resort Hotel Casino in Atlantic City.



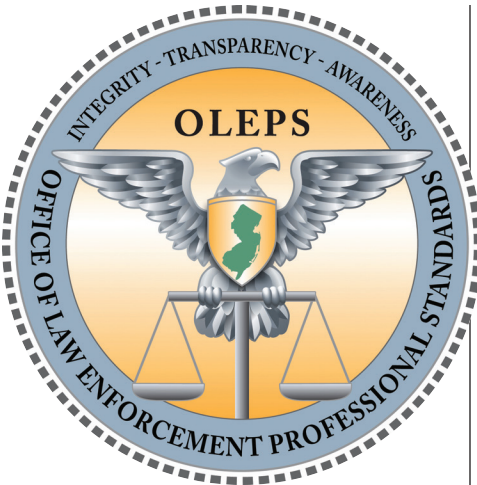


# Division of Highway Traffic Safety

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.

- A major public information campaign, called “Take Control of Your Destiny – Don’t Drive Distracted,” was launched to address New Jersey’s distracted driving problem. The “Take Control of Your Destiny” campaign featured colorful steering wheels depicting life milestones like graduation, marriage, and creative and professional interests, accompanied by the tagline “You Have Places to Go. Don’t Drive Distracted.” The campaign reminded the public that they should put down the phone and keep their eyes on the road in order to achieve their destinies. The campaign generated almost 70 million impressions across all social media channels and almost 60,000-page views to the HTS website.
- HTS undertook new initiatives designed to explore and ensure equitable distribution of its grant funding and services as part of Acting Attorney General Bruck’s racial justice initiative. A newly created position at HTS, Manager of Strategic Development, engaged in one-on-one conversations with program managers of most full year HTS grant programs to understand how they currently incorporate equity into their activities, what works, and what does not work. HTS then prepared a best practice report to advise grantees on how to better ensure equity as a primary consideration in their grant-funded projects. Starting with FY2022 grant applications, all grantees must describe tasks to foster engagement including traditionally underserved segments of their communities.
- Rowan University conducted groundbreaking research for HTS on the issue of driver distraction, which found that rates of distraction among New Jersey drivers approach 25% along certain high-volume roadways. To better understand the prevalence of the issue, a comprehensive study was conducted involving ten high crash corridors in the Spring and Summer of 2021. The outcomes from the study will assist HTS in planning future countermeasures.



# 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 continuance of its commitment to public transparency of law enforcement actions, OLEPS published an innovative, public facing, interactive dashboard illustrating aggregate data of over six million State Police motor vehicle stops, including post-stop enforcement actions, from 2009 to June 30, 2020. The dashboard reflects the total number of stops conducted, the reason for the stop, any enforcement action taken, including summonses, warnings issued, the number of searches conducted, and the number of uses of force and arrests. The dashboard is expected to be updated annually.
- OLEPS reviewed approximately 100 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 also worked closely with the State Police on multiple progressive law enforcement initiatives, such as the implementation of all Attorney General training and policy initiatives.
- OLEPS produced multiple internal and public reports. For example, OLEPS published its Oversight Report in which OLEPS reviewed data, motor vehicle digital recordings, and motor vehicle stop reports, among other materials, for over 600 State Police conducted motor vehicle stops. OLEPS also published reports detailing the State Police internal affairs process, as well as data associated with reviewed and aggregated misconduct.





# 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 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 adopted new regulations to address the challenges that victims face. This includes making available new types of assistance to previously underserved victims of human trafficking, considering a deceased victim’s potential income in determining a surviving dependent’s loss of support, lessening the burden of proof standard to credible evidence when submitting support documentation, no longer requiring the return of the security deposit from a landlord as it creates an undue financial hardship for victims seeking to reuse it, no longer precluding victims with non-indictable warrants or active criminal charges from receiving services, and ensuring all victims are eligible to receive an award for compensation if there is an emergent need for housing in order to protect the victim’s physical safety.
- VCCO effectively transitioned appeal cases and outreach trainings to a virtual platform to address the claimants’ right to appeal and due process without any COVID-19 related delays. Additionally, VCCO provided virtual trainings to victim service agencies and providers, with an emphasis on Hospital Violence Intervention Programs. An added benefit to conducting virtual trainings is eliminating the time taken to travel to more remote areas of the State, which provides an opportunity to increase outreach efforts and the ability to schedule more trainings.
- VCCO assisted in several high-profile cases including a large group of human trafficking cases in Robbinsville involving approximately 200 individuals. For the 110 individuals who filed a claim, VCCO issued each of these victims a *de minimis* award to assist with their basic expenses, paid for their medical care arising from their forced containment, and is in the process of providing relocation assistance.

# 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 and 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 and compliance. 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 missions.

- DOA implemented a grant program to provide over \$57 million in funding for law enforcement agencies across the State to purchase body-worn cameras. This program helped advance legislation signed by Governor Murphy that required by June 1, 2021, all uniformed patrol officers to wear a body-worn camera while on duty.
- DOA’s grants unit managed millions of federal dollars in 2021, including securing over \$22 million in federal competitive dollars, receiving over \$56 in federal formula grants, and administering over \$68 million in Victims of Crime Act dollars.
- DOA was instrumental in ensuring that Department employees had the information technology equipment needed to telework, and to prepare offices for employees’ return in July 2021. This included distribution of laptops and technology to allow for efficient remote workspaces, and protective barriers and masks for in-office work.





## Office of Justice Data

Kristin Golden, PhD, *Chief Data Officer*  
[www.njoag.gov/ojd](http://www.njoag.gov/ojd)

The Office of Justice Data (OJD) coordinates data collection and analysis across the Department of Law and Public Safety, ensuring the Department meets various statutory obligations. With a particular focus on criminal justice data, OJD promotes transparency and accountability through timely and accessible public data releases. Working with other criminal justice and law enforcement stakeholders, OJD helps to ensure that the Department’s policymaking is rooted in data and rigorous statistical analysis.

- OJD was established in June 2021, which highlights the importance of data and analyses in the Criminal Justice System. OJD has brought on a Deputy Chief Data Officer and is in the final stages of selecting staff for four manager-level positions.
- OJD has furthered the Office of the Attorney General’s commitment to transparency through timely public data releases. For example, OJD maintained the Use of Force Portal and Public Dashboard, which is updated monthly. OJD also collected and consolidated data on Major Discipline issued to law enforcement in New Jersey between June 15, 2020 and December 31, 2020.
- OJD is tasked with developing a comprehensive Criminal Justice System including data from arrest to release. OJD has met with key agencies, and initiated the discussions on the importance of data sharing as well as the need for a comprehensive Criminal Justice Data Warehouse. These conversations have helped formulate the internal plan for the physical creation of the system, which will take place in 2022.



## Attorney General’s Advocacy Institute

Margaret A. Cotoia, *Director*  
[www.njoag.gov/agai](http://www.njoag.gov/agai)

The New Jersey Attorney General’s Advocacy Institute (AGAI) provides training that meets the practice needs of deputy and assistant attorneys general, county prosecutors, and other government lawyers. The AGAI runs litigation skills courses and lecture programs and is an accredited New Jersey and Pennsylvania continuing legal education provider.

- The AGAI conducted over 100 virtual lecture and skills programs in 2021, educating 10,570 attendees with a focus on its core constituencies of assistant and deputy attorneys general and County Prosecutors and assistant prosecutors.
- The AGAI provided eight multi-day litigation skills programs, including five multi-day sessions of criminal trial advocacy skills training for assistant prosecutors and Division of Criminal Justice deputies hired in 2020 and 2021, and three multi-day litigation skills programs for Division of Law deputies. These courses combined pre-recorded lectures, virtual skills workshops, and live mock trials in a hybrid program model to comply with social distancing protocols.
- The AGAI expanded its Diversity, Inclusion, and Elimination of Bias programming by conducting 12 programs and providing 26 ethics credits to satisfy the new two credit Diversity, Inclusion and Elimination of Bias CLE requirement. Five of these courses were new for 2021, including a department-wide program on Racial Justice in New Jersey: A Survey of Legal and Policy Issues.



# Leading the Department

To help manage the day-to-day operations of the Department, Acting Attorney General Bruck 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.



**Jennifer Davenport**  
First Assistant Attorney General, Principal Law Enforcement Advisor



**Christopher Edwards**  
Executive Assistant Attorney General



**Jonathan Garelick**  
Chief of Staff



**Matthew Berns**  
Chief Counsel to the Acting Attorney General



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



**Jeremy Feigenbaum**  
State Solicitor



**Stephan Finkel**  
Director of Legislative Affairs



**Bryn Whittle**  
Senior Counsel to the Acting Attorney General and Director of Community Engagement



**Pearl Minato**  
Senior Counsel to the Acting Attorney General



**Lora Fong**  
Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer



**Steven Barnes**  
Director of Communications



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



**Kirsten Krueger**  
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**Andrew Macurdy**  
Counsel to the Acting Attorney General



**Kai Marshall-Otto**  
Counsel to the Acting Attorney General



**Adedayo Adu**  
Counsel to the Acting Attorney General



**John Zutic**  
Special Advisor on Gun Violence and Prevention



The Empty Sky Memorial on 9/11.





New Jersey Office of the  
**Attorney General**

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*Acting Attorney General Bruck  
pays tribute to fallen heroes at a  
memorial in Hopewell.*

