

THE NJSBA DOCKET



April 19, 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, including [2024 Annual Meeting and Convention](#) information. Here's a primer of what we have in store for the coming weeks, as well as the latest court notices from the Judiciary:



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Supreme Court and Appellate Decisions

[American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey v. County Prosecutors Association of New Jersey](#)—Whether the County Prosecutors Association of New Jersey is a public agency required to disclose records pursuant to OPRA—Essex County

[Comprehensive Neurosurgical, P.C. et al. v. The Valley Hospital](#)—The Valley Hospital's challenge to a \$24,300,000 jury verdict awarded to 11 neurosurgeons for breaching good faith and fair dealing practices—Bergen County

[State of New Jersey vs. Shannon McGuigan](#)—Whether the trial court erred in admitting a statement by the defendant to police and partially barring testimony of defendant's expert witness—Burlington County

[State of New Jersey vs. J.H.P.](#)—An interlocutory appeal of a pretrial order compelling the administration of psychotropic medication in an attempt to restore competency—Somerset County

[Britney Motil vs. Wausau Underwriters Insurance Company](#)—Automobile insurance coverage dispute for \$100,000—Gloucester County

News and Notices From the Courts

The state Supreme Court [adopted the term](#) "Special Adjudicator" to replace "Special Master." In attorney disciplinary proceedings, the term "Special Ethics Adjudicator" will now replace "Special Ethics Master."

To support attorneys who assist people seeking expungements, the Supreme Court announced [expungement procedures](#) that allow attorneys to appear, substitute or withdraw as counsel in expungement matters with the consent of the parties both without leave of court and the payment of fees.

The Judiciary revised and updated three [domestic violence brochures](#) that explain the entire domestic violence court process for both the plaintiff and the defendant.

Defendants can now [apply for Madden pro bono counsel](#) through a statewide form.



NJSBA President Speaks at Panel on Mental Illness in the Legal System

NJSBA President Timothy F. McGoughran joined a [panel at Stockton University](#) on the impact of mental illness on the courts and criminal justice system. McGoughran spoke about stress in the practice of law and how the NJSBA is improving attorney well-being through its [Member Assistance Program](#), a 24-hour service that connects members and their families to counselors and a library of wellness resources. State Supreme Court Justice Lee A. Solomon moderated the panel.



AOC Director Updates the State Legislature on Proposed Budget

Acting Administrative Director of the Courts Judge Glenn A. Grant recently appeared before the [Assembly Budget Committee](#) and [Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee](#) on the state of judicial vacancies, criminal justice reform, recovery courts and other matters facing the Judiciary, including the proposed fiscal year budget.



Join an NJSBA Committee to Connect with Members and Expand Your Practice

NJSBA President-Elect William H. Mergner Jr. invites members to [seek appointment](#) to the Association's committees for the coming term, beginning in May. The NJSBA has dozens of committees on a wide variety of practice areas that offer a chance for members to expand their network and reputation.



Register for the NJSBA Annual Meeting and Convention

Don't miss the NJSBA's Annual Meeting and Convention on May 15–17. Now is the time to secure your spot at the largest annual event of the New Jersey legal community and take advantage of top-notch educational programming at the Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa. Learn more and [register here.](#)

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.](#)