

THE NJSBA DOCKET



May 9, 2025

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. 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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News and Notices from the Courts

- The Judiciary announced that all [Penns Grove Municipal Court operations](#) will be handled by the Township of Carneys Point due to a lack of court administrative staff.
- The Judiciary will hold an in-person hearing for the 2023-2025 [Supreme Court Committee reports](#) on May 28. The hearing will cover the report from the Criminal Practice Committee, Committee on Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement, Family Practice Committee and Municipal Court Practice Committee.
- Effective June 1, updated [amendments](#) in the Child Support Guidelines will take effect.



Supreme Court and Appellate Decisions

- [State v. John T. Bragg \(Mercer County and Statewide\)](#)—The Supreme Court reserved the defendant's convictions and remanded to the trial court over a plain error not to instruct the jury about the "castle doctrine," a part of the law on self-defense.
- [In the Matter of Protest Filed by El Sol Contracting and Construction Corp. \(Statewide\)](#)—The Court held the New Jersey Turnpike Authority did not act in an arbitrary, capricious and unreasonable manner when it rejected El Sol's legally deficient bid to repair bridges in the Newark Bay area.
- [State of New Jersey vs. C.C.W \(Cape May County and Statewide\)](#)—An appeal involving a novel statutory construction question under the Overdose Prevention Act.
- [J.H. vs. Warren Hills Board of Education \(Warren County and Statewide\)](#)—The Appellate Division held the plain language, intent of the amendment and the legislative history of the Child Sexual Assault Act pointed to a more expansive reading of the statute to include all civil claims, including common law claims, for damages resulting from sexual assault and abuse. The NJSBA participated as an *amicus* party in favor of an expanded reading.
- [State vs. Michael J. Balbosa \(Monmouth County and Statewide\)](#)—The appellate panel affirmed the PCR court's denial of the defendant's ineffective assistance of counsel claims under *Strickland v. Washington*.



Earn 16 CLE credits at the NJSBA Annual Meeting and Convention

NJSBA Annual Meeting and Convention attendees can choose from an array of educational seminars that span the profession, including top-notch programming in criminal, civil and family law practice, the latest in artificial intelligence and programs for newly admitted attorneys. [This year's event](#) is packed with top speakers and special guests.



'Privilege of a Lifetime': NJSBA President William H. Mergner Jr. Reflects on a Year of Service

Outgoing NJSBA President William H. Mergner Jr.'s shared a [farewell message](#) with members, reflecting on his year of leadership over state's largest association of judges, lawyers and legal professionals and welcoming incoming NJSBA President-Elect Christine A. Amalfe.



NJICLE Presents: The What, When, Why, and How to File Interlocutory Appeals

NJICLE will host a distinguished panel of sitting and retired judges, clerks and esteemed practitioners on [May 20](#) for deep dive through the complex territory of filing interlocutory appeals. Attendees will gain a true understanding of when and why it is appropriate to file an interlocutory appeal, the specific instances that demand it and relevant court rules.



New Jersey Commission on Professionalism in the Law Awards Set for June 12

The New Jersey Commission on Professionalism in the Law will present its [annual awards](#) on June 12 to celebrate lawyers who uphold the profession's highest ideals. This year's top award recipients are Theodore Henry Ritter, Former New Jersey Public Defender Joseph E. Krakora and Van W. Lane. Dozens of attorneys representing bar associations across the state will also receive Professional Lawyer of the Year Awards, given to those who are respected by colleagues for their character, competence and exemplary professional behavior.

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.](#)