

STATE OF NEW JERSEY PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION

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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Commissioners

- FROM: Robert E. Anderson General Counsel
- SUBJECT: Monthly Report on Developments in the Counsel's Office Since November 21, 2006

Commission Cases

An appeal has been filed in <u>Somerset Cty. Sheriff's Office and Somerset Cty. Sheriff's</u> <u>FOP Lodge No. 39</u>, P.E.R.C. No. 2007-33, <u>NJPER</u> (¶____2006). The Commission affirmed an interest arbitration award. The Sheriff's office is seeking a stay of the award pending its appeal.

Other Cases

The New Jersey Supreme has denied certification in <u>ATU Local 880 v. NJ Transit Bus</u> <u>Operators, Inc.</u>, 385 <u>N.J. Super</u>. 298 (App. Div. 2006), certif. den. 188 <u>N.J.</u> 352 (2006). The Appellate Division held that an employer could deduct state and federal withholding taxes from back pay obligations ordered by grievance arbitration awards.

In <u>Garzella v. Borough of Dunmore</u>, <u>F.Supp</u>.2d (M.D. PA 2006), 37 <u>Pennsylvania</u> <u>Public Employee Reporter (PPER)</u> 388 (¶116 2006), the Court held that the impartial chairperson of an interest arbitration panel could not be compelled to testify in a police officer's suit against

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his union and his employer. The Court held that the arbitrator was entitled to judicial immunity and that there was no distinction between a grievance arbitrator and an interest arbitrator for immunity purposes.

REA:aat