

New Jersey State Commission of Investigation



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Immediate Release

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SCI GOVERNING BOARD STRENGTHENED WITH PROMINENT APPOINTMENTS

TRENTON – John A. Hoffman, Chairman of the Board of Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A., became the newest member of the State Commission of Investigation on Wednesday, after being sworn in to begin a four-year appointment as Commissioner.

During a brief ceremony at the SCI offices, Robert J. Burzichelli, a member of the Commission since 2014, was also sworn in to begin his second full term as SCI Commissioner. The two other members of the Commission, an independent watchdog agency that investigates organized crime, government waste and corruption, are Chairman Joseph F. Scancarella and Rosemary T. Iannacone.

“John Hoffman brings a wealth of experience and institutional knowledge about New Jersey, and we expect he will be instrumental in helping us continue to fulfill our statutory mission as the State’s premiere independent government watchdog agency,” said Chairman Scancarella. “Taken together with Commissioner Burzichelli and his reappointment, we now have a full complement of skilled members to take our important work to a new level.”

Under the SCI’s unique enabling statute, the Governor appoints two Commission members and designates the Chairman. The President of the State Senate and the Speaker of the General Assembly each appoint one member.

Mr. Hoffman, who was appointed to serve as a member of the Commission by General Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin, has practiced law at the Wilentz firm for more than 50 years. He is completing the term vacated by Frank M. Leanza, who resigned from the Commission in August to become the general counsel to the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority.

A graduate of Seattle University, Mr. Hoffman earned his law degree from Georgetown University Law Center. He specializes in administrative law and government law, energy law and in legal matters impacting redevelopment.

Over the years, Mr. Hoffman has represented numerous public agencies, including Middlesex County College, the New Brunswick Housing Authority, the Middlesex County Utilities Authority and the Middlesex County Improvement Authority, where he has provided legal counsel on numerous matters, including the acquisition of open space and on major redevelopment projects. Further, Mr. Hoffman has

represented many major public utilities in regulatory proceedings, and served as the co-chair of the Board of Public Utilities Transition Committee for former Gov. James E. McGreevey. In 2017, Mr. Hoffman was appointed by Governor Chris Christie to serve as a commissioner on the New Jersey Racing Commission, a post he relinquished in order to devote time to his new assignment at the SCI.

Mr. Burzichelli, who was first appointed to the Commission in 2014 by Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney to complete an unexpired term, was re-appointed for a second four-year term beginning January 2019. A founding partner of the New York law firm Greenberg Burzichelli Greenberg P.C., Mr. Burzichelli specializes in employment and labor law where he represents a broad spectrum of labor unions. Mr. Burzichelli received his bachelor's degree from Rutgers College, a Masters Degree in Public Administration from New York University and law degree from Rutgers School of Law in Newark.



The State Commission of Investigation is an independent New Jersey watchdog agency established in 1968 to investigate organized crime and corruption, waste of tax money and other abuses of the public trust. Copies of public reports are available at the Commission's offices or via its Web site at www.state.nj.us/sci/index.shtm