



New Jersey Office of the Attorney General
Year in Review 2025

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*Front cover: Attorney General Platkin celebrates
Rev. Derrick Green's pastoral anniversary at
The Historic Calvary Baptist Church.*



New Jersey Office of the Attorney General

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Who We Are.....	3
Introduction from Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin	5
Standing Up for New Jerseyans in Court	7
Combating Gun Violence	11
Fighting Corruption and Rebuilding Trust	15
Protecting Civil Rights and Eradicating Hate	19
Promoting Public Safety	25
Protecting Victims of Sexual Assault and Violence	35
Holding Corporate Wrongdoers Accountable.....	39
Protecting Children Online	45
Overseeing LPS Divisions and Offices	49-70
Leading the Department.....	72
Looking Back 2022 – 2025.....	74

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 24 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 LPS, see pages 49 to 70.

Attorney General Platkin and community members attend the second annual LPS iftar at the War Memorial in Trenton.





Introduction from Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin

Justice, justice, shalt thou pursue.

Serving as New Jersey's 62nd Attorney General has truly been the honor of a lifetime. New Jersey is my home. I was born here, attended public schools here, and my wife and I are raising our children here.

Protecting my fellow New Jerseyans has never been just a job. It has been an extraordinary opportunity to work alongside the more than 8,000 Department of Law and Public Safety employees, each proud public servants committed to serving our communities.

And together, we have made a difference over the last four years.

Our fight to end the gun violence epidemic is saving lives. In 2021, the year prior to my taking office, 1,413 people suffered gunshot injuries in New Jersey. By 2023, that number fell to the historic low of below 1,000 for the first time since the State began tracking such data. And, as I write this note, 2025 is on track to be another record-setting year with shootings down across the state. These reductions are no accident. They can be attributed to our holistic approach to reducing gun violence, including the hard work of our law enforcement officers and my Gun Violence Reduction Task Force, innovative violence intervention and prevention programs, enforcement of New Jersey's strict gun regulations, and the Statewide Affirmative Firearms Enforcement (SAFE) Office's work to hold the firearm industry accountable.

New Jersey is a leader in reducing gun violence not because we have some magic formula, but because we took meaningful steps to end it.

When I was nominated to serve as Attorney General, I also spoke of the need to improve trust between our law enforcement officers and our communities.

Today, the connection between our 42,000 law enforcement officers and the people they serve is stronger because of renewed partnerships and a commitment to innovation.

In 2024, I launched the Office of Policing Strategy and Innovation to find ways to improve professional development, training, and better support our officers as they serve our 9.5 million residents.

We expanded the Alternative Responses to Reduce Instances of Violence and Escalation (ARRIVE) Together program into the first statewide alternative response program in the nation, improving outcomes for individuals experiencing a mental health issue and easing the burden placed on law enforcement as our nation struggles with a mental health crisis. By year's end, we expect to reach more than 15,000 ARRIVE interactions and we continue to see reductions in the use of force, arrests, and racial disparities in outcomes.

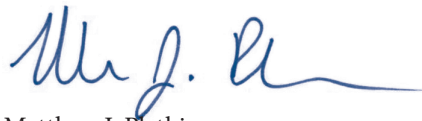
In my four years in office, we stood up for the rights of New Jersey's consumers by holding corporate giants accountable for putting profits over the safety and wellbeing of our residents.

We reached multi-billion-dollar settlements with corporate polluters, including DuPont and 3M, ensuring that future generations have equal access to clean water.

And we challenged the Trump Administration when it attempted to subvert our laws, including the rights guaranteed to all Americans under the Constitution. We defended education funding, kept dangerous weapons off our streets, and fought to protect access to critical health care and safety net programs, including food security for the more than 800,000 New Jerseyans who rely on SNAP benefits.

As Attorney General, I have met with thousands of New Jerseyans, including many inspiring young people, and as my time as Attorney General comes to an end I am optimistic about our future because of them.

My thanks to those who have taken this journey with me. My thanks to all who wake up each day committed to doing what is right. My thanks to you, New Jersey.



Matthew J. Platkin
New Jersey Attorney General

Attorney General Platkin, U.S. Senator Andy Kim, and Acting Comptroller Kevin Walsh wait to testify before the New Jersey Legislature to oppose a bill that will weaken corruption oversight.





Standing Up for New Jerseyans

In 2025, the federal administration took unprecedented steps to attempt to override the U.S. Constitution and to harm New Jersey's interests, including by withholding billions of dollars in federal funding for our State. But our office has led the fight to protect New Jerseyans from unlawful federal actions that harm our residents. Our office has filed dozens of lawsuits against the Trump Administration in conjunction with our partners in other states.

Many of these cases are ongoing, but under Attorney General Platkin, New Jersey has consistently and successfully blocked the Trump Administration when it has attempted to violate the Constitution or the laws of our country. We have successfully obtained more than a dozen preliminary injunctions, favorable rulings, and agreements that halted the federal administration's unlawful actions.

Left: Environmental stakeholders meet with Attorney General Platkin.

Below: Attorney General Platkin, flanked by other Attorneys General, speaks to the press following U.S. Supreme Court arguments to defend birthright citizenship.



Defending birthright citizenship. At 8 p.m. on Inauguration Day, January 20, 2025, President Trump issued an executive order attempting to end birthright citizenship, a violation of the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and Section 1401 of the Immigration and Nationality Act. Just hours later, New Jersey led a coalition of 18 states, the District of Columbia, and the City of San Francisco in filing *New Jersey v. Trump*. The court swiftly agreed to invalidate the executive order and to enjoin any actions taken to implement it. In May, Attorney General Platkin and his team led the oral argument before the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of the coalition. After the Supreme Court sent the case back to the lower court to determine the proper scope of a preliminary injunction, New Jersey again swiftly obtained a nationwide preliminary injunction in July, protecting the constitutional right to birthright citizenship for children in New Jersey and across the country.

Stopping federal funding freezes/restrictions. New Jersey has played a lead role in several lawsuits successfully challenging unlawful efforts by the Trump Administration to cut off critical federal funding. Attorney General Platkin and his team secured court orders blocking the Administration from freezing tens of billions of dollars in federal funding to the State in January 2025. It then successfully obtained court orders reversing hundreds of millions of dollars of funding cuts from the federal government, including financial support for K-12 schools and afterschool programs, lifesaving medical and scientific research, clean energy infrastructure, and more. In the midst of the nation's longest federal government shutdown, Attorney General Platkin joined a coalition of 22 other attorneys general and three governors in a lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Secretary Brooke Rollins for unlawfully suspending funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which helps about 42 million

In April, CBS News journalist Jim Axelrod moderated a discussion with Attorney General Platkin about the impact of the Trump Administration's actions on New Jerseyans.



Americans, including 812,000 New Jerseyans, struggling with food insecurity. The State also led litigation to prevent the Administration from imposing unlawful conditions on critical law enforcement funding, and it obtained a court order prohibiting the federal government from withholding billions of dollars in funding for disaster relief and services for crime victims.

Protecting New Jersey from machine guns. Attorney General Platkin, whose focus on ending gun violence has resulted in significant declines in the number of shooting victims across the state, led the fight to stop an unprecedented settlement agreement by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF). The agreement would have redistributed thousands of machine gun conversion devices into communities across the United States. ATF's plan involved Forced Reset Triggers (FRT), which allow even novice shooters to achieve the firepower of a military machine gun. Although the ATF previously classified FRTs as illegal machineguns, ATF—under the directive of the Trump Administration—signed a settlement agreement that promised to stop enforcing federal law against FRTs. The multistate litigation was filed because FRTs are still illegal to possess under state law. One month later, ATF agreed to refrain from returning FRTs into the plaintiff states, including New Jersey, and the country's largest seller of FRTs confirmed that it would not sell FRTs in our State, saving countless lives.

Protecting access to healthcare. Under Attorney General Platkin, New Jersey led a challenge to the Trump Administration's Final Rule that, by its own admission, would cause up to 1.8 million individuals to lose access to their affordable health insurance via the Affordable Care Act (ACA). New Jersey also joined a lawsuit to stop the Trump Administration from blocking Medicaid funding for Planned Parenthood affiliates that provide critical reproductive healthcare to millions of New Jerseyans.

Attorney General Platkin visits the the Boys & Girls Club of Atlantic City, which has been a safe place where young people can learn and grow for more than 50 years.





The Attorney General's 2025 Symposium Gun and Community Prevention and Response

JUNE 13, 2025 | NEW JERSEY FIREHOUSE, NEWARK, NJ



ATTORNEY GENERAL | DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
COMMUNITY PREVENTION & RESPONSE
NEW JERSEY STATE POLICE

Combating Violent Crime and Gun Violence

New Jersey is one of the safest states in the nation thanks to the combination of commonsense gun laws, collaborative law enforcement efforts, data-tracking and real-time communication, and our commitment to treating gun violence as the public health crisis that it is. Attorney General Platkin's determination to end the gun violence epidemic, in conjunction with strict enforcement of criminal and civil laws, the incorporation of intervention programs into our public safety strategy, use of violence intervention programs and intelligence sharing through the Attorney General's Gun Violence Reduction Task Force, is making every New Jerseyan safer.

Left: Attorney General Platkin announces new guidance for law enforcement agencies and Community-Based Violence Intervention (CBVI) providers.

Below: Attorney General Platkin and police chiefs convene for the inaugural meeting of the Office of Policing Strategy and Innovation.



Attorney General Platkin, the Statewide Affirmative Firearms Enforcement Office, and the Division of Consumer Affairs announce a lawsuit against Sig Sauer, Inc., to halt the sale of the P320 handgun.

Number of shooting victims reaches record low. The number of shooting victims plummeted 28% from 2024 as a result of our holistic approach to ending gun violence, ensuring that hundreds more New Jerseyans are whole and healthy around dinner tables statewide. For the third year in a row, the number of people shot fell to the lowest number since the State began tracking these incidents in 2009. Gun violence has continually declined during Attorney General Platkin's tenure, with the number of shooting victims dropping by more than 60% since the start of 2022.

Demanding and winning accountability from firearms retailers. The Statewide Affirmative Firearms Enforcement Office (SAFE) and the Division of Consumer Affairs (DCA) brought a landmark lawsuit against Sig Sauer, Inc., seeking to halt the sale of the company's P320 handgun, which has a well-documented propensity to fire unintentionally. The P320 has killed at least one New Jersey law enforcement officer and wounded other law enforcement officers and civilians. SAFE and DCA demand a mandatory recall of the P320 as well as a halt to the company's false and deceptive advertising. Additionally, SAFE obtained three victories in its enforcement actions under the 2022 public safety firearms law against three gun stores. SAFE obtained a court-approved settlement against licensed firearms retailer FSS Armory, Inc., whose unreasonable gun product storage practices culminated in a 2023 burglary in which criminals took 18 unsecured guns, many of which were then used in violent crimes. In the other cases, two gun stores sold over a thousand rounds of AR-15 ammunition and other gun-related products in cash to undercover investigators, without making any effort to determine if they could lawfully possess a firearm. One store, Point Blank Guns and Ammo, settled with the Attorney General. The other store, Butch's Gun World, lost in court and is currently under a court-ordered injunction to implement reasonable controls to prevent the sale of gun-related products to prohibited purchasers.



Pursuing illegal gun owners. The Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) indicted a Florida man for aggravated assault, endangering others, and multiple weapons offenses, including possession of assault weapons, large capacity ammunition magazines, silencers, and a booby-trapped rifle that fired during his arrest in New Jersey.

In February, two Ocean County residents were indicted on charges of illegal possession and distribution of firearms and drugs after a search found numerous guns, including ghost guns and extended magazines. Additionally, the investigation revealed that the defendants conspired to sell a defaced firearm with no serial number.

Ghost gun law upheld. The U.S. Supreme Court upheld a federal government rule closing a loophole regulating ghost guns, weapons without serial numbers that are often made at home from semi-completed kits, and which can be purchased without background checks. Attorney General Platkin co-lead a coalition of 23 attorneys general in filing an amicus brief. The law subjects ghost gun kits and nearly-complete guns to the same rules as conventionally manufactured guns, including serial number and background check requirements, and tracking records so that self-made guns used in crimes can be traced.

First-of-its-kind guidance issued for violence intervention efforts. Attorney General Platkin issued new guidance for law enforcement agencies and Community-Based Violence Intervention (CBVI) program providers following the work of his Multidisciplinary Public Safety Innovation Working Group. Created in 2023 as part of the package of reforms announced with the Attorney General's supersession of the Paterson Police Department, the 18 members of the Working Group identified and recommended best practices to better coordinate the efforts of CBVI providers with law enforcement agencies. In response, the Attorney General issued both a law enforcement directive and formal guidance to CBVI providers, creating the first playbook of its kind nationally.

Advocates gather in Trenton to hear from Attorney General Platkin at an annual Wear Orange event to mark National Gun Violence Awareness Day in June.





Fighting Corruption and Rebuilding Trust

New Jerseyans should be able to trust that their government, whether at the local, county, state, or national level, is working on their behalf. To that end, in 2025, Attorney General Platkin launched the TRUST (Transparency and Reliability Uniting to Secure Trust) Commission, which called upon the collective expertise of the appointed Commissioners and gathered public input to determine steps that could be taken to help restore faith in our leaders and our institutions. Meanwhile, the team of investigators and attorneys at the Attorney General's Office of Public Integrity and Accountability (OPIA) continued standing up to powerful interests across the state. No one is above the law, and our office repeatedly held public officials accountable and pursued wrongdoing by those who violated State law and abused the public trust.

Left: Attorney General Platkin held two public listening sessions for the TRUST Commission. Here, he speaks at the First Baptist Church in South Orange.

Below: Attorney General Platkin responds to a TRUST Commission inquiry at the First Baptist Church in South Orange.



Restoring faith in government. In January, Attorney General Platkin announced the creation of a 13-member commission, tasked with recommending ways to further the mission of eliminating corruption, promoting transparency, and strengthening the public's trust in government. The TRUST Commission held listening sessions in Burlington County and Essex County, where community members shared their concerns and suggestions.

Prosecuting public officials who abuse their office. The majority of individuals in the public sector work tirelessly on behalf of the people in New Jersey, but unfortunately, some choose to violate the public's trust. And when they do, our office seeks justice in holding wrongdoers accountable.

A former Manville Police Chief was sentenced to seven years in prison after a jury found him guilty of multiple counts, including official misconduct, sexual assault, and criminal sexual contact. The former chief engaged in sexually assaultive and sexually inappropriate activity against several subordinates, often while on duty.

The mayor of Clark Township pleaded guilty to conspiring to commit official misconduct and forgery after using township employees and resources to operate his private oil tank removal business and submitting fraudulent applications to unlawfully obtain permits for over 200 tank removals. He was required to immediately forfeit his position as mayor. In addition, he was barred from state contracting and sentenced to probation and a fine.

A lieutenant with the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office was indicted for allegedly removing and tampering with drug evidence after using his access to law enforcement databases to get information on narcotics cases and drug seizures. He was also charged with money laundering, possession with intent to distribute narcotics, and official misconduct.

Rowan College at Burlington County hosted the first TRUST Commission meeting.



In May, a former Mount Arlington Borough Council Member pleaded guilty to accepting a \$7,000 cash bribe in exchange for agreeing to support a municipal attorney's bid to be reappointed.

Protecting public funds. In May, a senior director for New Jersey Transit was charged with theft and receiving stolen property for his alleged private resale of cell phones purchased with public funds. He was accused of purchasing over 850 cell phones and other electronic devices for the use of NJ Transit employees, but then reselling the devices to cell phone buy back companies and pocketing in excess of \$700,000 from the scheme.

Corrections officer charged with official misconduct, theft. A New Jersey Department of Corrections (NJDOC) lieutenant, who served as a range master, was charged with official misconduct, theft, and structuring financial transactions after he allegedly stole state-owned ammunition from NJDOC and sold it for hundreds of thousands of dollars of profit.

Keeping our elections fair and safe. The New Jersey Voter Protection Initiative, first implemented in 2022 under Attorney General Platkin, continued in 2025 to ensure that New Jersey's elections are fair and safe. The Voter Protection Initiative protects the voting rights and civil rights of all voters, ensuring that they are able to cast their ballots without harassment, discrimination, or intimidation. In addition, separate from the work of the Voter Protection Initiative, attorneys from the Division of Law provide around-the-clock legal advice to county elections officials during early voting and on Election Day.

During the June primary, Attorney General Platkin met with State election security officials, including Chief Information Security Officer Michael Geraghty, Secretary of State Tahesha L. Way, and Laurie Doran, Director of the Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness.





Protecting Civil Rights and Eradicating Hate

Attorney General Platkin has made it a priority to combat and eradicate bias and hate in New Jersey using every tool and resource within LPS. This includes enforcing the country's strongest civil rights laws and protections, pursuing criminal prosecutions in collaboration with law enforcement, encouraging the reporting of bias incidents, engaging in preventative efforts through advocacy and education, and collaborating with community partners in the fight to end hate in all its forms.

Left: The Juneteenth flag, raised by Assemblywoman Shavonda Sumter, joins the LGBTQ+ flag at a ceremony led by Attorney General Platkin at the Hughes Justice Complex.

Below: Attorney General Platkin joins members of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community to celebrate the Lunar New Year.



No Hate in the Garden State public awareness campaign. The Office of the Attorney General, together with the Division on Civil Rights (DCR) and DCJ, continued its work on the statewide No Hate in the Garden State campaign, which was launched in 2024, to raise public awareness about the importance of reporting bias incidents and bias crimes. Advertising appeared throughout the state encouraging bias incident reporting. Additionally, DCR and DCJ provided “Know Your Rights” presentations statewide on the remedies available for victims of bias and hate incidents and crimes and on how to report. Attorney General Platkin and DCR also hosted the first of its kind No Hate in the Garden State Youth Competition. Over 40 student groups with a total of 233 students from across New Jersey participated in the competition developing creative projects to help address bias and hate. In July 2025, the Attorney General and DCR honored the six winning teams at an award ceremony.

Ensuring New Jerseyans have access to abortion medication. In June, Attorney General Platkin and the attorneys general of California, Massachusetts, and New York co-led a petition requesting that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) eliminate unnecessary restrictions on the abortion medication mifepristone. The coalition argued that mifepristone has proven overwhelmingly safe and effective in the 25 years since it was first approved by the FDA, and that the agency’s current Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy program imposes burdensome restrictions on access to medication abortion while not meaningfully improving patient safety. Mifepristone, used in combination with misoprostol, is the most common method for ending early pregnancy in the United States and is also the standard of care for managing an early miscarriage.

*Attorney General Platkin
meets with DCR staff.*



Making schools safer and inclusive for all. In response to the U.S. Department of Education’s threat to withhold federal funding that supports students from low-income households and students with special needs, Attorney General Platkin joined a coalition of states attorneys general in issuing guidance to help K-12 schools, colleges, and universities understand the legality of continuing to foster diverse, equitable, inclusive, and accessible learning environments. The guidance makes clear that schools can and should strive for a climate where all students feel safe, supported, respected, and ready to learn.

In addition, at the start of the 2025-26 school year, Attorney General Platkin and DCR issued an annual statement reminding students, educators, administrators, and parents that the Law Against Discrimination (LAD) requires all K-12 schools, colleges and universities to proactively address and respond to bias-based harassment, including peer-on-peer harassment, and other bias incidents at school.

Launching landmark Civil Rights and Technology Initiative. Recognizing the rise of the use of advanced technologies and automated decision-making tools, Attorney General Platkin and DCR launched the Civil Rights and Technology Initiative, the first state-level initiative of its kind in the country. The initiative supports responsible innovation by providing guidance to regulated entities to help address the risks of discrimination and bias-based harassment associated with the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and other advanced technologies. And through the Civil Rights Innovation Lab, DCR is also leveraging technology to enhance its enforcement, outreach, and public education work. As part of the Initiative, Attorney General Platkin and DCR issued “Guidance on Algorithmic Discrimination and the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination,” which explains how the LAD applies to discrimination resulting from the use of data-driven technologies, including AI, by employers, housing providers, places of public accommodation, and other entities covered by the LAD.

Attorney General Platkin greets law enforcement members during Asbury Park’s annual Pride Parade.



Combating discriminatory lending and employment practices. In March, Attorney General Platkin and DCR announced a Finding of Probable Cause (FPC) against Advance Funding Partners/Same Day Funding (Advance Funding), a New Jersey business that issues cash advances and loans to borrowers, for allegedly engaging in unlawful discriminatory lending and employment practices in violation of the LAD. DCR found that Advance Funding maintained a policy of refusing to lend to “Chinese, African, and Spanish” prospective clients, and that Advance Funding maintained a hostile work environment where employees sent racist and offensive messages to other employees and that leadership failed to act. The FPC also alleges that Advance Funding engaged in unlawful retaliation against an employee who reported the conduct to DCR.

Addressing race-based harassment. In July, Attorney General Platkin and DCR announced a Finding of Probable Cause against the Mount Laurel Police Department (MLPD) for allegedly violating the LAD by discriminating against Black residents of the Essex Place Condominium Complex (Essex Place) after failing to investigate numerous reports that a white resident engaged in repeated, severe, and pervasive race-based harassment towards Black residents of Essex Place. Two complainants, both of whom are Black and were residents of the Essex Place in Mount Laurel, filed verified complaints with DCR alleging that MLPD discriminated against them based on race. According to the complaints, MLPD received dozens of calls reporting that an Essex Place resident was engaging in repeated harassment toward other condominium residents. The complainants alleged that MLPD failed to adequately investigate, despite having evidence that the harassment was based on race well before an arrest was made in July 2021.

Attorney General Platkin attends the Latino Festival of Monmouth County in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month.



Fighting discrimination based on source of income. DCR has continued to be a national leader in the fight against housing discrimination. In March, Attorney General Platkin and DCR announced an FPC against Highland Living LLC, the owner of an apartment complex in Highland Park, and its leasing agent for allegedly violating the LAD by imposing unlawful minimum-income requirements that discriminated against recipients of government assistance. As the FPC explains, Highland Living's minimum-income policy, requiring applicants to show a monthly income that was two times the monthly rent, supported a reasonable ground of suspicion that it had an unlawful disparate impact on Section 8 voucher recipients. Under the LAD, landlords cannot refuse to rent to those receiving government rental assistance.

Ensuring hospitals meet their obligations to provide abortion care. In June, Attorney General Platkin, joined by the attorneys general of four other states, issued a letter to the American Hospital Association reminding hospitals of their obligations under the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act, or EMTALA, with respect to the act's provisions regarding emergency abortion care. Since 1986, EMTALA has mandated that hospitals provide critical and necessary health care in emergency medical situations. Under EMTALA, all Medicare-participating hospitals with an emergency department must provide pregnant patients access to abortion care to prevent serious harm to the patient's health, serious impairment to bodily function, or serious dysfunction of an organ or body part.

Fighting Trump Administration's effort to limit access to contraceptives. New Jersey, joined by dozens of other states, successfully stopped the Trump Administration's plan to allow religious and moral carve-outs to an ACA requirement that all employer health plans cover contraception at no cost. New Jersey will continue to fight for women's rights and access to health care.

Attorney General Platkin opens a meeting of advocates working to expand access to reproductive health care in New Jersey.





Promoting Public Safety

As New Jersey's chief law enforcement officer, Attorney General Platkin's top priority is the safety of the Garden State's 9.5 million residents. New Jersey has long been a national leader in policing and it has continued to lead the way under Attorney General Platkin by embracing modern policing, adapting and engaging with new technologies and methods. This forward-thinking approach has made it possible for New Jersey to modernize the policing profession, transform the Paterson Police Department, disrupt auto theft operations, and combat the opioid epidemic.

Left: Attorney General Platkin and Paterson police officials speak to the press following an affirmative court ruling regarding the supersession of the police department.

Below: During Women's History Month, Attorney General Platkin congratulated newly promoted female police officers at NJIT.



Advancing Innovative Policing

Landmark ARRIVE Together program serves growing number of New Jerseyans.

The nationally-recognized Alternative Responses to Reduce Instances of Violence and Escalation (ARRIVE) Together program is now available in all 21 counties. The innovative program, overseen by the Office of Alternative and Community Responses (OACR), is designed to be a resource to improve outcomes for all involved when law enforcement officers interact with individuals in need of behavioral health support. Since ARRIVE was implemented in December 2021, increases in funding – including a \$20.1 million allocation in the 2025 budget – have allowed the program to serve more than 75% of New Jersey’s 9.5 million residents.

Supporting municipal law enforcement. The Office of Policing Strategy and Innovation (OPSI), a cutting-edge effort, completed its first full year of operation, sharing best practices and innovation around the pillars of leadership, officer wellness, and innovation and technology. OPSI also provided training and other opportunities for law enforcement to connect and showcase examples of excellence in policing.

Helping residents with autism and other communications disorders. Human Services Commissioner Sarah Adelman, Attorney General Platkin, and Acting New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (NJMVC) Chief Administrator Latrecia Littles-Floyd issued guidance to help law enforcement officers identify individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) or other communication disorders so police can better communicate with them. In 2023, Governor Murphy signed legislation allowing New Jerseyans with ASD or another communication disorder to request through the NJMVC an official indication of their diagnosis on their state driver’s license or non-driver identification. New Jersey residents with ASD or a communication disorder can request to have their license updated at any NJMVC Licensing Center.

Attorney General Platkin, accompanied by First Assistant Attorney General Lyndsay V. Ruotolo and OPSI Executive Director Isa Abassi, visits with a K-9 officer in the Gloucester Township Police Department.



Improving Safety in Paterson

New Jersey Supreme Court upholds supersession. In July, the New Jersey Supreme Court issued a decision affirming Attorney General Platkin's authority to assume control of the Paterson Police Department (PPD) in the March 2023 supersession, which led to historic drops in crime in the city. The Court upheld the lawfulness of the supersession, which was initiated in response to longstanding challenges in oversight, accountability, and public trust within the department.

Decreasing crime, increasing safety. Affirming the success of the supersession, 2025 witnessed a historic drop in crime, with robberies, aggravated assaults, and burglaries all down significantly from 2024. From January 1 through November 30, robberies decreased 7.1%, aggravated assaults decreased 17.4%, and burglaries decreased 15.3% compared with the same period in 2024. These decreases contributed to a 8.9% drop in overall crime within Paterson. Part of the crime decrease can be attributed to a 6% increase in the number of illegal firearms recovered (134 in 2025 compared to 126 in 2024). Paterson also recorded a historic decline in gun violence in 2025, with shooting incidents falling 35.5% and shooting victims down 48.8%, marking the lowest year-to-date totals in recent years.

Relocating Internal Affairs operations. In keeping with its Strategic Plan, PPD relocated the Professional Standards Division and Internal Affairs Unit from police headquarters to a separate office at 100 Hamilton Street. Moving the office to a neutral location provides community members with a place where they can feel comfortable being interviewed, filing complaints, and discussing their concerns with investigators. Since March 2023, the Internal Affairs Unit has standardized its investigative and reporting methods and has broadened investigative measures. In addition, the Professional Standards Division has reorganized, with a strict focus on the mission of regaining the public's trust.

Attorney General Platkin and Paterson Police Department officials speak to the media after the relocation of the Internal Affairs Unit to a more accessible location.



Attorney General Platkin, along with Philadelphia Police Commissioner Kevin J. Bethel, announced charges against 11 members of an international auto-theft ring that stole high-end vehicles by breaking into homes for key fobs.

Increasing diversity and representation. PPD signed on to the 30×30 Initiative, with the goal to ensure department policies and culture are supportive of women and meet their needs in the workplace. The 30×30 Initiative is based on social science research that demonstrates the need for greater representation of women in police agencies, which can ultimately lead to better policing outcomes for communities. The goal is to have women make up at least 30% of new PPD recruit classes by 2030.

Implementing best practices to increase accountability. A first-of-its-kind Risk Management and Early Intervention Program (EIP) was launched in January. The program identifies at-risk employees and builds upon the existing state-mandated Early Warning System. Under the program, PPD officer conduct is reviewed and remedial retraining, peer supported mentorship, and other behavioral corrections are used to promote best practices in a non-disciplinary setting. This initiative enhances officer performance, accountability, and community trust by using data and body-worn camera video review to flag potential issues before they escalate.

Tackling Auto Theft

Breaking up deadly auto theft ring. Attorney General Platkin, DCJ, and the New Jersey State Police (NJSP) broke up a violent Camden-based auto theft ring in September, when 13 people were indicted on first-degree racketeering and other charges. The criminal enterprise coordinated the theft of motor vehicles across New Jersey as well as in neighboring states. The members of the enterprise were charged with racketeering and other charges, including promoting organized street crime, conspiracy, theft charges, and weapons offenses. Notably, two of the defendants were sentenced to life in prison in Philadelphia for murdering one police officer and assaulting another in the commission of one of the auto thefts.



Taking on an international auto theft ring. In April, Attorney General Platkin announced that 11 people were charged for their roles in an auto theft ring that allegedly targeted high-end vehicles, which were stolen and stored in parking garages in the Bronx, New York. Organizers of the enterprise allegedly identified their targets – including Land Rovers, Mercedes-Benzes, and BMWs – for theft crews that would then steal the vehicles. Investigators identified 43 stolen New Jersey vehicles valued at approximately \$3.65 million. Beginning in July 2024, law enforcement agencies identified the criminal enterprise that allegedly coordinated the theft of motor vehicles from Morris, Essex, Mercer, Middlesex, and Burlington counties.

Members of auto theft ring indicted. A Newark man and four co-defendants were indicted for their alleged participation in an auto theft ring that operated in New Jersey and New York. The man was charged with conspiracy, auto theft, home invasion burglary, and weapons offenses. From September 2024 through February 2025, the New Jersey State Police Motor Vehicle Crimes North Unit investigated members of the network who allegedly targeted high-end vehicles. They then used the stolen vehicles to travel to target locations throughout Monmouth, Ocean, and Essex counties, where they forced entry into homes using a crowbar, removed expensive items and key fobs to vehicles, then stole the homeowner's vehicles from the residences. The estimated value of vehicles stolen is about \$700,000.

Attorney General Platkin and law enforcement officials announce the takedown of an auto theft ring operating in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.



Battling the Opioid Crisis

Settlement reached with Purdue Pharma, Sackler family and opioid manufacturers. In June, Attorney General Platkin announced that all 55 attorneys general, representing all eligible states and U.S. territories, agreed to sign on to a \$7.4 billion settlement with Purdue Pharma and its owners, the Sackler family, which would resolve litigation against Purdue and the Sacklers for their role in creating and worsening the opioid crisis. Communities across the country will directly receive funds over the next 15 years to support addiction treatment, prevention, and recovery. New Jersey and its local governments will collectively receive up to an estimated \$124.5 million. Under the Sacklers' ownership, Purdue made and aggressively marketed opioid products for decades, fueling the largest drug crisis in the nation's history. Then, in July, Attorney General Platkin announced approximately \$720 million in nationwide settlements with eight drug makers that manufactured opioid products. Eight defendants agreed to proceed with a sign-on period for local governments. New Jersey and its eligible subdivisions could receive up to \$19.8 million.

Stopping drug dealers. A Millville man was charged with operating a controlled dangerous substance manufacturing facility in his home after he was found in possession of large amounts of opioids, including prescription opioids without valid prescriptions, and other drug paraphernalia. The investigation originated when a package being shipped to the man's address was inspected by Customs and Border Patrol upon its arrival in the United States from India.

*Attorney General Platkin discusses
policing strategies with the Montvale Police
Department during National Police Week.*



Ending pill mill operations. Twenty people were charged by DCJ with racketeering in connection with the operation of opioid mills in Paterson and Lodi. The charges included racketeering, promoting organized street crime, conspiracy, maintaining or operating a controlled dangerous substance production facility, numerous firearms offenses, aggravated assault, and financial facilitation of criminal activity. The NJSP recovered two firearms and approximately 126 ounces of heroin and 95 ounces of fentanyl from the various mill locations. At each location, the drugs were packaged in or accompanied by thousands of packaged wax folds containing powder in addition to materials consistent with drug processing and packaging — empty wax folds, wood-handle stamps, ink pads, sifters, grinders, rubber bands, and digital scales. The drug trafficking organization also procured several car rentals using fraudulent driver's licenses and fake identities.

Shutting down a Newark drug market. In April, 26 people were charged by DCJ for their alleged roles in an enterprise that used violence and intimidation to operate an open-air drug market in Newark. The alleged ringleader was charged with multiple crimes, including first-degree racketeering, conspiracy, weapons offenses, assaults, and drug offenses. Other members charged in the conspiracy allegedly acted as supervisors, advisors, distributors of controlled dangerous substances, and enforcers.

Atlantic County man sentenced in overdose deaths. An Egg Harbor Township resident was sentenced to 15 years in prison for providing fentanyl to two teenagers who died from drug overdoses. The man sold illegal drugs disguised as Percocet and was charged under New Jersey's strict-liability statute. The DCJ investigation started in August 2022, after a 14-year-old boy and his 17-year-old friend were found unresponsive in a Chester County, Pennsylvania home. Tests confirmed that both died of fentanyl ingestion.

Attorney General Platkin and DCJ announce racketeering and other charges in an extensive pill mill operation.



Shutting Down Racketeering Operations

Racketeering is a pattern of illegal activity carried out by criminal groups or networks and under Attorney General Platkin, DCJ and the NJSP, in cooperation with law enforcement agencies at all levels of government, the State has relentlessly pursued organized criminal networks. In 2025, racketeering charges were filed against defendants involved in human trafficking, illegal sports betting, backroom poker games, auto theft, open-air drug markets, and large-scale drug trafficking operations.

Illegal gambling investigation leads to charges for Lucchese crime family members.

Thirty-nine people – including a Prospect Park councilman and members of the Lucchese crime family – were charged with racketeering, gambling offenses, money laundering, and other crimes, following a two-year investigation into illegal gambling activities. The operation involved four poker clubs located in Totowa, Garfield, and Woodland Park, including two clubs where backroom poker games were hidden behind functioning restaurants; a business in Paterson storing gambling machines; and seven residences of individuals alleged to be managing the gambling activities. A Prospect Park council member and local business owner were identified as allegedly managing illegal poker games and an online sportsbook in association with the Lucchese crime family. The investigation uncovered additional poker clubs, the involvement of dozens of individuals alleged to have hosted poker games, worked at the poker clubs, and managed bettors on an illegal online sportsbook.

Attorney General Platkin, DCJ, and the NJSP announce the breakup of an illegal sports gambling ring run by the Lucchese crime family.



Pursuing illegal sports betting. In November, Attorney General Platkin, joined by DCJ and NJSP, announced that 14 people, including a member of the Lucchese crime family, were charged for allegedly operating a multimillion-dollar sports betting ring. The defendants were charged with multiple crimes including racketeering, conspiracy, gambling offenses, and money laundering related to an illegal sports betting enterprise operating in Essex and Bergen counties. The enterprise, which involved student athletes, included a nationwide web of bookmakers.

Multimillion-dollar credit card scheme leads to charges. DCJ charged 25 people and four companies for their alleged roles in a multimillion-dollar scheme that used stolen credit card information to fraudulently purchase tens of thousands of gallons of diesel fuel and then resell it to trucking companies and other fuel providers. The enterprise operated in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts, using credit card “skimmers” that stole financial information from credit and debit cards to create “cloned” cards that were used to make fraudulent fuel purchases. Various vehicles – some having been modified with auxiliary tanks to illegally transport fraudulently purchased diesel fuel – were loaded up with the stolen fuel and delivered to customers, earning the enterprise illicit profits of \$3.4 million during the time period of the investigation.

Attorney General Platkin shares updates with the Police Leadership Roundtable.





Protecting Victims of Sexual Assault and Violence

New Jersey Attorney General Platkin is committed to prosecuting those who commit sexual assault and other forms of sexual abuse and sexual violence, including those who produce, distribute, and possess child sexual abuse materials. We rely on science and data to inform updates to our policies and practices, making sure that survivors and victims have access to every resource available and that they are supported throughout the legal process. DCJ and the Division of Violence Intervention and Victim Assistance (VIVA) work together, so that victim services and our violence intervention and prevention work complement each other.

Left: Attorney General Platkin outlines charges against eight people for first-degree racketeering and human trafficking for their roles in a ring operating brothels in Trenton and Camden.

Below: Attorney General Platkin meets with advocates at a law enforcement conference held by the New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking to emphasize efforts to prevent human trafficking at the FIFA World Cup 2026.



Protecting children from sexual predators. In February, an Ocean County man was charged by DCJ with human trafficking, attempting to engage in sex with a child who was less than 13 years old, attempting to lure a child for sex, and two counts of attempting to debauch the morals of a child after allegedly attempting to lure what he believed were young children for sexual activity at a hotel.

In June, a Passaic County man was charged with endangering the welfare of a child, attempted sexual assault, luring, and manufacturing, possessing and distributing child sexual abuse material after he allegedly used a hidden camera to record children in his bathroom and attempted to meet with someone who he believed to be a 13-year-old girl at a park in Belmar. Investigators found video and image files containing child sexual abuse exploitation material on the man's messaging app.

In June, a Burlington County man was charged with conspiracy to commit human trafficking and other crimes for allegedly trying to arrange to sexually assault someone who he believed to be a 12-year-old girl. The man was charged with conspiracy to commit human trafficking of a minor, attempted aggravated sexual assault, luring, and attempted endangerment of the welfare of a child after indicating on a mobile dating application that he wanted to meet the child at a hotel to engage in acts that constitute sexual assault with a child.

A Philadelphia man who allegedly arranged to sexually assault someone who he believed was a 12-year-old girl was charged with conspiracy to commit human trafficking, attempted human trafficking, luring, attempted aggravated sexual assault, and attempted endangering the welfare of a child by sexual conduct that would impair or debauch the morals of a child. The man used a mobile phone application to attempt to arrange a meeting at a hotel with the child and he was then arrested.

Staff of Younity, which provides services to victims of domestic violence, meets with Attorney General Platkin to discuss the impact of federal budget cuts.



Strengthening New Jersey's commitment to victim-centered practices. Attorney General Platkin issued a directive which mandated that all Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence (SAFE) Kits be processed immediately if the victim consents. The kits include blood, saliva, and other specimens collected during a sexual assault investigation. The amended directive required that all existing SAFE kits collected by law enforcement be submitted to the State's forensic laboratory for analysis by December 31, 2025. As part of his commitment to transparency, Attorney General Platkin also issued a directive implementing a statewide SAFE Kit Tracking System, giving survivors access to the status of their SAFE Kits.

Dismantling human trafficking organizations and prosecuting those who profit. DCJ's Human Trafficking Unit, which Attorney General Platkin launched in 2023, collaborated with law enforcement across the State to bring justice to victims and survivors. As of November, the unit charged 27 people with human trafficking and human trafficking-related charges, building on a significant increase in human trafficking cases charged in 2024. In addition, Attorney General Platkin continued promoting the STALLS (Sanctuary from Trafficking: Awareness & Linkage to Law Enforcement & Services) for Safety public awareness campaign. STALLS posters, which feature information in English and Spanish on how victims and bystanders alike can report suspected human trafficking, have been placed in public restrooms across New Jersey in a variety of locations including Atlantic City's casinos and NJ Transit facilities.

Attorney General Platkin discusses the latest actions to combat human trafficking in New Jersey.





1261

OFFICE OF
WEIGHTS and MEASURES
DAVID FREED
ACTING STATE SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
PHILIP D. MURPHY
GOVERNOR

DIVISION OF
CONSUMER AFFAIRS
ELIZABETH M. HARRIS
ACTING DIRECTOR

Holding Corporate Wrongdoers Accountable

New Jerseyans should be able to trust that when they purchase goods and services, they receive what has been promised to them. Attorney General Platkin, DCA, and agencies across LPS are committed to protecting New Jersey consumers and ensuring that unscrupulous businesses and scammers are held accountable. This work also includes ensuring that everyone has access to a clean, safe environment, free from contamination and pollution. In New Jersey, would-be polluters know that they will be held accountable for harming our environment. And as the impacts of climate change continue to be felt across New Jersey, we continue to act to protect our state's most vulnerable communities.

Left: Attorney General Platkin visits the Office of Weights and Measures.

Below: Attorney General Platkin and the Division of Civil Rights announce a lawsuit against Amazon for exploiting pregnant workers and workers with disabilities.



Attorney General Platkin and Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Shawn M. LaTourette announce a groundbreaking environmental settlement to remedy long-standing contamination stemming from PFAS, also known as “forever chemicals,” as well as other pollutants.

Tackling “forever chemicals” and holding corporations accountable. Attorney General Platkin and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) reached a number of landmark settlements in natural resource damage (NRD) cases concerning PFAS pollution, including the largest environmental settlement ever achieved by a single state. PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are synthetic chemicals in everyday products that do not degrade or break down over time and accumulate in the environment and our bodies. With these settlements in lawsuits against companies that were responsible for releasing PFAS into the environment, New Jersey’s recovery valuation is over \$3 billion. In 2019, New Jersey commenced several lawsuits against polluters to compensate the State and remediate the damage caused by PFAS and other pollutants.

The largest of these settlements was achieved in August, when Attorney General Platkin and the DEP announced a proposed settlement valued at over \$2 billion with Delaware-based E.I. DuPont de Nemours and Co. (now known as EIDP, Inc.) and other DuPont-related entities, to resolve lawsuits concerning pollution originating from four industrial sites throughout New Jersey as well as statewide claims about the firefighting material known as aqueous film-forming foam. As part of the DuPont settlement, defendants will pay the State \$875 million in damages—to be allocated primarily between natural resource restoration and pollution abatement projects, such as drinking water treatment—and dedicate over \$1.6 billion to remediating pollution at the four industrial sites, to ensure taxpayers will not have to pay for this cleanup.

Just two months prior, in May, co-defendant 3M—previously one of the nation’s dominant producers of PFAS—agreed to pay up to \$450 million for PFAS contamination at two sites and throughout the State.



Resolving False Claims Act case for \$100 million. In the State's largest-ever non-Medicaid False Claims Act settlement, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey agreed to pay New Jersey \$100 million to settle allegations that it fraudulently induced the State to enter into a 2020 contract to administer the State's employee benefit programs, and then systematically overcharged the State for healthcare claims throughout the life of that contract. As part of the settlement, Horizon agreed to stop the overcharging and issuing inaccurate explanation of benefit statements. It also agreed to various injunctive provisions that include daily, monthly, and quarterly verification reports among other things.

Stopping landlords from inflating rent prices. Following months of investigative work by DCA's Office of Consumer Protection, New Jersey filed a lawsuit in federal district court against property management software company RealPage, Inc. and 10 of New Jersey's largest landlords alleging violations of New Jersey's Consumer Fraud Act and violations of state and federal antitrust laws. The violations are based on the defendants' alleged collusion in a rent-raising scheme that forced tens of thousands of New Jerseyans to pay inflated residential rental rates. The defendants allegedly agreed to set rents for multifamily housing properties statewide based on RealPage's algorithmic pricing software and to exchange sensitive, non-public information to coordinate their prices and avoid competition that would otherwise keep rent prices down.

Protecting investors from fraud. In March, DCA launched an electronic portal to make it easier for financial professionals to comply with a New Jersey law requiring them to alert the New Jersey Bureau of Securities of suspected financial abuse targeting older and vulnerable investors. New Jersey's Safeguarding Against Financial Exploitation (SAFE)

Attorney General Platkin and DCA announce a lawsuit against property management software company RealPage, Inc. and 10 of New Jersey's largest landlords for allegedly colluding in a rent-raising scheme.



Act requires broker-dealers and investment advisers to notify the Bureau of suspected or attempted financial exploitation of vulnerable adults, which the Act defines as those who are 65 and older or subject to the Adult Protective Services Act. The Bureau reviews all filed reports to assess whether additional action is needed.

Holding financial services companies accountable. New Jersey joined a task force of state securities regulators and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in a \$106 million settlement with Vanguard Marketing Corporation and The Vanguard Group, Inc., for failing to supervise certain registered persons and failing to disclose potential tax consequences to investors following a change in investment minimums for certain target date retirement funds. The settlement stems from a three-year multistate task force investigation coordinated through the North American Securities Administrators Association's (NASAA) Enforcement Section Committee, co-led by New Jersey, Connecticut, and New York. The NASAA investigation ran parallel to a concurrent investigation by the SEC.

In January, the Bureau of Securities joined a \$17 million nationwide multistate settlement with Edward D. Jones & Co., L.P. following a probe into the broker-dealer's supervision of financial professionals moving customers' commission-based brokerage accounts to fee-based investment advisory accounts. The investigation found that when collecting advisory fees from its customers, Edward Jones improperly failed to credit them for commissions that had already been paid. As a result, investors were overcharged. The states also found gaps in how Edward Jones supervised the transfer of customer accounts and the imposition of fees on investors.

Investigating benefits fraud. In April, a temporary New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (NJDOLE) employee who collected unemployment benefits during the pandemic before being detected by NJDOLE was charged with four counts of official misconduct; pattern of official misconduct; theft by deception and tampering with public records or information for using her official position at NJDOLE to obtain \$56,030 in benefits for herself and others. In unrelated cases, nine other people were charged with theft by deception for obtaining unemployment benefits or COVID-19-related Economic Impact Disaster and Paycheck Protection loans to which they were not entitled. In another case, two South Jersey residents were charged with obtaining Economic Impact Disaster and Paycheck Protection loans for which they were not entitled including more than a combined \$150,000 from the U.S. Small Business Administration and/or the State of New Jersey.

Standing up to large employers. In October, Attorney General Platkin and NJDOLE Commissioner Robert Asaro-Angelo sued Amazon and its Amazon Logistics delivery network for misclassifying Flex delivery drivers as independent contractors and unlawfully depriving them of rightful wages, benefits, and a host of other legal rights and protections afforded to employees. Also in October, Attorney General Platkin and DCR filed a separate complaint in Superior Court alleging that Amazon systematically violated the civil rights of pregnant workers and workers with disabilities, discriminating against them and denying them reasonable accommodations in violation of New Jersey's Law Against Discrimination.

Stopping tax cheats. A Monmouth County woman, working as a bookkeeper, admitted to stealing approximately \$4 million from her employer and then failing to pay taxes on the stolen money. The woman admitted that while she was entrusted with the finances of the company she worked for, from January 2017 to January 2023, she stole the money and used it to gamble. Under the terms of a plea agreement, she will make restitution of \$4.03 million to her victims and pay \$559,919 to the New Jersey Division of Taxation in back taxes, penalties, and interest for tax years 2019, 2020, and 2021.



Attorney General Platkin and Department of Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Robert Asaro-Angelo convene a labor roundtable.



Protecting Children Online

Protecting New Jersey's children from online predators and abuse has been a priority throughout Attorney General Platkin's tenure. That includes holding social media companies and others accountable for allowing predators easy access to our most vulnerable online.

Left: Attorney General Platkin speaks with middle schoolers in Demarest.

Below: New Jersey sued a social messaging app for its failure to protect children.



Protecting children online from Discord's business practices. DCA filed a lawsuit against the messaging app Discord, Inc. for deceptive and unconscionable business practices that misled parents about its safety controls and exposed New Jersey's children to child predators along with violent and sexual content. A multi-year investigation found Discord's conduct violated the State's Consumer Fraud Act and left New Jersey children vulnerable online. The lawsuit alleges that despite touting its app as safe for children, Discord knew that its safety features and policies did not work as promised and that its app was being used by predators to contact, stalk, and victimize children.

Preventing the online distribution of child sexual abuse materials. Stopping the creation and dissemination of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) has been a priority throughout Attorney General Platkin's tenure. CSAM covers a wide range of materials, most often photos and videos of graphic images depicting the sexual abuse of minors. The DCJ Cyber Bureau, the New Jersey Internet Crimes Against Children, or ICAC, Task Force, and law enforcement across the state work together to catch predators who use computer screens and other technology to commit crimes against our most vulnerable residents. In 2024, over 360 individuals statewide faced charges related to child sexual abuse material, nearly 70% greater than the number of defendants charged with those offenses in 2017. And in 2025, those numbers continued to increase.

Prosecuting criminals in possession of CSAM. Tips received by NJSP ICAC Task Force led to two unrelated arrests involving possession of CSAM. In one case, a Clifton man was arrested and charged with second-degree distribution and third-degree possession of child sexual exploitation/abuse material, after allegedly transmitting about 24 videos of confirmed CSAM material and possessing approximately 498 additional images of suspected material. In another case, a Newark man was arrested and charged with third-degree possession of child sexual exploitation/abuse material, in connection with the alleged possession of about 60 videos of suspected material on his mobile phone.

Attorney General Platkin sits for an interview with high school podcasters in Elizabeth.





LPS held its first Youth Public Safety Day, where Attorney General Platkin answered questions about public service.



Youth Public Safety Day attendees learn about public service careers at the Hughes Justice Complex.

Overseeing LPS Divisions and Offices

The Department of Law and Public Safety is made up of various divisions, offices, and commissions that work on behalf of the people of New Jersey. Throughout 2025, each of these entities relied on the extraordinary work of the more than 8,000 career public servants who make up the Department.





Division of Administration

Erin Zippel, *Chief Administrative Officer*

The Division of Administration (Administration) provides the administrative infrastructure for the Department of Law and Public Safety. The Administration oversees the Department's foundational units, including those involving budgeting, financial management, grant operations, human resources, constituent services, information technology, and facilities. The Administration also contains a general counsel's office and offices for departmental ethics, audit, compliance, and equal employment opportunity. In addition, the Administration functions as an internal service-providing division, working closely with all divisions/offices of the Department to ensure that each has the resources, guidance, and administrative oversight needed to carry out its mission.

2025 Highlights

- The Grant Operations Office managed millions of state and federal dollars in 2025, including securing over \$66 million in competitive dollars, and approximately \$74 million in formula grants. The office administered over 600 sub-awards totaling in excess of \$71 million.
- The Office of Constituent Services (OCS) responded to over 24,000 inquiries, which included connecting constituents to needed services and resources. The OCS handles on average 900 calls each month.
- The Office of Human Resource Management launched a comprehensive web-based system, providing applicants with direct access to job vacancy announcements, streamlining applicant processing, and enhancing data reporting. The office also onboarded 105 new hires and participated in over 15 career and recruitment events, strengthening engagement with prospective talent and enhancing the Department's recruitment pipeline.
- The Office of Financial Management processed approximately 1,700 procurements.

Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control



Kirstin L. Krueger, *Interim Director*

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 the alcoholic beverage industry to maintain the stability of the industry, foster moderation and responsibility in the consumption of alcoholic beverages, protect the residents of New Jersey by assuring lawful, proper, and fair-trade practices, and protect the collection of state taxes imposed on alcoholic beverages.

2025 Highlights

- After New Jersey announced that the FIFA World Cup 2026 final would take place at MetLife Stadium, ABC created a new Special All-Inclusive Area Event Permit to authorize the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages within all-inclusive, special access areas at certain sporting facilities that exceed new statutory limitations, while maintaining public safety during global sporting events. ABC's personnel have worked side-by-side with the New Jersey State Police, the Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, MetLife Stadium officials, and officials from the Governor's Office to help develop a safe and secure environment for the soccer community.
- ABC updated regulations to reflect the needs of today's alcoholic beverage industry. ABC engaged industry members and worked with OAG and the Murphy Administration to propose eight rules, two notices of adoption, and a readoption of ABC's entire set of regulations.
- In the case of *Jean-Paul Weg LLC v. Director, NJ Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control*, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit upheld New Jersey's system of alcohol regulation against a constitutional challenge. ABC's regulatory system prohibits the direct shipment of alcohol to New Jersey consumers by out-of-state retailers without a New Jersey retail license and a physical presence in the State. The court found that ABC's regulations protect public health and safety and are constitutional.
- ABC provided training to many critical stakeholders in 2025. ABC conducted annual law enforcement training for NJSP and DCJ academy classes. Officers were provided with a comprehensive overview of practical, legal, field, and investigative applications of the Alcoholic Beverage Control laws. Additionally, ABC attended the first-ever Brewers Guild of New Jersey conference and presented about the opportunities available for craft brewers and how to work with the ABC. ABC enforcement staff also provided the "Save a Life: Stock your Bar with Naloxone" training to licensees to provide information about how to recognize opioid intoxication and administer naloxone in the event an overdose occurs in a licensed establishment.

Division on Civil Rights



Yolanda Melville, Director

The Division on Civil Rights (DCR) is responsible for enforcing New Jersey's civil rights laws, including the Law Against Discrimination (LAD), the Family Leave Act, and the Fair Chance in Housing Act. DCR investigates complaints of discrimination filed by individual members of the public, and it also initiates investigations into patterns or practices of discrimination. 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.

2025 Highlights

- Emphasizing Attorney General Platkin's commitment to protecting workers, DCR filed a lawsuit alleging that Amazon has systematically violated the civil rights of pregnant workers and workers with disabilities in its warehouses across the state, discriminating against them and denying them reasonable accommodations in violation of the LAD. DCR's years-long investigation revealed that Amazon has engaged in discriminatory practices that have had the effect of pushing pregnant workers and workers with disabilities out of its workforce.
- In January, Attorney General Platkin and DCR launched the Civil Rights and Technology Initiative to address the risks of discrimination and bias-based harassment stemming from the use of AI and other advanced technologies, and to support innovation by providing guidance to members of the public and regulated entities about how the LAD applies to the use of these advanced technologies. In addition, DCR published an "Introduction to Algorithmic Fairness" fact sheet and a webpage to share its civil rights and technology work.
- DCR also adopted new rules codifying disparate impact liability under the LAD. The regulations are among the nation's most comprehensive regulations regarding disparate impact liability. DCR also amended its rules of practice and procedures to provide clearly defined and easy-to-follow procedures for filing complaints, responding to complaints, and participating in hearings before the agency.
- DCR hosted a summit on Eradicating Housing Discrimination to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the LAD. The summit brought together advocates, residents, and community stakeholders for a discussion on housing discrimination protections.
- DCR's Education and Training Unit (ETU) has held over 160 training programs reaching more than 7,000 participants. In addition to serving the general public, ETU provided over 70 private programs to more than 40 stakeholders in 2025. DCR's Community Relations Unit participated in 341 events providing critical resources to the community at large.

Division of Consumer Affairs



Elizabeth Harris, *Acting Director*

The mission of the Division of Consumer Affairs (DCA) is to protect the public from fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, and professional misconduct in the sale of goods and services in New Jersey through education, advocacy, regulation, and enforcement. DCA pursues its mission through its professional and occupational boards that oversee approximately 750,000 licensees in the state, its Regulated Business section that oversees approximately 60,000 New Jersey registered businesses, and its Office of Consumer Protection (OCP), Bureau of Securities (BOS), Charities Registration section, Office of Weights and Measures, and Legalized Games of Chance section.

2025 Highlights

- An OCP investigation into an alleged rent-raising scheme led Attorney General Platkin and DCA to file a lawsuit against property management software company RealPage, Inc. and 10 of New Jersey's largest landlords. The suit alleges the defendants violated the Consumer Fraud Act and state and federal antitrust laws by colluding in a rent-raising scheme that caused tens of thousands of New Jerseyans to pay inflated residential rental rates.
- In keeping with the Data Privacy Law signed by Governor Murphy in 2024, DCA posted FAQs to its website ahead of the law's January 2025 effective date and proposed new rules implementing the law. For the first 18 months, the law requires the DCA to send notifications of potential violations and provide violators a chance to cure the issues. DCA has sent letters to nearly a dozen entities notifying them of potential violations and requiring that they make changes to their business practices.
- Following a multistate investigation led by the BOS, Vanguard Group, Inc., one of the world's largest investment advisers, agreed to pay \$106 million in restitution nationally for failing to supervise certain registered persons and failing to disclose potential tax consequences to investors following a change in investment minimums for certain target date retirement funds. The case was investigated jointly with the Securities and Exchange Commission, which settled with the investment adviser only.
- Nearly 41,000 Home Improvement Contractor Businesses (HICBs) renewed their annual registrations in 2025, the first year HICBs were required to comply with various new regulations in order to renew their registration. DCA published an extensive list of FAQs and launched a new online registration renewal application to streamline the process.
- Under the DCA's oversight, the Board of Medical Examiners (BME) and Board of Nursing (BON) adopted rules requiring physicians, nurses, and midwives who provide perinatal treatment and care to pregnant persons in New Jersey to undergo training to root out prejudices and stereotypes that may affect the quality of care that they provide. As of 2025, all members of the BME, BON, Physician Assistant Advisory Committee, and Midwifery Liaison Committee have undergone the implicit and explicit bias training, as required.
- DCA is redesigning its website that offers consumers, licensed professionals, businesses, and other visitors a more accessible and user-friendly experience. The new design features a user-centric layout and intuitive navigation that makes it easier for visitors to find the consumer protection information they're looking for and helps licensees, registrants, and businesses understand and meet their compliance obligations.

Division of Criminal Justice



Theresa Hilton, Director

The Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) is responsible for investigating and prosecuting violations of New Jersey criminal laws. DCJ focuses 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 gives the Attorney General broad supervisory authority over New Jersey's 21 County Prosecutor's Offices and the state's nearly 42,000 law enforcement officers. DCJ also provides training for prosecutors and law enforcement officers and participates in numerous community outreach events.

2025 Highlights

- DCJ concluded several complex, long-term investigations that pursued organized criminal networks including illegal gun owners and distribution networks, auto theft rings, large-sale drug trafficking operations as well as two illegal sports betting rings involving members of the Lucchese crime family. One involved student athletes, where 12 people were charged with racketeering and money laundering, while the second charged 39 people with illegal gambling activities involving illegal online sportsbooks.
- Attorney General Platkin and DCJ charged 66 individuals with crimes relating to Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Material (CSEAM) in 2025, due to enhanced collaboration through the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force. DCJ arrested seven individuals who communicated with an undercover officer over social media and discussed wanting to meet with who they believed to be a child with the purpose of engaging in sexual acts. In 2025, the number of defendants charged with offenses related to child sexual abuse material were about 70% greater than the number of defendants charged in 2017.
- In line with Attorney General Platkin's steadfast effort to eliminate human trafficking, DCJ charged and/or indicted 23 defendants on human trafficking charges. In a separate case, DCJ uncovered 14 victims and charged eight individuals with racketeering and human trafficking related charges in a case out of Camden and Mercer Counties. DCJ also continued to expand its outreach and trainings, beginning a new initiative to conduct trainings at county jails for staff on human trafficking, how to spot a potential victim, and what to do once they have identified a victim.
- DCJ utilized its multi-agency partnerships and aggressively pursued drug-trafficking organizations (DTO) across the state. In one major DTO take-down, DCJ charged twenty defendants for operating five opioid mills in North Jersey where two firearms and approximately 126 ounces of heroin and 95 ounces of fentanyl were recovered with a total street value of almost \$5 million.
- Attorney General Platkin and DCJ charged 25 people and four companies for their alleged roles in a multimillion-dollar scheme that used stolen credit-card information to fraudulently purchase tens of thousands of gallons of diesel fuel and then resell it to trucking companies and other fuel providers.
- An Essex County man was charged with animal cruelty, firearm, and drug violations, including violating the Endangered and Nongame Species Act. The Newark man allegedly had two pit bull-type dogs attack and kill a red-tail hawk and a stray cat, and faces numerous drug-related charges, as well as a charge of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Six co-defendants were also charged with various drug offenses.

Division of Gaming Enforcement



Mary Jo Flaherty, *Interim Director*

The Division of Gaming Enforcement (DGE) is a law enforcement agency and the investigative arm responsible for enforcing New Jersey's Casino Control Act and Sports Wagering Act. DGE's workforce consists of attorneys, investigators, and accountants, who are further supported by State Police 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.

2025 Highlights

- Through October, total online gaming revenue from Internet gaming and sports wagering grew 16% on a combined basis compared to the same period in 2024. Online gaming revenue now represents a record 57% of all gaming revenues in New Jersey. DGE has developed policies that promote online gaming growth and has strong regulatory measures in place to respond to conduct that violates the law and unfairly impacts customers.
- In September, Attorney General Platkin announced that New Jersey residents can access a free, confidential financial counseling service called GamFin to help them work through difficulties related to gambling. DGE has made GamFin, a specialized financial wellness service that connects participants with certified financial counselors, available as a pilot. Through private one-on-one online sessions, residents can create a budget, manage debt, and develop strategies to rebuild financial stability. GamFin is available to both individuals who gamble and those affected by a loved one's gambling.
- DGE continued enhancing its responsible gaming (RG) efforts by using technology, automated triggers, and statistical data to aid in identifying potential problem gamblers, with online operators required to initiate contact with patrons depending on the nature of the activity. In 2025, more than 165,000 patrons were contacted by operators to assess potential RG issues. DGE published a toll-free helpline, 1-833-788-4DGE (1-833-788-4343), and launched video-conferencing options for patrons to sign up for, or remove themselves from, the self-exclusion list. Since the launch of these initiatives, DGE has handled more than 10,700 calls, and approximately 14% of self-exclusion meetings have been conducted via video conferencing. Finally, DGE was a member of the RG Task Force, a multi-agency initiative dedicated to strengthening RG measures and protecting at-risk players that reported its findings and recommendations to the Governor's Office in March.
- During the year, Attorney General Platkin and DGE addressed external issues faced by internet gaming, such as sweepstakes casinos and sports wagering. DGE worked on legislation passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Murphy to combat sweepstakes and illegal providers. The new law strengthens New Jersey's criminal provisions, authorizes DGE to take civil enforcement actions beyond legalized gaming, and enhances consumer protection.

Division of Highway Traffic Safety



Michael Rizol, *Director*

The Division of Highway Traffic Safety (HTS) works to prevent motor vehicle-related crashes and the resulting property damage, injuries, and fatalities they cause on New Jersey's roadways. HTS administers the State & Community Highway Safety Program, which annually distributes approximately \$30 million in federal funding to implement a statewide highway safety plan. The Director of HTS also serves as the Governor's representative to the Governors Highway Safety Association and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

2025 Highlights

- Attorney General Platkin and HTS launched the summer "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign, which ran until Labor Day. The campaign is part of a national initiative aimed at reducing crash risks and increasing awareness about impaired driving during the busy summer months. HTS granted over \$500,000 to 102 police agencies statewide, supporting increased patrols and high-visibility sobriety checkpoints during this typically hazardous period.
- HTS partnered with the Department of Children and Families and the Department of Health's Office of Emergency Medical Services on a statewide summer heatstroke prevention campaign. The initiative focused on raising awareness about the dangers of leaving children unattended in vehicles and included distributing free bilingual educational materials, posters, safety tip cards, and visual reminder stickers to daycares and Family Success Centers to help prevent vehicular heatstroke deaths. HTS provides funding for on-site awareness displays at child safety seat installation locations, teaching attendees about heatstroke and its impact on children.
- In April, during National Distracted Driving Awareness Month, Essex and Middlesex counties launched a prominent enforcement campaign to combat texting, handheld phone use, unsafe speeds, and driver inattention. The initiative was funded as part of HTS's statewide "Put the Phone Away or Pay" campaign, which provided grants to local law enforcement for patrols throughout the month. HTS contributed both funding and a public awareness initiative, enhancing messaging about the dangers and consequences of distracted driving across the state.
- HTS played a key role in the 13-agency Target Zero Commission, signed into law by Governor Murphy in January. The Commission aims to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries in New Jersey by 2040, focusing on data-driven strategies such as roadway design, speed management, and safety for all road users, including pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers. It will advise the Governor, Legislature, and the Department of Transportation on policies, programs, research, and priorities to reach the goal of eliminating traffic fatalities. The Commission is expected to release its first action plan by early 2026.
- In partnership with the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association, HTS promoted the "Be a Winner Behind the Wheel" campaign to educate teen drivers through high school athletics. This initiative leverages the reach of school sports events and student-athlete leadership to promote safe driving habits, including Graduated Driver License compliance, the prevention of distracted and impaired driving, and seatbelt use.

Division of Law



Michael Walters, *Director*

The Division of Law (DOL) serves as primary legal counsel for New Jersey state government. 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.

2025 Highlights

- In November, Attorney General Platkin announced the State's largest-ever non-Medicaid False Claims Act settlement. Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey agreed to pay New Jersey \$100 million to settle allegations that it fraudulently induced the State to enter into a 2020 contract to administer the State's employee benefit programs, and then systematically overcharged the State for healthcare claims throughout the life of that contract. As part of the settlement, Horizon agreed to stop the overcharging and issuing inaccurate explanation of benefit statements.
- The Environmental Enforcement and Environmental Justice Section obtained two groundbreaking settlements for contamination stemming from PFAS, known as forever chemicals, as well as other pollutants. 3M avoided a trial by agreeing to pay up to \$450 million for PFAS contamination at two sites as well as to address injuries to New Jersey's water and other natural resources damages. A trial against DuPont and other related companies began, but later the firms agreed to settle and address contamination at four sites, including two of the same locations as 3M. The DuPont agreement is valued at over \$2 billion, the largest environmental settlement ever achieved by a single state.
- In 2025, attorneys from DOL and OAG have filed over 40 federal cases to protect New Jerseyans' rights and interests against encroachment by the federal government. The State has obtained preliminary injunctions in nearly all of the cases where such relief was sought. The cases include New Jersey's leadership of litigation defending the Constitutional right to birthright citizenship and litigation reversing billions of dollars in unlawful funding freezes, funding terminations, and grant restrictions. In many of these cases, New Jersey attorneys led the coalition of states in strategy, drafting, argument, and appeal.
- The Affirmative Civil Enforcement Practice Group coordinated participation in two separate sets of opioid settlements that make the State eligible to receive up to over \$144 million in opioid recoveries. First, New Jersey agreed to sign on to a \$7.4 billion settlement with Purdue Pharma and its owners, the Sackler family, allowing New Jersey and its local governments to receive up to an estimated \$124.5 million over the next 15 years. Second, New Jersey joined other states in settling claims against eight drug makers that manufactured opioid products and worsened the nationwide opioid crisis. These settlements will require the manufacturers to pay up to approximately \$720 million, with New Jersey and its eligible subdivisions receiving up to \$19.8 million.

New Jersey State Police



Colonel Patrick Callahan, Superintendent

New Jersey State Police (NJSP) is the largest law enforcement agency in the State, with over 3,200 enlisted and over 1,300 civilian members, overseen by the Attorney General. NJSP has general law enforcement jurisdiction throughout the state, and it provides statewide enforcement of the criminal, motor vehicle, marine, alcohol beverage control laws, and general police services on the New Jersey Turnpike, Garden State Parkway, and Atlantic City Expressway, and in 89 municipalities. In addition, its Office of Emergency Management is the lead state agency responsible for the coordination and support of statewide emergency services involving natural and manmade disasters.

2025 Highlights

- The High Tech Crime Bureau enhanced its investigative capabilities by strategically integrating AI, especially in fighting online child exploitation. This has directly resulted in eight significant arrests during undercover operations. In 2025, the Bureau processed 27,729 cybertips and made 56 arrests. A notable case involved the arrest of a Passaic County firefighter on multiple serious charges, including manufacturing and possessing child exploitation material, which led to identifying four child victims.
- The New Jersey Statewide Networked Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) Program, known as NJ SNAP, experienced rapid and transformative growth, improving NJSP's ability to fight interstate crime. The program's camera network expanded 28% to 5,500 ALPR cameras. User access has increased by 27% to 10,070 active users, creating a broad network of authorized personnel with essential real-time data. The system provides seamless access to ALPR data, regardless of vendor, and now links with three bordering states, playing a key role in the 8% drop in motor vehicle thefts.
- In response to updated guidance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Emergency Response Bureau launched a statewide effort to modernize Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs) for local jurisdictions. Through a contract with Innovative Emergency Management, the project is providing every municipality a new, customizable EOP template. The updated plans include new annexes focused on pandemics, disaster recovery, resource management, civil unrest, cybersecurity incidents, and terrorism.
- The Intelligence & Criminal Enterprise Section continued its aggressive, intelligence-driven efforts to fight violent crime across New Jersey. The Crime Reduction Task Force, through strategic deployments and extensive interagency cooperation with federal, state, and local partners, established itself as a national model for effective gun violence reduction. This proactive and data-informed approach has contributed to these significant statewide declines, including a 35% reduction in shooting hit victims and a 27% overall reduction in total shooting victims to date.
- Following legal mediation with the Office of the Public Defender, OAG and NJSP negotiated a settlement in a class action lawsuit over the untimely processing of expungement orders. Technological innovation significantly decreased the backlog, and a new public expungement portal allows petitioners and attorneys to track an expungement, receive email alerts of any status change, and view the status in real time.

Division of Violence Intervention and Victim Assistance



Patricia Teffenhart, *Executive Director*

The Division of Violence Intervention and Victim Assistance (VIVA) serves as the lead entity for victim assistance and violence intervention and prevention services within the Department of Law and Public Safety. Established by Attorney General Platkin in 2022, and codified into law in 2023, VIVA's mission is to prevent future violence by better addressing the needs of survivors in the aftermath of crime and victimization by expanding the availability of survivor-centered, trauma-informed interventions. VIVA is organized into four offices: the Office of Violence Intervention and Prevention (OVIP), the Office of Victim Support and Assistance (OVSA), the Office of Trial and Criminal Justice Process (OTCJP), and the Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO). Together, these offices centralize the Department's work with respect to crime survivors and communities disproportionately impacted by violence.

2025 Highlights

- In June, VIVA hosted the third annual Attorney General's Gun and Community Violence Prevention and Response Symposium, where Attorney General Platkin announced the release of new guidance for law enforcement agencies and Community-Based Violence Intervention (CBVI) program providers. The guidance was developed by the Attorney General's Multidisciplinary Public Safety Innovation Working Group. Created in 2023 as part of the package of reforms announced with the Attorney General's supersession of the Paterson Police Department, the 18-member Working Group – comprised of representatives from law enforcement, faith communities, civic organizations, grassroots community violence initiatives, and LPS – was charged with identifying and recommending best practices to better coordinate the efforts of CBVI providers with law enforcement agencies.
- In collaboration with OAG, VIVA hosted National Crime Victims' Rights Week. The week included a series of conversations highlighting resiliency and the use of service dogs, as well as unveiling a PSA on how networks of communities can vastly impact victims'/survivors' pathways to healing. An awards ceremony honored individuals and organizations that support victims and survivors in their pursuit of justice and healing.
- The passage of New Jersey's Crime Victims' Bill of Rights in 1985 has led to 40 years of steady improvements to the state's victims' rights and services landscape. By focusing on the needs of victims and promoting their experiences, the state has expanded rights for victims, as well as addressed and identified deficiencies. To build upon these great strides and commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Crime Victims' Bill of Rights, ensuring that victims' rights remain in the forefront of New Jersey's public safety considerations, Attorney General Platkin created the Victims' Rights Working Group within VIVA. Comprised of multidisciplinary stakeholders, including representation from the courts, prosecution, law enforcement, victim witness, community-based victim services organizations, forensic nursing, and other state agencies, the purpose of the Attorney General's Victims' Rights Working Group is to explore issues facing victims in the criminal justice process and provide potential solutions. The Working Group will make recommendations in the areas of legislation, policy, procedures, and training.

Office of Alternative and Community Responses



Tiffany Wilson, *Executive Director*

The Office of Alternative and Community Responses (OACR) oversees law enforcement-led initiatives, such as the ARRIVE Together and Operation Helping Hand programs, and community partnerships that direct individuals into alternatives to the criminal justice system when appropriate, including substance use treatment, mental health services, and community support services. Sitting at the intersection between public safety and public health, OACR includes the Office of New Jersey Coordinator of Addiction Responses and Enforcement Strategies (NJ CARES), promotes and supports law enforcement resiliency, coordinates the State's Extreme Risk Protective Order (ERPO) policies, and supervises a newly created bureau overseeing prosecutorial diversion programming.

2025 Highlights

- ARRIVE Together, a national model that enhances law enforcement responses to mental health-related calls, has completed more than 14,000 interactions and is available to more than 75% of New Jersey. Mental health experts are a part of every Critical Incident Response Team that responds to a barricaded individual through ARRIVE.
- In July, OACR awarded grant funding to 13 county prosecutor's offices in 10 vicinages to create new or expand existing mental health diversion programs. In collaboration with the defense bar, courts, and medical professionals, these programs divert eligible defendants with serious mental disorders away from the criminal justice system and into community-based mental health treatment. This funding, made possible by P.L. 2023, c. 188, will ensure that 19 of New Jersey's county prosecutor's offices have mental health diversion programs operating.
- OACR coordinated with the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services, as well as DCA and DCJ, to create a plan to manage federal, state, and local disruptions of prescribed controlled dangerous substances to patients resulting from a health practice closure or license suspension.
- As part of Operation Helping Hand, OACR provided funding to 20 county prosecutor's offices to support locally tailored law enforcement programming that connects individuals with substance use disorders to resources and treatment.
- OACR reconvened the State Crisis Intervention Advisory Board, and met with New Jersey Courts and county prosecutor offices to refine priority areas for investment and funding in order to enhance Attorney General Platkin's ERPO work.
- All five Community Crisis Response Team (CCRT) Pilot Program grantees executed awards by the end of 2025 and began operating CCRTs in the five pilot locations: Jersey City, Newark, Trenton, Camden, and Paterson. The Community Crisis Response Advisory Council, with administrative support from OACR, will begin drafting an annual report with outcomes from and recommendations for community crisis response.

Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor



Al Garcia, *Interim Insurance Fraud Prosecutor*

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.

2025 Highlights

- OIFP helped recover over \$3 million through a combination of False Claims Act settlements, forfeiture actions, and court-ordered restitution. The Medicaid Fraud Control Unit helped secure approximately \$1.7 million plus applicable interest from Gilead Sciences, Inc. as part of a \$202 million multistate settlement for running an illegal kickback scheme to promote its HIV medications. Together, these financial recoveries reflect OIFP's strong commitment to holding offenders financially accountable and restoring funds to the State and victims of fraud.
- Under Attorney General Platkin, OIFP has aggressively pursued insurance fraud cases involving licensed professionals whose actions threaten public trust. In 2025, OIFP secured a five-year prison sentence for a claims adjuster who diverted over \$465,000 from valid insurance claims to himself, and a 270-day jail sentence for an insurance producer with an expired license who submitted false annuity applications to unlawfully collect commissions.
- Updated policies and procedures enhanced transparency, efficiency, and accountability within the New Jersey County Prosecutors' Insurance Fraud Reimbursement Program. These improvements streamlined the reimbursement and reporting processes, strengthening collaboration between County Prosecutors and OIFP in their shared mission to combat insurance fraud.
- In keeping with Attorney General Platkin's commitment to prioritize protecting elderly and incapacitated adults, particularly in cases of abuse and neglect in care facilities, OIFP secured significant indictments, including charges against a group home and its staff for assaulting and neglecting a resident; a nursing director who assaulted a resident at a rehabilitation center and attempted to conceal the incident; and a nurse and nursing assistant involved in the assault of an elderly resident at another rehabilitation facility. In addition to these cases, OIFP continued statewide elder-abuse outreach initiatives and strengthened its leadership role on the New Jersey Elder Protection Task Force.
- OIFP played an active role in addressing New Jersey's auto theft crisis through its work with the Auto Theft Task Force (ATTF). Under Attorney General Platkin, OIFP collaborated with NJSP, DCJ, and other law-enforcement agencies across the State to investigate and prosecute auto-theft matters and related insurance-fraud offenses. In 2025, OIFP staff charged approximately 15 defendants and reviewed and submitted approximately 150 ATTF-related search warrants and/or communication-data warrants in furtherance of ATTF investigations.

Office of Justice Data



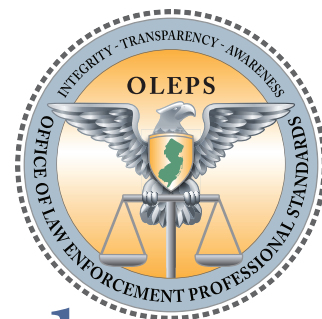
Kristin Golden, *Executive Director*

The Office of Justice Data (OJD) seeks to ensure that data collection in the OAG is comprehensive, consistent, and meaningful. This year, OJD focused on process improvement and automation, set long-term project goals, delivered on OAG's more immediate data needs, and made several key contributions to public transparency.

2025 Highlights

- In August, Attorney General Platkin and OJD, working with DCJ and VIVA, launched the New Jersey Statewide Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE) Kit Tracking System, which tracks sexual assault kits collected in New Jersey from the date of collection, transport to law enforcement, testing at the labs, and designation for storage. This system improves real-time tracking of these kits and provides survivors of sexual assault insight into the processing of their kits through a secure access. The system allows the state to identify potential strengths and weaknesses in current policies governing the processing of sexual assault kits. It also aligns New Jersey with national best practices and reaffirms the state's commitment to being victim-centered and trauma-informed.
- Attorney General Platkin continues to promote transparency through development and maintenance of data collection initiatives and the publication of data dashboards. This year marked the release of several new dashboards including tracking New Jersey Shooting Data (www.njoag.gov/shootingdata) and New Jersey Sexual Assault Kits (www.njoag.gov/safekits). In addition, OJD maintained other recurring public data products pertaining to Major Discipline (www.njoag.gov/majordiscipline), Internal Affairs (www.njoag.gov/iadata), Police Recruiting (www.njoag.gov/policerecruiting), Use of Force (www.njoag.gov/forcedata), Justice Data (www.njoag.gov/justicedata), Permits to Carry (www.njoag.gov/permittocarry), Bias Incident Data (www.njoag.gov/biasdata), ARRIVE (www.njoag.gov/arrivedata), Environmental Justice (www.njoag.gov/securing-environmental-justice), Traffic Fatalities (www.njoag.gov/trafficfatalities), and Asset Seizure & Forfeiture (www.njoag.gov/forfeiture).
- Focusing primarily on law enforcement related data, OJD has streamlined processes to facilitate data analysis, revise data collection practices, standardize data, and improve the user experience. Beginning with the January 2025 reporting requirements, law enforcement agencies submitted all required data to the Law Enforcement Reporting Portal standardizing and securing data collection. Additionally, under the leadership of Attorney General Platkin several new reporting requirements were added throughout 2025 for reporting to begin in January 2026. Beyond improving the submission workflow for current requirements, this platform is customizable, allowing OJD to adapt it for emerging use cases without further vendor engagements.
- OJD supports other divisions in collecting and analyzing data that assists them in advancing critical priorities. This assistance includes consulting on the content of data collection instruments, building and maintaining data collection workflows, and summarizing, visualizing, and interpreting both data collected by OAG and obtained from public sources.

Office of Law Enforcement Professional Standards



Joseph Wysocki, *Acting Director*

The Office of Law Enforcement Professional Standards (OLEPS) is responsible for ensuring that New Jersey law enforcement follows the best policing practices. OLEPS reviews and provides recommendations on State Police policies, procedures, and trainings to ensure compliance with state and federal laws. OLEPS is also authorized to conduct operational audits of State Police training and compliance with best practices, conduct independent analyses of data to identify potential disparities or changes in State Police enforcement actions, monitor State Police internal affairs practices, and perform other duties, as necessary, to support county and municipal law enforcement agencies. OLEPS is dedicated to serving the citizens of New Jersey by promoting transparency in the development and implementation of law enforcement policies and procedures.

2025 Highlights

- A working group, comprising personnel from State Police's Office of Professional Standards (OPS) and OLEPS, was formed to revise State Police Standing Operating Procedure (S.O.P. B10), titled "Internal Investigations, Reporting Requirements, Classifications, Processing, and Disciplinary Procedures," to align with the Attorney General's Internal Affairs Policy & Procedures (IAPP). OLEPS also visited each OPS investigative unit to discuss current practices and challenges. The revised policy and investigation manual went into effect on June 17, 2025.
- In 2025, OLEPS reviewed and provided recommendations on approximately 24 State Police Academy lesson plans, with associated training materials, to ensure that they conform to best practices. OLEPS also audited State Police trainings to ensure appropriate presentation of the training material, and presented at the State Police Citizen's Academy, the OPS Internal Affairs Investigator School, and to the State Police Academy recruits.
- Further, OLEPS reviewed State Police policies, providing recommendations to ensure the most current law and best practices continue to be followed, and that State Police appropriately incorporated the principles outlined within the Attorney General's Directives and Guidelines into their policies and training.
- In February, OLEPS published a multi-year Oversight Report which covered the time period of July 1, 2017 to June 8, 2021. The training portion became a separate, stand-alone report, which was also published in February, and covered training from 2017 to 2022. OLEPS also issued a training report reference guide which can be found on OLEPS' website.

Office of Policing Strategy and Innovation



Isa Abbassi, *Executive Director*

With the launch of the Office of Policing Strategy and Innovation (OPSI) in late 2024, OPSI hit the ground running in 2025 embarking on its mission to better support the needs of municipal law enforcement, while working as a change agent to transform the culture and relationships between the Office of the Attorney General and law enforcement partners around the State. Part of OPSI's mission is to provide leadership support, training, guidance, and reporting tools that assist law enforcement leaders in accomplishing their mission. Highlighting excellence in policing and providing hands-on guidance and support has quickly demonstrated OPSI's value.

2025 Highlights

- Following Attorney General Platkin's supersession of the Paterson Police Department, OPSI continued to advance community relationships, reform, and accountability by implementing meaningful strategies to bring the community and police together while ensuring the oversight and accountability programs of the department remain aligned with the highest standards of professional best practice. In addition, it provided law enforcement support to county prosecutors' offices contemplating decisions that might impact municipal police agencies.
- Law enforcement leadership roundtable discussions brought law enforcement leaders to regularly meet with Attorney General Platkin for in-depth discussions focusing on three pillars: leadership, officer wellness, and innovation and technology. The roundtables give leaders an opportunity to highlight innovations and best practices from their agencies to help promote excellence in policing and give OPSI the opportunity to highlight and advance best practices occurring statewide.
- OPSI continues to develop formal communication channels with law enforcement stakeholders including New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police, Police Benevolent Association, and County Prosecutor's Association of New Jersey to ensure the mission and vision of OPSI remain aligned with the needs of New Jersey's law enforcement community in real time.
- The Policy Modernization Initiative currently in progress at OPSI supports the goal of identifying and modernizing existing law enforcement directives to better serve the needs of New Jersey's law enforcement community.
- The Police Training Commission opened the ACADIS Training Portal, and the Learning Management System, to the over 42,000 licensed law enforcement officers in New Jersey. The portal allows officers to access their training records and participate in on-line training assignments or elective courses.
- OPSI worked to resolve the Clark Township Police Department supersession by the Union County Prosecutor's Office and establish a meaningful support framework to ensure the valuable progress made by the county prosecutor's office and police department continues.
- In October, OPSI hosted a law enforcement roundtable meeting that gathered state, county, and local law enforcement agencies throughout New Jersey to strategize on how best to halt the unlawful sale of flavored vaping products, which are often targeted to minors and frequently tied to other criminal activity.

Office of Public Integrity and Accountability



Eric Gibson, *Executive Director*

The mission of the Office of Public Integrity & Accountability (OPIA) is to promote public trust in government in New Jersey. It serves as the lead office within the Department for the investigation and prosecution of public corruption crimes, conducts sensitive law enforcement internal affairs investigations, and investigates deaths during a police encounter or while in custody. In addition, the Conviction Review and Cold Case Unit ensures the integrity of convictions statewide.

2025 Highlights

- Led by career prosecutors and investigators, OPIA has obtained over 150 favorable dispositions, including more than 60 between 2022 and 2025.
- A former Manville police chief was convicted of official misconduct, sexual assault, and criminal sexual contact for sexually assaultive and sexually inappropriate activity against several subordinates. He was sentenced to seven years in prison, including a mandatory minimum of nearly six years.
- A grand jury indicted an arrested Bergen County Prosecutor's Office lieutenant for allegedly removing and tampering with drug evidence. He was also charged with money laundering, possession with intent to distribute narcotics, and official misconduct.
- The owner of F&A Transportation, a school bus company, was sentenced to five years in state prison for repeatedly hiring unqualified drivers, including drivers with criminal histories and known substance abuse problems, failing to perform drug tests and background checks, and operating unsafe buses.
- In May, a former Mount Arlington borough council member pleaded guilty to accepting a \$7,000 cash bribe in exchange for agreeing to support a municipal attorney's bid to be reappointed. Also, in May, a Paterson city councilman and three co-defendants were charged in a superseding indictment with new counts of theft and witness tampering in connection with allegations stemming from the May 2020 election.
- Four defendants were sentenced in connection with a conspiracy to commit assault that led to the shooting of a New Jersey State Police detective at a Salem County mobile home park. The defendant who fired the shot that hit the detective was sentenced to a state prison term of 37 years. Another defendant was sentenced to a term of five years, and two were sentenced to terms of three years.
- A Clark Township mayor pleaded guilty to conspiring to commit official misconduct and forgery, for using township employees to operate his private oil tank removal business and submitting fraudulent applications to unlawfully obtain over 200 permits for the tank removals. He was required to immediately forfeit his position as mayor and was barred from state contracting in addition to being sentenced to probation.
- A senior director for New Jersey Transit was charged with theft and receiving stolen property for his alleged private resale of cell phones purchased with public funds. The director is alleged to have made over \$700,000 from the scheme.
- A former New Jersey Department of Corrections police officer was sentenced to a three-year prison term for the assault of a resident of the Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center's Special Treatment Unit.

Statewide Affirmative Firearms Enforcement Office



Ravi Ramanathan, Director

Established by Attorney General Platkin in 2022, the Statewide Affirmative Firearms Enforcement Office (SAFE) 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. SAFE 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.

2025 Highlights

- In October, SAFE and DCA, led by Attorney General Platkin brought a landmark lawsuit against national manufacturer Sig Sauer, Inc. The lawsuit seeks to halt the sale of Sig Sauer's P320 handgun, which has killed at least one New Jersey local law enforcement officer and wounded other law enforcement officers and civilians in the State due to its well-documented propensity to fire unintentionally. SAFE and DCA seek not only a mandatory recall of the P320, but also a halt to the company's false and deceptive advertising. Despite Sig Sauer's claims that the P320 "won't fire unless you want it to," in numerous documented cases the P320 has fired without any person touching the trigger.
- Under Attorney General Platkin, SAFE reached a court-approved settlement in July with licensed firearms retailer FSS Armory, Inc., ending one of the first lawsuits filed by the SAFE Office. FSS Armory's unreasonable gun product storage practices, openly broadcast by the store on its own website, culminated in a 2023 burglary in which criminals took 18 unsecured guns. As part of the resolution, FSS Armory admitted to its conduct and its liability under the State's Firearms Industry Public Safety Law. The settlement required that FSS Armory undertake specific security measures; agree to an independent monitor for four years; and pay \$125,000 as compensation to the State.
- Underscoring Attorney General Platkin's commitment to preventing illegal gun-related products from reaching New Jersey communities, SAFE's civil lawsuit against licensed firearms retailer Point Blank Guns and Ammo LLC of East Hanover was resolved following a court-ordered settlement. The retailer had sold 1,000-rounds of .223 caliber ammunition and other gun-related products to undercover investigators, in cash, without requiring the buyers to show that they could lawfully possess a firearm. The settlement enforces the Legislature's July 2022 requirements for the sale of gun-related products. Point Blank agreed to comply with the law, keep detailed records of all sales for three years, and pay the State's costs of bringing the complaint.
- SAFE obtained an injunction against Butch's Gun World, a Vineland gun store that—like Point Blank—sold over a thousand rounds of AR-15 ammunition and other gun-related products in cash to undercover investigators, without making any effort to determine if they could lawfully possess a firearm. A Superior Court judge issued an injunction compelling Butch's Gun World to immediately comply with the Firearms Industry Public Safety Law and rejected the retailer's attempt to avoid liability, noting the facts of the case were not in dispute, and holding that there was no evidence that Butch's Gun World had "established ANY controls regarding the sale of gun related products."

State Athletic Control Board



Larry Hazzard, Sr., *Commissioner*

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 (MMA). 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.

2025 Highlights

- Understanding the positive impact of youth sports, Attorney General Platkin approved grant funding in the amount of \$65,000 each for two amateur boxing programs in Newark and Camden that are participating in the Attorney General's Youth Outreach Program for NJ Amateur Boxing. The two new programs, combined with three existing programs in Atlantic City, Trenton, and Paterson, collectively serve over 100 eligible at-risk youth participants. Aside from practicing their boxing skills and participating in competitions, youths between the ages of 11 and 18 participate in educational workshops, field trips, and mentoring group sessions that focus on life skills, training, and career development in professional boxing and law enforcement.
- Under new SACB regulations, the definition of a televised event was updated to clarify that the tax on the gross receipts derived from the lease or sale of television now includes a variety of modern modes of broadcasting such as satellite, fiber optic link and microwave.
- Through the efforts of the SACB, pay rates increased for agency-assigned officials such as referees, judges and ringside physicians for the first time since 2001.

New Jersey Racing Commission



Sara Ben-David, *Acting Executive Director*

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 for horse owners, trainers, drivers, and veterinarians involved in the sport.

2025 Highlights

- In April, NJRC entered a cooperative agreement with the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority (HISA). This agreement allows NJRC employees to assist with the implementation of HISA's racetrack safety program in New Jersey. NJRC also entered a letter agreement with the Horseracing Integrity and Welfare Unit related to anti-doping and medication control.
- In June, NJRC and the Backstretch Community Assistance Program organized an event at Monmouth Park to educate backstretch workers about fair labor practices. This year's event was focused on community and state resources. Informational materials from the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights and New Jersey Department of Labor were made available.
- In 2025, NJRC resolved several matters involving positive drug tests or conduct detrimental to racing. The resolution of these matters supports the Commission's mission to ensure the integrity of the sport of racing and to promote the health and safety of its equine and human participants.
- After Freehold Raceway ceased operations in December 2024, NJRC re-allocated to Meadowlands Racetrack \$1.6 million in purse subsidies to fund purses on 11 race dates at Meadowlands Racetrack that otherwise would have been conducted at Freehold Raceway. NJRC also re-distributed the money in Freehold Raceway's purse account to the Standardbred Breeders' and Owners' Association and approved amendments to the participation agreements for off-track wagering and account wagering, which eliminated Freehold's share of off-track wagering licenses and account wagering revenue respectively.

Youth Justice Commission



Jennifer LeBaron, Ph.D., Executive Director

As New Jersey's lead youth justice agency, the Youth Justice Commission (YJC) provides care, custody, and rehabilitative services to youth placed in the agency's care 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. The YJC has become a national leader in youth justice reform.

2025 Highlights

- New Jersey has led the way in reimagining youth justice, embracing the idea that the number of youth entering the justice system can be reduced while still improving public safety. Under Attorney General Platkin's leadership, New Jersey continued to invest in critical reforms that are reshaping youth justice. In partnership with the Judiciary, YJC continues to serve as a model site for the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). Since JDAI implementation, admissions to county youth detention centers have decreased by 84%, commitments to the YJC by the juvenile court have decreased by 85%, and youth crime has decreased by 88%. As a result of these reforms, far fewer youth are entering the justice system, those who do are leaving better prepared for success, and New Jersey's communities have never been safer, with historic reductions in violence.
- With the support of Governor Phil Murphy and the Legislature, Attorney General Platkin has advanced a plan to downsize the youth justice system through the creation of three new state-of-the-art facilities in the northern, central, and southern regions of the state, and the closing of the New Jersey Training School (NJTS) and the Female Secure Care and Intake Facility, commonly referred to as Hayes. The new, smaller, state-of-the-art therapeutic facilities are designed to promote healing, rehabilitation, and the safe reintegration of youth into their communities. These new facilities will look and function more like schools and opportunity centers for justice-impacted youth.
- The expected closures of NJTS and Hayes have created the opportunity to imagine a new future for these sites that is grounded in restorative justice and healing. Attorney General Platkin created the Youth Justice Working Group: From Secure Care to Restorative Care, tasked with providing recommendations for repurposing the two facilities. The Working Group will provide recommendations on how future uses of NJTS and Hayes can be guided by the need for restoration to the communities most impacted by youth justice system, and the State's effort to transform youth justice in New Jersey.
- The YJC Training Academy expanded its capacity for Juvenile Correctional Police Officer and Juvenile Detention Officer training sessions in 2025. The YJC also implemented an initiative to comprehensively infuse youth wellness, the principles of positive youth development, and the agency's core values of compassion, integrity, commitment, leadership, diversity, and inclusion into all of its training curricula.
- In conjunction with the Governor's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee, the YJC awarded grants totaling more than \$533,780 to police departments, schools, and non-profit organizations across New Jersey to expand summer programs for at-risk youth.

Attorney General's Advocacy Institute



Margaret A. Cotoia, Director

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

2025 Highlights

- In September, Attorney General Platkin hosted the National Association of Attorneys General 2025 Eastern Region Meeting in Asbury Park. The two-day conference, titled "Reimagining Public Safety," included discussions on trauma-informed policing, civil enforcement, the risks of artificial intelligence, and environmental justice along with a fireside chat at the iconic Stone Pony. Eligible attendees received continuing legal education credits through AGAI.
- During the year, AGAI held 161 CLE-accredited lecture and skills programs, educating over 15,000 attendees with a focus on its core constituencies of assistant and deputy attorneys general and county prosecutors and assistant prosecutors. For the third consecutive year, AGAI served over 15,000 attendees.
- The AGAI trained 84 new assistant prosecutors and Division of Criminal Justice deputy attorneys general in its Basic Prosecutors Program. The series consists of 23 lecture programs on criminal practice topics and trial components and a trial advocacy skills program culminating in a mock trial.
- The AGAI continued to partner with the New Jersey First Assistant Prosecutors Association to facilitate and accredit programs for assistant prosecutors and Division of Criminal Justice deputy attorneys general. The series included courses on Wiretap Investigations and Prosecutions, New Jersey Firearms Law, Megan's Law, the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network, Seizure and Search of Digitally Stored Data, and Weapons Forfeiture. Other programs addressing pertinent issues for prosecutors included A Guide for Investigators and Prosecutors on Child Sexual Exploitation or Abuse Material, Human Trafficking, Civil Asset Forfeiture, Prosecuting Bias Crimes, Sentencing for Public Corruption Prosecutors, Ethical Considerations in the Use of Informants, Prosecuting Offenders with Competency Issues, Handling Habeas Petitions, the annual DCJ Appellate Symposium and the 2025 CODIS Conference.
- DOL's Litigation and Administrative Practice Groups partnered with AGAI to facilitate and accredit programs to sharpen deputy attorneys general litigation skills. The AGAI also offered small group, multi-day programs providing deputy attorneys general with the opportunity to practice and refine their deposition, oral advocacy and civil trial advocacy skills and receive feedback from experienced deputy and assistant attorneys general.
- Throughout 2025, the AGAI provided 29 ethics programs, conferring over 50 ethics credits. Fifteen programs were accredited in the Diversity, Inclusion and Elimination of Bias category.
- With DOL's Financial Affairs Practice Group, AGAI launched a new series on procurement and contracting issues. Additionally, the AGAI facilitated two semi-annual in-service programs for the Department of Children and Families Practice Group and the annual DOL in-service program.



Attorney General Platkin speaks to students at Trenton Central High School about mental health and well-being.

Leading the Department

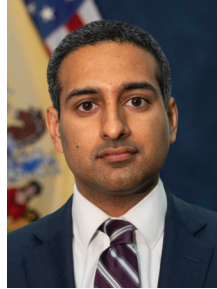
To help manage the day-to-day operations of the Department, Attorney General Platkin has assembled a diverse leadership team that brought together career public servants and experienced attorneys. Together, they are helping the Department's employees achieve a vision for New Jersey that is safer, fairer,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



Lyndsay V. Ruotolo
*First Assistant
Attorney General*



Angela Cai
*Executive Assistant
Attorney General*



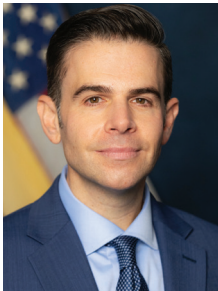
Sundeeep Iyer
*Chief Counsel to the
Attorney General*



Jeremy Feigenbaum
Solicitor General



Sara Quigley
Chief of Staff



Nicholas Kormann
*Deputy First Assistant
Attorney General*



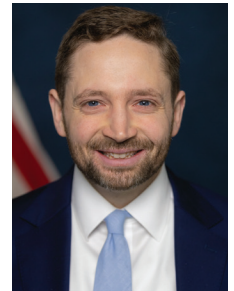
Nelson Delgado
Chief Security Officer



Shankar Duraiswamy
Deputy Solicitor General



Stephen Ehrlich
Deputy Solicitor General



Michael Zuckerman
Deputy Solicitor General



**Melina Meneguín
Layerenza**
*Senior Counsel to the
Attorney General*



Nathaniel Levy
*Senior Counsel to the
Attorney General*



Benjamin Notterman
*Senior Counsel to the
Attorney General*



Marihug C. Peña
*Senior Counsel to the
Attorney General*



Daniel Resler
*Counsel to the
Attorney General*



Stephan Finkel

*Director of
Legislative Affairs*



Lora Fong

*Chief Diversity, Equity,
and Inclusion Officer*



Sharon Lauchaire

*Director of
Communications*



Tiffany Wilson

*Senior Counsel and Director
of the Office of Alternative
and Community Responses*



Whitney Lewis

*Director of Community
Engagement*



Zoe Magid

*Senior Advisor to the
Attorney General*



Melanie Robinson

*Senior Counsel to the
Attorney General*



Claudia J. Demitro

*Senior Counsel to the
Attorney General*



Kari D'Ottavio

*Deputy Chief of Staff
and Senior Counsel to
the Attorney General*



Aaron E. Haier

*Senior Counsel to the
Attorney General*



Sarah Rizk

*Counsel to the
Attorney General*



Hannah Butler

*Deputy Chief of Staff
for Operations*



Raymond Royster

*Deputy Director of
Community Engagement*



Michael Symons

*Deputy Director of
Communications and
Press Secretary*



Michael Zhadanovsky

*Deputy Director of
Communications*

2022 Highlights

With the Constitutional right to abortion rescinded by the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, Attorney General Platkin creates a Reproductive Rights Strike Force to initiate civil and criminal enforcement actions and develop other strategic initiatives to protect access to reproductive health care and abortion care.

Attorney General Platkin's focus on ending gun violence leads him to create the Statewide Affirmative Firearms Enforcement (SAFE) Office – a first-in-the-nation office charged with 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.

Recognizing the importance of the diverse makeup of New Jersey's residents, Attorney General Platkin formally establishes the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ODEI) to oversee and implement diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives within and across LPS.

Attorney General Platkin issues a directive establishing the Division of Violence Intervention and Victim Assistance (VIVA) to bring the state's victim-related, violence intervention, and prevention services under one office focused on victim-centric policy, training, coordination, and management of victims' services. VIVA would later be codified in legislation passed in 2023.

During the 2022 General Election, Attorney General Platkin launches the Voter Protection Initiative to help ensure fair and free elections, protect the right to vote, and assist voters, election officials, and law enforcement in resolving any emergent voting-related legal matters.

Under Attorney General Platkin's direction, the ARRIVE (Alternative Responses to Reduce Instances of Violence & Escalation) Together program, which started in one county in 2021, expands to five additional sites - a pilot run by the Elizabeth and Linden Police Departments, the Bridgeton Police Department, the Roselle Park Police Department, and the Atlantic City Police Department - with plans to accelerate the expansion for implementation statewide.

In September, in keeping with Attorney General Platkin's commitment to increasing transparency, the Office of Justice Data (OJD) launches 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. Additionally, OJD makes demographic information on New Jersey's more than 30,000 law enforcement officers publicly available, sharing the racial, ethnicity, gender, and age of all sworn officers.



2023 Highlights

Under Attorney General Platkin, New Jersey sees historic reductions in gun violence starting in 2023. For the first time since 2009, the year New Jersey began tracking the number of shooting victims, the number of people shot falls below 1,000. Significant reductions continue throughout his tenure, with the number of shooting victims dropping by more than 60% by the end of 2025.

In March, Attorney General Platkin supersedes the Paterson Police Department, assuming control of all police functions to restore community trust, improve police morale, and enhance public safety in the community.

Attorney General Platkin stands up for New Jersey's children, joining 41 other attorneys general to sue Meta in federal and state courts for allegedly designing and deploying harmful features on Instagram and Facebook to purposefully addict children and teens.

Attorney General Platkin and the Department of Environmental Protection announce that New Jersey settled what was at the time the single largest environmental case in American history, a proposed \$393 million settlement with Solvay Specialty Polymers USA, LLC for the remediation of contamination, including the "forever chemicals" known as PFAS, and to compensate the public for natural resource damages near Solvay's facility in West Deptford, Gloucester County.

During the year, Attorney General Platkin issues two firearms-related directives - one aimed at collecting anonymous information on processed permit to carry handgun applications to guide data-driven policymaking, and another - an amendment to a 2008 Attorney General directive to expedite the submission of ballistics evidence gathered at crime scenes to forensic labs to increase the probability of solving gun crimes.

Following a U.S. Supreme Court decision affirming the State's right to unilaterally withdraw from the Waterfront Commission of New York Harbor, New Jersey, through the Attorney General's Office and the New Jersey State Police (NJSP) Port Security Section, officially take over the regulatory and law enforcement duties and responsibilities of New Jersey ports.

Under the leadership of Attorney General Platkin, the Conviction Review Unit secures the release of an innocent man, who was serving a 30-year prison sentence after being wrongfully convicted for a 2003 Jersey City felony homicide.

Attorney General Platkin's commitment to preventing bias and hate crimes leads to the release of "Exposing White Supremacy in New Jersey," a report analyzing the rise in white supremacist violence, recruitment, and the painful and profound impact that white supremacy has on targeted communities.



2024 Highlights

In a groundbreaking step forward in addressing how New Jersey's law enforcement agencies respond to mental health and addiction crises, Attorney General Platkin establishes the Office of Alternative and Community Responses (OACR). OACR prioritizes collaborative, community-informed, and public health centered approaches from the perspective of public safety to improve outcomes for law enforcement interactions during mental health emergencies.

After a multiyear investigation, Attorney General Platkin and other state attorneys general sue social media giant TikTok for deceptive, unconscionable, and abusive business practices that harm the health and safety of children. The lawsuit alleges that TikTok encourages excessive, compulsive, and habitual use by young users to mine their data and sell targeted advertising.

With bias incidents continuing to rise, particularly among young people in educational settings, Attorney General Platkin launches a statewide campaign to raise public awareness about bias incidents and bias crimes. The "No Hate in the Garden State" campaign highlights educational tools to combat hate and raises awareness about bias and how to report it.

Attorney General Platkin creates the Office of Policing Strategy and Innovation (OPSI) to promote consistency across the state's more than 530 law enforcement agencies and 42,000 law enforcement officers. OPSI, a national model focused on achieving excellence in policing, focuses on using innovative policing methods and new technologies to promote best practices.

Setting a national standard for holding the firearm industry accountable, Attorney General Platkin sues gun manufacturer Glock for multiple violations of the State's firearms industry public safety law through the manufacture, sale, and distribution of its namesake pistols, which can easily be configured to fire automatically as illegal machine guns, using an inexpensive device commonly known as a "Glock switch."

After the enactment of legislation increasing criminal penalties for home invasions and residential burglaries, Attorney General Platkin hosts a law enforcement roundtable and creates a Statewide Burglary Task Force, bringing together law enforcement and prosecutors to share intelligence and collaborate across jurisdictions to hold accountable those who burglarize residences.

Joined by a bipartisan coalition of states and U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland, Attorney General Platkin filed a federal antitrust lawsuit against Apple, alleging the tech giant is monopolizing the market for smartphones, stifling innovation and the development of apps and related technology.



2025 Highlights

Attorney General Platkin leads the fight against the Trump Administration's efforts to undo the Constitutional right of birthright citizenship and obtains a nationwide preliminary injunction protecting birthright citizenship for children born in New Jersey and across the country.

Honoring the State's commitment to protect New Jersey's children and his promise to take on the nation's social media giants, OAG and the Division of Consumer Affairs sue messaging application provider Discord, Inc. for deceptive and unconscionable business practices that mislead parents about the efficacy of its safety controls and obscures the risks children face when using the application.

The N.J. Supreme Court affirms Attorney General Platkin's authority to assume control of the Paterson Police Department, originally initiated in March 2023 in response to longstanding challenges in oversight, accountability, and public trust within the department. Since the supersession, violent crime rates have dropped significantly, officer training and well-being has improved, and the department has rebuilt trust within its community.

Attorney General Platkin leads a multistate coalition in filing a lawsuit that results in the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) agreeing not to distribute thousands of machine gun conversion devices, known as Forced Reset Triggers, into communities in New Jersey and 15 other states. Forced Reset Triggers are frequently used in violent crimes and mass shootings.

Attorney General Platkin launches a statewide tracking system that better supports survivors and increases transparency in the investigation and prosecution of sexual assaults. The secure portal gives survivors private access to the status of their Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Kits.

Under Attorney General Platkin, New Jersey has its third major victory in PFAS-related litigation in just over two years. Settlements reached with DuPont, 3M, and other companies over these "forever chemicals" mean that New Jersey will recover approximately \$3 billion from lawsuits to compensate the State and remediate the environmental damage caused by PFAS and other pollutants, the largest settlement ever achieved by a single state.

New Jersey stands up for workers' rights as Attorney General Platkin files two lawsuits against Amazon for systematic violations of the civil rights of pregnant workers and workers with disabilities, and for wrongfully misclassifying Flex delivery drivers as independent contractors, unlawfully depriving workers of rightful wages, benefits, and a host of other legal rights and protections afforded to all employees.



Top: Residents of Atlantic City join Attorney General Platkin and members of the Office of Community Engagement on a community walk.

Below: Attorney General Platkin holds a fireside chat at the iconic Stone Pony in Asbury Park during the Eastern Region Meeting of the National Association of Attorneys General.





Top: Fabiana Pierre-Louis, an Associate Justice on the N.J. Supreme Court, joins Attorney General Platkin for a conversation bridging Black History Month and Women's History Month.

Below: First Assistant Attorney General Lyndsay V. Ruotolo and VIVA Executive Director Patricia Teffenhart team up with Moms Demand Action at the State Capital Plaza for Advocacy Day.





New Jersey Office of the
Attorney General

www.njoag.gov

Constituent Services
(609) 984-5828

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*Attorney General Platkin takes
a phone call before meeting with
county prosecutors in Atlantic City.*

