



NJSBA installs new president, slate of officers

Timothy F. McGoughran took the oath of office Thursday as president of the New Jersey State Bar Association (NJSBA) for the 2023–2024 term, assuming leadership over the state’s largest organization of legal professionals.

New Jersey Supreme Court Chief Justice Stuart Rabner swore in McGoughran at the NJSBA’s Annual Meeting and Convention in Atlantic City. A host of McGoughran’s friends, family and colleagues—along with the NJSBA’s Executive Committee and Board of Trustees—were on hand to watch the Ocean Township family law attorney become the 125th president to lead the Association.

In a speech at the Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa, McGoughran said he plans to focus his term on going back to basics to help members, by boosting membership, promoting member benefits and furthering the Association’s advocacy on issues that matter to everyone in the profession like the state’s judicial vacancy crisis and attorney wellness.

“I thought after the last few chaotic years it might be nice to get back to our basic mission—to serve, protect, foster and promote the personal and professional interests of our members. That’s the first line of our mission statement and the first line of my mission statement for the upcoming year. We can’t solve the world’s problems if we can’t make life a little easier for our members,” McGoughran said.

For the year, McGoughran’s keynote

project is a new committee to create uniformity in mental health diversionary programs in the state. While serving as a municipal court judge, he saw firsthand how substance abuse and mental health issues are among the primary drivers of crime for lower-level criminals. The committee will bring together prosecutors, mental health professionals and the judiciary

help,” McGoughran said.

McGoughran is the founding member of the Law Office of Timothy F. McGoughran, a family law firm he manages in Ocean Township with his wife, Allison. He provides counsel on all aspects of family law, from divorce proceedings, alimony and child custody to asset protection and domestic violence cases. McGoughran is also a

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to brainstorm how to put mental health diversionary programs in every courthouse.

McGoughran said he also plans to continue the NJSBA’s advocacy on reducing the statute of limitations in professional malpractice cases to two years, implementing the recommendations of the Putting Lawyers First Task Force and ending the *Madden* system of assigned counsel.

“There is a lot to do and so little time, but our team is up to the task, and we promise to work hard and try to make you proud. My door is always open, and I ask that if you have any concerns, I am here to listen and try to

former municipal court judge in Monmouth County.

In addition to McGoughran’s installation, other members of the Executive Committee moved up the succession ladder and were sworn in by Chief Justice Rabner. Each officer holds the position for one year.

- William H. Mergner Jr. became president-elect. He practices civil litigation in Cedar Knolls.
- Christine A. Amalfe became first vice president. She is a labor and employment law attorney in Newark.
- Norberto A. Garcia became second vice president. He specializes in

medical malpractice law in Jersey City.

- G. Glennon Troublefield became treasurer. He specializes civil litigation and intellectual property in Roseland.
- Diana C. Manning joined the Executive Committee as secretary. She practices complex commercial litigation in Florham Park.
- Jeralyn L. Lawrence, a family law attorney based in Watchung, began a term as immediate past president of the Association.

Under Lawrence’s leadership over the past year, the NJSBA put attorney wellness and quality of life in the legal profession at the forefront of its mission. Lawrence formed the Putting Lawyers First Task Force, a collective of more than 50 attorneys who produced a wide-ranging report on the decline of mental health and wellness among New Jersey’s legal practitioners, the primary drivers of stress for attorneys and an action plan to improve well-being.

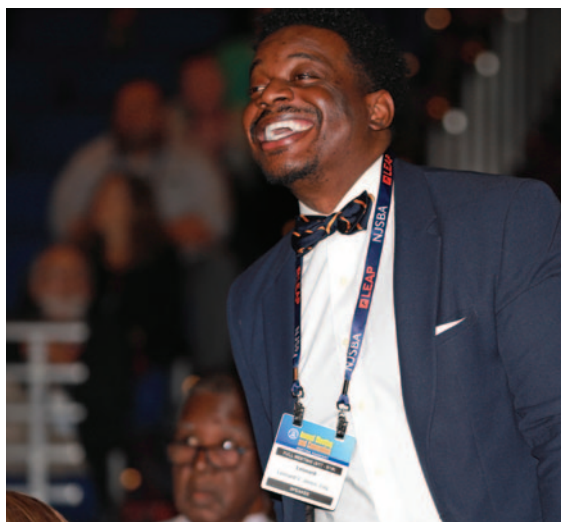
“I know that I will reflect on the whirlwind of these months as president in the years ahead with a sense of pride, gratitude and honor. I am grateful to my colleagues for their love and support,” Lawrence said. “Congratulations to my dear friend Timothy McGoughran, who will begin what I know will be a successful term as president. I am excited to see what more this Association can do for lawyers, the clients we serve and the public.” ■

Thousands return to Atlantic City for NJSBA's Annual Meeting and Convention

Judges, lawyers, law clerks and law students from across the state attended the three-day educational and networking event, held at the Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa from May 17–19.

Visit the NJSBA's blog at njsba.com to read more coverage from the Annual Meeting and Convention.

Photos by Amanda Brown and Jim Beckner



Retired jurists honored by NJSBA at Annual Meeting and Convention

The New Jersey State Bar Association recognized two retired jurists at its Annual Meeting and Convention—U.S. District Court of New Jersey Chief Judge Freda L. Wolfson and state Supreme Court Justice Barry T. Albin—who leave behind legacies of distinguished public service.

Chief Judge Wolfson earned a reputation for exhibiting the utmost professionalism throughout her stellar career, as leader for women in the profession of law and the embodiment of a true legal scholar. As chief judge of New Jersey's District Court, she

helped navigate heavy caseloads, a long-running judicial shortage and the COVID-19 pandemic, keeping the courthouse open and safe and addressing judicial security issues.

In addition to Judge Wolfson's thousands of opinions on issues ranging from securities litigation, civil rights and the constitutionality of federal and states statutes, she presided over civil and criminal trials and was appointed to handle several multidistrict litigation matters, including litigation over claims of cancer-causing baby powder products that contained

asbestos in the talc.

Judge Wolfson served for 36 years as judge in the U.S. District Court and as chief judge from 2019 until her retirement in 2023.

Justice Albin has left a lasting impact on the state's legal landscape, improving the lives of New Jersey residents, businesses and organizations with his commitment to the fair administration of justice. He remains a strong voice for the independence of the Judiciary, speaking publicly and openly about the importance of the sanctity of the Supreme Court.

In his two decades of service as Supreme Court justice, Justice Albin authored over 400 opinions, which analyzed the law of employment discrimination, products liability, affordable housing and whether to grant parole to an inmate serving over 40 years in prison. He has been lauded as much for his compassion and fairness in his opinions and his wit and levity that transcended legal discourse.

Justice Albin served on the Supreme Court from 2002 until his retirement in 2022. ■