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**2024 INSIDER 100
LEGAL POWER LIST**



Pictured above:
Sean M. Spiller, President (center)
Steve Beatty, Vice President (left)
Petal Robertson, Secretary-Treasurer (right)

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Publisher

Ryan Graham
Associate Publisher

HEREIN FIND INSIDERNJ'S COMPILATION OF THE STATE'S TOP ATTORNEYS, WHOSE WORLDS INCLUDE NEW JERSEY'S POLITICAL UNIVERSE.



These are not only some of the people who keep clients out of jail, but those who put them there. In addition, many of these practitioners of the legal trade handle the thorny issues arising within the Garden State's campaigns and elections. Others advise planning boards, councils, committees, or commissions, whisper in the ears of executive power, offer counsel to lawmakers in Trenton, or provide exacting legal expertise from an elected position.

Some of the names that follow are great rhetoricians with considerable courtroom presence and charisma, masters of wordplay and logic,

who specialize in getting others to publicly trip into their traps. Others are researchers who operate behind the scenes and with one pounced-on word can change the state's direction.

Part of InsiderNJ's 2024 Power Package, the list presents a cross section of attorneys, and obviously can't include everyone. Hopefully, it hits the main aforementioned representative points, governed in part by the players' visibility and impact, finally more substantive than theatrical.

Max Pizarro
Editor-in-Chief 



*Komjathy
& Kean*

**ALADAR G. KOMJATHY
EILEEN KEAN, ESQ.**

222 WEST STATE STREET, SUITE 202, TRENTON, NJ 08608

609.695.5840

1. Matt Platkin

ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR NEW JERSEY



The consequential top cop for New Jersey indicted the Democrats' longtime most powerful boss, George Norcross III. Now, can he make it stick? Unlike a lot of the slag that makes up New Jersey's political culture, Platkin arrived in government as Phil Murphy's requisite out-of-town smartest-guy-in-the-room, complete with Stanford education. So, while he doesn't have the supposed

advantage of deep swamp contacts, Platkin can capitalize on supposed remoteness to exercise the professional objectivity required to make a corruption-busting impact. That's his gamble, in any case, derided by insiders as entirely political. But remember, that criticism emanates from an echo chamber where only politics permeates everything. Platkin is a different animal.

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2. Phil Sellinger

U.S. ATTORNEY

Appointed by President Joe Biden, Sellinger this month told a court that indicted U.S. Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ) never pressured him “to act improperly on behalf of a political ally,” according to Politico. Formerly of Greenberg Traurig, where his leadership positions included co-chair of the firm’s Litigation Department and member of the firm’s Management Committee.



3. Craig Coughlin

SPEAKER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, LD-19

A municipal attorney and partner at Rainone Coughlin Minchello, Coughlin occupies one of the key playing pieces in the Middlesex County Democratic Committee, arguably the strongest political organization in the state right now.



4. Nick Scutari

STATE SENATOR, LD-22

The civil trial attorney with his Linden-based practice, Scutari keeps afloat politically at the upper echelons of New Jersey power through a combination of go-getter guile and strong relations with Middlesex County.



5. Jon Bramnick

STATE SENATOR, LD-21

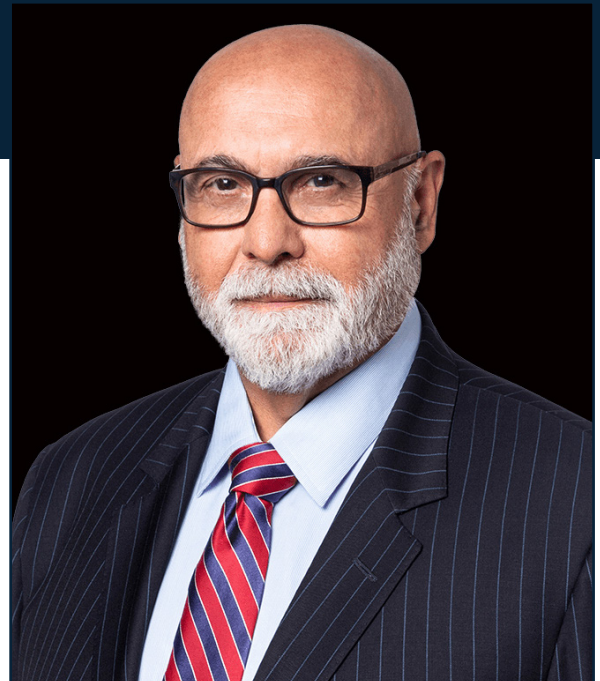
Principal of the Scotch Plains-based Bramnick Law, veteran lawmaker Bramnick is the only 2025 Republican running for governor with a strong record of opposing Donald J. Trump. A lot of people may doubt his ability to win a GOP Primary, but almost everyone in the know says he would be a good governor.



6. Angelo Genova

GENOVA BURNS

Co-founder and chairman of the firm, the state's top veteran campaigns and elections lawyer. A master trial maneuverer, Genova "subscribes to the basic legal tenet that lawyers must know their case inside and out. In his mind, there is no substitute for preparation, attention to detail, and an uncompromising commitment to advancing the client's interests," according to Genova Burns. Many of New Jersey's top politicians continue to rely on the hyperactively legally punctilious Genova, whose presence in their courtroom corner keeps them not just alive, but viable.



7. The DeCotiises

DECOTIIS FITZPATRICK COLE AND GIBLIN LLP

Headquartered in Teaneck with over 75 attorneys, Decotiis FitzPatrick Cole and Giblin LLP built a profile as one of the top firms in the state of New Jersey, a leader in the state's government, legal, and business communities.



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Princeton Public Affairs Group



PSC

Princeton Strategic Communications

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PPAG.com | WSWDC.com | PrincetonSC.com

8. Parimal Garg

CHIEF COUNSEL TO GOVERNOR PHIL MURPHY

BA from Georgetown, magna cum laude, Harvard Law Degree, Garg, according to the governor’s office, previously worked as an attorney at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP in Washington, DC, where his practice focused on antitrust matters, financial investigations, and appellate arguments.



9. Mike Critchley

CRITCHLEY CURIA AND LURIA

One of the state’s most trusted trial attorneys, Critchley once said, “There are no political parties, just registered opportunists.” His latest assignment? Representing George (see above) and Phil (see below) Norcross. “There will be ample time to explore Mr. Platkin’s motivations for bringing these false charges,” Critchley said in a joint statement with Kevin Marino (see below). “But for today, let there be no confusion: at their heart, these allegations are about actions George and Phil and so many others took to revitalize Camden, once the nation’s poorest and most violent city and now a shining example of urban renewal.”



10. Bill Castner

CONNELL FOLEY, LLP

Former advisor to Governor Phil Murphy on firearms, formerly of the New Jersey Office of Legislative Services, executive director of the New Jersey General Assembly Majority Office, and chief counsel to then-Governor Jon Corzine.



THINK TANK WITH STEVE ADUBATO

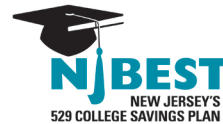


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11. Joe Hayden

PASHMAN STEIN WALDER HAYDEN

Veteran attorney. Has represented many a jammed-up New Jersey politician, including the late Bill Muso, mayor of Union City. Born and raised in Newark. Came out of the Civil Rights era.



12. Raymond Brown

PASHMAN STEIN WALDER HAYDEN

Experienced trial attorney. Represented U.S. Senator Bob Menendez as defense co-counsel. Devoted advocate for human rights.



13. Chris Porrino

LOWENSTEIN SANDLER

Former Attorney General for the state of New Jersey. Represented Matt Platkin in the Katie Brennan case.



14. Peg Schaffer

SOMERSET COUNTY DEMOCRATIC
COMMITTEE CHAIR

Veteran political leader who likes a good scrap.
Managing Principal at Shain Schaffer PC.
Vice Chair of the Democratic State Committee.



15. Adam Malamut

MALAMUT AND ASSOCIATES

Firm managing partner. Expert in government
and regulatory affairs. Deep political ties in
Burlington County.



16. Renee Steinhagen

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NEW JERSEY
APPLESEED

Civil rights attorney. Big, effective public advocate
for voting rights, defeating privatization of public
infrastructure, and expanding access to health care.



17. Doug Steinhardt

STATE SENATOR, LD-23

Partner at Florio Perrucci Steinhardt Cappelli and Tipton. Chair of the Warren County GOP.



18. Jeff Chiesa

CSG LAW

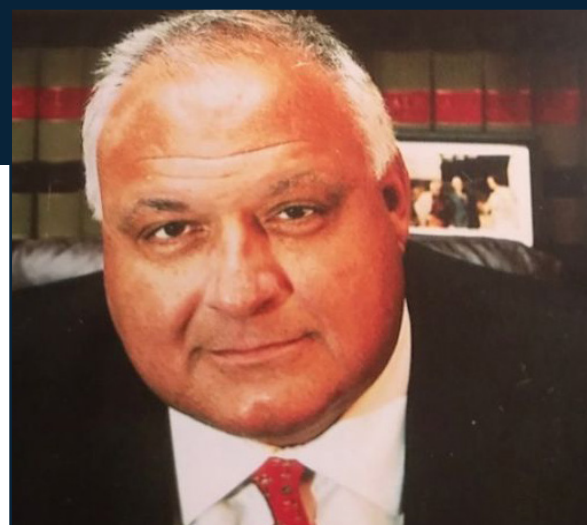
Former Attorney General, former U.S. Senator, and all-around respected gentleman. A graduate of the Catholic University of America School of Law.



19. Edward Kologi

KOLOGI SIMITZ

Great veteran trial attorney. Loves to grapple with complex issues. Deeply involved in augmenting gun safety in New Jersey. Close to Senate President Nick Scutari.





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Paul Crupi * Sabeen Masih * Eash Haughton * Briana Piserchia



20. John Azzarello

WHIPPLE AZZARELLO

Top criminal defense attorney. Former Deputy Chief of the Criminal Division for the United States Attorney's Office in the District of New Jersey, former Counsel to the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States.



21. Bill Northgrave

MCMANIMON SCOTLAND BAUMAN

Top municipal attorney with deep Hudson roots going back to St. Peter's College. Former Chief of Staff in Hudson County and later Hudson County Counsel.



22. David Pascrell

GIBBONS PC

The firm's chair for government and regulatory affairs. Also a lobbyist with considerable experience in Trenton and Washington, D.C.



23. Joe Jacobs

ATTORNEY

Veteran Atlantic City/Atlantic County political presence. Close to Atlantic City Mayor Marty Small.



24. Juan Cartagena

LECTURER IN LAW, COLUMBIA SCHOOL OF LAW

Former Municipal Court Judge in Hoboken. Formerly the President and General Counsel of Latino Justice PRLDEF. Big into civil rights issues.



25. Tony Bucco

STATE SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER, LD-25

The respected veteran municipal attorney comes from a tightknit, Morris County-based political family. Son of the late Senator Tony Bucco, Sr. Outspoken but politically savvy minority leader.



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*A description of the selection methodology can be found at www.event.law.com/njlawjournal-njlegalawards/methodology
No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey.

26. Ramon Rivera

ANTONELLI KANTOR RIVERA

Veteran attorney. Experience includes boards of education and labor.



27. Bernard Kenny

FLORIO KENNY RAVAL

Former state Senator from Hoboken. Navy veteran. One the most respected and valued people in NJ politics.



28. Raj Parikh

PEM LAW

Respected campaigns and elections veteran attorney who just started his own firm.



29. Joe DeMarco

CLEARY GIACOBBE ALFIERI JACOBS

Former business administrator for Bayonne. Specialist in land use issues, representing both municipal and county governments and private clients.



30. John Inglesino

INGLESINO TAYLOR

Former Morris County Freeholder (Commissioner), the founding partner of his firm focuses on redevelopment, land use law, affordable housing litigation, real estate transactions, and municipal / government law.



31. Elnardo Webster

CONNELL FOLEY

Real estate, regulatory and government affairs expert. Former pro football player. Close to U.S. Senator Cory Booker.





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32. Nadage Allwater

PASSIAC COUNTY COUNSEL

First African-American and first female County Counsel for Passaic.



33. Mikie Sherrill

CONGRESSWOMAN, CD-11

Former U.S. Assistant Attorney under U.S. Attorney Paul Fishman (see below). Worked in the NYC litigation department of Kirkland and Ellis. Contender for the governorship of New Jersey in 2025.



34. Bill Caruso

ARCHER

Lawyer and lobbyist with deep government experience in New Jersey. Formr executive director of the Assembly Majority Office.



35. Tom Prol

SILLS CUMMIS AND GROSS

Chair of the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC), past president of the New Jersey State Bar Association.



36. Gail Gordon

ATTORNEY

Commissioner with the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority. Republican fundraiser. Married to former state Senator Bob Gordon.



37. Victor Herlinksy

SILLS CUMMIS AND GROSS

Veteran attorney specializes in commercial litigation, land use, redevelopment law, and government relations.



38. William “Bill” Harla

DECOTIIS FITZPATRICK COLE
AND GIBLIN LLP

A member of the firm’s executive committee and a member of the Government and Regulatory Affairs and Litigation practice groups.



39. Mike Graham

ATTORNEY

Vice chair of the Montclair Planning Board and Historic Preservation Committee. COO, Fairview Insurance. CEO of InsiderNJ.



40. Yael Bromberg

KIM YAEL BROMBERG

A constitutional rights attorney with over twenty years of experience in community organizing, advocacy, and campaigns. Counsels and represents individuals, organizations, and unions in state and federal courts across the country. Her docket includes election law, voting rights, free speech, ethics, civil rights, and labor cases and projects, including U.S. Rep. Andy Kim’s successful challenge to elections bracketing.



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Crisis Management | Litigation**

**Raj Parikh | Kathleen Barnett Einhorn | Charles J. Messina
Avi Kelin | Jennifer Roselle**

www.pemlawfirm.com

41. George Gilmore

OCEAN COUNTY REPUBLICAN
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Founding partner, Gilmore & Monahan P.A. Powerful GOP leader. Pardoned by then-President Donald J. Trump after getting jammed up for failing to pay payroll taxes.



42. Avi Weitzman

PAUL HASTINGS

Co-chair of the litigation and arbitration practice and partner in the investigations and white-collar defense practice at Paul Hastings. Representing U.S. Senator Bob Menendez in the senator's corruption trial.



43. Brett Pugach

WEISSMAN AND MINTZ, LLC

Voting rights and labor law expert. A key part of Andy Kim's legal representation in this year's seminal bracketing case.



44. Mark Sheridan

SQUIRE PATTON BOGGS

Veteran trial attorney. Experience as counsel for the NJ Republican Party. Expert in insurance and public policy matters. A detail-oriented, evidence-insistent, just-the-facts, justice-driven lawyer.



45. Joel Shain

SHAIN AND SCHAFFER

Founding partner, expert in governmental, administrative, appellate and banking law. Vietnam veteran.



46. Arlene Quinones Perez

DECOTIIS FITZPATRICK COLE AND GIBLIN LLP

Former Hunterdon County Democratic Committee chair. Veteran expert in government affairs and municipal law.



47. John Wallace

BROWN AND CONNERY, LLC

Retired New Jersey Supreme Court Justice. Served as the tiebreaker on the 2021 New Jersey Congressional Redistricting Commission.



48. Tom Scrivo

O'TOOLE SCRIVO

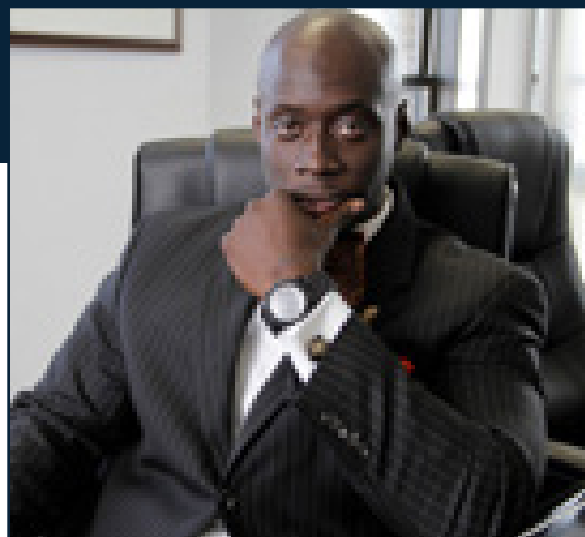
Managing partner. Expertise includes business litigation, labor and employment law, internal investigations, land use and zoning, local government and redevelopment law, construction litigation, healthcare, estates and trusts litigation.



49. Kenyetta Stewart

HUNT HANDLIN AND RIDLEY

Corporation Counsel, Newark. Native of Paterson.



50. Kevin O'Toole

O'TOOLE SCRIVO

Managing partner. Former Republican state Senator representing LD-40. Politically experienced.



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BRENDAN GILL, CEO

51. Cory Booker

UNITED STATES SENATOR

New Jersey's first African American Senator. Graduate of Yale Law School. Ran for president in 2020. Celebrated former Mayor of Newark.



52. Louis Rainone

RAINONE COUGHLIN MINCHELLO

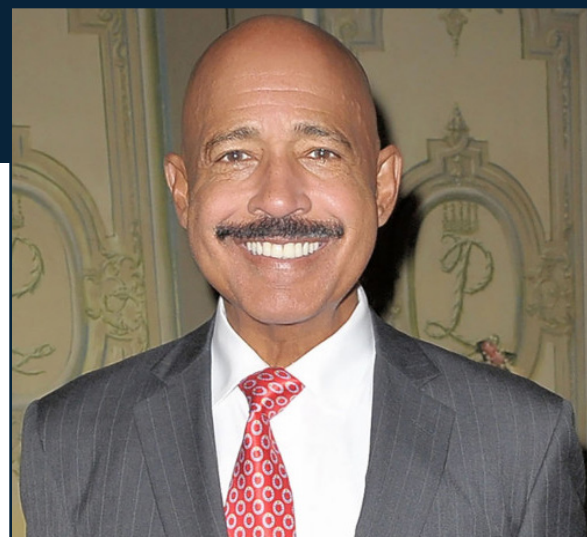
Managing partner at the firm. Well connected and experienced municipal attorney. Former Legislative Assistant to the Chairman of the New Jersey General Assembly Committee on Taxation and in the same capacity to the Vice Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee.



53. Ted Wells

PAUL WEISS

Extensive experience in white-collar defense and complex civil and corporate litigation, including SEC investigations, healthcare fraud, FCPA, AML and OFAC investigations, high-profile environmental matters and complex class action litigation.



54. Phil Norcross

PARKER MCCAY

The firm's managing shareholder and chief executive officer. Indicted brother of Democratic Party powerbroker George Norcross III fighting to clear his name.



55. William "Bill" Tambussi

RAINONE COUGHLIN MINCHELLO

Firm partner. Expert in labor and employment litigation. Indicted by AG Platkin in the Norcross case for allegedly helping to illegally obtain property and property rights on the Camden Waterfront and "collecting millions of dollars in government-issued tax credits," according to the AG.



56. Kevin Marino

MARINO, TORTORELLA & BOYLE, P.C.

Former chairman of the Board of Regents, Seton Hall University.



57. David Minchello

RAINONE COUGHLIN MINCHELLO, LLC

Firm partner with considerable experience representing municipalities, counties and authorities throughout the State of New Jersey.



58. David F. Broderick

NJ APPLESEED

Retired partner, McCarter English, Newark. Board member and former Chairman of the Board, NJ Appleseed.



59. Chigoze Onyema

ATTORNEY

Newark West Ward Democratic Committee Chairman. Effective grassroots leader.

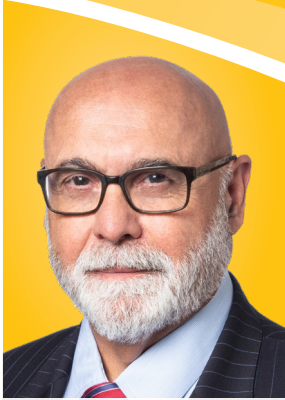




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60. John Farmer, Jr.

EAGLETON INSTITUTE

University Professor of Law; Justice Alan B. Handler Scholar; Director, Miller Center on Policing and Community Resilience. Former NJ Attorney General.



61. Herb Conaway

ASSEMBLYMAN, LD-7

A doctor as well as an attorney, the most professionally distinguished member of the New Jersey Legislature just won the Democratic Primary in his quest to succeed Andy Kim as the Congressman in CD-3.



62. John Wisniewski

WISNIEWSKI AND ASSOCIATES, LLC

Firm partner. Based in Sayreville. Former Assemblyman. Former chair, Democratic State Committee. Ran for governor in 2017. Distinguished veteran attorney.



63. Amol Sinha

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF NJ

Director of the ACLU of New Jersey (ACLU-NJ).
Out-front advocate and civil rights leader.



64. Michael Testa, Sr.

TESTA HECK TESTA AND WHITE

Distinguished senior firm partner. Based in
Vineland. Connections around the state. Veteran
GOP leader.



65. Mike Testa

TESTA HECK TESTA AND WHITE

A comer in the pantheon of next-generation
Republican leaders in New Jersey. State senator
from LD-1. Chair of the Cumberland County
Republican Committee.



66. Calvin Souder

SOUDER SHABAZZ WOOLRIDGE

Firm principal. The powerful attorney from Newark is the go-to legal contact for the City of Newark. Close to the administration of Mayor (and statewide progressive power player and 2025 gubernatorial candidate) Ras Baraka.



***Congratulations to all
those named to the
2024 Legal Power List!***

Shlomo Schorr
Director of Legislative Affairs

Ralph Zucker
Co-Chairman

David Gross
Co-Chairman



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67. **Meghan Barrett Burke**

DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL, COLAS
INC., GLOBAL INFRASTRUCTURE
CONSTRUCTION CO., MORRISTOWN

Former partner, Connell Coley. Seton Hall
University Law.



68. **Donato Battista**

BOGART KEANE RYAN

County Counsel, Director of the Department of
Law for Hudson County.



69. **Albert Cifelli**

HUDSON COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Former public defender. Former Kearny Municipal
Prosecutor.



70. James McGreevey

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NJ REENTRY CORPORATION

Former Governor. 2025 candidate for mayor of Jersey City.



71. Paul Fishman

ARNOLD AND PORTER

Former U.S. Attorney for the State of New Jersey. Recently glimpsed at the side of James Biden, brother of the President of the United States, in a legal matter.



72. Steve Kleinman

CLEARY GIACOBBE ALFIERI JACOBS LLC

Parliamentarian for Hudson County. Veteran campaigns and elections attorney.



73. CJ Griffin

PASHMAN STEIN WALDER HAYDEN

Partner and Director of the firm's Stein Public Interest Center. Specializes in a broad range of public interest impact litigation and appellate advocacy that advances social, racial, and economic justice; protects civil liberties and constitutional rights; and promotes an open and transparent government.



74. Kip Bateman

DIFRANCESCO BATEMAN

Former state Senator representing the 16th District. Republican. Municipal prosecutor. Respected.



75. Chris Placitella

COHEN PLACITELLA AND ROTH

An attorney and environmental advocate skeptical of the state's stepped-up wind energy efforts and their impact on marine wildlife.



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NEW JERSEY

DENNIS TRAINOR

CWA DISTRICT 1 VICE PRESIDENT

FRAN EHRET

CWA NJ AREA DIRECTOR

76. Jennifer Carrillo-Perez

CONNELL FOLEY

Expertise includes land use and zoning, redevelopment, municipal law, and regulatory and government affairs.



77. Mark A. Fury

ATTORNEY

Former Mayor of Plainfield. Renaissance man. Trial attorney. Based in Burlington County.



78. Mohamed Jalloh

JALLOH AND JALLOH

Former Union County Freeholder (Commissioner). Close to Newark Mayor Ras Baraka.



79. **Matt Moench**

BRIDGEWATER MAYOR

Partner at King Moench and Collins. Aggressive and effective general litigation attorney.



80. **Brittany Murray**

ACTING CORPORATION COUNSEL
JERSEY CITY

Expertise includes legal research, case management, and trial preparation.



81. **Noreen Giblin**

ATTORNEY

PSEG Executive. Former cabinet secretary with the Murphy Administration.



82. Andrew Leven

DILWORTH PAXSON LLC

White-collar law enforcement and regulatory includes experience as a federal prosecutor, outside general counsel to a hospital system, and criminal defense attorney. Leven conducted numerous insurance, bank, mortgage, wire, tax, and mail fraud grand jury investigations, acquired extensive trial experience, and served as the criminal tax intake prosecutor for the District of New Jersey.



83. James Gee

SOUDER SHABAZZ AND WOOLRIDGE

Former Chief of Staff to Bonnie Watson Coleman. Lobbyist with Stono Public Affairs.



84. Jason J. Redd

STONO PUBLIC AFFAIRS

2022 appointee of the Amistad Commission by Governor Phil Murphy. Lobbyist. Consulting partner of James Gee (see above).





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Sean M. Darcy, President

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85. Lester Taylor

TAYLOR LAW GROUP

Former Mayor of East Orange. Founder of Taylor Law Group and Chair of the Education, Labor, and Employment Group. Highly regarded legal professional with a diverse expertise spanning general counsel services, special education, environmental law, litigation, labor, employment, and redevelopment.



86. Alan Ashkinaze

ATTORNEY

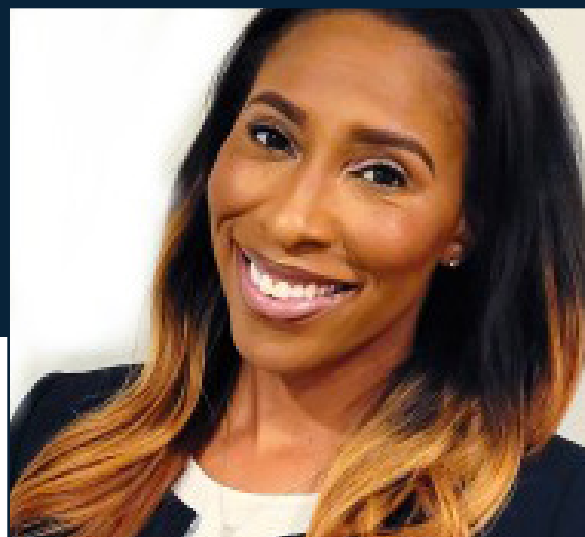
Environmental lawyer. Land-use expert. Close to 2025 Republican gubernatorial candidate Jack Ciattarelli.



87. Taraun Tice McKnight

ATTORNEY AND GOVERNMENT
AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

Deputy County Administrator for Mercer County.



88. Jerome St. John

ESSEX COUNTY COUNSEL

Close to Essex County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo.



89. Avi Kelin

PEM LAW

Expertise includes corporate and non-profit law, and autonomous vehicle law. Known mostly in these parts for his knowledge of political law. Writes well-read column on the subject for InsiderNJ.



90. Christian Callegari

MCCARTER AND ENGLISH

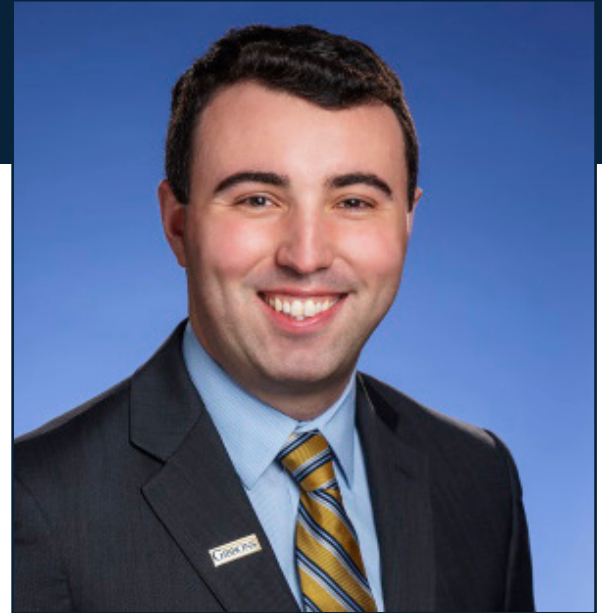
Former Chief-of-Staff to Paterson Mayor Andre Sayegh. Deep experience in government and politics.



91. Ken McPherson

GIBBONS PC

Former member of and counsel to the West Orange Planning Board, his areas of expertise include regulatory affairs, land use, redevelopment, affordable housing, environmental contamination, and related litigation.



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A MORE
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aclu-nj.org
[@aclunj](https://twitter.com/aclunj)

92. Chris Corsini

SAVO SCHALK

Former deputy counsel for Somerset County, formerly on the leadership staff of the late Assembly Republican Leader Alex DeCroce. Focus areas include land use, procurement, Title 58 liability actions, tax appeals, open space acquisitions, shared services, matters involving the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) and Open Public Records Act (OPRA), local government ethics, and many other areas of local government practice.



93. Brent Bramnick

BRAMNICK, RODRIGUEZ, GRABAS,
ARNOLD & MANGAN, LLC

Former assistant prosecutor for Union County. First rate on personal injury, worker's compensation, and criminal matters.



94. James Diguilio

O'TOOLE SCRIVO

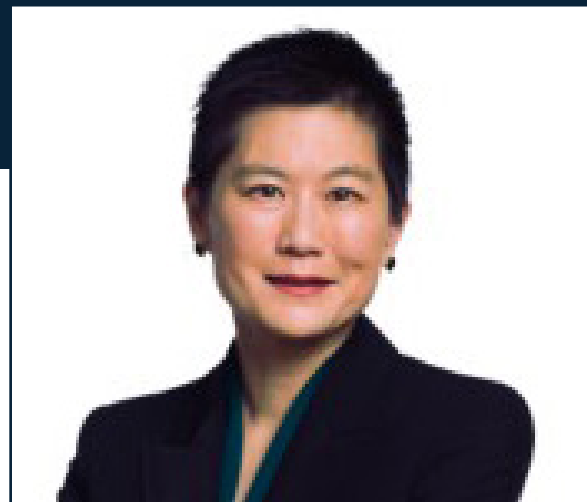
Former chief counsel to then-Governor Chris Christie. Experience includes legal, legislative, and regulatory issues, most prominently in healthcare, economic development, taxation, banking, and insurance.



95. Irene Kim Asbury

IRENE KIM ASBURY LAW

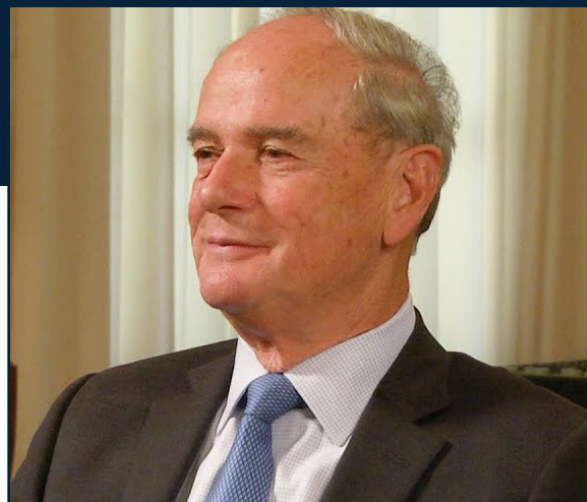
“I deal with governments so you don’t have to,” says the veteran attorney and former member of the 2011 Legislative Redistricting Commission.



96. Donald DiFrancesco

DIFRANCESCO BATEMAN

Former Governor. Former decade-long president of the state senate. Daughter Tracy newly elected as chair of the Somerset Republican Committee.



97. Guillermo Artilles

MCCARTER AND ENGLISH

An advocate for clients in the courtroom and in the statehouse.



98. Joanne Vos

MARAZITI FALCON

Practice includes environmental law, including contamination and remediation, regulatory compliance, environmental litigation, sustainability, and land use as well as redevelopment and complex transactional work.



99. Bill Matsikoudis

MATSIKLOUDIS AND FANCIULLO

Former chief-of-staff to then-Jersey City Mayor Jerry Healy. Expert in employment litigation and urban redevelopment.



100. Richard Trenk

TRENK ISABEL SIDDIQI SHADANIAN

Township attorney for West Orange. Distinguished veteran. Former President of the Essex County Bar Association.

