



New Jersey Office of the Attorney General
Year in Review 2024

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A press conference to announce that New Jersey filed a lawsuit against Glock for violating public safety and consumer protection laws by producing weapons that can easily be converted into military-grade machine guns.

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Who We Are

The New Jersey Attorney General oversees the Department of Law and Public Safety (LPS or the Department), which consists of more than 8,000 employees across 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 55 to 75.

Attorney General Platkin receives the Harvey Milk Leadership Award from the NJ LGBTQ+ Law Enforcement Liaisons.





Introduction from Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin

2024 was another remarkable year for the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety and the dedicated public servants who work hard each day on behalf of the more than 9.5 million people who call New Jersey home. Over the year, the Department tackled gun violence, online safety, public corruption, and more in order to ensure that New Jersey remains a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

Throughout 2024, the Department continued its work to end gun violence. New Jersey had the lowest number of shootings since the data started being collected in 2009, continuing a marked decline in shooting victims—down to 778 in 2024 from 924 in 2023. And we continued to take the fight to end gun violence directly to the source—the firearm industry. The Statewide Affirmative Firearms Enforcement (SAFE) Office filed multiple lawsuits against gun manufacturers and distributors to hold them accountable for the part they play in fueling the gun-violence epidemic. With the support of Governor Phil Murphy and the Legislature, a new residential-burglary statute, supported by law-enforcement organizations across the state, also took effect, giving law-enforcement officials an important tool in our efforts to stop home invasions by imposing even stiffer penalties on those who commit such crimes.

Our focus on online safety, consumer protection, and antitrust led to the filing of lawsuits against TikTok, Apple, and Live Nation, putting these and other giant corporations on notice that the rights and safety of New Jerseyans must be paramount for any and all businesses operating in our state.

The Office of Public Integrity and Accountability (OPIA) continued to hold those in power to account in our work to restore the public's faith in our governmental institutions.

And our work to secure the integrity of our elections also helped ensure that the 4.1 million New Jerseyans who voted in the 2024 presidential election were able to cast their ballots freely and fairly, whether in our largest cities or smallest towns.

Since my first day in office as New Jersey's 62nd Attorney General, I have seen firsthand the dedication of the more than 8,000 employees who work for the Department. In 2024, they remained steadfast in their commitment to the communities they serve. The Year in Review offers a glimpse of the hard work being done each day by the committed public servants of this Department, and I commend each and every one of them for the work they do behind the scenes to enforce our laws and keep our communities safe.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mr. J. Platkin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Matthew J. Platkin
New Jersey Attorney General



Combating Violent Crime and Gun Violence

New Jersey is committed to ending the gun violence epidemic that has gripped our country. Our state remains one of the safest states in the country because of our commonsense gun-safety laws and our work to enforce them, using criminal, civil, and regulatory tools to make our communities safer. Working together, our statewide intelligence network and violence intervention efforts are keeping guns out of the hands of those seeking to harm others and stopping cycles of violence.

Left: Law enforcement officials in Essex County brief the public following a shooting.

Below: Students at Trenton Central High School meet with the Attorney General.



Stopping Criminals and the Firearms They Use

Number of shooting victims reaches record low thanks to holistic approach to public safety. In 2024, the number of people shot in New Jersey fell below 800, the lowest number since the State began tracking these incidents. The number of New Jersey shooting victims in 2024 was 778, compared to 924 in 2023. The number of people who died as a result of gun violence in 2024 was 152, compared to 191 people killed in 2023. This significant decline in the number of gun violence victims was made possible by law enforcement partnerships like the Attorney General’s Gun Violence Reduction Task Force, which focuses law enforcement resources on the drivers of violence, investment in violence intervention and prevention resources, and enforcement of the state’s tough gun safety laws. Through these efforts, the number of shooting victims has decreased across the state and in many of New Jersey’s largest cities, including Newark, Atlantic City, and Paterson.

Brady report shows New Jersey gun laws are working. A national report from Brady—the nation’s oldest gun violence prevention group—found that, for two years in a row, none of New Jersey’s firearms dealers were subject to heightened federal monitoring for selling large numbers of guns that were recovered as crime guns with a low time-to-crime—a classic indicator of illegal gun trafficking. New Jersey was one of just four states to earn this distinction. The report’s findings demonstrate that New Jersey’s commonsense gun laws and their enforcement continue to play a vital role in reducing gun violence.

Salem residents gather for a community walk.



Promoting Public Safety Through Firearms Enforcement and Regulation

Holding the gun industry accountable. Our SAFE Office filed civil lawsuits against two licensed New Jersey firearms retailers for failing to screen ammunition purchasers for their ability to lawfully possess a firearm. Butch’s Gun World in Vineland and Point Blank Guns and Ammo LLC in East Hanover repeatedly sold ammunition—including thousand-round boxes of AR-15 rifle ammunition—to undercover investigators without applying safeguards to ensure that the buyers could lawfully possess a gun. The lawsuits aim to stop gun industry sellers from violating New Jersey law, which is designed to keep ammunition and gun parts out of the wrong hands.

In December, Attorney General Platkin also announced that New Jersey was suing Glock, Inc., for continuing to sell pistols that can be operated as machine guns when an external attachment—known as an auto-sear or “Glock switch”—is inserted into the back of the weapon. Glock switches are cheap, small, simple, and ubiquitous, and mass shootings using Glock handgun machine guns continue to mount. But Glock has made no meaningful design changes, prompting New Jersey to act to hold the company accountable for its role in the gun violence epidemic.

Attorney General Platkin announces charges at a criminal justice press conference.



Stopping out-of-state sales that break New Jersey law. In order to resolve allegations stemming from an undercover investigation conducted by the Division of Consumer Affairs (DCA), an Indiana-based firearms dealer agreed to stop advertising, offering for sale, and shipping large capacity magazines (LCMs) to New Jersey residents. Element Armament, LLC, agreed to a Consent Order resolving the State's allegations that the company violated New Jersey's consumer protection laws in selling and shipping four LCMs to an undercover state investigator. New Jersey law prohibits the possession and sale of LCMs, which are firearm magazines that can hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition.

Separately, Attorney General Platkin announced a civil lawsuit against Arms Unlimited, Inc., a Nevada firearms company that, over three years, sold and shipped at least 30 firearm magazines capable of holding 11 to 20 rounds of ammunition into New Jersey—including 17 LCMs sent to an undercover investigator.

Preventing ghost guns from reaching New Jersey communities. New Jersey led a coalition of 23 attorneys general in an amicus brief filed with the U.S. Supreme Court in *Garland v. VanDerStok*, supporting a federal government rule that makes clear that the sale of kits to make handguns are subject to the same federal requirements as the sale of completed firearms. The U.S. Supreme Court ultimately upheld the federal rule. Requirements like serialization prevent the making of ghost guns, and background checks help keep guns away from people who should not have them. Ghost guns, which have been illegal in New Jersey since 2018, are untraceable weapons without serial numbers that have often been made at home using commercially available kits or partially complete frames and receivers.

Working with other states and communities for the safety of all Americans. New Jersey led a multistate amicus brief filed in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit in support of Massachusetts's defense of its gun safety laws. The amicus brief, joined by 18 other jurisdictions, urged the court to allow the State's decades-old ban on the sale and possession of assault weapons and LCMs to stand. New Jersey and Massachusetts have long had similar commonsense gun safety measures in place. The brief argued that the statutes are well within the country's tradition of reasonable firearm regulations.

New Jersey and Massachusetts also led a multistate amicus brief filed in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit in support of Cook County, Illinois, which is continuing to defend its assault weapons ban from a Second Amendment challenge. The coalition of 19 states urged the court to uphold a March 2024 decision from the Northern District of Illinois, which ruled that Cook County's regulation of the sale and possession of assault weapons within its borders is consistent with the Second Amendment.

Attorney General Platkin also co-led a coalition of 19 attorneys general filing an amicus brief with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit urging that court to revisit an opinion striking down a Pennsylvania law prohibiting individuals under the age of 21 from carrying concealed weapons in public and imposing additional restrictions during declared states of emergency.

Investing in Technology and Data Collection

New Jersey launches Permit to Carry Dashboard. Fulfilling a directive issued by Attorney General Platkin in 2023 requiring local law enforcement agencies to submit monthly anonymized data regarding applications for residents seeking a permit to carry a handgun in New Jersey, the Office of Justice Data created a new dashboard that summarizes and provides the public with access to demographic information about applications received since December 2019. Statewide data was previously not available because applications for permits to carry had been submitted on paper to individual police departments and was not centralized.

Microstamping technology deemed viable following live-fire testing. Based on both live-fire testing results and existing peer-reviewed studies, Attorney General Platkin certified that viable microstamping technology exists that can match an expended cartridge case to the weapon from which it was discharged. This finding represents an important step toward establishing a roster of microstamping-enabled commercial firearms, as contemplated by a 2022 law enacted by the Legislature and signed by Governor Murphy. A microstamping-enabled firearm has unique markings engraved on its firing pin, which are then stamped onto expended cartridge casings each time the firearm is fired. Those unique imprints are linked to the firearm's make, model, and serial number, aiding forensic examination and allowing law enforcement to match spent cartridge casings found at a crime scene to the specific firearm from which they were discharged.

Attorney General Platkin presenting on the Department's gun violence reduction and firearms safety initiatives at the Rutgers School of Public Health.



The Attorney General's 2024 Symposium Series:
**GUN AND COMMUNITY VIOLENCE
PREVENTION AND RESPONSE**

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE | DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES | DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DIVISION OF PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION AND VIOLENCE RESISTANCE | NIDAG | VIVA



Advancing Innovative Policing Policies

Forward-thinking approaches are vital to New Jersey's success as a leader in modern policing. New programs, including the creation of an office devoted to innovative policing, and the growth of existing efforts, such as the transformational Alternative Responses to Reduce Instances of Violence and Escalation (ARRIVE) Together program, are prime examples of the State's commitment to advancing the profession of policing and to strengthening the connection between law enforcement and our communities.

Left: Attorney General Platkin speaks at a community policing symposium.

Below: Attorney General Platkin meets to discuss policing needs.



New office established to promote continued excellence in policing. In November, Attorney General Platkin issued an Administrative Directive creating the Office of Policing Strategy and Innovation (OPSI). The Office will promote consistency across New Jersey's more than 530 law-enforcement agencies and approximately 42,000 law-enforcement officers. Led by Executive Director Isa M. Abbassi, who served as the Officer in Charge of the Paterson Police Department (PPD) from May 2023 until November 2024, the Office will advise the Attorney General on policing policy, strategy, and innovation. OPSI also serves as a centralized hub for New Jersey's law enforcement agencies and supports law enforcement in identifying opportunities to improve current practices. OPSI is the new home of the Bureau of Policing Policy (BPP), which works to devise new policing policy, make new and existing policies more accessible to law enforcement, revise existing policies to address gaps or shortfalls or enhance policy for best practices, modernize existing policies, and minimize or eliminate conflicting or obsolete guidance. OPSI also coordinates with other offices and divisions, including the Police Training Commission, the Office of Law Enforcement Professional Standards, and the New Jersey State Police (NJSP), on policy and program matters, data collection to promote transparency and accountability, and opportunities to improve officer resiliency, public safety, and trust.

Use of force policy revised to promote safe resolutions of encounters with barricaded people. Changes to the State's Use of Force policy were implemented in 2024 creating the first statewide policy of its kind in the country designed to increase the likelihood of peaceful resolutions during encounters between police and barricaded individuals, who are frequently experiencing a behavioral or mental health crisis. The policy is designed to ensure tactical and crisis-negotiation teams that respond to such incidents are optimally trained and have essential resources and equipment. Under the policy, tactical and crisis-negotiation teams are required to identify qualified mental health professionals who are available to respond to incidents involving a barricaded individual or hostage situation. The mental health provider can assist with negotiations by offering guidance and information to law enforcement or by communicating directly with the barricaded individual. The policy is supported by law enforcement leaders, mental health professionals, violence intervention experts, and community stakeholders alike.

Grants support launch of Community Crisis Response Teams. Organizations in Camden, Jersey City, Newark, Paterson, and Trenton received grants to support the creation of local Community Crisis Response Team (CCRT) Pilot Programs. The Center for Family Services in Camden, the Anti-Violence Coalition of Hudson County in Jersey City, the Newark Community Street Team, the Reimagining Justice Inc./Paterson Healing Collective's Paterson Compassionate Care Collaborative Project, and Salvation and Social Justice in Trenton were selected to receive funding and establish CCRT pilots in their respective cities. The pilot programs were made possible by the Seabrooks-Washington Community-Led Crisis Response Act. The teams will help eliminate gaps in accessing mental and behavioral health support in vulnerable communities. The program is consistent with other programs in New Jersey including:

ARRIVE Together – the State’s \$10 million law enforcement and mental-health response program, which is operational in all of New Jersey’s 21 counties and by the end of 2024 was available to over 60% of New Jersey’s population.

Violence intervention initiatives – including Community-Based Violence Intervention and Hospital-based Violence Intervention Programs (CBVI and HVIP), and Trauma Recovery Centers, which focus on individuals at highest risk of violence or victimization.

Diversions programming – including Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD), Opioid Response Teams, and Operation Helping Hand, which divert individuals from arrest to treatment and provide guidance on recovery services.

AG’s Office oversees police licensing and increases transparency and data collection.

In January, a new state law went into effect requiring New Jersey’s approximately 42,000 police officers to hold valid, active licenses issued by the Police Training Commission (PTC) in order to serve as law enforcement officers. Part of the Police Licensure Act (P.L. 2022, c. 65), the law is designed to ensure that police license holders are in good standing with their employers, meet certain uniform professional standards, and receive ongoing training in best practices in the field in order to become and continue to serve as officers. The law makes policing a licensed profession in New Jersey, with the aims of improving officer development and safety and bolstering trust between law enforcement officers and the public. The Attorney General’s Office releases annual information regarding New Jersey law enforcement officers who faced major disciplinary action from their agencies as part of the ongoing effort to increase transparency and public access to information about police discipline and use of force.

Galloway Township police officers meet with Attorney General Platkin.





Eradicating Hate, Bias, and Discrimination

Attorney General Platkin has made combating bias and hate a top priority and is committed to using every tool and resource available to enforce the State's strong civil rights laws and protections in order to keep all New Jerseyans safe. Through enforcement actions, as well as community outreach and prevention efforts, the office is working to end hate, bias, and discrimination in all its forms.

Left: Remembering the lives lost on December 10, 2019, when armed assailants killed Detective Joseph Seals and three others in Jersey City.

Below. Attorney General Platkin meets with advocates about systemic concerns affecting New Jersey's youth.



Protecting New Jerseyans from Discrimination

No Hate in the Garden State public awareness campaign launched. In September, Attorney General Platkin, through the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) and the Division on Civil Rights (DCR), launched No Hate in the Garden State, a statewide public awareness campaign aimed at reversing the upward trend in bias crimes and incidents in New Jersey, a trend seen nationwide. Using a combination of television, print, radio, digital, and social media advertising, the campaign is designed to educate the public on the resources available to victims of bias and hate, encourage the reporting of such incidents, and prevent future incidents. In addition to training sessions for law enforcement and victim services professionals, the campaign also includes training programs for educators, students, and parents in the communities most affected by bias incidents.

Standing up against workplace discrimination. In June, Attorney General Platkin announced the filing of a DCR complaint against Ironworkers Local 11, a New Jersey labor union that operates a hiring hall, for allegedly violating the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination (LAD) by creating and maintaining a hostile work environment and systematically bypassing Black union members for jobs and giving them less desirable assignments. The complaint alleges that Local 11—a New Jersey chapter of the International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Ironworkers Union, AFL-CIO—created a hostile work environment that resulted in discrimination against union members based on race, sexual orientation, and sex. According to the complaint, Local 11’s leadership and members repeatedly used racist, homophobic, and sexist language and distributed homophobic materials in the workplace. Yet Local 11’s leadership took no effective action to stop, prevent, or remedy this conduct.

Fighting antisemitism and Islamophobia. DCR launched the Community Peacemaker Collaborative to respond to the rise in bias and hate in New Jersey, including the significant uptick in antisemitism and Islamophobia since the start of the Israel-Hamas war. DCR’s Community Relations Unit received a \$347,000, four-year federal grant through the U.S. Department of Justice’s Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr., Hate Crimes Program to fund the initiative. Under the Community Peacemaker Collaborative, community members are trained on how to deescalate conflict in their communities in response to bias incidents.

Combating gender and pregnancy discrimination. Attorney General Platkin and DCR issued new guidance for the public on workplace accommodations for pregnant, postpartum, breastfeeding, and lactating workers, as well as guidance for the public on the New Jersey Family Leave Act. The office also filed a lawsuit in New Jersey Superior Court against Virtua Health, Inc. (Virtua), and the network of hospitals it runs in Voorhees, Mount Holly, and Camden. The complaint alleges that Virtua discriminated against patients based on pregnancy and sex in violation of the LAD, and that Virtua violated patients’ fundamental right to privacy and New Jersey state law by not obtaining informed consent prior to subjecting them to mandatory drug testing. DCR also issued a Finding of Probable Cause alleging that the Cinnaminson Township Board of Education discriminated based on pregnancy and gender by maintaining a policy that prohibited employees on leave from coaching or participating in extracurricular activities.

Making schools safer for all. At the start of the 2024-25 school year, Attorney General Platkin and DCR issued a statement reminding students, educators, administrators, and parents that all New Jersey students in K-12 schools, colleges, and universities should be free to learn in a safe, educational environment free from discrimination. The LAD requires all schools to proactively address and respond to bias-based harassment, including peer-on-peer harassment, and other bias incidents at school. The statement reminded administrators of the guidance issued by DCR in collaboration with the New Jersey Department of Education and the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education for K-12 schools, colleges, and universities on addressing bias and hate in their institutions.

Defending Title IX protections. After six states sued the U.S. Department of Education to block implementation of a 2024 rule that explicitly protects transgender students, New Jersey joined California and Pennsylvania in leading efforts to defend the rule and Title IX, the landmark law prohibiting sex-based discrimination in education. The new rule rectified the harm caused when the Trump Administration narrowed the scope of Title IX's protections in 2020. New Jersey and the multistate coalition filed briefs in multiple lawsuits to defend the rights of students across the country.

Defending Dreamers

Protecting the rights of DACA recipients. Dreamers are an important part of our communities. They provide critical support to their families, work in crucial roles in the public and private sectors and the U.S. military, contribute billions of dollars in federal, state, and local taxes, and have started their own businesses that employ other residents, including U.S. citizens. Attorney General Platkin has continued to lead the fight on behalf of a coalition of states in court to defend Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients. In 2024, Attorney General Platkin also led a multistate coalition of 18 other jurisdictions in filing an amicus brief defending a federal effort to expand health insurance access to Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals recipients, also known as Dreamers. In May 2024, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services issued a Final Rule expanding healthcare access to Dreamers by making them eligible to purchase health insurance through Affordable Care Act exchanges, but a coalition of other states sued in August 2024 and asked the court to delay implementation of the Final Rule. The amicus brief filed by Attorney General Platkin and other states opposed this effort to deny critical health insurance access to DACA recipients.

In 2024, Attorney General Platkin launched the No Hate in the Garden State ad campaign to combat bias and discrimination in New Jersey.



Promoting Equitable Access to Housing

Launched Home Appraisal Discrimination Initiative. In January, Attorney General Platkin launched the Home Appraisal Discrimination Initiative to address systemic inequities in real estate appraisals. The Initiative, developed by DCR in partnership with DCA, is the first state-level initiative of its kind in the country. As part of the Initiative, the Department has issued enforcement guidance on how the LAD applies to discrimination in home appraisals; created a new Appraisal Equity Subcommittee within DCA's New Jersey State Real Estate Appraiser Board to reduce barriers to entering the appraisal profession and to diversify the profession; launched an internal DCR Appraisal Discrimination Enforcement Task Force to enforce the LAD's prohibition on discrimination in home appraisals; conducted trainings for members of the public on home appraisal discrimination; and announced that DCR and the State Real Estate Appraiser Board will share complaints regarding appraisals.

Combating unlawful mortgage redlining practices. In October 2024, our Office released the results of a multiyear investigation into allegations of unlawful mortgage redlining and discrimination by Republic First Bank. Mortgage redlining is a form of discrimination that occurs when, among other things, a lender denies home loans or avoids making home loans in certain neighborhoods based on the race or national origin of the neighborhood's residents. The State's investigation, led by DCR, found that Republic First Bank engaged in a pattern and practice of mortgage redlining in southern New Jersey because it systematically avoided originating home loans in majority-Black, Hispanic, and Asian neighborhoods and failed to originate home loans in those neighborhoods due to its unlawful practices. Regulators closed the bank in April 2024, so DCR has filed a claim with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or FDIC, in hopes of winning a recovery for New Jerseyans harmed by the bank's redlining practices.

Fighting discrimination based on source of income. In 2024, DCR issued Findings of Probable Cause in more than 30 cases that involved allegations of landlords and real estate agents violating the LAD by denying housing to individuals who stated that they wished to pay their rent using Section 8 vouchers, a form of government rental assistance, or by imposing unduly restrictive minimum-income requirements for an affordable rental unit. Under the LAD, landlords cannot refuse to rent to potential tenants or discourage them from renting because they receive government rental assistance. The State also resolved several cases alleging that Coldwell Banker Realty, a real estate brokerage company, violated the LAD's prohibition against housing discrimination based on source of lawful income, requiring Coldwell to pay a penalty and agree to affirmative measures to prevent future source-of-income discrimination.

Ending discrimination based on a disability. DCR also issued Findings of Probable Cause in multiple cases alleging management companies and housing providers discriminated against tenants on the basis of disability in violation of the LAD. Many of the cases involved allegations that management companies or housing providers either denied rental opportunities to individuals with disabilities, permitted severe or pervasive harassment of tenants based on disability, or denied reasonable accommodations to individuals with disabilities. In one case, DCR issued a Notice of Violation to a Jersey City property owner after the company failed to fix a broken elevator in a six-story building for more than eight months, denying residents with disabilities equal use and enjoyment of their apartments. In addition, DCR issued Findings of Probable Cause in cases that involved management companies or property owners in Camden, Essex, Hudson, and Morris counties who allegedly either failed to accept an emotional support animal as a reasonable accommodation for a disability, or failed to follow the appropriate process for considering the tenant's request for an emotional support animal in violation of state law.

Ending discrimination based on criminal history. In 2024, DCR issued approximately 80 Notices of Violation to housing providers in municipalities and counties across the state for alleged violations of New Jersey’s Fair Chance in Housing Act (FCHA), which is the first state law in the country that provides broad protections against housing discrimination on the basis of prior criminal history. Each of the housing providers and landlords violated the law by asking criminal-history-related questions on housing applications that are prohibited by the law, by stating to potential applicants that they would not consider applicants with prior criminal records, or by posting housing advertisements or maintaining housing policies that do not comply with the FCHA. Attorney General Platkin also joined with the Attorneys General of Maryland, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania in co-leading a comment letter urging the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to adopt a proposed rule aimed at reducing criminal-history-based barriers to public housing. We’re also fighting back against housing providers who impose discriminatory minimum-income requirements making housing less accessible to those who need it the most. Last year, DCR completed an investigation and issued a Finding of Probable Cause against a housing provider in Avenel that required prospective tenants to show a monthly after-tax income of at least three times the monthly rent, and to show that their bank account balance is at least five times the monthly rent.

Muslim law enforcement officers and community members gather during a Ramadan Iftar hosted by the Office of the Attorney General in Trenton.





Fighting Corruption

A healthy democracy requires that the people have faith in government officials, government institutions, and the election process. The team of investigators and attorneys at the Attorney General's Office of Public Integrity and Accountability (OPIA) works to instill faith in government by uncovering wrongdoing and holding public officials accountable to the people they serve. OPIA's Corruption Bureau serves as the lead office within LPS for the investigation and prosecution of state criminal violations involving abuse of the public trust and other offenses that undermine public confidence in government, including bribery and corrupt influence, abuse of power by public servants, criminal misconduct by police officers, election fraud, government contract fraud, and the theft of public resources. In the six years since OPIA's founding, the Corruption Bureau has successfully handled matters involving over 100 defendants accused of these offenses.

Left: A post-election meeting with OAG staff.

Below: Members of OPIA receive awards.



Holding public officials accountable

Former Mayor of Wildwood pleads guilty to defrauding State Health Benefits Program and tax evasion. In September, a former Wildwood mayor pleaded guilty to fraudulently participating in the State Health Benefits Program along with failing to identify his outside employment and failing to report income from that outside job on state tax returns. The former mayor, who resigned from his municipal office in September 2023, pleaded guilty to one count of theft by unlawful taking, a second-degree crime, in connection with the health-benefits-fraud case. With respect to the other case, involving the undisclosed job, he also pleaded guilty to falsifying or tampering with records and filing a fraudulent tax return. In exchange for his guilty pleas, prosecutors recommended that the court impose an aggregate sentence of three years in New Jersey state prison. The former mayor also must pay restitution and enter a consent order with a lifetime ban on public office and employment.

Two South Jersey Transportation Authority board members charged with official misconduct. Two members of the South Jersey Transportation Authority (SJTA) Board of Commissioners were indicted after they allegedly colluded to block payments to an engineering firm as political retaliation in connection with a feud between a South Jersey Democratic Party leader and a Mercer County Commissioner. The Vice Chairman of the SJTA Board and a Board Commissioner were charged with official misconduct, conspiracy to commit official misconduct, and perjury following an investigation by the OPIA Corruption Bureau, which determined the men unlawfully conspired to prevent the payment of invoices submitted to the board by a civil engineering firm for political purposes, effectively halting compensation to the company for work it had already completed for the authority.

NJ Victims of Crime Compensation Office investigator charged with inappropriate sexual communications with crime victims. A former investigator for the NJ Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO) was charged for allegedly soliciting and engaging in inappropriate sexual communications with crime victims whose applications for VCCO support he was assigned to investigate. The VCCO, a state agency, provides financial assistance as the payer of last resort to victims of crime to alleviate the economic and emotional burdens of victimization. The Point Pleasant man was charged with second-degree official misconduct.

Bogus Paterson building permits lead to indictments. A housing and zoning inspector, as well as an accomplice, were indicted after engaging in a conspiracy to accept money in exchange for illegitimate Paterson building permits bearing forged signatures. The Corruption Bureau of OPIA carried out the investigation and two men were charged with allegedly producing fraudulent building permits and other records in exchange for payments.

Strengthening Public Trust Through Police Accountability

Corrections Officer admits to assaulting inmate. In December 2024, a New Jersey Department of Corrections (DOC) police officer pled guilty to aggravated assault, admitting he attempted to cause significant bodily injury to a victim resident of a DOC facility. The defendant entered into a consent order forfeiting his public employment and barring him from any future public office or employment. This was the first conviction under the statute that requires the Attorney General to investigate cases involving the death of a civilian during an encounter with police or when an individual is in police custody. In this case, several days after the assault, the victim suffered a fatal stroke. The grand jury did not initiate homicide charges in connection with the victim's death, but did return an indictment for other offenses.

Ex-State Trooper pleads guilty to assaulting handcuffed woman. A former NJSP Trooper was sentenced in September 2024 for an assault during which he punched a woman handcuffed in the back of a police car in the face while he held a metal flashlight in his hand. The defendant was sentenced to two years of probation, conditioned on up to 364

days in the county jail. The defendant was also permanently banned from all future public employment by the court and forfeited his employment with the NJSP.

Former Howell Township police chief admits covering up affair. A former Police Chief of Howell Township admitted providing false statements in a township investigation and otherwise trying to conceal a sexual affair with a subordinate while he was the township's police chief. He pleaded guilty to an accusation charging him with one count of obstructing the administration of law or other governmental function. Under the plea agreement with OPIA, he agreed to a lifetime ban on public employment.

Vineland police sergeant who allegedly obtained child sexual exploitation and abuse material indicted. A Vineland Police Department officer was indicted after he allegedly used his official position to mishandle evidence for personal use—namely, digital images depicting child sexual abuse from a case the department was investigating. The officer was indicted on three counts including endangering the welfare of a child by possessing child sexual exploitation/abuse material (CSAM) and official misconduct.

Trenton police officer indicted for leaking confidential law enforcement information. A Hamilton resident, who was working as a Trenton police officer, was charged with allegedly making misleading statements on his job application, divulging privileged law enforcement information, possessing marijuana with the intent to distribute, and possessing and managing the financial proceeds of criminal activity. The 11-count indictment included charges of tampering with public records and a pattern of official misconduct. OPIA also learned that the officer had been communicating since at least 2021 with a state prison inmate who is a member of the Almighty Latin King and Queen Nation street gang. The indictment alleges that on numerous occasions, the officer and the incarcerated gang member discussed an individual who they believed had cooperated in the inmate's prosecution.

Attorney Platkin outlines corruption charges at a press conference.



Safeguarding the integrity of elections

Campaign manager sentenced for attempt to fraudulently place candidate on 2021 primary ballot. A Lambertville man was sentenced to two years of probation after pleading guilty to a third-degree crime concerning nomination certificates or petitions. He attempted to fraudulently place a candidate on the Democratic primary ballot in the New Jersey governor's race in 2021. The investigation determined that the man, a former campaign manager, sent the New Jersey Secretary of State's Division of Elections approximately 1,948 fraudulent voter certifications via email, in an attempt to enable the candidate to compete in the primary.

Ex-candidate for Plainfield Mayor indicted after submitting fake voter registration applications. A Plainfield doctor who was a candidate for mayor of the City of Plainfield in the June 2021 primary election was charged after he allegedly brought a garbage bag containing nearly 1,000 falsified voter registration applications to an Elizabeth post office, intending to mail the documents to the Union County Commissioner of Registration. He then attempted to cover up his actions by giving false information to law enforcement.

Former Paterson Mayor pleaded guilty to illegally attempting to run for office. In December 2024, a former Mayor of Paterson pleaded guilty to a contempt charge for violating a 2017 court order that banned him from holding or applying for public office. The 2017 order stemmed from his abuse of his mayoral office, which resulted in the defendant pleading guilty to conspiracy to commit official misconduct. Despite the prior conviction and consequent order, the former Mayor sought to get back on the Paterson mayoral ballot in March 2022, leading to this second conviction.

Prosecuting Fraud on the State

Holtec International agrees to pay \$5 million following investigation into tax credit applications. Holtec International, a Camden-based energy technology company involved in the decommissioning of nuclear power sites, agreed to pay \$5 million in penalties and retain an independent reviewer approved by the state to monitor future applications for state benefits. In exchange, the State agreed to defer criminal prosecution following a lengthy criminal investigation into applications by Holtec and a related company, Singh Real Estate Enterprises (SRE), to the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (EDA) for \$1 million worth of tax credits from the Angel Investor Tax Credit Program.

Corporate official pleads guilty to defrauding disability services program. In November 2024, an Elizabeth woman pleaded guilty to misconduct by a corporate official in connection with using a corporate entity to unlawfully obtain public funds from the state. The woman had previously been charged with defrauding the taxpayer-funded New Jersey Traumatic Brain Injury Fund (TBI Fund). She entered into a consent order barring her and her related corporate entity from entering into public contracts with the state for 10 years. She also agreed to pay restitution of more than \$70,000 and to dissolve the corporate entity.

Mercer County woman sentenced after stealing \$268K in state pension benefits. A Hamilton Township woman was ordered to pay restitution in full to the New Jersey Division of Pension and Benefits for her theft of more than \$268,000 in the form of survivor benefits she fraudulently collected from her deceased husband's pension, knowing she was no longer eligible for the payments after she had remarried. She was also sentenced to a term of probation conditioned on 364 days in the county jail.

Bus company owner sentenced to state prison for hiring unqualified drivers. In March 2024, a New Jersey school-bus company and one of its owners pleaded guilty to criminal offenses after hiring unqualified drivers, failing to perform drug tests and background checks, operating unsafe buses, and attempting to conceal their misconduct. OPIA's investigation found the defendants knowingly hired drivers who did not hold valid commercial driver's licenses, drivers who had criminal histories or known substance abuse problems, and drivers with suspended licenses. They also hired drivers before completion of criminal background checks or, in some instances, without any criminal background check. On at least one occasion, a driver drove a bus carrying children while intoxicated and crashed. In accordance with the State's recommendation, the defendant was sentenced to a term of five years in state prison and ordered to pay, along with co-defendants, including his wife and the bus company, a combined \$575,000 in corruption profiteering penalties. The owners and bus company will be barred for 10 years from doing business with the State of New Jersey.

Over \$6M seized following death of CEO in Medicaid fraud scheme. The Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor (OIFP) seized approximately \$6.4 million under a final judgment by consent, resolving a case against a deceased defendant whose chain of mental-health clinics in Essex, Hunterdon, Mercer, Union, and Warren counties engaged in an elaborate bogus-billing scheme that defrauded Medicaid. The late defendant, formerly of Perkasio, Pennsylvania, was named in a 17-count indictment in August 2022, charging him with 16 counts that included financial facilitation of criminal activity, conspiracy, health care claims fraud, Medicaid fraud, theft by deception, and other charges.

Lt. Governor Way and New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness Director Doran join Attorney General Platkin for a briefing on election integrity.





Rebuilding Trust and Improving Safety in Paterson

In just under two years, the Paterson Police Department (PPD) has undergone an extraordinary transformation. Since March 27, 2023, when the Office of the Attorney General assumed control of all police functions, including internal affairs investigations, increased communication between the department and the community has strengthened the relationship between the department's more than 400 officers and the people they serve. The department is swiftly completing the goals outlined in its NextGen Strategic Plan, including making significant investments in training and technology and sharing its progress with the community.

Left: Attorney General Platkin speaks with PPD Officer in Charge Patrick Murray at a Community Funday in Paterson while K-9 Dave sits by their side.

Below: Paterson Police officers keeping residents safe at the annual Great Falls Festival.



Significant reductions in crime. As a result of the numerous initiatives detailed below and efforts to increase community trust, Paterson saw a significant decline in violent crime. Through 2024, Paterson experienced a 35.3% decrease in homicides compared to 2023 and a 60.7% decrease compared to 2022. The number of shooting victims in 2024 was 87, down from 95 victims in 2023 and 127 victims in 2022. In 2024, PPD continued its historic reduction in gun violence through precision policing and data-informed deployment strategies. The city saw the lowest number of homicides, the lowest number of shooting victims, and the lowest number of multi-victim shootings in over three years. In 2023, overall crime dropped by 5% in the first full year of post-supersession operations. This included reductions in all violent crime categories. Through 2024, most crime measurements continued to decrease or remained relatively flat, consistent with the 2023 reductions.

Achieving strategic goals. By the end of 2024, PPD completed nearly three quarters of the 55 goals and initiatives outlined in the NextGen Strategic Plan, which was first released in the fall of 2023. The remaining goals are in progress, with completion expected by Fall 2025. The plan benchmarks the progress and achievements of its goals, which range from increased community partnerships to technology and policy changes. The next semi-annual report of the Strategic Plan is expected to be released in Spring 2025.

Rebuilding trust and improving accountability. In 2024, PPD implemented its Early Intervention Program (EIP), which reviews officer conduct and provides remedial training, peer-supported mentorship, and other behavioral corrections to promote best practices in a non-disciplinary setting. This allows PPD to observe and correct deficiencies before they become more problematic. Additionally, for the second straight year, the number of sustained Internal Affairs cases increased due to several factors, including an increased focus on policy violations by Internal Affairs and an emphasis from the Officer-in-Charge on accountability while identifying opportunities for retraining. The number of civilian complaints made by members of the Paterson community dropped by 43% from 117 to 67.

Sharing information increases solved crimes. In 2024, improved internal information sharing led to an increase in the number of solved crimes as a result of providing officers with knowledge of who was wanted for crimes within the city, the ability to recognize them, and the probable cause required to arrest them. Before the start of each shift, officers received intelligence packets containing information about wanted suspects, maps of areas of the city that have seen an increase in violence, information regarding individuals who are driving violence throughout the city, and crime trends.

Updating department technology. Technological investments, made possible through the financial support of the state, enhanced PPD's delivery of services to the community and improved officer safety and performance. The investments included the addition of a Fusus platform, which has enabled the PPD to have better situational awareness before officers are dispatched and access to more video sources after a crime has been committed. In addition, PPD's investment in a body-worn-camera-footage analysis program, designed by Truleo, has allowed PPD to transcribe and review 100% of all audio captured on body-worn cameras using artificial intelligence to recognize, maintain, and, when necessary, improve professionalism. Use of the software has led to increases in highly professional language, more camera activations, and increased community support. Each member of the department has also been issued a cellphone to improve communication and safety. Large investments in public safety technologies, including gunshot detection equipment, cameras systems, and automatic license plate readers, are also improving PPD's ability to prevent and deter crimes and more thoroughly investigate crimes already committed.

Operational and policy changes improve service. Several operational and policy changes have been implemented to modernize PPD and its operations. For instance, supervisors are now dispatched to calls for service related to persons in crisis and a supervisor's presence is mandatory for involuntary removals of individuals in these instances. Supervisors must also respond to the scene of every call for a barricaded individual. Members of the PPD have been provided hostage-negotiation and crisis-intervention training, designed to deescalate situations and reduce uses of force when officers are interacting with a person in crisis. PPD officers also have access to less-lethal devices when dealing with noncompliant and violently resisting individuals. In addition to oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray being issued to every member of the Field Services Bureau, members of the Patrol Division and the Specialized Investigations Division now carry conducted energy devices (CEDs), commonly known as tasers. Officers have also attended renowned law-enforcement training programs and academies to increase their knowledge of best practices in the policing profession.

Summer strategy strengthens community relations. An innovative new strategy brought police officers and the community together during the summer of 2024 to bridge gaps and redefine the meaning of neighborhood policing. The Safe Parks/Safe Spaces program placed Paterson police officers in Vera Ames Park, Tyrone Collins Park, and Roberto Clemente Park on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings. In addition, six PPD Days of Play were held in each of the City's wards where children and families enjoyed fun, games, and food in their neighborhoods while being able to be outdoors in the summer months in a safe and dynamic environment. Officers in the Community Affairs Division hosted the events complete with new more approachable uniforms. Those officers also hosted separate events with senior citizens and the city's youth, along with men's and women's conferences.

Officers from PPD enjoy a summer day with children from the community during the Safe Parks Safe Spaces program, which puts officers in parks every weekend in the summer.



Stopping late night criminal activity. The Nightlife Task Force continued its work to specifically target illegal nightclubs and after-hours establishments in Paterson. These establishments are hotbeds for illegal alcohol sales, violent crime, drug and human trafficking, and gambling. Since its inception in March 2024, the Task Force shut down dozens of illegal after-hours locations, made more than 200 arrests, and filed hundreds of charges related to illegal nightlife activity in the City.

Hostage negotiation and crisis intervention training efforts, PPD participates in ARRIVE. Forty-eight PPD officers completed intensive Hostage Negotiation and Crisis Intervention training in 2024. The training explored how to deescalate situations and reduce uses of force when interacting with a person in crisis. The course involved both classroom learning and scenario-based situational training. The city is also taking part in Attorney General's ARRIVE Together program where Paterson police officers refer individuals in need of mental health resources and services to Community Behavioral Health Care, a non-profit services provider.

Officers serve Italian ice during the Safe Parks Safe Spaces program.



Public Safety Summit expands community engagement. A two-part Public Safety Summit with law enforcement and political and community leaders, at the municipal, county, and state levels, provided another step in building stronger ties between the police and the community. The summit included discussions with community leaders on the importance of expanding PPD’s efforts around police accountability, transparency, and community policing.

Building community connections. PPD created a Community Liaison position to identify at-risk youth and offer meaningful referrals and interventions to prevent youth violence as well as alternatives to behaviors that result in criminal justice system involvement. Through a program known as “Street Meets,” the liaison, joined by community leaders and law enforcement, meets at-risk youth where they are: on the streets and other locations where there may be the potential for violence or retaliation.

A Paterson Police officer looks out over Eastside Park. PPD prioritizes patrols of public areas in the city.





Ensuring Access to Reproductive Rights

Reproductive health care is a human right, and New Jersey is committed to ensuring that all New Jerseyans, as well as those who travel here from other states, have access to the care they need. Attorney General Platkin and Governor Murphy remain committed to protecting reproductive rights and the right of every pregnant person to make their own health care decisions.

Making access to contraceptives easier for residents. In keeping with a law signed by Governor Murphy, New Jersey removed the prescription requirement for self-administered hormonal contraceptives. The legislation was enacted on the first anniversary of the historic Freedom of Reproductive Choice Act, which codified the constitutional right to freedom of reproductive choice in New Jersey. Previously, individuals in New Jersey needed a prescription before they could obtain self-administered hormonal contraceptives—including injectable contraceptives, pills, patches, and rings. New rules adopted by the State Board of Medical Examiners and the Board of Pharmacy authorize qualified pharmacists to furnish these products without a prescription, in accordance with standardized procedures and protocols. Pharmacists wishing to furnish self-administered hormonal contraceptives to their patients must complete a four-hour training program on patient screening, the selection of a self-administered hormonal contraceptive, and patient counseling.

Standing up for reproductive rights. In 2024, Attorney General Platkin continued to fight to protect access to reproductive health care. Alongside a coalition of 23 attorneys general, Attorney General Platkin filed an amicus brief in the case of *FDA v. Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine*, in which the U.S. Supreme Court ultimately found that mifepristone should remain available for abortion care and miscarriage management. During a visit to Texas, Attorney General Platkin also heard directly from patients and providers about the risks of living in a state with an extreme abortion ban.

AG Platkin discusses reproductive health law with students from Rutgers.



Tackling Auto Theft and Burglary

The Office of the Attorney General has taken a comprehensive approach to combating auto theft and burglary. Coordination among the state's local, county, and state law enforcement agencies, investments in technological innovations, legislative action, and increasing public awareness have all played a part in making every New Jerseyan safer.

New legislation increases penalties and acts as a deterrent. In October, Attorney General Platkin welcomed new legislation, signed by Governor Murphy, establishing the crimes of home-invasion burglary and residential burglary. The new law elevated home-invasion burglary to a first-degree crime and residential burglary to a second-degree crime, increasing penalties designed to serve as a deterrent to would-be criminals. The law also allows for improved tracking of burglaries, including a clearer understanding of trends and deploys enhanced prevention.

Attorney General creates Burglary Task Force. Attorney General Platkin met with law enforcement leaders from across the state to discuss how officers and prosecutors can best use the state's new home invasion and residential burglary laws. At the meeting, Attorney General Platkin also announced the creation of a Statewide Burglary Task Force bringing together law enforcement and prosecutors at all levels to work together to deter, investigate, and prosecute those who burglarize homes. The law enforcement roundtable brought together law enforcement officials to give them the opportunity to discuss how to best combat residential burglaries. The Attorney General's Statewide Burglary Task Force will play a critical role in this effort through high-level intelligence sharing and collaboration among agencies regarding cross-jurisdictional burglary suspects to hold accountable those who burglarize residences.

Investing in new technology. More than \$1 million in transitional aid from the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services (DLGS), together with grant dollars from the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA), is being used to purchase and install Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology and related equipment in and around Atlantic City's roadways. ALPR systems use high-speed, automated camera networks to scan and store computer-readable images of license plates in a centralized database accessible to law enforcement. This information assists law enforcement in identifying, locating, and recovering stolen vehicles; interrupting auto-theft networks; apprehending individuals involved in vehicle theft and other violent crimes; and finding missing persons and tracking Amber and Silver alerts.

Increasing public awareness about auto theft prevention. Through a successful statewide awareness campaign aimed at discouraging New Jerseyans from leaving their cars unlocked with the key fob inside, law enforcement enlists the public's help in crime prevention. The campaign began in October 2020, when New Jersey first began to see a rise in thefts of high-end vehicles with key fobs left inside and started tracking the nexus between stolen vehicles and violent crime. Through strategic enforcement, investigative tactics, and increased public awareness, the number of auto thefts fell from 16,694 in 2023 to 14,755 in 2024.

Attorney General Platkin meets with law enforcement leaders from across New Jersey to discuss new burglary laws and the newly-formed statewide Burglary Task Force.



Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin
Announce Major Litigation
October 8 at 10 A.M.



Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin
Press Conference to Announce Major Litigation
Tuesday, October 8 at 10 A.M.



RESERVED

Protecting Children Online

Online technology, at its core, should serve to benefit society, but online predators and corporate greed can make the virtual world a treacherous place for our children. In 2024, Attorney General Platkin enforced consumer protection and antitrust laws against tech giants that, as the State’s investigations revealed, routinely put profits over the needs and well-being of the people of New Jersey.

Holding TikTok accountable. Following a multiyear investigation, Attorney General Platkin and DCA filed a lawsuit against social media giant TikTok for deceptive, unconscionable, and abusive business practices that harm the health and safety of New Jersey’s youth. The lawsuit alleges that TikTok has deliberately encouraged excessive, compulsive, and habitual use of the platform by young users to mine their data and sell targeted advertising. Teens report—and research confirms—increased levels of depression, anxiety, self-harm, suicidal ideation, and eating disorders due to social-media use.

Pursuing the case against Meta. In 2024, New Jersey, working with a number of other states, continued its litigation against Meta, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram. New Jersey filed a lawsuit against Meta in late 2023 for deceptive practices that hurt young people. The federal lawsuit seeks a permanent injunction against Meta to prevent future violations of consumer protection and business regulation laws as well as monetary relief to the states and their residents. The complaint alleges that Meta violated and continues to violate the New Jersey Consumer Fraud Act, among other states’ laws, and the federal Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act.

Combating the distribution of online child sexual abuse material. In 2024, the New Jersey Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force arrested over 300 individuals across New Jersey on charges related to child sexual abuse material (CSAM). That was the highest number of defendants charged with crimes CSAM-related crimes in the past seven years, and marks a 70 percent increase over the number of defendants charged with those offenses in 2017. A statewide takedown by the “Operation Garden State” Task Force that spanned from April 1 to May 31, 2024, resulted in over 60 arrests for a variety of charges, including CSAM-related offenses, human trafficking, and two federal charges. The operation was the product of collaboration by 26 local, state, and federal agencies led by NJSP and DCJ.

Demanding that tech companies act in the best interest of consumers. New Jersey joined the U.S. Justice Department and 15 other states to file an antitrust lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey alleging that Apple continues to monopolize the market for smartphones, stifling innovation and competition in the smartphone market hurting consumers by limiting their choices for smartphones, apps, payment systems, smartwatches, and more. Apple’s conduct results in higher prices and less choice for New Jersey consumers and bigger profits for Apple.

A press conference to announce a lawsuit against TikTok and ByteDance for violating consumer fraud laws.



Securing Environmental Results

Every New Jersey community should have 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.

Protecting overburdened communities. Working with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), LPS pursued multiple lawsuits and reached an environmental-justice settlement against polluters whose operations damaged overburdened communities, as defined by New Jersey's Environmental Justice Law. These communities have significant low-income, minority, or limited-English-proficiency populations and often bear the brunt of contamination and pollution. All of the cases involve current or former gas stations and/or automotive facilities in those communities. Since 2018, the Attorney General and the DEP have filed 72 environmental-justice cases or actions, and courts have ordered about \$8.1 million in penalties and damages.

Remediating groundwater contamination and restoring natural resources. The State reached a \$14 million resolution of a natural resource damages (NRD) lawsuit against two companies for the contamination of groundwater with trichloroethylene (TCE) in Montvale. The settlement resolved a 2019 lawsuit filed by the State against Handy & Harman and several other defendants, as well as Cycle Chem, Inc., formerly known as Perk Chemical Co. The companies agreed to resolve their alleged liability for natural resource damages and to reimburse the state for past cleanup and removal costs. The site is also undergoing remediation, which will reduce the size of the groundwater plume, decrease potential impacts to drinking water wells, and mitigate the impacts of vapors in nearby buildings. The State also resolved claims with Gulf Oil and received \$18.5 million in compensation for contamination of groundwater throughout the state with the gasoline additive methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE).

Tackling flooding resulting from climate change. Prospective homebuyers and renters can now use a number of new and enhanced tools and technologies to gather critical information on potential flood risks. The measures, which include the publication of new and enhanced property disclosure forms notifying prospective buyers and tenants of a property's known flood history and potential flood risks, as well as the launch of a user-friendly internet look-up tool searchable by mailing address that identifies properties in flood hazard areas, implement provisions of flood risk disclosure legislation signed into law by Governor Murphy in June 2023. Sellers and landlords are now required to use the new forms, which are now available on the DCA and Department of Community Affairs websites. With the new measures in place, New Jersey is now one of seven states in the country to receive an "A" grade on the Natural Resources Defense Council's Flood Risk Disclosure Law Scorecard.

An aerial view of an environmental justice site in Camden County.



Standing Up for New Jerseyans

New Jersey businesses and corporations are expected to not only follow New Jersey’s laws, but to operate as responsible corporate citizens. When businesses violate the law and take advantage of our residents, we will do everything in our power to hold them accountable. This work takes place across our Department, from the Division of Consumer Affairs to the Division of Law.

Recovering civil penalties. Civil enforcement efforts under the Division of Law recovered nearly \$430 million for the state in 2024. The funds were the result of successful settlements involving environmental cases, consumer issues, taxation matters, and debt-recovery actions. However, the amount recovered by the state does not reflect other forms of relief obtained in some of those matters that directly benefit victims, such as restitution for defrauded consumers or investors, balance forgiveness, and/or debt relief.

Addressing securities violations in the fintech industry. Under a settlement that resolved a multistate investigation into alleged securities violations, several fintech entities—GSB Gold Standard Corporation AG, a German-based company that purports to operate in the fintech and banking industries; GSB Gold Standard Bank LTD d/b/a GS Partners, the companies’ owner and other affiliated entities (collectively “GSB”)—were required to return investor funds used to purchase investment products tied to digital assets and metaverse technologies. The multistate investigation resolved by the agreement centered on GSB’s alleged violation of securities laws in certain jurisdictions—including New Jersey—through its offer and sale of a variety of crypto-related investments promising lucrative returns.

Enforcing licensing laws. Following “Operation Safe Move,” an undercover operation conducted by DCA that targeted movers doing business without being licensed, twenty-three unlicensed movers were issued Notices of Violation and assessed civil penalties totaling \$125,000. Investigators with DCA’s Office of Consumer Protection (OCP) posed as consumers who wanted to move their belongings from a storage unit in one part of the state to another location. The investigators identified numerous unlicensed movers advertising online and hired them for the move. But on “moving day,” the movers hired by the OCP investigators appeared at the Monroe location where they were met by a team of OCP investigators seeking to verify the companies were licensed. The NJSP Mobile Safe Freight Unit was also on the scene to conduct motor-vehicle safety inspections of the trucks. Twenty-one of the movers were assessed \$5,000 civil penalties for operating without licenses. Two of the companies were cited as second-time offenders and assessed enhanced civil penalties of \$10,000 each.

Attorney General Platkin and Pastor John Taylor talk during a visit with the Trenton 4Cs community organization.

Halting the sale of banned products. In August, nineteen New Jersey retailers were issued Notices of Violation and assessed civil penalties of \$4,500 each for allegedly violating the state’s consumer protection laws by offering and selling flavored vapor products that are banned for sale in New Jersey. Through undercover buys and in-store inspections, investigators identified smoke shops, convenience stores, and gift and novelty retailers in five counties offering and selling the banned products, many in locations close to schools and parks or on or near shore town boardwalks. The flavored products, research has shown, are especially appealing to teens and children. Governor Murphy signed legislation prohibiting the sale and distribution of all vapor products with a flavor, taste, or aroma other than tobacco in 2020, making New Jersey the first state to do so.

Shutting down unlicensed practices. The owner of a Passaic County skin care spa agreed to pay a \$10,000 civil penalty and accept a 10-year ban on operating a skin care specialty spa in New Jersey after allegedly providing invasive aesthetic treatments that are only permitted to be performed by a licensed medical professional. The operator entered a consent order with the State Board of Medical Examiners and the State Board of Cosmetology and Hairstyling. The unlicensed services allegedly performed included Botox and dermal-filler injections, body contouring, laser hair removal, teeth whitening, permanent makeup, microblading, microneedling, and platelet-rich plasma facials (also known as “vampire facials”).

Attorney General Platkin visits the Seaside Heights boardwalk as part of Boardwalk game inspections.



Curtiling sexual misconduct in physician exam rooms. In April, DCA announced the publication of proposed rules expanding patient protections against sexual misconduct and abuse. The rules would amend the State Board of Medical Examiners’s (Board) existing rules to enhance patient safety in several ways and reduce the risk of physician misconduct by increasing public awareness of a patient’s right to have an observer present during sensitive examinations, including breast, pelvic, genitalia, and rectal exams, and to decline care if an observer acceptable to the patient is unavailable. The rules would extend these rights to all patients, regardless of gender identity or expression. The rules would also ensure that patients understand their right to have an observer present before the exam begins. In December, the Board temporarily suspended the license of a Mercer County obstetrician and gynecologist after finding credible evidence he sexually exploited two patients under the cloak of providing routine medical care.

AG Platkin speaks with an educator in Atlantic City.



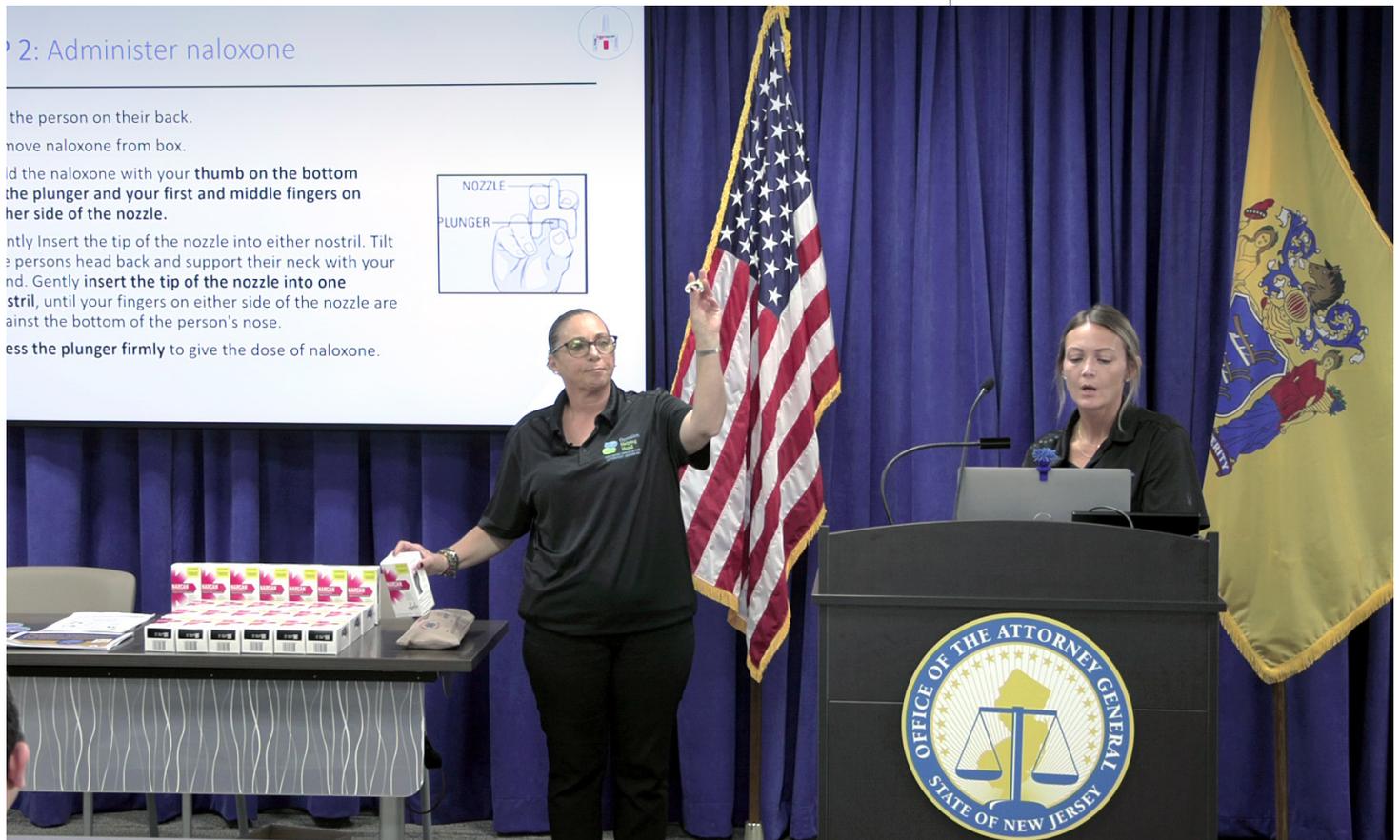


Battling the Opioid Epidemic

The opioid crisis has been fueled by corporations who put profits over people. Attorney General Platkin has worked to hold bad actors accountable for their part in creating an epidemic that has devastated families and communities across the country while also leading efforts to mitigate the impact of the current epidemic and establishing systems intended to avoid future crises.

Left: The first hearing in the Opt for Help and Hope Program at Paterson Municipal Court.

Below: LPS holds a naloxone training session for state employees to ensure they are prepared to help in the event of a drug overdose.



Holding corporations accountable. As part of a settlement reached in 2024, New Jersey received nearly \$9.5 million as part of a \$350 million national settlement with Publicis Health, LLC, to resolve investigations into the global marketing and communications firm's role in the prescription-opioid crisis. The settlement resolved a complaint alleging that Publicis engaged in unconscionable commercial practices that are prohibited by the Consumer Fraud Act (CFA). Publicis's work contributed to the crisis by helping Purdue Pharma and other opioid manufacturers market and sell opioids, including OxyContin. In particular, Publicis advised and assisted Purdue Pharma in using unbranded marketing to disseminate messaging that prescription opioids were safe and less addictive. In agreeing to the terms of the settlement, Publicis recognized the harm its conduct caused. The settlement funds will help the communities hit hardest by the opioid crisis and support prevention efforts, as well as programs that will direct individuals to treatment and recovery.

In March, the bankruptcy court in the Southern District of New York confirmed opioid maker Endo International's reorganization plan, which resolved longstanding allegations that Endo contributed to the opioid epidemic by boosting opioid sales through deceptive marketing practices that downplayed the risk of addiction and overstated the drugs' benefits. Endo agreed to end promotion of Endo's opioids, and turn over millions of documents related to Endo's role in the opioid crisis. The plan also established the Endo Public Opioid Trust to make distributions totaling \$460 million over about 10 years to governmental entities, including New Jersey. As Endo prepaid the settlement amount, the amount ultimately paid to the Endo Public Opioid Trust was \$273.6 million. New Jersey and its eligible subdivisions each received more than \$4.3 million in abatement funds to mitigate the impact of the opioid crisis.

Establishing new offices to coordinate prevention and intervention efforts. In 2024, Attorney General Platkin established the Office of Alternative and Community Responses (OACR). The new office is home to the Office of New Jersey Coordinator of Addiction Responses and Enforcement Strategies (NJ CARES), ARRIVE, and law-enforcement resiliency efforts. It also coordinates the state's Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) policies and supervises a newly created bureau overseeing prosecutorial diversion programming. ERPOs are civil orders that restrict an individual's access to firearms and ammunition.

Preventing doctors from issuing unnecessary prescriptions. Physicians have a responsibility to issue prescriptions only when necessary, and the state monitors the excessive prescription of controlled dangerous substances (CDS). Following an investigation by the DCA's Enforcement Bureau, an Essex County vascular surgeon agreed to permanently cease engaging in the clinical practice of medicine in New Jersey to resolve allegations that he indiscriminately prescribed large amounts of CDS to patients he treated for addiction. Specifically, the State alleged that the physician prescribed high volumes of CDS—including highly addictive benzodiazepines, stimulants, and, in some cases, narcotics without sufficient medical justification. As part of the resolution, the doctor agreed to permanently forfeit his CDS Registration and never again issue any prescription for any medications, including CDS, in New Jersey.

In partnership with Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine, DCA also launched an interactive academic program where trained program staff are available to engage with New Jersey healthcare professionals with opioid-prescribing authority in one-on-one dialogue to assess individual prescriber needs and the needs of their practice, and then offer tailored, evidence-based clinical recommendations and education. A

second program—the Opioid Education Podcast Series—provides continuing medical education credits to New Jersey physicians through accessible and engaging podcasts that are structured around an open dialogue with experts to provide standardized, comprehensive, easily accessible, evidence-based education on the best practices regarding opioids for professionals throughout the State.

Ensuring that patients have continued access to resources following a disruption in care.

In partnership with the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Human Services (DHS), OACR supports the federal Opioid Rapid Response Program (ORRP). ORRP is a coordinated federal effort led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which helps mitigate the risks of overdose among individuals who suddenly lose access to prescription opioids, medications for opioid-use disorder, or other CDS. These disruptions can occur due to a law-enforcement action or because a provider has lost their ability to prescribe CDS. In addition, this organized effort by LPS, DHS, and DOH coordinates notification to local stakeholders and engagement with those who may be affected.

Naloxone training for LPS employees. The Department is leading by example: beginning in October 2024, more than 800 LPS employees received lifesaving in-person Naloxone training. Those who completed the training each received a free naloxone kit and a “Naloxone Trained” button. A virtual training option is also available to all LPS staff members. Since the volunteer training began in 2024, 4,096 LPS employees are trained and ready to administer Naloxone.

Attorney General Platkin hears about the opioid response efforts conducted by LPS employees.





Fighting to Lower Costs for New Jersey Consumers

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 the Department are committed to helping New Jersey consumers and ensuring that unscrupulous businesses and scammers are held accountable.

Protecting consumers from inflated drug prices. Attorney General Platkin and a multistate coalition reached a \$49.1 million settlement with Heritage Pharmaceuticals and Apotex, resolving allegations that both companies artificially inflated and manipulated drug prices. In addition, the settlement acknowledged that consumers may be eligible for compensation for purchasing drugs from the companies. Both companies have further agreed to a series of internal reforms to ensure fair competition and future compliance with antitrust laws.

Left: AG Platkin speaks at Under One Roof: The Housing & Community Development Network's Annual Conference & Membership Meeting.

Below: DCA staff visited the Seaside Heights Boardwalk for Operation Safe Summer to ensure that games of chance are operated in compliance with state law.



Increasing transparency in drug pricing. In keeping with Governor Murphy’s efforts to rein in the high cost of prescription drugs, DCA adopted new rules promoting greater transparency in prescription drug pricing. The new rules established registration, reporting, and compliance requirements for manufacturers, insurance carriers, pharmacy benefits managers, wholesalers, and pharmacy services administrative organizations. The regulations require entities to provide DCA with information and data pertaining to drugs with significant price increases or high launch prices and other drugs of interest that will be used to produce an annual report on emerging trends in prescription drug prices. The report, which will be posted on DCA’s prescription drug pricing webpage, will also be used to help New Jersey’s Drug Affordability Council formulate legislative and regulatory policy recommendations focused on prescription drug affordability.

Protecting online security. Attorney General Platkin joined a coalition of attorneys general in reaching a \$52 million settlement with Marriott International, Inc. following two information security failures, including a widespread data breach. New Jersey will receive over \$1.3 million from the settlement. The states alleged that Marriott violated data breach laws and consumer protection laws—including the CFA—by misrepresenting the ways in which it protected consumers’ personal information and failed to use adequate cybersecurity safeguards to protect that information. The first breach began in 2014, when an unauthorized third-party-installed malware gained access to the guest reservation database of Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide.

Ending unlawful pricing practices. Walmart agreed to pay \$1.64 million to resolve allegations that the chain repeatedly engaged in unlawful unit pricing practices at its 64 retail stores across New Jersey. The settlement, which included a \$1.61 million civil penalty,

The State Weights and Measures staff, part of DCA, check commercial vehicles to make sure they meet safety requirements.



is the largest ever obtained by DCA's Office of Weights and Measures. According to the allegations, Walmart violated the CFA and Unit Pricing Disclosure Act by using inaccurate unit pricing in more than 2,000 instances for a variety of grocery products.

Promoting truth in advertising. DCA announced a settlement with Verizon New Jersey, Inc., following an investigation into violations of New Jersey's consumer protection laws in connection with the marketing and sale of Fios services. Under the terms of the settlement, Verizon agreed to pay \$175,000 to the state to resolve allegations that, among other things, the company failed to honor advertised prices for services, failed to deliver promotional gifts, failed to provide promised refunds, and engaged in other unlawful business practices. The investigation began after the state received a high volume of complaints about the company's business practices.

Ending ticket sales monopolies. In May 2024, Attorney General Platkin joined the Justice Department and a bipartisan coalition of 28 states and the District of Columbia in filing an antitrust lawsuit against Live Nation Entertainment, Inc., which owns Ticketmaster, alleging that the company has illegally monopolized the live entertainment industry. The lawsuit alleges multiple violations of the federal Sherman Act as well as the New Jersey Antitrust Act and asks the court to, among other things, order the sale and divestiture of Ticketmaster, which Live Nation purchased in 2010. The lawsuit outlines how Live Nation's \$22 billion business has built an ecosystem in which Live Nation cannot only extract revenues at every stage as an intermediary, but on many occasions, can also double-dip across multiple business lines—for example, as both a ticketer and a promoter. These practices create a feedback loop that inflates its fees and revenue, all at the expense of fans. As a result, the connection between artists and fans is strained and artists are no longer free to decide where and when to perform—all to raise Live Nation's bottom line.

Attorney General Platkin joins U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland to announce an antitrust lawsuit against Apple Inc.





*The Richard C. Hughes Justice Complex
in Trenton is home to LPS.*

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 2024, 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. The Administration oversees the Department's foundational units, including those involving budgeting, financial management, grant operations, human resources, constituent relations, 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.

2024 Highlights

- The Office of Grants Management managed millions of state and federal dollars in 2024, including securing over \$68 million in competitive dollars, with approximately \$52 million in formula grants, and administering over 800 sub-awards totaling in excess of \$174 million.
- The Office of Constituent Services (OCS) responded to over 46,000 inquires, which included connecting constituents to needed services and resources. The OCS handles on average 9,000 calls each month.
- The Office of Human Resource Management (HRM) participated in more than 30 career events across the state, fostering connections with potential candidates for employment from a broad and diverse range of institutions, colleges, and universities to state department-sponsored events. Additionally, the HRM welcomed over 300 new hires and recruited 175 interns to the Department.
- The Office of Financial Management processed approximately 1,600 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 and control the alcoholic beverage industry in order to foster moderation and responsibility in the consumption of alcoholic beverages, protect the residents of New Jersey by assuring lawful, proper, and fair trade practices, maintain the stability of the industry, and protect the collection of state taxes imposed on alcoholic beverages.

2024 Highlights

- In 2024, Governor Murphy signed legislation overhauling New Jersey's liquor-license laws for the first time in nearly a quarter of a century. ABC oversaw the significant reform efforts that expanded the retail privileges afforded to limited breweries, craft distilleries, and cideries/meaderies, and addressed those liquor licenses that were not actively being used at bars, restaurants, or liquor stores. Under the law, holders of these inactive licenses were encouraged to either activate the licenses or transfer them in a private transaction, or ultimately face the expiration of the license. Additionally, the law allowed for the intermunicipal transfers of inactive licenses to contiguous municipalities. Finally, the new law created a new "shopping mall" license, which can be issued by a municipality to a licensee located in a qualifying shopping mall. With the Attorney General's Office, ABC issued guidance on the new law and provided training to municipal clerks, licensees, and attorneys. Additionally, ABC created a Craft Manufacturer Off-Premises permit, which limited breweries, craft distilleries, cideries, and meaderies to holding up to 25 special events off their licensed premises each year.
- Every year, the ABC Investigations Bureau partners with municipal police departments and other law enforcement agencies to conduct joint investigations and compliance inspections. In 2024, ABC Investigators joined the Paterson Police Department's Nightlife Task Force, which was established to combat unsafe practices in licensed establishments and illegal unlicensed "speakeasies." Resulting administrative violations, disciplinary actions, and forfeiture proceedings were handled by the ABC Enforcement Bureau.
- ABC conducted multiple trainings for municipal police officers throughout the year. During these trainings, police officers were provided an overview of Alcoholic Beverage Control law. Officers were instructed on the investigative application of pertinent laws in various field operational scenarios. The ABC training staff provided examples of the annual licensing process, disciplinary hearings, and investigations.
- ABC conducted joint outreach with the New Jersey Coordinator of Addiction Responses and Enforcement Strategies (NJ CARES), providing several trainings for licensees called "Save a Life: Stock Your Bar with Naloxone," which emphasized how to recognize opioid intoxication and administer naloxone if an overdose occurs in a licensed establishment.

Division on Civil Rights



Sundeep Iyer, Director

The Division on Civil Rights (DCR) is responsible for enforcing the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination (LAD), which makes it illegal to discriminate on the basis of protected characteristics in employment, housing, and places of public accommodation. 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.

2024 Highlights

- In January 2024, DCR—in partnership with the Division of Consumer Affairs—launched a Home Appraisal Discrimination Initiative to address longstanding racial and ethnic inequities in home appraisals, the first comprehensive state initiative of its kind in the country. DCR also concluded an investigation finding mortgage redlining by Republic First Bank, seeking relief on behalf of New Jersey consumers based on the bank’s alleged pattern and practice of racial discrimination in southern New Jersey. In addition, DCR announced nearly 80 enforcement actions against housing providers for allegedly violating New Jersey’s Fair Chance in Housing Act, which prohibits discrimination in housing based on prior criminal history. In another case, DCR issued 34 Findings of Probable Cause alleging discrimination against prospective tenants based on their receipt of rental assistance, and took enforcement action to address unlawful minimum-income rental requirements for housing.
- DCR took significant action based on gender discrimination that included filing a lawsuit against a Virtua Health, Inc. system, alleging that their mandatory drug testing of pregnant patients discriminated based on pregnancy and sex in violation of the LAD; issuing a Finding of Probable Cause alleging that the Cinnaminson Township Board of Education discriminated based on pregnancy and gender by maintaining a policy that prohibited employees on leave from coaching or participating in extracurricular activities; and reaching a settlement with AT&T to resolve an Equal Pay Act case alleging unequal pay based on gender. DCR also issued new guidance to inform the public about workplace accommodations for pregnant, postpartum, breastfeeding, and lactating workers, as well as guidance on the New Jersey Family Leave Act.
- Several efforts were undertaken to address bias and hate, including a new initiative called the Community Peacemaker Collaborative, which allows local community members to be trained to deescalate conflict in their communities, and new program for K-12 schools to help students navigate difficult conversations in school. DCR also launched a new training for teachers and administrators in K-12 schools on preventing, addressing, and responding to bias incidents in schools.
- DCR’s Community Relations Unit participated in 255 events in 2024. It also engaged in crisis response and community mediation efforts during protests or in the aftermath of possible bias incidents. DCR’s Education and Training Unit held 181 trainings on 15 different anti-bias topics in 2024, reaching thousands more stakeholders through those trainings.

Division of Consumer Affairs



Cari Fais, *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, as well as through its Office of Consumer Protection, Bureau of Securities, Charities Registration section, Office of Weights and Measures, and Legalized Games of Chance section.

2024 Highlights

- To implement legislation enacted by Governor Murphy in 2024, the Board of Medical Examiners and the Board of Pharmacy jointly published rules authorizing New Jersey pharmacists to furnish hormonal contraceptives to patients without a prescription. By the end of 2024, 367 pharmacists had completed the training to furnish hormonal contraceptives without a prescription resulting in contraceptives being available at 113 pharmacies across the state, including at major pharmacy chains.
- DCA also introduced rules to implement a new law enacted by Governor Murphy to bring transparency and accountability to prescription drug pricing, requiring prescription drug manufacturers, wholesalers, pharmacy benefit managers, insurance carriers, and pharmaceutical services administrative organizations to register with and report data to DCA. The law also creates a new Drug Affordability Council to make recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor for lowering the cost of prescription drugs.
- In June 2024, DCA resolved its investigation into Walmart, alleging violations of both the Consumer Fraud Act and the Unit Pricing Disclosure Act for using inaccurate unit pricing for a variety of products. The \$1.61 million settlement stems from inspections by DCA's Office of Weights and Measures of over 60 New Jersey stores with more than 2,000 instances where the incorrect unit of measurement was used.
- DCA resolved an investigation into Element Armament, LLC, an Indiana-based firearms dealer that shipped large capacity magazines (LCMs) into New Jersey without warning purchasers that the products are illegal to possess in New Jersey. As a result of this settlement, Element Armament paid a \$12,000 civil penalty and \$5,705 in reimbursement for the attorneys' fees, and agreed to make significant changes to its business practices. DCA also announced a settlement with Dick's Sporting Goods, Inc., resolving allegations that the retail chain also violated the law by selling and shipping LCMs into the state. Dick's agreed to pay \$46,000 in civil penalties and attorneys' fees in addition to agreeing to other terms.
- Attorney General Platkin and DCA announced a lawsuit against social media giant TikTok and its Chinese owner ByteDance Ltd., alleging that TikTok understands the dangerous effects of its platform on young users but has chosen not to take steps to mitigate these harms to New Jersey's youth.

Division of Criminal Justice



J. Stephen Ferketic, *Director*

Weldon Powell, *Chief of Detectives*

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, pursuant to the Criminal Justice Act of 1970, gives the Attorney General broad supervisory authority over New Jersey's 21 County Prosecutor's Offices and the state's nearly 42,000 law enforcement officers. DCJ also provides statewide training for prosecutors and law enforcement officers and participates in numerous community outreach events each year.

2024 Highlights

- In an effort to strengthen efforts to combat human trafficking, DCJ worked to increase reporting of forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation crimes and to bring victims to safety. Between 2018 and 2022, twelve defendants were charged with human trafficking by DCJ and the 21 County Prosecutor's Offices combined. In 2024, DCJ alone surpassed that with 13 defendants charged and/or indicted. Additional resources have been added, doubling DCJ's Human Trafficking legal team. Increased collaboration with the New Jersey State Police led to 10 proactive human-trafficking operations in 2024, compared to four in 2023. As a result of these efforts, approximately 100 victims received assistance and/or services.
- Statewide, over 360 individuals were charged with crimes relating to child sexual abuse material in 2024, a 70% increase compared to 2017 that can be attributed in part to detection resulting from enhanced collaboration between local, state, and federal law enforcement.
- DCJ brought cases against individuals who defrauded both private and public entities. DCJ obtained a conviction against the former chief financial officer of a Morristown-based national law firm after the defendant admitted embezzling over \$1.5 million from the firm and evading payment of income taxes. DCJ also conducted a multi-month initiative to investigate and prosecute unemployment fraud, which resulted in cases against 20 defendants who allegedly stole over \$1.1 million collectively from New Jersey's unemployment insurance trust fund.
- In collaboration with the Office of the Attorney General, DCJ and DCR developed No Hate in the Garden State, a new statewide campaign to raise public awareness about bias incidents and bias crimes. The campaign educates the public on available resources through a public awareness and advertising campaign, encouraging the reporting of such incidents to prevent future incidents.

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, and it is further supported by New Jersey 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.

2024 Highlights

- For 2024, internet-gaming revenue increased by 24% and sports-wagering gross revenue grew by nearly 9%. Online gaming revenue now represents approximately 55% of total gaming revenue in New Jersey, which is the highest percentage to date. While DGE has developed regulatory policies that promote continued online-gaming growth, it has taken strong regulatory action and continues to impose fines on operators that take actions that unfairly impact customers or do not file accurate statistical data upon which the public relies.
- During 2024, DGE continued to strengthen New Jersey's responsible gaming efforts. In the online-gaming area, technology, automated triggers, and statistical data are used to identify potential problem gamblers, and online operators are required to initiate contact with patrons depending on the nature of the patron's activity. In 2024, over 151,000 patrons were contacted by operators to assess potential responsible gaming issues. Since the launch of new options for the self-exclusion process, including a 1-800 phone number and a videoconferencing line, DGE handled 6,220 calls and held 491 video conferences, with 64% of self-exclusion meetings conducted via video conference. DGE also enhanced the online self-exclusion process to include the ability to sign up for brick-and-mortar property self-exclusion as well. DGE also launched a nearly year-long public-awareness campaign to promote problem-gambling prevention and responsible gaming.
- Best practices were developed for anti-money laundering (AML) in internet gaming and online sports wagering in 2024 and are to be issued in 2025, as DGE awaits final guidance. DGE previously established AML best practices for gaming operations in the casino hotels and, in 2024, best practices were developed for the internet gaming and sports-wagering segments of the gaming industry.
- Working with law enforcement partners, including the Atlantic City Police Department and the New Jersey State Police, as well as Atlantic County, federal agencies, and casino security units, DGE enhanced initiatives to improve safety in the Atlantic City area. DGE also assisted healthcare partners to develop best practices for mental-health matters, medical events, homelessness, and human trafficking. As part of a new initiative, DGE partnered with NJ CARES to distribute naloxone to the casino industry and increased the number of employees trained to administer naloxone.

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 on New Jersey's roadways. HTS administers the State & Community Highway Safety Program, which annually distributes approximately \$30 million in federal funding to develop and implement a statewide highway-safety plan. The Director of HTS also serves as the Governor's representative to the Governor's Highway Safety Association and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

2024 Highlights

- HTS, in collaboration with the Office of the Attorney General, the New Jersey State Police, and the Office of Justice Data, created a new dashboard designed to effectively display fatal crash data. This publicly accessible, user-friendly dashboard enables traffic-safety professionals, law enforcement agencies, media, and the general public to easily view and research the comprehensive data compiled by the state.
- In 2024, HTS worked with the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey and NJ CARES to address impaired driving related to prescription medications. Over 200,000 New Jersey residents received pharmacy bags imprinted with cautionary messages about driving under the influence of prescriptions. These bags, distributed through 900 independent pharmacies, served as a direct and impactful reminder to residents of the dangers of impaired driving.
- HTS collaborated with the Camden County Prosecutor's Office and 14 local police agencies on a \$400,000 project aimed at reducing crashes along the White Horse Pike. The initiative focused on curbing aggressive and distracted driving, promoting seat-belt use, and prioritizing pedestrian safety. This targeted approach leveraged extensive community engagement, educational elements, and law enforcement to address a critical roadway safety challenge.
- With over \$2.5 million in funding, HTS supported the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's New Jersey Safety and Health Outcomes (NJ-SHO) initiative. This funding enabled the launch of njsho.chop.edu, an interactive website featuring a dynamic data dashboard that monitors traffic-safety trends across communities over time. Additional funds will support regular updates to the NJ-SHO Data Warehouse.

Division of Law



Michael T. Long, *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.

2024 Highlights

- In 2024, the Special Litigation section, representing the Attorney General and the Statewide Affirmative Firearms Enforcement (SAFE) Office, furthered a lawsuit against a New Jersey licensed firearms dealer that was the target of a burglary after improperly storing and securing its gun products and broadcasting those reckless storage practices on the internet. That lawsuit is the first to assert claims under New Jersey's Firearm Industry Public Safety Law, which allows the Attorney General, through SAFE, to sue firearm industry members, including manufacturers and retailers, who knowingly violate state or federal law applicable to the sale or marketing of gun-related products. The decision will be a roadmap for nationwide litigation about the applicability of the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, a federal statute that creates a defense for the firearm industry against certain civil lawsuits seeking relief for harm caused by third parties.
- DOL led negotiations with Orsted resulting in a \$125 million payment to the state after Orsted abandoned two offshore wind projects approved by the Board of Public Utilities (BPU). The Ocean Wind I project qualified for certain federal tax credits pursuant to state law by posting a \$100 million performance guarantee and a \$200 million performance security by its corporate parent. The settlement resulted in vacating the two projects, and the funds being deposited with the BPU to support its offshore wind efforts.



New Jersey State Police

Colonel Patrick Callahan, Superintendent

New Jersey State Police (NJSP) is the largest law enforcement agency in New Jersey, with over 3,000 enlisted and over 1,100 civilian members. NJSP has general law enforcement jurisdiction throughout the state, and it provides statewide enforcement of the criminal, motor-vehicle, marine, and alcohol-beverage-control laws and, on a contract basis, general police services on the New Jersey Turnpike, the Garden State Parkway, the Atlantic City Expressway, and in 89 municipalities across the state. In addition, NJSP's Office of Emergency Management is the lead state agency responsible for the coordination and support of statewide emergency services involving natural and manmade disasters.

2024 Highlights

- A historic reduction in the number of shooting victims and the number of shooting deaths in New Jersey was made possible due to the Attorney General's Gun Violence Reduction Task Force and the Department's holistic approach involving the strategic deployment of resources, the use of data and technology, community engagement, and law enforcement partnerships. The number of New Jersey shooting victims in 2024 was 778, compared to 924 in 2023. The number of people who died as a result of gun violence in 2024 was 152, compared to 191 people killed in 2023. This holistic approach has become a national model and it will guide law enforcement efforts in 2025.
- The New Jersey Statewide Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) Program, the first program of its kind in the nation, created an interconnected platform allowing authorized users to access the data collected across the state. The program also coordinates the statewide installation of ALPR technology and allows law enforcement agencies to share data to prevent, deter, and solve crime, while maintaining privacy protections under the New Jersey Attorney General Directive Regulating Use of ALPR. Working with DCJ, NJSP detectives in the Auto Theft Task Force saw the number of stolen vehicles decrease from 16,642 in 2023 to 14,148 in 2024.
- In July 2023, the NJSP Port Security Section (PSS) assumed the regulatory and law enforcement duties previously held by the Waterfront Commission of New York Harbor within New Jersey, the second busiest port in the United States. The PSS streamlined processes for conducting port-related investigations, the licensing and regulation, and audit and administrative capabilities. In 2024, the PSS conducted approximately 230 investigations, an increase of 50% and intelligence analysts provided over 650 intelligence products to the law-enforcement community, an increase of 289%.
- Following a number of legislative initiatives, NJSP saw the number of judicial orders of expungement it received increase from approximately 11,500 in 2020 to more than 69,000 in 2024. Throughout 2024, NJSP instituted revised processing protocols to address the backlog of unprocessed expungement orders, which enabled NJSP to end 2024 with 23,000-24,000 orders yet to be processed as of the end of 2024.

Division of Violence Intervention & 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, 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.

2024 Highlights

- VIVA, in collaboration with DCJ and the Office of the Attorney General (OAG), hosted National Crime Victims' Rights Week. The 2024 national theme, "How Would You Help," included a series of conversations highlighting updates on survivor-centered, trauma-informed policies and practices being enacted throughout the state. Following the program, an awards ceremony honored individuals and organizations that support victims and survivors in their pursuit of justice and healing.
- With OAG and DCJ, VIVA co-hosted a number of survivor-centered symposiums throughout 2024 as part of the Attorney General Symposium Series. Specific topics included: sexual violence; gun and community violence; and domestic violence. The half-day, in-person convenings featured engaging agendas intended to highlight recent updates to policies and procedures; briefings on new, emerging, and promising practices from the field; data spotlights; and time-sensitive topics. These symposiums were widely attended, collectively totaling 570 multidisciplinary participants.
- OTCJP in partnership with the New Jersey Office of the Public Defender, launched a community-education initiative aimed at increasing the public's understanding of restorative justice principles. VIVA hosted one in-person and three virtual webinars that addressed common misconceptions, legal considerations, and how restorative approaches can strengthen communities through the repairing of relationships. As a follow-up to these sessions, which convened approximately 200 attendees, VIVA released a Restorative Justice Factsheet. In 2025, VIVA will continue the discussion on restorative justice with a series of listening circles.

Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor



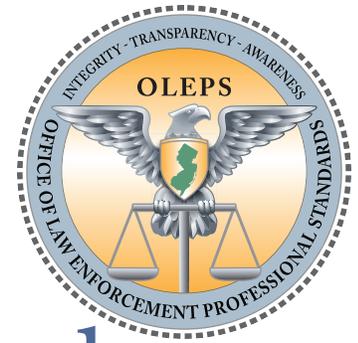
Al Garcia, *Interim Insurance Fraud Prosecutor*

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.

2024 Highlights

- In 2024, in furtherance of OIFP's mission to conduct full and fair investigations and secure successful prosecutions, OIFP secured 26 indictments and 9 accusations against 45 defendants, which covered a variety of alleged criminal activity, such as first-degree arson of a motor vehicle in order to collect insurance proceeds; second-degree financial facilitation of criminal activity (money laundering) by an insurance claims adjuster; and second-degree aggravated assault of a nursing-home resident.
- OIFP increased its community outreach efforts with a focus on anti-insurance-fraud activities participating in over 55 events in 2024, including school outreach presentations, community events, career fairs, and trainings. These events also served to build trust in our legal system, while our school events highlighted careers in public service and law enforcement. Additionally, OIFP's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit hosted several events to mark World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, to increase awareness of how to recognize and report elder abuse.
- In addition to meeting one-on-one with insurance carriers to discuss trends and fraudulent schemes, OIFP partnered with the National Insurance Crime Bureau to provide in-person training to law enforcement and the insurance industry. OIFP also collaborated with the New Jersey Special Investigators Association and attended the 2024 Multi-State Insurance Fraud Summit with law-enforcement stakeholders from Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and New York to discuss the most pressing insurance fraud issues. Furthermore, OIFP hosted a round table with industry leaders to discuss best practices for case referrals, furthering its commitment to improving all aspects of insurance fraud investigations and prosecutions.

Office of Law Enforcement Professional Standards



Kevin Lutz, *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 NJSP policies, procedures, and trainings to ensure compliance with state and federal laws. OLEPS is also authorized to conduct operational audits of NJSP training and compliance with best practices, conduct independent analyses of data to identify potential disparities or changes in NJSP enforcement actions, monitor NJSP 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.

2024 Highlights

- In 2024, OLEPS increased its oversight responsibilities and, as a result, increased its staff by nearly 50% and procured new equipment and software systems for faster data analysis so that its monitoring and auditing functions can be completed in a more efficient manner.
- OLEPS significantly increased its communication with the NJSP to allow for open discussion of any issues OLEPS identifies. For example, OLEPS is facilitating revisions to NJSP's risk-analysis process where motor vehicle stop trends are identified. The new process will allow for a more real-time approach to identification of trends or issues, allowing matters to be addressed in an efficient and tangible way.
- OLEPS reviewed and provided recommendations on approximately 57 NJSP Academy lesson plans, with associated training materials, to ensure conformity with best practices and to enhance practices on cultural awareness, law enforcement ethics and leadership, and constitutional law, including the laws of arrest and search and seizure. OLEPS also audited 21 NJSP trainings to ensure appropriate presentation of training materials, and presented at the NJSP Citizen's Academy, the NJSP Academy, and the Internal Affairs Investigator School. OLEPS also reviewed 10 NJSP policies, and provided recommendations to ensure the most current law and best practices continue to be followed, and that the NJSP appropriately incorporated the principles of Attorney General's Directives and Guidelines into their policies and training.
- In 2024, OLEPS formalized a process to accept complaints regarding the NJSP and its members for greater accessibility. This included the creation of an online submission form, a hotline number, and a distinct mailing address so that NJSP employees and members of the public, including anonymous complainants, are aware of their ability to file complaints directly to OLEPS. If a complainant is not satisfied with the findings of a completed internal misconduct matter, OLEPS independently reviews the internal misconduct file and communicates with the complainant regarding its review. In 2024, OLEPS completed 53 independent reviews.

Office of Public Integrity and Accountability



Drew Skinner, *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.

2024 Highlights

- Led by career prosecutors and investigators, OPIA has obtained over 100 favorable dispositions, and over 40 in the past three years alone. In 2024, a former mayor pleaded guilty to defrauding the state, another former mayor pleaded guilty to violating a court order, a police chief pleaded guilty to obstruction of justice, a campaign manager was sentenced for election fraud, a corporate official pleaded guilty to defrauding a state fund, a bus company owner pleaded guilty and accepted a state prison sentence for defrauding the state, and a woman was sentenced after stealing hundreds of thousands of dollars in state pension benefits.
- In January 2024, a Bridgeton man was sentenced to 13 years in prison for his role in a shooting at a NJSP detective during a confrontation at a Salem County mobile home park. NJSP Detective Richard Hershey, who was seriously wounded by a bullet fired by another shooter, has since recovered and returned to duty.
- Holtec International, a Camden-based energy technology company involved in the decommissioning of nuclear power sites, agreed to pay \$5 million in penalties and retain an independent reviewer to monitor future applications for state benefits. The agreements were reached following OPIA's criminal investigation into applications to the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (EDA) for \$1 million worth of tax credits.
- An investigation by the Mercer County Homicide Task Force in conjunction with the OPIA's Cold Case Network led to charges against two individuals in connection with the 2008 robbery and murder of Leroy Julious in Ewing Township.
- The Attorney General released a report and memorandum detailing the administrative findings made against a now-retired NJSP lieutenant formerly assigned to the NJSP's internal affairs unit. Based in part on the investigation, the Attorney General announced a slate of recommended reforms to be implemented by the NJSP.
- The Office led revisions of the Attorney General's Statewide Use of Force Policy to address law enforcement responses to barricaded individuals. The policy directs first responding officers to contain the situation and contact highly trained tactical and crisis-negotiation teams with the goal of resolving barricaded situations without injuries to all involved.
- Under the Police Licensure Act, the Police Training Commission (PTC) is required to issue and monitor licenses for the state's nearly 42,000 police officers. In 2024, the PTC created and refined the infrastructure required to accomplish this mission to ensure that the citizens of New Jersey are served by well-trained, professional officers.
- In 2024, OPIA served as the independent investigator for 24 fatal police encounter investigations, as required by statute, and presented multiple matters to the State Grand Jury under the Independent Prosecutor Directive.

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. Specifically, 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.

2024 Highlights

- In December 2024, Attorney General Platkin and SAFE announced the formation of a 16-state coalition to hold irresponsible firearm-industry members accountable for their devastating impact on gun violence. This multistate coalition, the first of its kind, aims to reduce gun violence through the coordinated enforcement of the states' respective civil liability and consumer protection laws, among other authority, thereby promoting public safety and saving lives. The member states are New Jersey, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Vermont.
- On the same day that the coalition was announced, SAFE and the State of Minnesota filed the most consequential legal action by state Attorneys General against a major firearms manufacturer and the first action of the multistate coalition. SAFE sued Glock Inc. and Glock Ges.m.b.H., alleging that Glock has long known that its handguns are easily, and frequently, switched from semi-automatic operation to an automatic-firing mode through the attachment of a cheap, small, external add-on component known commonly as a "Glock switch." The lawsuit further alleges that despite that knowledge, Glock has taken no meaningful steps to mitigate the public safety threat posed by its switchable handguns. SAFE is seeking an order to suspend sales of switchable Glock guns to the New Jersey civilian market and restitution for the public harm Glock has caused.
- In November, SAFE announced civil lawsuits against two licensed New Jersey firearms retailers—Butch's Gun World and Point Blank Guns and Ammo—for repeatedly selling gun-related products to undercover investigators without the buyer demonstrating that they could lawfully possess a firearm. The lawsuits allege that each store sold gun parts and 1,000-round cases of .223 caliber ammunition—military-style ammunition often used in AR-15-style rifles—in exchange for cash and without asking to see any type of identification, permit, or credential of the purchaser.
- A report released by SAFE concluded that, based on both live-fire testing results and existing peer-reviewed studies, microstamping technology is a viable means of matching an expended cartridge case to the weapon from which it was discharged. This represented an important step toward establishing a roster of microstamping-enabled commercial firearms, as contemplated by the law signed in 2022 by Governor Phil Murphy to facilitate the rollout and adoption of microstamping technology for firearms made available for sale to the New Jersey public.

Juvenile Justice Commission



Jennifer LeBaron, *Ph.D., Executive Director*

As New Jersey's lead youth justice agency, the Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) 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 JJC has become a national leader in youth justice reform.

2024 Highlights

- The JJC, in partnership with the Judiciary, continues to serve as a national model for youth justice reform and as a model site for the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). Through a range of comprehensive and systemic reforms, most notably JDAI, New Jersey has significantly reduced the population of young people entering the youth justice system. To celebrate 20 years of JDAI in New Jersey and collaborate on a path forward, the JJC hosted the Youth Justice Conference, which convened more than 300 attendees to explore a shared vision for a transformed youth justice system that builds on two decades of successful reform work.
- Under the JJC's leadership, and together with system partners, Restorative and Transformative Justice Hubs in Camden, Newark, Paterson, and Trenton opened in 2024, marking the official launch of the Restorative and Transformative Justice for Youth and Communities Pilot Program. Created by law under the leadership of the late Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver, this initiative demonstrates a commitment to preventing youth from entering the justice system unnecessarily and supporting young people being released from a JJC facility, all while promoting safe and restorative reforms.
- In 2024, a student made JJC history as the first youth to ever graduate college while in the agency's care. This student, who graduated with honors, spent the last two years working towards his associate's degree in liberal arts through the Associate Degree Pathway Program, a collaboration between the JJC and Middlesex College's Center for Justice-Impacted Students. His accomplishment has paved a pathway for other JJC residents and demonstrates the JJC's investments in education and career programs for youth. Through joint programs with educational institutions, the JJC made 41 academic courses and 16 certificate programs available to youth in 2024.
- The JJC championed an effort that registered over 160 eligible residents to vote in 2024 as a critical step toward rehabilitation. The JJC's Voting Work Group developed materials for civic education to assist new voters in understanding the voting process and the significance of voting as an American citizen.
- The JJC worked with the New York Peace Institute to implement a Restorative Community of Practice by training JJC custody and civilian staff to utilize community-building circles as a regular part of program operations. Over 170 staff across all JJC facilities and programs were trained in restorative practice community-building, vital to rehabilitation and personal growth. By implementing this healing approach, the JJC promotes mutual respect and accountability, reduces conflict, and helps youth feel heard and valued.



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

2024 Highlights

- As part of its mission to ensure the integrity of the sport of racing and to promote the health and safety of its equine and human participants in 2024, the NJRC acted on numerous decisions issued by the Office of Administrative Law and reached settlements in several cases that imposed penalties for drug positives, whipping violations, misconduct in connection with an unlicensed facility, and misconduct in connection with possession of drugs and drug paraphernalia.
- In March, the NJRC entered into a Voluntary Implementation Agreement with the Horseracing Safety and Integrity Authority (HISA), which provides for pre-race examinations of thoroughbred horses, safety audits of track surfaces, and other services to be performed by veterinarians and stewards from the NJRC. The NJRC also entered into a Letter Agreement with the Horseracing Integrity and Welfare Unit related to HISA's anti-doping and medication control program.
- As part of a proactive effort to support fair labor practices among racetrack workers, the NJRC and the Backstretch Community Assistance Program coordinated with the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights, New Jersey Department of Labor, and U.S. Department of Labor to provide important information and resources.
- In late 2024, the NJRC granted a joint petition, or vendor licenses and related approvals for NYRabets, LLC and the United Tote Company. The approvals allow for an expansion of the New Jersey account wagering system.

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.

2024 Highlights

- The SACB regulated a professional MMA event, the UFC's 302nd event, held on June 1, 2024, which was the highest-grossing event for any sporting event ever held at the Prudential Center in Newark, totaling \$7,255,040. There were 17,834 tickets sold, which was a sellout.
- In 2024, the SACB updated its existing Legalized Sports Betting Policy to ensure fairness and integrity. The new policy prohibits licensed officials (e.g. referees, judges) from placing a legal wager on any combative sports event. The policy also prohibits non-official licensees (e.g. promoters, managers) from placing legal wagers on events in New Jersey if they have a role in the event.
- Attorney General Platkin approved grant funding in the amount of \$65,000 each for three New Jersey amateur boxing programs serving eligible at-risk youth participants in Atlantic City, Trenton, and Paterson. The Atlantic City Youth Program was granted its third year of funding in 2024 and the Trenton Youth Program was granted its second year of funding. The Paterson Youth Program initiated its boxing program in October 2024 to include two area youth boxing facilities. Aside from practicing their boxing skills training and competing in competitions, youths aged 11-18 years participate in educational workshops, field trips, and mentoring group sessions that focus on life skills, training, and career development.



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, including substance use treatment, mental health services, and community support services, when appropriate. 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) and law-enforcement resiliency, coordinates the State’s Extreme Risk Protection Order policies, and supervises a newly created bureau overseeing prosecutorial diversion programming.

2024 Highlights

- In 2024, Attorney General Platkin announced a groundbreaking step forward in addressing how New Jersey’s law enforcement agencies respond to mental health and addiction crises by issuing a directive to formally establish the Office of Alternative and Community Responses (OACR).
- With the implementation of the ARRIVE Together program, New Jersey has become the first state in the country to have a statewide law enforcement and mental health alternative response program. It ensures that residents who contact or are in contact with law enforcement and are experiencing behavioral health emergencies have access to mental health treatment and support services. Since launching in December 2021, ARRIVE Together has expanded to all 21 counties and evolved into multiple different models, including telehealth, follow-up, and close follow-up. In 2024, an additional model was announced—the Critical Incident Model—to ensure that a mental health professional is available to respond to all incidents involving a barricaded individual or hostage situation as required by the Attorney General’s Directive Revising the Statewide Use of Force Policy.
- In recognition of National Substance Use Awareness Month, Attorney General Platkin arranged for all LPS employees to have the opportunity to be trained on “Naloxone Administration and Substance Use Disorder Stigma” during the month of October, either through live training sessions or at the LPS Health and Wellness Fair. More than 800 employees were trained in-person. Additionally, a virtual training has been established and is now available to more than 8,000 LPS employees with a goal of providing this lifesaving resource to as many people as possible.

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, county prosecutors, and other government lawyers. AGAI runs litigation skills courses and lecture programs and is an accredited New Jersey and Pennsylvania continuing legal education provider.

2024 Highlights

- The AGAI conducted 146 lecture and skills programs in 2024, educating 15,182 attendees with a focus on its core constituencies of Assistant and Deputy Attorneys General and County Prosecutors and Assistant Prosecutors. This is the second consecutive year that the AGAI served over 15,000 attendees.
- The AGAI partnered with the New Jersey First Assistant Prosecutors Association to facilitate and accredit specialized programs for Assistant County Prosecutors and Division of Criminal Justice Deputy Attorneys General. The series included courses on Crimes against the Elderly, Daniel's Law, Witness Identification Procedures, Investigating School Incidents, Restorative Justice, Resiliency for Prosecutors, and Expungements. Other programs addressing timely and pertinent issues for prosecutors included Money Laundering, Evidence Rules for Criminal Litigators, OPRA for Prosecutors, Communications with Represented Persons, and the annual Appellate Symposium.
- The AGAI partnered with the Division of Law's Litigation Practice Group to facilitate and accredit programs to sharpen deputies' litigation skills. Topics included Federal Court Practice, Preparing for Settlement Conferences and Mediations, Propounding and Responding to Written Discovery, Responding to Complaints, Motion Practice, Litigating Cases with Pro Se Litigants, and Civil Jury Trial Preparation.
- The AGAI provided 33 ethics programs, covering a wide range of topics and conferring 54 ethics credits. Seventeen programs were accredited in the Diversity, Inclusion and Elimination of Bias category and four focused on attorney wellness.

Office of Justice Data



Kristin Golden, Ph.D., *Chief Data Officer*

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

2024 Highlights

- OJD promotes 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: Permit 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), in addition to maintaining its other recurring public data products, such as 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) and Justice Data (www.njoag.gov/justicedata).
- Focusing primarily on law-enforcement-related data, OJD has streamlined processes to facilitate analysis of data, revising data collection practices, standardizing data, and improving the user experience. In November 2024, OJD launched the Law Enforcement Reporting Portal, a one-stop shop where law enforcement can submit and view all of their reporting requirements.
- OJD supports other Divisions in collecting and analyzing data to assist 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 data both collected by LPS and obtained from public sources. OJD also offered a Continuing Legal Education course in working with data for attorneys.

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.



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Left: Attorney General Platkin joins State Senator Andrew Zwicker and others to discuss post-election issues.

Right: Attorney General Platkin stands with law enforcement after a press conference announcing a lawsuit against Glock Inc.

Below: Students from Queen City Mentoring Academy visit the Hughes Justice Complex.





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AG Platkin speaks to advocates for labor and immigrants in Jersey City.

