

# State of New Jersey Commission of Investigation



## 56<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REPORT 2024

JANUARY 2025

**NJ STATE COMMISSION OF  
INVESTIGATION**



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# State of New Jersey

COMMISSION OF INVESTIGATION

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*Chair*

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*Commissioners*

January 2025

Governor Phil Murphy  
The President and Members of the Senate  
The Speaker and Members of the General Assembly

The State Commission of Investigation, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:9M-1 to -20, formally submits its 56<sup>th</sup> annual report for 2024.

Respectfully,

Handwritten signature of Tiffany Williams Brewer in cursive.

Tiffany Williams Brewer  
Chair

Handwritten signature of Robert J. Burzichelli in cursive.

Robert J. Burzichelli  
Commissioner

Handwritten signature of Kevin R. Reina in cursive.

Kevin R. Reina  
Commissioner

Handwritten signature of John P. Lacey in cursive.

John P. Lacey  
Commissioner

# About the SCI

The New Jersey State Commission of Investigation was created to serve the people of New Jersey by maintaining a constant vigil against the intrusion of organized crime in society; to identify and expose corruption and government laxity; to shed a light on waste, fraud and abuse of taxpayers' dollars and to recommend new laws and other remedies to protect the integrity of the government process.

Over the last 56 years, the SCI has fulfilled that mandate ably, completing more than 135 investigations in a broad range of areas. The SCI has also been the catalyst for many important statutory and regulatory reforms, bolstering the integrity of government at all levels and saving taxpayers millions of dollars.

Considering that state, county and local government in New Jersey comprise a taxpayer enterprise that carries a combined annual cost exceeding \$100 billion annually, the SCI's independent, investigative fact-finding and problem-solving expertise is more crucial than ever to the challenge of safeguarding systemic integrity of this vast public trust.



# In Memoriam

## Executive Director Chadd W. Lackey

On July 10, 2024, Executive Director Chadd W. Lackey tragically died in an automobile accident.

Chadd, the agency's first African American Executive Director, began leading the SCI in January 2020. A longtime member of the Commission staff, Chadd had previously served as the agency's Deputy Director/General Counsel. As investigative counsel, he directed several of the agency's most high-profile investigations into organized crime, including a groundbreaking inquiry that identified prescription pill abuse as the precursor to a new heroin epidemic.

As Executive Director, he oversaw SCI investigations into the rise of the Pagans motorcycle gang in New Jersey, abuses and mismanagement at the Schools Development Authority and corruption in the addiction rehabilitation industry. Throughout his public service career, Chadd worked tirelessly to protect the integrity of the governmental process and to make New Jersey a better place for all of its citizens.



**August 24, 1968 - July 10, 2024**

# SCI By the Numbers

**135+**

## **INVESTIGATIONS**

Hard-hitting fact-finding inquiries in diverse areas including corruption, organized crime and the waste of public tax dollars.

**56**

## **YEARS**

Serving New Jersey citizens since its creation in 1968. Statutorily empowered to conduct organized crime and criminal justice investigations.

**40+**

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

The SCI has held dozens of public hearings to illuminate and bring attention to investigative findings that merit closer scrutiny and to highlight expert testimony.



# A Message from the Chair



I am proud to serve as the 12th Chair of the New Jersey State Commission of Investigation, the only independent state government watchdog empowered to conduct criminal justice investigations. The SCI was created to serve the people of New Jersey fairly and independently by investigating and exposing systemic problems and recommending significant improvements to the legislative and enforcement arms of government.

Over the last 56 years, the SCI has fulfilled that mandate by completing more than 135 publicly-reported investigations, shining a light on organized crime, government laxity and the waste, fraud and abuse of tax dollars. Most significantly, our work has served as the catalyst for important legislative reforms, bolstering the integrity of government at all levels and saving taxpayers millions of dollars.

In the past year alone, SCI reports found deficiencies in a state law intended to keep students safe from sexual abuse at school, exposed corruption and abuses in the addiction rehabilitation industry, identified illegal firearms trends and revealed questionable and illicit activity, including potential human trafficking, in massage therapy businesses.

We are committed to continuing the legacy of important investigative work done by the SCI and to put forth sensible remedies to make government more accountable, transparent and generally work better for the residents of our state.

Tiffany Williams Brewer  
Chair

# Members of the Commission 2024



**Tiffany Williams Brewer**  
**Chair**

Mrs. Williams Brewer was appointed to the Commission in January 2022 by Governor Phil Murphy. She is a former NJ Administrative Law Judge and law professor. Prior to her appointment as a judge, Mrs. Williams Brewer served in several executive roles in state government, including Chief Counsel to the Speaker of the General Assembly, Deputy Chief Counsel to Governor Jon Corzine, Regulatory Officer at the Civil Service Commission, and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State. After starting her legal career in private practice in Boston, Mrs. Williams Brewer became an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey and eventually joined the law firm of Riker Danzig Scherer Hyland & Perretti. Mrs. Williams Brewer is an elected member of the American Law Institute and has the distinction of serving as the Chair-Elect of the Litigation Section of the American Bar Association. In addition, she is a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and an ordained pastor. A graduate of Rutgers College of Rutgers University, she earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Rutgers University-Camden and a law degree from Northeastern University School of Law.



**Robert J. Burzichelli**  
**Commissioner**

Mr. Burzichelli was appointed to the Commission in June 2014 by the Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney. A founding partner of the New York law firm Greenberg Burzichelli Greenberg P.C., Mr. Burzichelli specializes in employment and labor law and represents a broad spectrum of labor unions. Prior to launching his own firm in 2005, Mr. Burzichelli was a partner at Solomon Richman Greenberg, P.C. Mr. Burzichelli began his legal career as an associate with Coudert Brothers LLP, an international law firm, where he worked in the firm's litigation and antitrust departments. Mr. Burzichelli received his B.A. from Rutgers College, a Masters Degree in Public Administration from New York University and a law degree from Rutgers School of Law-Newark.



**John P. Lacey**  
**Commissioner**

Mr. Lacey was appointed to the Commission in January 2022 by Governor Phil Murphy. Co-managing partner of the Newark Office of Connell Foley LLP, he is Chair of the firm's White Collar Criminal Defense practice. Mr. Lacey has decades of experience managing internal investigations, particularly those involving fraud, financial crimes, mismanagement and corruption. Prior to joining Connell Foley in 1990, Mr. Lacey was an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey, where he successfully prosecuted one of the first international terrorists apprehended in the United States. Past President of the Association of the Federal Bar of New Jersey, he is a member of the American Bar Association and the New York and New Jersey State Bar Associations. A graduate of Arizona State University, Mr. Lacey received his law degree from Seton Hall University.



**Kevin R. Reina**  
**Commissioner**

Mr. Reina was appointed to the Commission in October 2020 by Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin. An attorney who specializes in real estate law, Mr. Reina has spent most of his career in private practice. For the past ten years, he has been the Managing Counsel for the New Jersey-based in-house litigation office of a Fortune 500 title insurance company. Mr. Reina earned both his bachelor's and law degrees from St. John's University in Queens, NY. He also received a Master's Degree in Theology from Seton Hall University. In 2016, he was ordained as a Deacon for the Roman Catholic Church and currently serves in that capacity in the Archdiocese of Newark.

# Overview

The State Commission of Investigation was established in 1968 because responsible, reform-minded citizens and government officials recognized the need for an independent, non-prosecutorial fact-finding agency to:

- Identify and expose public corruption, mismanagement, ethics irregularities and governmental laxity
- Shed light on waste, fraud and abuse, and promote taxpayer savings
- Monitor and assess the threat posed by organized crime, and
- Recommend new laws and other systemic remedies to protect the integrity of the governmental process on behalf of the citizens of New Jersey

The framers of the SCI's enabling statute recognized a critical distinction in the landscape of unscrupulous activity in our society. They understood that malfeasance, misconduct and wrongdoing do not always rise to the level of criminality, that the public interest and the public trust frequently fall victim to behavior and events outside the realm and reach of traditional law enforcement.

In short, they saw that the battle against organized crime and corruption had to be waged as comprehensively as possible with every tool imaginable. The special Joint Legislative Committee that proposed the SCI's creation intended it to be more than

*a "crime commission" alone. There are many occasions when hard-hitting, expert fact-finding is needed without involving the criminal process or implying criminal violations are under investigation. . . . This commission will provide a significant independent "watchdog" for the entire system.*

Thus, in order to fulfill its vital mission with fundamental clarity, credibility, transparency and effectiveness, the Commission was invested with an extraordinary statutory mandate: to pursue its work within a framework untainted by political interference or self-interest.

By virtue of a unique structure anchored in two constitutional branches of State government – it is "in but not of" the Legislature with Commissioners appointed jointly by the Legislative Leaders and by the Governor – the Commission is an independent fact-finding agency and a tested, result-oriented leader among the few full-time watchdogs and sentinels of New Jersey government.

# Overview

During 2024, the Commission bolstered its record of exemplary public service with four investigations completed over the past 12 months, collectively forming the centerpiece of its public activities, summarized as follows:

- **The Dirty Business Behind Getting Clean: Fraud, Ethical Misconduct & Corruption in the Addiction Treatment Industry**

A February report found the addiction rehabilitation industry was rife with corruption, ethical violations and other misconduct that put patients' best interests secondary to profits. The SCI recommended a series of reforms, including strengthening the state's patient brokering law, fortifying the licensing and inspection process for treatment centers and increasing the oversight of sober living homes.

- **Safeguarding New Jersey Students from Sexual Predators and Child Abuse at School**

A law intended to prevent New Jersey school districts from enabling educators with documented histories of sexual or child abuse to quietly move on to new jobs in other districts lacks the adequate oversight, uniform application and accountability to make it effective. The SCI recommended closing loopholes to make the law less vulnerable to manipulation.

- **Illegal Firearms Use & Trends in New Jersey**

The Commission found that bad actors had circumvented New Jersey's strict gun laws by building homemade "ghost guns" and gun conversion devices using kits and 3-D printing plans found online. The SCI recommended criminalizing the possession of machine gun conversion devices and 3-D printing plans for ghost guns and parts, as well as training for police.

- **An Inquiry into Human Trafficking Activity in the Massage Therapy Business in New Jersey**

In an October report, the SCI found that indicators of human trafficking activity were prevalent in massage therapy businesses in New Jersey. The SCI proposed comprehensive reforms to strengthen oversight of the industry, bolster criminal laws concerning prostitution and aid law enforcement in conducting human trafficking investigations.

# The Dirty Business Behind Getting Clean

In February, the Commission issued a final report of an investigation that revealed corruption, fraud and unethical conduct were rampant in the addiction rehabilitation industry in New Jersey.

The SCI's comprehensive investigation found corrupt business owners, operators and other professionals working across the industry had engaged in fraudulent schemes and other misconduct that, in some cases, hindered the ability of clients to get sober.

## MAIN FINDINGS

Among the SCI's main findings:

- Patient brokering schemes have evolved in new ways not adequately addressed by New Jersey's patient brokering law.
- Questionable financial conduct, including fraudulent billing, tax evasion and other misconduct by some treatment center owners who later took the proceeds or used accounts assigned to their business to fund their lavish lifestyles.
- Financial arrangements between owners of treatment centers and sober living homes enabling both entities to profit by keeping residents enrolled in treatment at specific facilities.



## Final Report February 6, 2024



# The Dirty Business Behind Getting Clean

- Corruption and other abuses of government programs created to assist individuals struggling with addiction to find treatment services or to pay their rent at sober living homes.
- Deceptive marketing tactics used in the industry to lure customers.

The publication of the report culminated a lengthy and far-ranging inquiry with initial findings that were first presented during earlier public hearings.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Strengthen and expand New Jersey's patient brokering law
- Bolster licensing and inspection standards for treatment centers
- Expand the state's regulation of sober homes.
- Enact legislation to target deceptive marketing practices
- Creating a state licensure system for peer recovery coaches
- Convene a task force to further study industry regulation.

## IMPACT

New Jersey legislators promptly responded to the Commission's findings and recommendations by introducing a package of seven bills in the General Assembly in February: [A3973](#), [A3974](#), [A3975](#), [A3976](#), [A3977](#), [A3978](#) and [A3979](#).



SCI Counsel Lisa Cialino questions a witness during the second public hearing.

Several of those bills have moved through the legislature. Two of those measures, one of which would expand New Jersey's patient brokering law and another to ban deceptive marketing practices were approved by the Assembly in September and awaiting action in the Senate. Meanwhile, the Senate introduced several identical bills including [S2952](#), the companion to [A4535](#), which would expand state oversight of sober homes. On December 5, SCI Chair Williams Brewer testified before the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee in support of S2952, which was subsequently approved by the panel. Williams Brewer also testified before the Assembly Oversight, Reform and Federal Relations Committee in support of A4535, which was approved on December 16.

# Safeguarding NJ Students from Sexual Predators and Child Abuse at School

In March, the SCI released the final report of an investigation examining the effectiveness of a law created to prevent school employees with documented histories of sexual misconduct or child abuse from obtaining new employment in another school district by keeping their past misconduct private.

When the “Pass the Trash” law was enacted in 2018, it was supposed to end the use of separation agreements and other arrangements between school employees and districts that had enabled some educators to move on to jobs in new districts. In some cases, the secret agreement operated to facilitate the offender being hired in a new school district to engage in similar sexual misconduct.

## MAIN FINDINGS

- The law relies too heavily on educators with histories of inappropriate or abusive conduct with students to fully disclose to their new employers about their past misdeeds.
- There is no state agency charged with oversight responsibility for the law’s obligations, nor is there a statewide, standardized process for collecting, reporting and verifying information concerning school employees with substantiated investigations of sexual misconduct or child abuse.



***...the SCI has discovered that the ‘Pass the Trash’ law has been manipulated not only by educators seeking to keep their past misdeeds private, but also by school districts that have either disregarded or improperly followed the law’s provisions***

# Safeguarding NJ Students from Sexual Predators and Child Abuse at School

- Without outside oversight or auditing by County or State officials, schools have no assurances that the information provided by applicants or prior employers is accurate, nor if such information is routinely disseminated to successor employer school districts to keep them from hiring a suspected child predator.
- An SCI analysis of a sampling of districts' recordkeeping practices found spotty compliance with the law. All of the districts had missing forms, incomplete information and/or other failures in meeting the basic requirements of the statute.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Requiring the State Department of Education to oversee, audit and enforce the law.
- Creating uniform procedures for conducting child abuse and sexual misconduct investigations.
- Increasing penalties for violations.
- Removing the 20-year limit on a school job applicant's employment history.



**Final Report**  
**March 5, 2024**

# Illegal Firearms Use & Trends in New Jersey

In September, the SCI issued the final report of an investigation into illegal firearms use and trends that found New Jersey's gun laws were increasingly circumvented by privately manufactured "ghost guns" built using kits and 3-D printing technology. The proliferation of homemade guns and conversion devices enabling automatic firearms to function like machine guns had enabled criminals to out-arm the police in many communities.

Bought and built outside the state's stringent gun purchasing restrictions, even individuals precluded from legally purchasing or possessing firearms can easily obtain illicit ghost guns and gun conversion devices known as "switches" online. These devices – no larger than a Lego block – can be purchased online for as little as \$20 to \$40 apiece through an international black market, the SCI found.

## MAIN FINDINGS

- The SCI found homemade ghost guns were easy to build, required no background checks and were virtually untraceable.
- While it is illegal to use a 3-D printer to manufacture guns and gun parts, state law does not criminalize the possession of the printing plans.



**Final Report**  
**September**  
**10, 2024**

# Illegal Firearms Use & Trends in New Jersey

- State law does not prohibit the possession of switches that enable a semi-automatic weapon to transform into a machine gun.
- A small number of guns are driving a large share of the violence in numerous New Jersey municipalities, suggesting that current state law and prosecutorial strategies are not adequately addressing multi-shoot firearms.
- A disparity between the timing of pretrial detention decisions and the availability of ballistics data precludes valuable information from being considered in bail decisions.
- Current Public Safety Assessment (PSA) risk factor calculations fail to accurately reflect the dangerousness of firearms.

- Permit extensions for pre-trial detention hearings for gun offenders pending ballistics analysis.
- Reassess the public safety assessment risk factors to more accurately reflect the dangerousness of firearms.
- Establish protocols for law enforcement agencies to report on shooting events for statewide collections.



## IMPACT

In October, Republican lawmakers in the General Assembly responded to the SCI's report by introducing a package of seven bills: [A4917](#), [A4918](#), [A4919](#), [A4920](#), [A4921](#), [A4922](#) and [A4890](#). Democratic lawmakers in both houses also introduced numerous bills to implement the SCI's recommendations, including [S3900/ A4981](#) that would permit the courts to have additional time in making pretrial decisions for firearms-related offenses and [S3898/ A4977](#) that would mandate training on gun conversion devices for law enforcement.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The SCI presented a series of reform recommendations, including the following:

- Criminalize the possession of machine gun conversion devices and 3-D printing plans for ghost guns and other gun parts.
- Criminalize firearms discharges.
- Expand police training for machine gun conversion devices identification.

# Indicators of Human Trafficking in the Massage Industry

The SCI investigated a segment of the massage business industry and found there were hundreds of massage entities operating in New Jersey that had been associated with questionable and potentially unlawful conduct, including some with indicia of human trafficking.

In a report issued in October, the Commission revealed owners and operators of those establishments routinely manipulated laws and rules that govern the industry, engaged in efforts to conceal certain business activities and exploited female employees – who were typically Asian immigrants with minimal English-speaking skills – through coercive and oppressive labor conditions.

## MAIN FINDINGS

- Evidence that female employees lived at the massage establishments.
- Practices to ostensibly obscure activities occurring inside the facilities, such as darkened windows, the use of back entrances, and a lack of signage.
- Illicit business practices that included operating primarily in cash, reporting little to no taxable income and installing straw owners to hide true ownership.
- Business owners lived lavish lifestyles despite having modest reportable incomes.



**Final Report**  
**October 17,**  
**2024**



# Indicators of Human Trafficking in the Massage Industry

All of the questionable massage businesses examined during the inquiry were registered with state or local government entities or had taken deliberate actions to appear otherwise legitimate. State government oversight strictly regulates massage therapists but minimally oversees businesses, owners, and operators.

The Commission found that the weak and fragmented statutory and regulatory framework that underpins the industry was subverted in some instances, enabling corrupt operators to engage in unlawful conduct, including fraud and tax evasion, without detection.

The SCI examined approximately 250 massage businesses throughout the state, SCI investigators issued scores of subpoenas, analyzed financial records and received testimony from 40 witnesses. SCI agents also conducted surveillance at suspect establishments and interviewed law enforcement officers, municipal inspectors, state regulators and others associated with the massage therapy industry, including the women employees.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The SCI presented a series of reform recommendations, summarized below:

- Bolster and expand the State's oversight of massage therapy businesses.
- Prohibit common questionable business practices, such as evidence of sexual activity on site and employees living at the facility.
- Improve the massage therapist licensing process.
- Facilitate and strengthen law enforcement investigations into human trafficking.
- Study alternate methods to combat human trafficking and trafficking-related issues.

# Public Hearing Spotlight: Illegal Firearms Use & Trends

Among the unique responsibilities assigned to the SCI is the authority to conduct public hearings to present investigative findings. Over the years, the SCI has held more than 40 public hearings on a wide range of topics ranging from organized crime, money laundering and new home construction abuses to illegal dumping.

Through public hearings, the SCI is able to air initial findings made in investigations that merit special attention or for emerging matters that demand immediate public awareness. It is among numerous means within the SCI's investigative toolbox that enables the watchdog to conduct top-notch fact-finding. The forum enables the SCI to receive testimony from experts in the field, submit exhibits and present evidence in support of investigative findings.

The SCI's most recent public hearing on April 16, 2024, disclosed initial findings made in the investigation into illegal firearms use and trends in New Jersey. It featured expert testimony from SCI investigators who detailed the fact-finding and analysis that were the basis for identifying firearms trends in New Jersey, including how bad actors circumvented gun laws by creating firearms in the privacy of their homes using 3-D printing technology and kits. The SCI also revealed that gun conversion devices could be created with 3-D printer or purchased expensively online.



SCI Special Agent Richard Massa displays a 3-D printed gun part.



SCI Commissioner Robert Burzichelli and SCI Chair Tiffany Williams Brewer listen to testimony during the public hearing.

# Public Hearing Spotlight: Illegal Firearms Use & Trends

While it is illegal to use a 3-D printer to manufacture firearms and gun parts, New Jersey does not criminalize the possession of printing plans to create the component parts.

SCI agents detailed their first-hand experience in creating gun parts by using 3-D printing technology. Commission investigators with no prior experience created parts to integral to fully functioning pistols and rifles, as well as illegal high-capacity magazines and switches. SCI agents purchased a 3-D printer and plastic filament and obtained and downloaded printing plans for firearms and gun conversion devices online. The gun parts were made cheaply, easily and quickly.

The hearing also featured expert testimony from New Jersey State Police Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Brennan and Detective Brian Halaycio of the State Police Ballistics Unit who spoke about how the analysis of shooting and gun-related data drives policing decisions. Mark Musella, President of the County Prosecutor Association of New Jersey, testified about legal restrictions on the use of certain crime data challenge the ability of the courts to have complete information when making pre-trial detention decisions.

The SCI also revealed that a small number of firearms were responsible for a large share of violence in numerous municipalities. Firearms and ballistics data reviewed by the SCI found more than 2,000 firearms tied to two or more shooting events between 2020 and 2024.



New Jersey State Police Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Brennan testifying at the hearing.

## Archived Public Hearing April 16, 2024



# Partnerships, Outreach & Education

The true measure of the Commission's value far exceeds the results of investigations completed in any given year. Throughout 2024, the SCI maintained its record of exemplary public service by assisting multiple law enforcement and government oversight agencies at the local, county and state levels. The following is a summary of the Commission and its staff's education, outreach and support activities throughout the year.



## EDUCATING THE LEGAL COMMUNITY

In May 2024, SCI Chair Tiffany Williams Brewer, former SCI Deputy Director Marian Galletta and the late SCI Executive Director Chadd Lackey, along with SCI Commissioners Kevin Reina and John Lacey, presented a Continuing Legal Education course about the SCI and its mandate to investigate organized crime at the New Jersey State Bar Association Annual Meeting in Atlantic City.



# Partnerships, Outreach & Education



## INTELLIGENCE BUILDING & SHARING

During 2024, the SCI hosted two intelligence round table meetings that brought together law enforcement personnel from New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania to discuss and share information concerning organized crime group presence and activity in the region.

Dozens of investigators from various Federal, State, County and local law enforcement organizations gathered for the intelligence meetings held at the SCI's office in May and November. The November meeting marked the tenth gathering since the SCI began hosting them in April 2021.

Throughout the year, the SCI also routinely provides other behind-the-scenes support for law enforcement agencies by providing intelligence from monitoring certain organized criminal groups, providing gang training and conducting surveillance operations.

## SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS, TRAINING & EXPERT TESTIMONY

As in years past, Senior Criminal Investigator Edwin Torres, the SCI's resident gang expert, continued to assist and advise personnel in state law enforcement agencies, county prosecutors' offices, county sheriffs and municipal departments across New Jersey regarding gang activity in their jurisdictions.

Investigator Torres also spoke about street gangs to hundreds of individuals at nearly two dozen conferences and events for school, community and law enforcement groups across the country. In these sessions, Agent Torres shared tips for identifying gang affiliations and activities, and offered strategies for combatting gangs and preventing youth participation in gangs.



# Partnerships, Outreach & Education



## INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE TASK FORCE

SCI Special Agent Eric Rennert, an investigative accountant, continued to serve as a member of an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Task Force responsible for investigating illegal money service business schemes throughout New Jersey. In 2023, the Task Force's criminal investigation operation resulted in five individuals being arrested in September and charged by the United States Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey for illegally processing more than \$600 million through unlicensed money transmitting businesses.



## NEW JERSEY STATE POLICE COLLABORATION

For the past two years, Investigative Analyst Joshua King has been assigned to the New Jersey State Police Regional Operations and Intelligence Center (ROIC) South in Gloucester County as part of a partnership between the SCI and State Police.

Analyst King works primarily with the New Jersey Gun Violence Reduction Task Force to gather and provide information as part of a statewide intelligence-sharing network across New Jersey's 21 counties, facilitated by collaboration among federal, state and county law enforcement and prosecutors in support of reducing shooting crimes. King's research in this capacity helped build the foundation for his testimony during the SCI's public hearing on illegal gun violence trends in April.

# Advancing Our Work

## AT THE STATEHOUSE

As noted earlier, New Jersey lawmakers showed strong support of the SCI's work in 2024 by introducing more than two dozen bills in response to our investigations into the addiction treatment industry and illegal firearms abuses with several advancing through both houses of the Legislature.

Commission leadership testified before state legislators on three occasions in 2024, supporting legislation that advanced reforms recommended in SCI's report exposing abuses in the addiction industry. Two bills drafted in response to the SCI's recommendations to address deceptive marketing practices in the addiction industry and to strengthen New Jersey's patient brokering law were unanimously approved by the Assembly in September.

## ADDICTION INDUSTRY REFORMS

Soon after the addiction rehabilitation industry report's publication, late Executive Director Chadd Lackey and Counsel Lisa Cialino testified before the Assembly Oversight, Reform and Federal Relations Committee on March 7 regarding our findings. A package of legislation was subsequently introduced in the Assembly mirroring all of the SCI's recommendations with several identical bills introduced in the Senate.



On December 5, the SCI was invited to testify on bill S-2952, which would impose greater state oversight of sober living homes, before the New Jersey Senate and Urban Affairs Committee. Chair Williams Brewer, Deputy Director/Chief Salma Chand and Counsel Cialino appeared before the panel, which approved the release of the bill.



# Advancing Our Work

Chair Williams Brewer, Deputy Director Chand and Counsel Cialino also appeared before the Assembly Oversight, Reform and Federal Relations Committee on December 16 when it voted on A4535, the Assembly version of the sober home legislation. The committee agreed to advance the bill, which now awaits action by the Assembly Appropriations Committee.



## ILLEGAL FIREARMS USE & TRENDS REFORMS

In October, Republican lawmakers in the General Assembly responded to the SCI's report by introducing a package of seven bills implementing recommendations made by the Commission. Democratic lawmakers in both houses also introduced numerous bills to implement the SCI's proposed reforms, including bills that permit the courts to have additional time in making pretrial decisions for firearms-related offenses and would mandate training on gun conversion devices for law enforcement personnel.



**MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION**  
**1969-2025**  
***Appointed by the Governor***

William F. Hyland  
1969-1970  
*Chair*

John F. McCarthy, Jr.  
1970-1973  
*Chair*

Joseph H. Rodriguez  
1973-1979  
*Chair*

Henry S. Patterson, II  
1979-1990  
*Chair (1985-1990)*

Kenneth D. Merin  
1990-1992

Dante J. Sarubbi  
1993-1995

M. Karen Thompson  
1995-2001

Francis E. Schiller  
2001-2004  
*Chair (2002-2004)*

Patrick E. Hobbs  
2004-2014  
*Chair (2011-2014)*

Rosemary Iannacone  
2015-2022

*Tiffany Williams Brewer*  
2022-2025  
*Chair (2022-2025)*

Charles L. Betini  
1969-1976

Lewis B. Kaden  
1976-1981

Robert J. DeITufo  
1981-1984

James R. Zazzali  
1984-1994  
*Chair (1990-1994)*

Justin J. Dintino  
1994-1996

W. Cary Edwards  
1997-2010  
*Chair (2004-2010)*

Todd Caliguire  
2011-2012

Joseph F. Scancarella  
2012-2022  
*Chair (2015-2022)*

John P. Lacey  
2022-

**MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION**  
**1969-2025**  
***Appointed by the President of the Senate***

Glen B. Miller, Jr. 1969-1971	Paul Alongi 1985-1987	Kathy Flicker 2002-2008
Wilfred P. Diana 1971-1973	W. Hunt Dumont 1988-1991	Robert J. Martin 2009 -2013
David G. Lucas 1973-1976	William T. Cahill, Jr. 1991-1995	Robert J. Burzichelli 2014-
Stewart G. Pollock 1976-1978	Leslie Z. Celentano 1995-2001 <i>Chair</i>	
Arthur S. Lane 1979-1985 <i>Chair</i>	John J. Farmer, Jr. 2002	

**MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION**  
**1969-2025**  
***Appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly***

Emory J. Kiess 1969	William S. Greenberg 1982-1987	William J. Castner, Jr. 2010-2011
James T. Dowd 1969-1971	Barry H. Evenchick 1987-1993	Eric S. Pennington 2012-2014
Thomas J. Shusted 1971-1972	Louis H. Miller 1993-1997	Frank M. Leanza 2014-2018
Thomas R. Farley 1973-1977	Audriann Kernan 1999-2002	John A. Hoffman 2019-2020
Arthur S. Lane 1977-1978	Joseph R. Mariniello, Jr. 2002-2009	Kevin R. Reina 2020-
John J. Francis, Jr. 1979-1982		