

# THE NJSBA DOCKET



February 9, 2024



## Hello friends,

The New Jersey State Bar Association is happy to introduce *The Docket*, a new bulletin with news from the legal community and Association highlights. Look out for this update twice a month as we strive to be an information and resource hub for our members.

It's only February and already the NJSBA had much to celebrate. Dozens of Association members earned Amicus and Legislative awards for representing the NJSBA's interests in the Legislature and before the Supreme Court; we hosted the 2024 NJSBA Diversity Summit on issues of equity, inclusion and accessibility in the legal profession; and, the Family Law Symposium returned to the Hyatt in New Brunswick, where hundreds of family law attorneys, judges, paralegals and other professionals convened for New Jersey's premier family law event.

Be sure to check out the [calendar](#) for our lineup of educational offerings and networking opportunities. Here's a primer of what we have in store for February, along with the latest [court](#) notices and [opinions](#) from the Judiciary and more.



## Court Updates

- [Preliminary guidelines](#) for how attorneys can navigate their ethical responsibilities to clients with the emergence of **AI technology**. The Judiciary also released a [Statement of Principles](#) regarding the integration of AI technologies in New Jersey courts.
- Attorneys and the public now have [online access](#) to the Judiciary's roster of **approved parenting coordinators**.
- **Certified Attorneys** whose certification terms are expiring in the year 2024 must file an [application for recertification](#) by March 11.
- Attorneys in **family law dissolution matters** will have access to the election file through the Judiciary.



## Supreme Court Opinions

- [AC Ocean Walk, LLC v. American Guarantee and Liability Insurance Company](#) (087304) (Atlantic County and Statewide)—Insurance Law
- [State v. William Hill](#) (Hudson County and Statewide)—Criminal Law
- [State v. Curtis L. Gartrell](#) (Essex County and Statewide)—Criminal Law
- [State v. Calvin Fair](#) (Monmouth County and Statewide)—Criminal Law
- [William DeSimone v. Springpoint Senior Living, Inc](#) (Middlesex County and Statewide)—Civil Law/Consumer Fraud
- [State v. Brandon M. Washington](#) (Burlington County and Statewide)—Criminal Law



## Presidents Day mental health and wellness session with women in the law

A [special NJICLE program](#) on Feb. 19 will turn the spotlight on prominent women in the law and their experiences with overcoming personal hardship while balancing their careers. A star-studded panel of women—including state Supreme Court Justice Rachel Wainer Apter, U.S. District Court Judges Evelyn Padin and Esther Salas, a host of Superior Court judges and partners at major firms—will share their insights on resilience and strength.



## Appellate Rulings

- [In the Matter of Registrant J.R.](#) (ML-0222, Middlesex County and Statewide)—Criminal Law/Megan's Law
- [Shelly Pritchett vs. State of New Jersey](#) (L-2189-13, Mercer County and Statewide)—Civil Law/Discrimination
- [In the Matter of the Appointment of the Council on Affordable Housing](#) by Governor Philip Murphy (New Jersey Council on Affordable Housing—Municipal Law/Affordable Housing
- [Paul Roik vs. Anita Roik](#) (FM-13-0156-21, Monmouth County and Statewide)—Family Law
- [Allure Pet Products, LLC vs. Donnelly Marketing & Development LLC, et al.](#) (L-1281-21, Morris County and Statewide)—Civil Law
- [Funtown Pier Amusements, Inc. vs. Biscayne Ice Cream and Asundries, Inc., et al.](#) (L-2438-15, Ocean County and Statewide) (Consolidated)—Civil/Public Utility Law



## Solo and Small-Firm Conference returns on Feb. 24

Don't miss the [must-attend conference](#) for solo and small-firms attorneys to connect, learn and thrive. This year, attendees can choose programs in one of three tracks—**Hanging Your Shingle, Honing Your Skills or Scale and Grow**—with basic, intermediate and advanced topics that will meet your needs. Each track will feature advice from experts and peers about running an effective, efficient and sustainable practice.



## Legislative Update

- [S2991 \(Singleton\)/A2351 \(Mukherji\)](#)—Allows equitable distribution in divorce proceedings where one of the parties dies prior to final judgement
- [A5235 \(Lampitt\)/S3627 \(Vitale\)](#)—Revises health insurance coverage requirements for treatment of infertility
- [A3837 \(Jaffer\)/S2459 \(Ruiz\)](#)—Requires state government entities to provide vital documents and translation services in the 15 most common non-English languages
- [A4723 \(McKeon\)/S2740 \(Codey\)](#)—Requires motor vehicle dealers to offer to delete personal information from the motor vehicle's computer system in certain situations
- [A4292 \(Carter\)/S2841 \(Scutari\)](#)—Raises the minimum amount of liability coverage for commercial motor vehicles and autocabs



## Black History Month

All are welcome to attend the [2024 Black History Month Celebration](#) on Feb. 22 for a night commemorating the rich history and culture of Black Americans and their presence in the law.

The event will feature a keynote address, musical performances and the presentation of scholarships to this year's Black History Month essay contest winners, who will share excerpts from their winning essays on the issue of racial segregation in schools. Members are also invited to share stories of their personal journeys, achievements or a reflection to celebrate the rich diversity of our legal community. You can submit your story [here](#).



## The Member Assistance Program is here to help

For any member in need of mental health and wellness support, the NJSBA's [Member Assistance Program](#) (MAP) is on call 24-hours a day to connect you with a counselor or library of wellness resources. In the last six months alone, the service has received nearly 1,500 phone calls from members and their dependents for issues ranging from anxiety and depression to substance. The practice of law is a demanding profession that can weigh heavily on your mental health and well-being. It's never too early or too late to seek help. Tune into a [free lunchtime webinar](#) hosted by MAP on Feb. 29 about maintaining healthy family and work relationships.