



## NJSBA celebrates women leaders in the law

The 2023 Women's Leadership Conference brought together a slate of prominent judges, attorneys and bar leaders for inspired discussion at the New Jersey Law Center on Feb. 20. The event covered what it means to be a leader and how women attorneys can obtain those skills to serve themselves, their clients, their practice and their communities. Photos by Amanda Brown



## Senate Judiciary Committee gives nod to four new judges, several reappointments

The Senate Judiciary Committee approved the nominations of four new judges last week, making a small dent in the widening gap of judicial vacancies. The New Jersey State Bar Association has repeatedly called upon the Governor and the Legislature to address this growing concern, which triggered the suspension of civil and divorce trials in six counties by the Supreme Court.

"A justice system this devoid of judges simply cannot serve the state's residents, who rely on the courts to adjudicate cases and bestow justice equally, impartially and in a timely manner," said NJSBA President Jeralyn L. Lawrence in a statement following the Supreme Court's recent announcement.

Two of the nominees come from Union County, one from Ocean County and one from Hudson County. In addition to the new nominees, eight

judges were renominated to the Superior Court. Vacancies remain at 69, with over 20 more judges to retire in June.

### Bill to cap economic damages met with criticism in committee

Senate bill 3343 (Sacco), which would limit noneconomic damages in

NJSBA opposed the bill, saying it bars the full and fair recovery for victims of malpractice.

"The bill has the potential to block a very important avenue for victims of medical malpractice to seek redress for—in some cases—significant and catastrophic damages suffered as a

result of this malpractice," said the NJSBA in a written statement to the Senate Judiciary Committee. "It also disincentivizes practitioners from taking on these costly, complex matters because it would restrict the amount of recovery for costs spent litigating the matter that are unavoidable and

are borne by the very people who are called upon to advocate for these victims of medical malpractice." In urging legislators to vote no on the bill, the NJSBA argued the measure will have a devastating impact on patients who seek redress for their injuries by making it nearly impossible for victims of medical malpractice to fully realize the full and fair compensation for their injuries.

The bill was held by the Committee. The NJSBA will continue to monitor it.



## CAPITOL REPORT

medical malpractice cases and reduce contingency fees for attorneys to protect New Jersey patients and the well-being of New Jersey doctors, met opposition at a hearing last week.

A number of stakeholders testified against the bill before the Senate Judiciary Committee last week. The

result of this malpractice," said the NJSBA in a written statement to the Senate Judiciary Committee. "It also disincentivizes practitioners from taking on these costly, complex matters because it would restrict the amount of recovery for costs spent litigating the matter that are unavoidable and

*This is a status report provided by the New Jersey State Bar Association on recently passed and pending legislation, regulations, gubernatorial nominations and/or appointments of interest to lawyers, as well as the involvement of the NJSBA as amicus in appellate court matters. To learn more, visit njsba.com.*



**NJSBA**

# ANNUAL MEETING

## AND CONVENTION

**May 17–19, 2023**

**Borgata Hotel, Casino & Spa  
Atlantic City**

**Presented by the New Jersey State Bar  
Association and the New Jersey Institute  
for Continuing Legal Education**

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in the premier annual event of  
the New Jersey legal community.**

**Choose from 90 seminars and earn up to 16 CLE credits**

...including ethics, diversity, equity and inclusion credits and certified civil trial credits. The three-day gathering will offer outstanding special events and networking opportunities.

Programming is slated to begin Wednesday, May 17, and continue through Friday, May 19, including the State of the Judiciary addresses that morning. Educational programming will cover a wide range of issues in practice areas and include bench-bar conferences with programs and speakers being added daily.

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