



New Jersey Office of the Attorney General
Year in Review 2022

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A rally to end gun violence in Summit.

New Jersey Office of the Attorney General

Year in Review 2022

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Who We Are

The New Jersey Attorney General oversees the Department of Law and Public Safety (LPS or the Department), which consists of more than 8,000 employees across numerous divisions, offices, and commissions. In this role, the Attorney General serves as both the State’s chief law enforcement officer and its chief lawyer. 2022 saw a change in leadership in LPS, as Matthew J. Platkin was nominated and then confirmed as the New Jersey’s 62nd Attorney General.

For a full description of the divisions, offices, and commissions within LPS, see pages 35 to 57.

Celebrating the investiture of New Jersey’s 62nd Attorney General, Matthew J. Platkin.





Introduction from Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin

It has been nothing short of a remarkable year in my new role as New Jersey’s 62nd Attorney General. I remain as honored and humbled to serve my home state as I was the day Governor Murphy nominated me. I follow in the footsteps of some extraordinary public servants who have held this office, and I intend to continue their proud legacy of service to the people of New Jersey.

As Attorney General, my primary focus has been keeping New Jerseyans safe and pursuing justice on their behalf. Chief among our efforts has been tackling the gun violence epidemic and reducing auto thefts. Due to our efforts, shootings decreased statewide by 25 percent in 2022, and with an enhanced focus from our office and the New Jersey State Police, in coordination with our local partners, we successfully reversed the trend of rising auto thefts.

In addition to reducing gun violence and auto thefts, we also dedicated ourselves to championing our residents’ civil rights in court, developing innovative policing policies, and pushing back against the increase in bias, hate, and discrimination that is sadly all too prevalent in our state and country today. I am grateful to have received such strong support from Governor Phil Murphy, members of the Legislature, my colleagues in state government, our local and federal law enforcement partners, and leaders in the community.

I am immensely proud to share a collection of our significant achievements. This document highlights the remarkable work performed by the Department’s 8,000 public servants over the past year. It showcases our efforts to address particular priority areas and features a number of the Department’s significant projects in 2022, from standing up for reproductive rights to safeguarding New Jersey’s consumers. Most importantly, this “Year in Review” catalogues the tireless efforts of our Department’s public servants to ensure that our state’s motto, ‘Liberty and Prosperity,’ lives on, and for that, we owe our deepest gratitude to them.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. J. Platkin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matthew J. Platkin
New Jersey Attorney General



Combating Violent Crime and Gun Violence

The Office of the Attorney General is leading a comprehensive, statewide effort to reduce gun deaths—one that pairs the latest evidence-based policing strategies with innovative, community-based prevention programs. Ours is a three-pronged approach. First, we treat the root causes of violence. Second, we keep guns away from those most likely to harm others. Third, we take swift action against those who break the law. By working collaboratively and creatively, New Jersey is building a national model for tackling this crisis.

Left: A press conference announcing new measures to protect New Jerseyans from gun violence.

Below: Law enforcement leaders share strategies and best practices to address firearms trafficking and gun violence at a meeting in East Rutherford.



Standing up for commonsense firearm safety laws

Defending New Jersey's gun safety laws. In June, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen that it is impermissible to require applicants in New York to show “proper cause” to carry a handgun in public, which had the effect of invalidating New Jersey’s longstanding laws restricting the right to carry a firearm to those who could demonstrate a “justifiable need.” In response to the dangerous Bruen decision, our office has continued to fight to protect New Jersey residents from gun violence. Our office has taken vigorous action against gun industry members while, at the same time, defending against challenges to New Jersey’s gun safety laws—ranging from the state’s firearms public nuisance law, to its regulation of public carry, assault weapons, large-capacity magazines, and ghost guns.

Leading the nation in gun accountability efforts. In July, the Attorney General announced a first-in-the-nation office dedicated to bringing civil enforcement actions against firearm companies to hold them accountable for violations of the law that harm the health and safety of New Jersey residents. The Statewide Affirmative Firearms Enforcement (SAFE) Office is authorized to enforce the new public nuisance law that Governor Murphy signed earlier this year, which prohibits gun industry members from knowingly or recklessly creating, maintaining, or contributing to a public nuisance in New Jersey through unlawful or unreasonable conduct or a failure to maintain reasonable controls relating to the manufacture, sale, distribution, importing, or marketing of gun-related products. The work of the SAFE Office will continue unabated, notwithstanding a pending legal challenge to the constitutionality of the public nuisance law.

Reducing the number of ghost guns on our streets. The administration is committed to combating gun violence with every available resource. In August, our office announced that it is co-leading a coalition of 20 Attorneys General in filing an amicus brief that supports a new, commonsense, federal Final Rule regulating ghost guns. Ghost guns are weapons without serial numbers that are often made at home from semi-completed frames and receivers. Because they are not considered guns at the time of purchase, no background check is required. And because they cannot be traced, they are often used for illegal activity.

Interrupting Cycles of Violence

Transforming our approach to public safety. In September 2022, through an administrative directive, the Attorney General created a new division within the Department. The Division of Violence Intervention and Victim Assistance (VIVA) will advance a unified strategy for public safety by bringing together services for victims, including survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, with the Department’s violence intervention and prevention programming. VIVA will centralize these services under one roof and provide staffing to support, develop, and expand these programs statewide. With VIVA, the Department is making it clear that New Jersey is putting community-based interventions and victim assistance—alongside prosecution and policing—at the center of our public safety approach. Through its Office of Violence Intervention and Prevention (OVIP), VIVA is building on recent efforts led by the Administration of Governor Murphy to move towards the creation of a system of community-based public safety which recognizes that public safety is a shared responsibility among law enforcement, government, and our communities.

Securing funding for innovative efforts to fight crime. In July, Governor Murphy and Attorney General Platkin announced the allocation of \$10 million in federal American Rescue Plan funds to continue funding for New Jersey’s nine Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Programs (HVIP), which are part of New Jersey’s innovative approach to stopping cycles of violent crime. This past fall, Attorney General Platkin also announced that an additional \$10 million in state funds would be made available through the Community-Based Violence Intervention (CBVI) Program to continue the Department’s support of this innovative programming. Designed to work with victims in the wake of violent incidents and with individuals and communities impacted by gun violence and at risk of violence, these programs are critical to the state’s public safety efforts to reduce cycles of violence at their source. These programs, which are now housed under VIVA, provide structure and permanent support for these innovative programs.

Governor Phil Murphy signs legislation to ensure only qualified people can legally obtain firearms and limit gun possession in sensitive places.





Tackling Auto Theft

The Office of the Attorney General has taken a comprehensive approach to combatting the rise in auto theft, which has affected not only New Jersey but the entire country in recent years. Not only is auto theft troubling in itself, but stolen vehicles are often used to commit other, often violent crimes. Due to the strenuous efforts described below, from September through December, car thefts were down 13 percent from the same four months of 2021. Yet there is still much work to do, and addressing this issue remains a top priority.

Left: Attorney General Platkin joins Colonel Pat Callahan and law enforcement leaders for a meeting at the State Police headquarters in Trenton.

Below: A campaign urging New Jersey residents to 'Lock It or Lose It' and take their key fobs with them.



Prosecuting offenders through the Auto Theft Task Force. The Auto Theft Task Force (ATTF) led by the New Jersey Division of State Police (NJSP) was formed to address the serious spike in auto thefts. The task force works both to recover individual stolen vehicles as well as to pursue long-term investigations into car theft organizations. In addition to members of the NJSP, the task force is comprised of officers on loan from various county, state, and municipal law enforcement agencies. Over the course of 2022, the task force recovered dozens of stolen vehicles with a value, in total, of millions of dollars. The task force has played a key role in prosecuting offenders to deter auto theft and secure recoveries for vehicle owners. For example, in May 2022, the task force obtained prison sentences for three defendants convicted in a Newark-based stolen auto-trafficking ring that “fenced” stolen luxury vehicles worth more than \$1 million. Similar prosecutions will be bolstered by Attorney General Platkin’s allocation, in 2022, of up to \$125,000 in federal funds for the task force’s needs, including law enforcement personnel and equipment purchases.

Re-launching “Lock It or Lose It” public awareness campaign. This successful statewide awareness campaign aimed at discouraging New Jerseyans from leaving their cars unlocked with the key fob inside was re-launched in 2022, as we observed that for the vast majority of the vehicles stolen, the key fob had been left in the vehicle or the vehicle was left running. The campaign originated in October 2020, when New Jersey first began to see a rise in thefts of high-end vehicles with key fobs left inside and began tracking the nexus between stolen vehicles and violent crime.

Governor Phil Murphy announces new legislation to protect New Jerseyans from auto theft.



Investing in technology to combat violent crime. In 2022, Governor Murphy announced a \$17 million investment in automated license plate recognition technology and gunshot detection equipment to reduce motor vehicle theft and gun violence in New Jersey through federal American Rescue Plan funds. The funding is being made available to law enforcement agencies to purchase and expand existing high-speed, automated camera systems to capture and store computer-readable images of license plates in a centralized database accessible to law enforcement and to utilize technology that can quickly detect gunshots and alert authorities.

Rep. Mikie Sherill proposes a new bill to help equip law enforcement with vital tools to effectively tackle auto theft.





Advancing Innovative Policing Policies

New Jersey has continued to act as a national leader in pursuing commonsense policing policies that promote strong law enforcement-community relationships that enhance 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 an array of important issues.

Left: A community walk in Atlantic City.
Below: The annual “National Night Out Against Crime” community event in Newark.



Developing Sensible Policing Policies

Enacting a landmark police licensing law. The Office of the Attorney General supported legislation establishing licensure for police officers in New Jersey that was signed into law by Governor Murphy in July 2022. The new law requires all law enforcement officers to hold valid, active licenses issued by the Police Training Commission (PTC) in order to be employed as law enforcement officers in the State of New Jersey. This important change in the law will have a real and transformative impact on policing in New Jersey. In addition to promoting a statewide culture of professionalism, transparency, and accountability, it will serve to significantly improve trust between law enforcement officers and the public they are sworn to protect. The PTC is currently working to craft regulations that implement the police licensing statute.

Removing obstacles to the professional success of women officers. In August 2022, Attorney General Platkin issued guidelines designed to help make policing a more accessible career path for women by safeguarding the workplace rights of pregnant and breastfeeding officers at law enforcement agencies statewide. This guidance is designed to create uniformity in how agencies provide reasonable accommodations to pregnant officers under state and federal law, remove certain obstacles to the professional success of women officers, and ultimately help improve the diversity of New Jersey’s law enforcement ranks.

Detectives from the Division of Criminal Justice chat with some of Newark’s youngest residents.



Increasing Transparency and Accountability in Law Enforcement

Launching the “Internal Affairs Dashboard.” Attorney General Platkin announced a number of initiatives in 2022 designed to provide the public with unprecedented transparency into police internal investigations process. In September 2022, the Office of Justice Data (OJD) launched an “Internal Affairs Dashboard,” the most comprehensive compilation of statewide internal affairs information to be made accessible to the public by any state in the nation. It includes detailed information regarding police internal affairs investigations statewide, and it will serve as a useful tool for both law enforcement and the residents of New Jersey.

Ensuring police accountability. In November 2022, Attorney General Platkin announced a policy that significantly increases annual public disclosure of serious misconduct by New Jersey law enforcement officers. This action builds upon a 2020 Attorney General directive that required agencies to report synopses of any “major discipline” including termination, demotion, or suspension of more than five days. The policy adds categories of discipline to the annual reporting requirements, regardless of the discipline imposed. These categories include, among others, charges of discrimination or bias, excessive force, filing a false report or involvement in domestic violence. Under the directive, each year, law enforcement agencies will report to the Attorney General and publish on their public websites a brief synopsis of misconduct falling within the enumerated categories and the name of the officer involved.

Meeting with members of the Atlantic City community.



Combatting corruption. As the state continues to investigate the operation of the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women and reform practices at the state’s only correctional facility for female offenders, the Corruption Bureau of the Office of Public Integrity and Accountability (OPIA) obtained an indictment against 14 corrections officers at the correctional facility, with respect to allegations that inmates were forcibly removed from cells and some were beaten, leaving two of the victims severely injured. Charges against the officers included conspiracy, official misconduct, tampering with public records, and aggravated assault. In a separate case, OPIA brought charges against the mayor, former mayor, and city commissioner of a shore town for fraudulently participating in the State Health Benefits Program. Although these cases are still pending, they are emblematic of the work the Bureau conducts to investigate violations of the public trust.

Obtaining multiple victories in priority criminal and law enforcement matters. In 2022, several appellate court victories were achieved in cases involving important matters of criminal law and policy. These cases include State v. O’Donnell, in which the Appellate Division upheld the application of New Jersey’s bribery law to a candidate for office; State v. Arroyo-Nunez, in which the Appellate Division agreed that the Attorney General could order prosecutors to prospectively and retroactively agree to vacate mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses; and State v. FED, in which the New Jersey Supreme Court adopted a broad construction of the compassionate release statute.

Supporting Community Policing

Expanding mental health responder pilot program. ARRIVE Together is the latest step in our efforts to better assess and address behavioral health crises that law enforcement officers encounter and to strengthen public safety across New Jersey. In late 2021, NJSP, in partnership with the Department of Human Services and the Cumberland County Guidance

Center, launched the ARRIVE (“Alternative Responses to Reduce Instances of Violence & Escalation”) Together pilot program in Cumberland County. The program pairs a law enforcement officer with a certified mental health screener to respond together to 9-1-1 calls that involve behavioral health crises. In June 2022, Attorney General Platkin announced an expansion of the ARRIVE Together initiative to include a second pilot program operated jointly by the Elizabeth and Linden Police Departments, in partnership with Trinitas Regional Medical Center. The two pilots continue to operate and have collectively served hundreds of individuals suffering from mental health distress. The program’s success has led to a partnership with the Legislature and the Governor that has codified the program and appropriated \$2 million toward further expansion in 2023. In addition, in late 2022, Attorney General Platkin announced that NJSP has received a competitive grant award from the federal government of approximately \$550,000 that will be used to fund a further expansion of the ARRIVE Together initiative. ARRIVE Together underscores Attorney General Platkin’s collaborative approach towards policymaking that includes identifying the needs and concerns of law enforcement and community stakeholders and jointly establishing solutions.

Reducing negative consequences from the large number of outstanding bench warrants for low-level offenses. In May 2022, Attorney General Platkin issued a directive that eliminated the need for the arrest of those individuals with outstanding municipal bench warrants with bail amounts of \$500 or less. Instead, those individuals—who are already generally released after a custodial arrest—are now given notice of a new court date and released on scene. These policies seek both to avoid the ramifications of arrest for individuals on technical matters involving low-level offenses and to use law enforcement resources more efficiently and safely.

The first Annual Newark Police Motorcycle Blessing.



Representatives from the Division on Civil Rights help foster community dialogue in Atlantic City.





Addressing Hate, Bias & Discrimination

New Jersey residents should never be subject to acts of discrimination or hate because of where they are from, what they look like, whom they love, or how they worship. That’s why Attorney General Platkin has made it a priority that all acts of hate, bias, and discrimination will be investigated and resolved or prosecuted where appropriate. Through enforcement, outreach, and prevention efforts, our office is taking numerous steps to combat hate, bias, and discrimination. Through the combined efforts of our office’s divisions and offices, we have demonstrated our commitment to using every tool and resource at our disposal to tackle this problem head-on and to ensure our most vulnerable communities are safe and secure.

Left: Division of Criminal Justice Director Pearl Minato speaks at the Attorney General’s Bias, Hate, and Violence Summit.
Below. A night of remembrance honoring the lives lost in the December 10, 2019 domestic terrorist attack in Jersey City.



Promoting Equitable Access to Housing

Combatting mortgage redlining. Attorney General Platkin has aggressively pursued civil rights enforcement actions to promote fair and equitable access to affordable housing opportunities. In July, the Attorney General and the Division on Civil Rights (DCR) announced a landmark multi-jurisdictional settlement with Trident Mortgage Company (Trident) for its racially discriminatory “redlining” practices in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. “Redlining” refers to a practice by which banks and mortgage lenders systematically underserve and discriminate against neighborhoods with high percentages of African Americans, Hispanics, or other marginalized racial and ethnic minorities. The practice deprives such areas and their residents of adequate credit. The lack of competition also makes residents of redlined neighborhoods vulnerable to unscrupulous, predatory lending. Working collaboratively with state and federal partners, Trident is required to provide more than \$20 million in relief that will increase credit opportunities in neighborhoods of color. This is one of the largest redlining settlements in history.

Ensuring fairer treatment for people with a criminal history. Through DCR, Attorney General Platkin has overseen efforts to proactively enforce the Fair Chance in Housing Act, which took effect in January, including the announcement in March of the first round of enforcement actions against landlords who violated the new law. Attorney General Platkin and DCR issued 30 Notices of Violation to housing providers across the state for asking questions on housing applications that are prohibited, posting housing advertisements, or maintaining housing policies that do not comply with the law. These enforcement efforts are crucial in helping to expose and deter discriminatory behavior.

Protecting Individuals from Discrimination

Keeping New Jersey schools free from discrimination. Attorney General Platkin co-led a multistate coalition of Attorneys General supporting a proposed rule by the U.S. Department of Education guaranteeing educational opportunities for students regardless of gender and preventing actions based on gender stereotypes. The proposed rule would expand and strengthen federal protections against discrimination on the basis of sex, including against sexual violence and harassment, in federally funded elementary schools, secondary schools, and post-secondary institutions. This will ensure that students are provided safe and equitable learning environments.

Challenging “Don’t Say Gay” laws. Attorney General Platkin also co-led a national coalition of Attorneys General in supporting a legal challenge to Florida House Bill 1557, known as the “Don’t Say Gay” law, that expressly prohibits classroom instruction on sexual orientation or gender identity for children in certain grades.

Ensuring marriage equality for New Jersey residents. Attorney General Platkin and DCR announced the launch of a new Marriage Equality Enforcement Initiative to ensure that municipal governments across New Jersey do not discriminate against or exclude LGBTQIA+ individuals seeking to obtain marriage licenses. As part of the Marriage Equality Enforcement Initiative, DCR issued Notices of Violation to five New Jersey municipalities (Estell Manor, Fairview, Hanover, Linden, and South Toms River) which had published marriage licensing information on their websites that limited the availability of licenses to opposite-gender couples and excluded persons with a nonbinary gender identity from submitting marriage license applications.

Public Outreach and Prevention Efforts

Hosting a statewide bias summit. After the tragic, hate-motivated shootings in Buffalo, New York once again highlighted the connections between gun violence and bias crimes, Attorney General Platkin hosted a summit to combat bias, hate, and violence in New Jersey. The summit, which featured an introduction by Governor Murphy, brought together over 200 government, law enforcement, community, and faith leaders to identify ways to address hate in our communities. As a result of that summit, all 21 New Jersey counties established programs and events specifically targeted to help combat bias and hate locally.

Educating the public on bias incidents. In addition to prosecuting bias crimes and securing federal funding to help confront a rising tide of hate, the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) has also been instrumental in educating the public regarding how to identify bias incidents and how to report them. In addition to these efforts, the Community Relations Unit within DCR has been instrumental in helping communities resolve and move forward from bias incidents. CRU’s primary function is to deploy resources to towns following a significant civil rights incident to help diffuse tension and heal the community.

Safeguarding voting rights and election integrity. The Attorney General announced a new Voter Protection Initiative in advance of the 2022 General Election to protect the right to vote, and to assist voters, election officials, and law enforcement with resolving any emergent voting-related legal matters. The Initiative focuses on identifying and addressing voting rights or civil rights violations, including under the New Jersey Civil Rights Act and the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination (LAD).

A roundtable discussion with Senator Cory Booker detailing security grants that help protect our houses of worship from acts of hate.



In the Spotlight



Standing Up for Reproductive Rights

Protecting reproductive rights from interference. In the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, which overruled *Roe v. Wade* and jeopardized the rights of millions throughout the country, the Attorney General created a Reproductive Rights Strike Force. The task force is charged with bringing civil and criminal enforcement actions as well as developing initiatives to protect access to reproductive health care and abortion care for New Jersey residents and anyone traveling to New Jersey to access care. The Attorney General also announced a partnership between the Office of the Attorney General and the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of New Jersey to protect reproductive rights—the first such state-federal partnership announced in the country.

Safeguarding patient privacy. In response to serious concerns about the privacy of digital patient data in the aftermath of the Supreme Court’s decision in *Dobbs*, Attorney General Platkin led a multistate coalition to urge Apple, the worldwide technology company, to take commonsense steps to protect consumers’ private reproductive health data on apps available through Apple’s App Store.

Providing guidance to patients, providers, and professional boards. To facilitate access to abortion care, the Division of Consumer Affairs (DCA) issued several guidance documents that reinforced and operationalized the State’s commitment to reproductive freedom. The Attorney General issued a letter to State licensing boards that clarified their obligations under a law, signed by Governor Murphy in July 2022, that protects New Jersey health care practitioners from being disciplined for performing abortions or abortion-related services. DCA also issued a guidance document advising health care providers and other health care licensees on how they can best secure patient data and protect the privacy of individuals seeking abortion services. In addition, DCA issued a consumer alert warning the public about “Crisis Pregnancy Centers”—organizations that seek to prevent individuals from accessing abortion care, sometimes by providing misleading information about the safety and legality of abortion.

Expanding the pool of abortion providers. Attorney General Platkin announced \$5 million in grant funding to expand the pool of abortion care providers in New Jersey. The funding, made available by the Murphy Administration, will be used to support abortion and reproductive health training and education for all practicing professionals who are eligible to provide abortion care in New Jersey as well as for students seeking licensure as practicing professionals whose scope of practice will include abortion care.

A roundtable discussion with Vice President Kamala Harris on protecting reproductive rights.

In the Spotlight



Protecting New Jersey Consumers

Protecting investors and the public from fraud. Following nearly a decade of hard-fought litigation, the Bureau of Securities (BOS) reached a \$495 million settlement with Credit Suisse Securities over its sale of toxic residential mortgage-backed securities in the run-up to the 2008 financial crisis. One of the largest recoveries in the State’s history, the settlement included \$300 million in restitution for investors nationwide. Additional actions cemented BOS’ role as a national leader in the cryptocurrency and non-fungible token space, including a nationwide \$100 million settlement with BlockFi that required the company to, among other things, cease the offer and sale of its interest-bearing cryptocurrency accounts until they were registered with state and federal securities regulators. BOS continues to issue cease-and-desist orders and to take action in crypto bankruptcies in order to ensure New Jersey investors and consumers are protected.

Holding companies accountable for privacy violations. DCA tackled a wide range of privacy issues facing online consumers. Among them, DCA reached a historic \$391.5 million multistate settlement with Google for misleading consumers about their location-tracking practices—the largest privacy settlement in history for state attorneys general. DCA also resolved multiple data breach investigations, including those with financial and real estate companies, a credit reporting company, a cruise service, and Wawa—whose insufficient data security practices allowed 34 million payment cards to be compromised in New Jersey after malware infected their point-of-sale terminals. These settlements have generated millions of dollars in penalties and mandated that companies adopt stronger data security measures and transparent data privacy practices, designed to protect New Jersey consumers going forward.

Continued efforts to protect consumers. DCA has worked vigorously to hold pharmaceutical manufacturers, distributors, and pharmacies accountable for their roles in the opioid epidemic, resulting in settlements totaling hundreds of millions of dollars that will be allocated to abate the crisis. DCA has also obtained a nationwide \$141 million settlement involving the Intuit/TurboTax “free” tax filing campaign, which resulted in more than \$2 million in direct payments to New Jersey residents; a \$19 million nationwide settlement with Ford Motor Company for misleading consumers about their hybrid vehicles’ fuel economy; a \$10 million judgment in a lawsuit cracking down on a timeshare scam; a nearly \$2 million judgment against the perpetrators of a mortgage relief scam; and settlements totaling approximately \$400,000 with local car dealerships for consumer abuses.

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

In the Spotlight



Fighting for Our Workforce and Holding Employers Accountable

Defending New Jersey's worker protection laws. The New Jersey Supreme Court unanimously agreed with the Attorney General's defense of New Jersey's legal test for determining whether a worker is an unprotected independent contractor or a protected employee in *East Bay Drywall v. Department of Labor*. The Court made clear that an employer bears the burden of proving worker status, which is central to our efforts to combat misclassification.

Standing up for gig workers. As work and commerce move online, our office has filed several cases to make sure that gig workers are protected by New Jersey's employment norms. Together with the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (LWD), payment of almost \$100 million in unemployment and workers' compensation insurance payments was obtained from Uber for worker misclassification violations. It is the largest such payment ever received in New Jersey and covers 297,866 drivers, who are disproportionately workers of color.

Protecting child workers. In partnership with LWD, Attorney General Platkin reached an agreement with Chipotle Mexican Grill to resolve alleged widespread and persistent violations of the state's child labor laws. The popular fast-food restaurant chain agreed to pay \$7.75 million and has further agreed to a far-reaching compliance plan for its 85 New Jersey locations aimed at putting an end to these practices.

Promoting worker rights around the country. New Jersey banded together with other states to file regulatory comment letters and amicus briefs in support of efforts to protect worker rights. These included actions to enforce federal employee misclassification rules, to prevent employers from limiting unionized workers' ability to strike, and to oppose burdensome no-poach agreements that limit the advancement of fast food workers.

A panel discussion with fellow Attorneys General's on protecting workers from wage theft and misclassification.

In the Spotlight



Battling the Opioid Epidemic

Initiating innovative programing. The Office of the Attorney General, through NJ CARES—the Office of the New Jersey Coordinator of Addiction Responses and Enforcement Strategies—is at the cutting edge of programing that addresses the opioid crisis from a holistic perspective. These efforts included expanding access to harm reduction services by partnering with other agencies to launch the Naloxone Distribution Program to make naloxone, the opioid reversal treatment, available at no cost to public entities and social services agencies. In addition, through \$6 million in federal grants, we have developed new initiatives such as the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program which keeps at-risk individuals out of the justice system; Child Trauma Response Initiative which identifies families—and particularly children—impacted by addiction during opioid related incidents and links them to services; and “Opt for Help and Hope” which expands the addiction support services available within the Recovery Court Program in New Jersey Superior Court.

Holding the pharmaceutical industry accountable. In 2022, Attorney General Platkin announced a number of settlements with pharmaceutical companies that played a role in helping foment the national opioid crisis. In February, our office announced that New Jersey would receive \$641 million from settlements with Johnson & Johnson, which manufactured opioids, and the country’s three largest pharmaceutical distributors—McKesson, Cardinal Health, and AmerisourceBergen. In June, Attorney General Platkin announced that New Jersey was eligible to receive approximately \$30 million dollars, as part of a multistate opioid settlement with global pharmaceutical maker Mallinckrodt PLC. The bulk of the Mallinckrodt settlement dollars will be used to fund opioid abatement efforts across the state. Attorney General Platkin also announced that a coalition of state attorneys general reached an agreement in principle with opioid maker Endo International PLC (Endo) and its lenders that would provide up to \$450 million to participating states and local governments, ban promotion of Endo’s opioids, and require Endo to turn over millions of documents related to its role in the opioid crisis for publication in a public online archive.

Touring Camp Cedar Knoll, a long-term treatment center dedicated to helping New Jerseyans overcome substance abuse.

In the Spotlight



Securing Environmental Justice

Fighting for New Jersey's most vulnerable communities. Eight lawsuits were filed in 2022 to promote environmental justice for minority and lower-income communities that have historically suffered some of the worst environmental harms in the state. This brings the total number of environmental justice lawsuits filed during the Murphy Administration to 52. Those suits have forced polluters to clean up New Jersey's communities and have resulted in approximately \$20 million in judgments. The defendants in this year's suits include a blueberry farm staffed by migrant workers where unlicensed wells, that provided water to housing for the workers, were dangerously close to septic fields that made water for drinking, showering, and cooking unsafe.

Protecting New Jersey's natural resources. In 2022, large and small cases were litigated and filed across the state to protect our state's air, water, and soil, including filing a new suit against the Ford Motor Company over hazardous waste dumping in a Native American Tribal Community; bringing a statewide natural resource damage case against Monsanto for polychlorinated biphenyl contamination; and forcing ExxonMobil to pay the State \$9.5 million due to dumping activity at its Lail property in East Greenwich Township and Paulsboro Borough.

Promoting environmental safety at the federal level. New Jersey partnered with other states in numerous actions to improve and protect federal environmental laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act regulations, Clean Water Act rules, and National Primary Drinking Water regulations. Several of these actions promote environmental justice for overburdened communities at the federal level, including working to craft revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule for the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations and to Internal Revenue Service and Department of Treasury regulations implementing the Inflation Reduction Act.

Holding oil and gas companies responsible for harms to our climate. In October, DCA, along with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), filed a lawsuit against major oil companies for their deceptive statements denying that their fossil fuel products have contributed to climate change, which has a disproportionate health and economic impact on low-income communities and communities of color. The lawsuit alleges that the defendants have known for decades that the use of fossil fuels is a major cause of climate change, but instead of warning the public or the State about the danger, they launched public-relations campaigns to sow doubts about the existence, causes, and effects of climate change with the goal of confusing the public, delaying the transition to a lower carbon economy and future, increasing their own profits, and further deepening dependence on their products.

The State files lawsuits to address a variety of contaminated properties, including a site in Linden.

Divisions, Offices and Commissions

In addition to the initiatives described separately in this report, Attorney General Platkin oversaw the management of the various divisions, offices, and commissions that make up the Department. Throughout 2022, these divisions served the people of New Jersey in numerous ways, benefiting from the extraordinary work of the more than 8,000 career public servants who make up the Department.



Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex



New Jersey State Police

Colonel Patrick Callahan, *Superintendent*
www.njsp.org

NJSP is the largest law enforcement agency in New Jersey, with over 3,000 enlisted and over 1,100 civilian members. 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.

2022 Highlights

- In 2022, the Field Operations Section and the Special Operations Section implemented a joint Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Program. To date, an additional 227 road troopers have received commercial vehicle familiarization training. This on-going task force pairs members of NJSP Commercial Carrier/Safety Inspection Unit with road troopers for regional targeted patrols. A comparison of fatal crashes involving commercial vehicles during the first ten months of 2022, when compared with the same period in 2021, has shown that there have been 12 fewer fatal crashes involving commercial vehicles, resulting in 15 fewer fatalities statewide since the implementation of the commercial vehicle enforcement task force.
- Several initiatives have strengthened the collaboration between educational institutions and public safety sector in 2022. NJSP School Resource Officers were provided with additional advanced trainings in School Physical Security Assessment Awareness, Critical Response Training, and Bleeding Control. The School Video Integration Project continued the implementation of this statewide venture and continued to serve as a resource for station personnel in the event of a critical response. The New Jersey Domestic Security Preparedness Task Force identified the use of digital critical incident mapping as a best practice in 2022. NJSP is responsible for managing the Statewide Mapping Initiative which integrates the use of digital critical incident mapping of significant infrastructure, key resources, and community-based locations into daily first responder operations. Integration of critical incident mapping creates a common operating picture that enhances the communication, coordination, and operational control during training, pre-planned operations, and emergency responses to critical incidents. The State has authorized the expansion of this technology to all K-12 public and charter schools by the beginning of the 2023 calendar school year.
- In response to Hurricane Fiona, NJSP deployed 152 personnel to Puerto Rico as part of an Emergency Management Assistance Compact request for law enforcement assistance. During the 28-day mission which took place in the fall of 2022, NJSP personnel provided traffic control, assisted with community/humanitarian outreach, and provided safe passage to residents. Personnel also supported numerous community outreach initiatives to include donations to local schools and wellbeing checks of family members.



Division of Law

Michael T.G. Long, *Director*
www.njoag.gov/law

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.

2022 Highlights

- In addition to the extraordinary civil enforcement matters referenced elsewhere in this report—including the historic race-based “redlining” settlement with Trident, the almost \$100 million payment from Uber and its subsidiary for worker misclassification violations, the landmark \$495 million settlement with Credit Suisse Securities for its marketing of toxic subprime mortgages, and the multimillion dollar student debt relief settlement with Navient Corp. and its subsidiary—DOL achieved several other remarkable accomplishments in 2022 on behalf of its State clients:
- DOL supported the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) in its advancement of a green-energy Wind Port project constituting a new offshore wind marshalling and manufacturing port at Lower Alloways Creek, Salem County. This is a first-of-its-kind asset in the United States and the centerpiece of the State’s broader offshore wind development agenda. DOL guided NJEDA through the transaction by providing counsel on the financing arrangements, negotiating with prospective tenants, and aiding in the facilitation of the electrical power design for the Wind Port development.
- DOL secured important legal victories in several COVID-related matters, including those that challenged the restrictions on the size of gatherings imposed by executive order early in the COVID-19 pandemic, to protect residents and prevent the spread of the virus.
- Some of DOL’s most important and challenging work is related to its representation of the State’s Department of Children and Families (DCF) to protect children from abuse and neglect and to seek termination of parental rights when necessary. Through litigation, DOL facilitated DCF’s ability to find caring adoptive families for children when their biological parents were unable to safely care for them. Because of these efforts, more than 350 children were adopted. Additionally, DOL filed well over 3,000 child abuse and guardianship cases in Superior Court to protect children, institute services for families or, if necessary, place children in protective custody or guardianship.



Division of Criminal Justice

Pearl Minato, *Director*
www.njoag.gov/dcj

DCJ is responsible for investigating and prosecuting violations of New Jersey criminal laws. 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 also provides statewide training for prosecutors and law enforcement officers.

2022 Highlights

- DCJ successfully prosecuted a complex burglary case responsible for over 80 burglaries over the course of months in Morris, Bergen, Essex, Somerset, Passaic, Monmouth, Middlesex, and Union Counties, as well as in lower New York State. The burglaries shared a similar modus operandi with forced entry through a doorway, usually in the afternoon or early evening, and theft of cash, jewelry, and other valuables. DCJ led the investigation into these crimes with coordination and assistance from numerous local municipalities. On November 14, the leader of the ring pleaded guilty to a first-degree offense.
- In 2022, DCJ formally established the Worker Protection and Fair Labor Enforcement Unit in DCJ’s Specialized Crimes Bureau. The mission of this Unit is to handle referrals from LWD and to prosecute cases involving diverse stakeholders within the community, such as victims whose wages are stolen by their employers, victims of labor trafficking, victims of identity theft resulting in the collection of unemployment insurance benefits under their identity, and victims of workers compensation fraud, payroll fraud, and prevailing wage violations.
- In October 2022, DCJ, partnering with NJSP, announced that 15 alleged members of a Paterson gun trafficking ring were indicted on charges of racketeering, conspiracy, and weapons offenses. The 39-count indictment alleges that more than 120 guns were transported to New Jersey from South Carolina from December 2018 to December 2021.



Division of Consumer Affairs

Cari Fais, *Acting Director*
www.njconsumeraffairs.gov

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, BOS, the Professional Boards Section, the Office of Weights and Measures and the Legalized Games of Chance Control Commission.

2022 Highlights

- Bureau of Securities reached a \$495 million settlement with Credit Suisse Securities over its sale of toxic residential mortgage-backed securities in the run-up to the 2008 financial crisis. One of the largest recoveries in the state’s history, the settlement included \$300 million in restitution for investors nationwide. BOS cemented its role as a national leader in the cryptocurrency and non-fungible token space as well, reaching a nationwide \$100 million settlement with BlockFi that required the company to, among other things, cease the offer and sale of its interest-bearing cryptocurrency accounts until they were registered with state and federal securities regulators.
- DCA continues to vigorously investigate and litigate complex financial fraud matters and to hold companies, large and small, accountable for their problematic practices—including the multimillion-dollar settlements with Navient Corp, Financial Services for America, and Intuit Inc.
- DCA led negotiations resulting in a historic \$391.5 million multistate settlement with Google for misleading consumers about their location-tracking practices, which was the largest privacy settlement in history for state attorneys general. DCA resolved multiple data breach investigations, including against Wawa, whose insufficient data security practices allowed 34 million payment cards to be compromised in New Jersey after malware infected their point-of-sale terminals.
- In October, DCA, along with DEP, filed a landmark lawsuit against major oil companies for their deceptive statements about how their fossil fuel products have contributed to climate change, which has a disproportionate health and economic impact on low-income communities and communities of color.



Division on Civil Rights

Rosemary DiSavino, *Deputy Director*
www.njcivilrights.gov

DCR is responsible for enforcing the 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, 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 also enforces the Fair Chance in Housing Act (FCHA), which limits housing providers’ ability to consider a person’s criminal history in deciding whether to extend an offer of housing 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.

2022 Highlights

- In 2022, DCR began proactive enforcement of the FCHA, the first state law that prohibits housing discrimination against people with criminal records, that went into effect in January 2022. As part of its robust effort to enforce the FCHA, DCR issued Notices of Violation to more than 80 housing providers for allegedly using housing applications and/or posting housing ads prohibited by the law.
- In 2022, DCR continued to build on its efforts to ensure that no New Jersey resident faces discrimination and to educate members of the public about their rights under the State’s civil rights laws. DCR issued Findings of Probable Cause believing that a violation of the LAD had occurred in 36 cases, and it collected over \$1.6 million dollars in damages for victims of bias and discrimination. DCR also conducted more than 125 trainings, reaching more than 5,000 people, and it delivered public presentations on the requirements of the LAD to thousands more.
- DCR adopted new and amended rules and created new educational posters designed to promote greater public awareness of the LAD and FLA. The rules increase the visibility and effectiveness of DCR posters that employers, businesses, and places of public accommodation are mandated by law to display. The rules impose specific requirements for health care facilities, which are now required to conspicuously display facility-specific “Know Your Rights” posters to ensure that patients, visitors, and staff know that they have the right to be free from discrimination in health care.



Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control

James Graziano, *Director*
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 the consumption of alcoholic beverages, to protect the citizens of New Jersey by ensuring lawful, proper, and fair-trade practices, to maintain the stability of the industry, and to protect the collection of state taxes imposed on alcoholic beverages.

2022 Highlights

- Under Special Ruling 2022-05, ABC with the cooperation of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (Port Authority), assumed its jurisdiction over all liquor licenses issued at the newly renovated Terminal A in Newark Liberty International Airport. Vendors identified by the Port Authority are required to apply for an ABC Special Concessionaire Permit which authorizes the sale, service, and consumption of alcoholic beverages at various locations within Terminal A. ABC personnel are continuing to work with concessionaires to ensure compliance with laws and regulations to allow safe service to the traveling public.
- ABC’s Investigations Bureau offered several training courses for state and local law enforcement officials covering topics pertaining to Enforcement Techniques in Alcoholic Beverage Control Law as well as courses for techniques specifically related to Field Operations. These courses provided law enforcement officials with additional exposure to common violations that occur in the ABC industry as well as approaches and methodologies on how best to solve common industry-related problems.
- To ensure the collection of accurate and precise brand information and industry compliance; ABC will be implementing a new policy, effective January 2023, that will require a Universal Product Code and/or the U.S. Department of Treasury’s Alcohol, Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau’s Certificate of Label Approval number for all alcohol beverage brand registrations. This initiative will help ABC collect valid information on brands and will reduce errors due to incorrect brand names, sizes, vintages and alcohol content.



Division of Gaming Enforcement

David Rebuck, *Director*
www.njoag.gov/dge

The Division of Gaming Enforcement (DGE) is a law enforcement agency and the investigative arm responsible for enforcing New Jersey’s Casino Control Act. DGE’s workforce consists of attorneys, investigators, and accountants, and it is further supported by NJSP Troopers and DCJ 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.

2022 Highlights

- In 2022, casino gaming revenues returned to pre-COVID-19 levels reaching a new record in Internet gaming revenue. Through December 2022, total gaming revenue which consists of revenue from brick-and-mortar casinos, Internet casino gaming, and sports wagering, was \$5.21 billion. This was a 10% increase from the preceding year. Also, during this period, the seven Internet gaming permit holders posted \$1.66 billion in total Internet Gaming Revenue, which is a new record and a 21.6% increase from the prior year. New Jersey currently has 39 authorized online casino gaming sites and 27 authorized mobile sports wagering sites. Gaming taxes paid to the State of New Jersey in 2022 total \$432.8 million. These tax proceeds are deposited into the Casino Revenue Fund and utilized for social programs throughout the state.
- With gambling expanding to include online options, cybersecurity and gaming integrity are a critical component of DGE’s work. DGE sets high standards for New Jersey’s online gaming and online sportsbook operators. Beginning on June 30, 2022, DGE required operators to implement multi-factor authentication for all New Jersey accounts. Multi-factor authentication requires patrons to provide additional verifications besides their usernames and passwords in order to gain access to an account. This practice helps insulate the account against certain cyberattacks, in the event the patron’s username and password are compromised or stolen.
- Throughout 2022, DGE collaborated with the online gaming platforms and their brick-and-mortar casino licensees to design and develop Responsible Gaming Best Practices. The foundation has been laid for a new initiative that will launch in early 2023 which will leverage technology to aid in identifying potential problem gamblers. The technology-based solution will identify whether certain warning signs are present based on player account activity and player behavior and, if so, determine an appropriate level of intervention.



Division of Highway Traffic Safety

Tomi-Anne Raue, *Interim Director*
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 \$30 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 Federal Highway Administration.

2022 Highlights

- To maximize the reach and impact of HTS’ messaging about the dangers associated with impaired and distracted driving, HTS launched two major public information campaigns and a year-round traffic and weather report safety messaging program. The first campaign focused on the deadly consequences of impaired driving, generating more than 145 million impressions and 35,000-page views to the HTS website. The second campaign, “Take Control of Your Destiny—Don’t Drive Distracted,” was carried out to address New Jersey’s distracted driving problem. Finally, an ongoing program was launched that offers the public traffic safety messaging through digital ads and sponsorship announcements on New Jersey television and radio stations.
- The implementation of the 2020-2025 New Jersey Strategic Highway Safety Plan continued in 2022. The plan is an action-oriented, data-driven, comprehensive, multi-disciplinary project that integrates the “4Es” of traffic safety: Education, Engineering, Enforcement, and Emergency medical response. Hundreds of public, private, and volunteer partners worked on 148 action teams, in seven emphasis areas, that are each assigned precise deliverables that support making New Jersey roads safer. Due to the progress of the action teams, HTS and its partners are in the process of adding 22 new action items to further the valuable work being accomplished.
- New Jersey’s Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund (DDEF) underwent a significant overhaul in 2022. By reviewing and restructuring previous fund activities, HTS identified and authorized the use of more than \$1.3 million in impaired driving program resources, including \$426,000 in new DDEF funding. This more efficient and effective use of funds will greatly enhance Driving While Intoxicated programs statewide.



Division of Administration

William Cranford, *Chief Administrative Officer*

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

2022 Highlights

- Administration’s Grants Office managed millions of federal dollars in 2022, including securing over \$16 million in federal competitive dollars, receiving over \$105 million in federal formula grants, and administering over 900 sub-awards totaling in excess of \$300 million.
- The Office of Constituent Services responded to nearly 6,000 inquiries from constituents to help them find the resources and services they need—inside the Department or not.
- The Office of Fiscal Management processed approximately 2,000 procurements.



Division of Violence Intervention & Victim Assistance

Patricia Teffenhart, *Executive Director*
www.njoag.gov/viva

Created by Attorney General Platkin’s Administrative Directive No. 2022-10 in September 2022, VIVA’s mission is to prevent future violence by better addressing the needs of survivors in the aftermath of crime and trauma and by providing smarter and trauma-informed interventions to those more likely to commit violent acts. The VIVA directive created three new offices—OVIP, the Office of Victim Support and Assistance, and the Office Trials and Criminal Justice Process—and brought a fourth, the Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO), under its roof. Together, these offices centralize the Department’s work with respect to crime survivors and communities disproportionately impacted by violence.

2022 Highlights

- In early 2022, the Department launched its inaugural CBVI program, helping 24 grassroots providers statewide implement their innovative programs across some of the cities and regions most impacted by gun violence.
- In October, with the support of Governor Murphy, Attorney General Platkin announced the continuation of both the Department’s HVIP and CBVI programs through the release of \$10 million in grant opportunities in federal American Rescue Plan funds, and \$10 million in state funds, respectively. Together, CBVI and HVIP organizations provide critical services to individuals who are deemed at risk of violence or revictimization. The dedicated staff of various community-based providers deliver services at hospital bedsides, on the streets, and in schools. CBVI and HVIP funds enable providers to offer crisis intervention, defuse dangerous situations through mediation, and determine what is needed to help individuals heal and find stability by connecting individuals to housing, mental health services, or needed financial support, among other resources.
- In 2022 OVIP, in partnership with its CBVI Training and Technical Assistance provider, hosted its first statewide training for CBVI providers and expanded support for providers through network gatherings and one-on-one meetings that identify needs and build providers’ capacity to lead innovative programing.



Office of Justice Data

Kristin Golden, PhD, *Chief Data Officer*
www.njoag.gov/ojd

The OJD coordinates data collection and analysis across LPS, 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.

2022 Highlights

- OJD played an instrumental part in the Office of the Attorney General’s commitment to transparency through public data, including the disclosure of major disciplinary actions taken against law enforcement officers throughout the state. Additionally, OJD collected, consolidated, and presented data on over 14,000 internal affairs cases involving over 10,000 law enforcement officers for the 2021 calendar year, and performed a similar project for demographic information on New Jersey’s more than 30,000 law enforcement officers, publicly sharing the racial, ethnic, gender, and age composition of all sworn officers. Both dashboards are available in user-friendly formats on the OJD website.
- In 2022, OJD worked to improve data collection challenges throughout OAG. Focusing primarily on law enforcement-related data, OJD streamlined processes to facilitate the analysis of data.
- OJD was awarded over \$200,000 for the federal State Justice Statistics Program for Statistical Analysis Centers grant and was also designated the Statistical Analysis Center of New Jersey. The grant will support OJD’s creation of a publicly available database of comprehensive criminal justice information, in accordance with P.L. 2020, c.120.



Office of Public Integrity & Accountability

Thomas J. Eicher, *Executive Director*
www.njoag.gov/opia

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 rebuild faith in both government and the 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 Police Training Commission, and the Shooting Response Team which investigates all fatal law enforcement encounters.

2022 Highlights

- OPIA assisted in developing landmark legislation signed by Governor Murphy in July 2022, establishing a comprehensive licensing system for all law enforcement officers in New Jersey.
- OPIA assisted with the update of the Internal Affairs Policies and Procedures and the Major Discipline Directive to give clearer guidance to police departments on how to effectively and efficiently comply with common law requests for internal affairs files and enhance public transparency in reporting on an expanded definition of major discipline incidents.
- The Corruption Bureau has continued to vigorously prosecute corruption throughout government in New Jersey, including among law enforcement. Notably, that work includes securing indictments for 14 corrections officers for inmate assaults at Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women in 2021.
- In 2022, the Cold Case Task Force re-investigated the 1991 death of Deborah “Debbie” Ann Bloomquist. In cooperation with state, county, and municipal law enforcement partners, detectives were able to identify the male DNA profile collected from the crime scene as belonging to John Pelletier, who died in North Dakota, and concluded that he was, in fact, the person responsible for Ms. Bloomquist’s murder. Separately, advanced DNA investigatory procedures were used to identify the remains of Dawn Olanick, leading to homicide charges against Arthur Kinlaw for her 2005 murder, and to identify the remains of Wendy Louise Baker, whose murder remains under investigation.



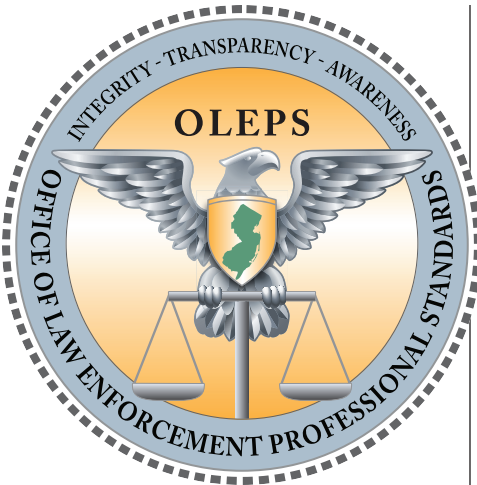
Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor

Al Garcia, *Interim Insurance Fraud Prosecutor*
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 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. In November, OIFP said goodbye to Insurance Fraud Prosecutor Tracy Thompson, who announced her retirement after over 25 years of public service.

2022 Highlights

- In 2022, OIFP evaluated more than 5,000 cases of suspected fraud. Of these cases, OIFP retained more than 200 for prosecution and referred others for county prosecution or civil disposition.
- In partnership with NJSP, DCJ, and other law enforcement agencies, OIFP continued to combat the serious uptick in auto thefts through its active role on the statewide ATTF. As dedicated members of ATTF, OIFP staff investigate and prosecute auto theft and associated crimes relating to insurance fraud. This year, OIFP reviewed and submitted 49 ATTF-related search warrants and/or communication data warrants, and prosecuted 18 defendants.
- Throughout 2022, OIFP’s Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU) continued to raise public awareness about elder abuse and neglect through its ongoing community outreach efforts. Over the course of the year, MFCU participated in 11 outreach events across the State to inform the public of its mission to detect, investigate, and prosecute crimes against the elderly.



Office of Law Enforcement Professional Standards

Christina Glogoff, *Director*

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

2022 Highlights

- OLEPS reviewed and provided recommendations on State Police Academy lesson plans and associated training materials to ensure conformity to best practices and enhance the current NJSP practices on cultural awareness, law enforcement ethics and leadership, and constitutional law, including the laws of arrest, and search and seizure. In 2022, OLEPS also expanded the scope of its review to include the periodic assessment of additional lesson plans of recruit classes and audited NJSP trainings to ensure appropriate presentation of the training material.
- OLEPS reviewed various NJSP policies and provided recommendations to ensure that they are consistent with the most current law and best practices and to verify that the principles of the Attorney General’s Directives are incorporated into policies and trainings. OLEPS also provided guidance to NJSP on questions regarding the Directives and oversaw the timely completion of all mandated requirements pursuant to these Directives, including training in Community-Law Enforcement Affirmative Relations, use of force, and resiliency.
- Annually OLEPS completes multiple oversight reports, in which the office reviews data, motor vehicle digital recordings, and motor vehicle stop reports for over 600 motor vehicle stops conducted by NJSP. OLEPS also publishes reports detailing NJSP internal affairs process as well as data associated with reviewed and aggregated misconduct.



Statewide Affirmative Firearms Enforcement Office

Ravi Ramanathan, *Director*

Established by Attorney General Platkin through Attorney General Directive No. 2022-08, the SAFE Office is a first-in-the-nation office with the mandate to bring civil enforcement actions against firearm companies to hold them accountable for violations of the law that harm the health and safety of New Jersey residents. Specifically, the SAFE Office is authorized to bring civil enforcement actions against gun industry members that knowingly or recklessly contribute to a public nuisance in New Jersey through unlawful or unreasonable conduct.

2022 Highlights

- The SAFE Office was established by Attorney General Platkin in July 2022, shortly after the passage of P.L. 2022, c. 56, the firearms public nuisance legislation signed by Governor Murphy on July 5, 2022. The SAFE Office has since brought on its inaugural Director and Deputy Director as it begins to carry out its mission.
- In addition to its statutory mandate, the SAFE Office also collaborates with other divisions within the Department to facilitate the efficient and effective administration of laws pertaining to gun violence. To that end, the SAFE Office has met with key stakeholders within the Department to coordinate the implementation of the state’s gun laws and to keep New Jersey residents safe from gun violence.



Victims of Crime Compensation Office

Mary Ellen Bonsper, *Director*

www.njoag.gov/vcco

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.

2022 Highlights

- In 2022, VCCO created a Victim Services Unit designed to connect victims with services, information, and assistance. The Unit provides individuals with personal assistance to file a claim with VCCO, access to emergency food, clothing, and employment opportunities as well as referrals to other social service providers and agencies that offer legal advice and representation.
- VCCO created multiple service directories to provide resources to victims in 2022. These included a list of therapists who provide mental health counseling services in various languages, county domestic violence programs, non-profit legal services, grief and support groups for survivors of homicide as well as a hotel directory for relocation assistance.
- VCCO awarded \$15.8 million in 2022 in claim payments (a \$3 million dollar increase from 2021) as a result of improvements to the accessibility of services which resulted in providing compensation to a larger pool of victims.
- As the application process increasingly moves online, VCCO has increased application accessibility by enhancing online capabilities and by offering phone assistance for the completion of applications. In 2023, VCCO expects to further improve the online application process by offering applicants who visit its offices in-person the opportunity to submit electronic applications onsite using computers in its reception area.



Juvenile Justice Commission

Jennifer LeBaron, PhD, *Acting Executive Director*
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.

2022 Highlights

- JJC continues to serve as a national leader for juvenile justice reform and 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. In 2022, JJC released a report detailing the 2021 JDAI results, specifically that the number of youth detained in county facilities had declined by about 88%, to 1,411 youth, and the number committed to JJC facilities by the Family Court had declined by 92%, to 99 youth since the inception of the program. Of particular significance, youth of color accounted for more than 85% of the reduction in youth committed to both county and state facilities, and youth crime has decreased by 83% since JDAI implementation.
- JJC launched a State Youth Advisory Board (Board) in 2022 that is designed to foster trusting relationships between youth and JJC staff and to provide a space for young people to tackle topics which impact residents throughout JJC. The Board allows participants to develop leadership skills including how to effectively identify issues, generate solutions, and recommend and implement change; plan and run committee meetings; and communicate outcomes to their peers. In addition, Local Resident Councils were also established at each JJC residential and secure facility to weigh in on issues specific to each location and to elevate broader issues that to the Board.
- Recognizing the challenges and stressors that staff face in the workplace, JJC launched a multi-disciplinary Crisis Intervention Stress Management Team (CISM Team) to serve as a resource and peer-to-peer support for staff impacted by a crisis or critical incident. The CISM Team is comprised of staff volunteers who expressed interest in ensuring that individuals involved in critical incidents have the tools, supports, and resources needed to maintain their physical and emotional health. JJC staff who volunteered for the CISM Team received two full days of upfront training in evidenced-based practices including psychological first aid, peer support, resiliency, and stress management.



New Jersey Racing Commission

Judith A. Nason, *Executive Director*
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 daily functions involving the regulation of horse racing, including the permitting and licensing procedures of horse owners, trainers, drivers, and veterinarians involved in the sport.

2022 Highlights

- In July 2022, the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority (HISA) assumed jurisdiction over racetrack safety for thoroughbred racing pursuant to the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act, 15 U.S.C. §§3051 et seq. (Act). Pursuant to the authority granted to HISA by the Act, HISA promulgated voluminous rules that preempted certain rules of NJRC. To ensure a smooth transition, NJRC staff conducted a careful analysis of HISA’s rules and their impact and worked with NJRC employees to ensure their awareness of the new rules and procedures.
- NJRC and HISA entered into a services agreement in 2022 wherein NJRC agreed to provide the services of its stewards and veterinarians to enforce HISA’s racetrack safety rules and perform certain related duties, such as performing pre-race examination of the horses and enforcing HISA’s riding crop and claiming rules. Entering into the services agreement allowed thoroughbred racing to continue in New Jersey on and after July 1, 2022 without interruption. At the time of the agreement with HISA, NJRC was the only State racing commission in the country to obtain HISA’s agreement to pay for the actual cost of the services provided by NJRC’s stewards and veterinarians in connection with HISA’s racetrack safety rules.
- NJRC implemented a Licensing Initiative in 2022 to improve service to license applicants, attain the timely collection of unpaid fines, and ensure the timely deposit of revenue. In 2021, NJRC hired a Chief Inspector to oversee the Licensing Inspectors, review compliance, and provide additional training, and in 2022, it increased licensing staff to improve services.



State Athletic Control Board

Larry Hazzard, Sr., Commissioner
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. SACB also develops, prescribes, and charges fees for licensure and collects ticket and television taxes, licensing fees, and disciplinary fines.

2022 Highlights

- Audience attendance at combat sport activities slowly increased after the 2021 post-pandemic reopening of combat sports activities, and 2022 ushered in a very busy year of event activity. By mid-May, audience attendance was restored to full capacity crowds and, in some instances, surpassed pre-pandemic levels to reach historic attendance levels. SACB regulated a professional boxing event held on September 23, 2022, which had the highest ticket gate for boxing held at the Prudential Center in Newark. The event featured Newark native, 2016 Olympic Silver Medalist, and World Champion Professional Boxer Shakur Stevenson.
- In furtherance of its goal to diversify its officiating staff, SACB licensed the first female mixed martial arts referee in New Jersey in 2022. New Jersey now has two female professional boxing referees and one female mixed martial arts referee licensed in the State of New Jersey.



Coordinator for Addiction Responses & Enforcement Strategies

Kelly Levy, Interim Director
www.njoag.gov/njcares

NJ CARES takes a multifaceted approach to New Jersey’s drug crisis, focusing on the prevention and treatment of substance abuse as well as deterring illegal drug activity. NJ CARES coordinates the efforts of the agencies within the Department and partners with other State and private entities similarly committed to combatting the overdose epidemic.

2022 Highlights

- NJ CARES announced several new initiatives aimed at partnering with law enforcement to link individuals with substance use disorder to care. Those initiatives include the implementation of LEAD programs in six areas of New Jersey, the Child Trauma Response Initiative which trains law enforcement officers and community stakeholders, and “Opt for Help and Hope” diversion programs in six identified municipal courts which offer early intervention for defendants whose offenses are non-violent.
- NJ CARES continued to collaborate with the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey to co-host monthly webinars to educate the public on the opioid epidemic. Webinar topics included race and the opioid epidemic, medications for opioid use disorder, harm reduction techniques, and safe drug disposal. NJ CARES also partnered with Rowan University to expand its opioid education learning opportunities for health care professionals and released the first six episodes of the New Jersey Open Dialogue with Experts Opioid Education Podcast series in 2022. Additionally, NJ CARES worked with the Attorney General’s Advocacy Institute (AGAI) to educate government attorneys on substance use disorder, the role of drugs and alcohol in the legal profession and attorney wellness, and recent legislative changes mandating harm reduction efforts such the decriminalization of syringe/needle possession and fentanyl test strips.
- NJ CARES partnered with the New Jersey Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) and the Department of Health (DOH) to launch the 2022 Naloxone Distribution Program, making naloxone available at no cost to public entities and social services agencies. As part of this initiative, it became mandatory in 2021 for first responders, including law enforcement, who administer naloxone to a person believed to be experiencing an overdose but not transported to a health care facility, to offer the person additional naloxone and provide that person with opioid overdose response and prevention information and resources. NJ CARES also collaborated with DMHAS and DOH to develop required written materials to be handed out when naloxone is administered.



Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

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

The Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (ODEI) is responsible for the overarching strategy, oversight, and implementation of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives within and across LPS. As the DEI practice continues to impact and affect the Department’s divisions, offices and commissions, institutional clarity and additional support enables the Department’s continued progress and advancement in DEI.

2022 Highlights

- In August 2022, Attorney General Platkin issued Executive Administrative Directive No. 2022-09. In so doing, he reflected his support and commitment to the DEI work of this office by formally designating and establishing ODEI within the Department. Formalizing ODEI serves as the next step forward in the Department’s institutional DEI journey, which began with the initial creation of a Diversity Council in 2013, followed by establishing an executive leadership role in 2016, dedicated to advancing DEI as an organizational mission.
- Building upon nationally recognized observances, ODEI worked hand-in-hand with the Department’s Employee Resource Groups as well as with co-collaborators within the New Jersey Judiciary to bring together subject matter experts and change-makers in a series of speaker programs on an assortment of topical issues, all of which were aimed at broadening and deepening understanding of issues affecting women, people of color, veterans, and members of the LGBTQ+ community. The speaker series had great appeal and leveraged virtual technology to reach hundreds of audience members.



Attorney General’s Advocacy Institute

Margaret A. Cotoia, *Director*
www.njoag.gov/agai

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

2022 Highlights

- AGAI conducted 121 lecture and skills programs in 2022, educating 12,391 attendees with a focus on its core constituencies of assistant and deputy attorneys general and county prosecutors and assistant prosecutors.
- AGAI presented two new programs to promote firearms safety, prevent gun violence, and reduce threats against the public, furthering the policy objectives of Executive Order 299. AGAI and DMHAS collaborated to develop a program on Understanding and Using Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs). The program’s six panelists, which included attorneys and academic experts, provided health care practitioners, law enforcement professionals, attorneys, and clinicians with a framework for understanding ERPOs and using them effectively to intervene in preventing firearm violence. AGAI also presented a program on Understanding & Preventing Targeted Violence through Comprehensive Incident Management, which addressed the threat of workplace violence.
- AGAI provided 27 ethics programs, covering a wide range of topics and conferring 44 ethics credits. Ten of these programs were in the category of diversity, inclusion, and elimination of bias, and four focused on attorney wellness.

Leading the Department

To help manage the day-to-day operations of the Department, Attorney General Platkin has 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.



Kate McDonnell
Chief Counsel to the Attorney General



Stephan Finkel
Director of Legislative Affairs



Lora Fong
Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer



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Whitney Lewis
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Lyndsay V. Ruotolo
First Assistant Attorney General



Shirley Emehele
Executive Assistant Attorney General



Jonathan Garelick
Chief of Staff



Governor Murphy and Attorney General Platkin convene before the AG’s Bias, Hate, and Violence Summit.



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