

THE NJSBA DOCKET



March 22, 2024

Hello friends,

Welcome to the latest issue of *The NJSBA Docket*, a bi-monthly bulletin with news from the legal community and Association highlights.

Be sure to check out the [calendar](#) for our lineup of educational offerings and networking opportunities. Check out the [2024 Annual Meeting and Convention](#) information. Here's a primer of what we have in store for the coming weeks and the latest court notices from the Judiciary:



Supreme and Appellate Opinions

[Players Place II Condominium Association, Inc., v. K.P.](#) (emotional support animal, Law Against Discrimination)

[State v. Robert A. Baker](#) (Vehicle search following a traffic stop, Cumberland County)

[Jersey City United Against the New Ward Map, et al v. Jersey City Ward Commission et al](#) (election ward map, Hudson County)

[Caroline J. Francavilla v. Absolute Resolutions VI, LLC](#) (class action dismissed under entire controversy doctrine, Essex County)

[Big Smoke LLC v. Township of West Milford et al](#) (cannabis, municipal denial of applicant's Resolution of Support, Passaic County)

News and Notices from the Courts

The Advisory Committee on Professional Ethics and the attorney ethics research assistance hotline have received inquiries about out-of-state lawyers seeking payment of referral fees from New Jersey certified attorneys. [Here is a new opinion.](#)

The ACPE has [another new opinion](#) about lawyers who are pro se in legal matters.

Here are [Judicial Council procedures](#) for certificates to suspend certain employment or occupational disabilities related to criminal convictions.

The U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey [announced Magistrate Judge Andrea Dechenne Bergman](#) has been selected as a part-time magistrate judge.

The Judiciary reminded attorneys and the public that the [use of screen-scraping or bulk data transmission](#) scripts violates the Judiciary's systems access user agreements. Violations will mean people are not allowed to use the Judiciary's system.

Retired attorneys can [volunteer in the ethics system](#) without jeopardizing their status. Volunteers are needed throughout the system. [Here's an application.](#)

JBARNJ JEWISH BAR ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY
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Jewish Bar Association of New Jersey Announced

The Jewish Bar Association of New Jersey (JBAR) has launched. The association said in a press release it is "dedicated to providing continuing legal education, mentorship, support to Jewish law students, advocacy, networking, resources, and profile-raising initiatives that promote both its young attorneys and established leaders of the bar." For additional information, contact Susan Wernick, Executive Director, Public Affairs at 862-212-2067.

Judicial Vacancy Rates Down to 2019 Rates

A dozen new judges were appointed earlier this week, dropping judicial vacancies to rates not seen since 2019. The NJSBA has been a vocal advocate for the Senate and Governor to address the vacancy crisis. "The New Jersey State Bar Association congratulates the Governor and Senate for taking significant steps in appointing judges to address the vacancy crisis that has faced our courts for too long," said NJSBA President Timothy F. McGoughran. "Reducing vacancies to a rate not seen since 2019 will help ensure the residents and businesses that live and operate in this great state can have their matters addressed without unnecessary delay. This is a good day for our justice system and the people of New Jersey." [Read the announcement here.](#)

Legal Services of New Jersey Hosting Job Fair April 4

The NJSBA is co-sponsoring a Job Fair hosted by Legal Services of New Jersey on April 4 from 3-6 p.m. LSNJ is looking for attorneys, paralegals, assistants, and more for positions throughout the statewide system of Legal Services organizations. Registration is required. To register, please email Patti Koncius or Kat Medina at pkoncius@lsnj.org or kmedina@lsnj.org. The job fair will be held at the First Floor Conference Center of 100 Metroplex Drive in Edison.

NATIONAL ARAB AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

New National Bar Association Founded

The National Arab American Bar Association (NAABA) was recently established and includes New Jersey attorneys in its leadership. It is a "non-partisan, non-religious professional organization that seeks to foster connections among Arab American lawyers, judges and law students," according to a recent release. It will hold an organizational event in April. Learn more at arabambar.org.



Register Today for 2024 Annual Meeting and Convention

Early-bird pricing is only available for a few more days. [Register today.](#)

Whether you are a law student just starting out, a mid-career professional looking to reinvigorate your practice, or an experienced practitioner, the NJSBA has something for you. Join a powerful network of 16,000 legal professionals today. [Learn more here.](#)