

THE NJSBA DOCKET



July 18, 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:



The Docket is Available on LinkedIn

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News and Notices from the Courts

- Members of the New Jersey bar are invited to participate in a nationwide [American Bar Association survey](#) aimed at improving mental health and well-being in the legal profession.
- The Judiciary revised questions on guilty plea forms that carry potential immigration consequences. The changes impact forms in [criminal](#), [municipal](#) and [family court](#).
- The state Supreme Court [approved HDMI](#) as the standard for presenting digital media in state court proceedings.
- The Court issued [amendments to arbitration rules and procedures](#) that increase arbitrator compensation, limit arbitration statements, allow a 10-day grace period to file a motion for trial de novo and increase the trial de novo fee. The NJSBA supported many of the adopted amendments to strengthen civil practice for attorneys, clients and arbitrators.
- The New Jersey Office of Administrative Law has published [four notices](#) of proposed regulatory changes dealing with hearing notices, prehearing orders, interpreters and confidential records.



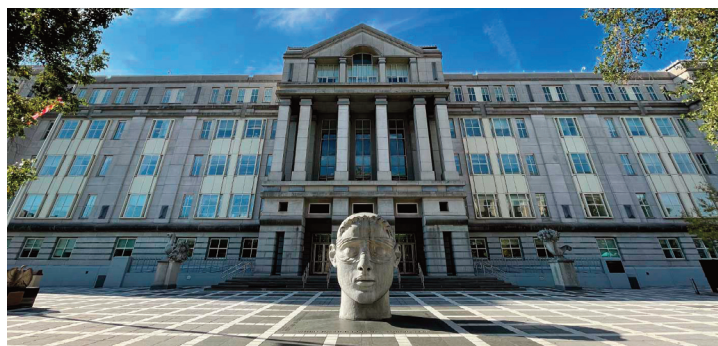
NJSBA Members in Motion

NJSBA members form the core of the state's legal community. Get updates on the latest [career moves](#) among members.



Showcase Your Expertise in New Jersey Lawyer

Writing an article for the NJSBA's flagship magazine is a great way to feature our members' expertise on a topic of law. Check out the [editorial calendar](#) for 2025–2026.



NJICLE Presents: Pre-Trial Orders and Conferences in Federal Court 2025

New Jersey attorneys who appear infrequently in federal court can attend a special [summer NJICLE program](#) on July 23 to brush up on the practice. The program, featuring esteemed practitioners and two federal judges, will provide an overview of pre-trial orders and conferences in federal court.



Supreme Court and Appellate Decisions

- [Englewood Hospital & Medical Center v. The State of New Jersey \(Mercer County and Statewide\)](#)—The Supreme Court found that charity care does not run afoul of the Takings Clause and is not an unconstitutional “per se” physical taking of private property without just compensation.
- [Donald Whiteman v. Township Council of Berkeley Township \(Ocean County and Statewide\)](#)—The Court ruled in favor of South Seaside Park residents who petitioned to deannex their barrier island community from the Township of Berkeley.
- [Gerald Fazio Jr. v. Altice USA \(Bergen County and Statewide\)](#)—The Supreme Court reviewed whether the defendants can rely on evidence of a habit or routine practice to prove that a salesperson emailed the plaintiff a customer service agreement that contained arbitration and optout provisions.
- [Jersey City United Against the New Ward Map v. Jersey City Ward Commission \(Hudson County and Statewide\)](#)—The Court determined that the Jersey City ward map adopted after the 2020 federal census does not violate the City's Municipal Ward Law.
- [Charles Kratovil v. City of New Brunswick \(Middlesex County and Statewide\)](#)—The Court found that a journalist cannot publish the precise home address of an individual protected under Daniel's Law.
- [In re the Matter Concerning the State Grand Jury \(Mercer County and Statewide\)](#)—The Court reviewed the trial court's decision declining to empanel a special grand jury and finding that an “anticipated...presentment concerning clergy abuse within the Catholic Church is not authorized by law.”
- [Lindsay Palmisano vs. State of New Jersey Administrative Office of the Courts, et al. \(Mercer County and Statewide\)](#)—The Appellate Division considered whether the plaintiff, a municipal court administrator, is an employee of the Administrative Office of the Courts, thereby allowing her to assert a claim against the AOC under the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination.
- [In re Registrant S.O., et al. \(Middlesex County and Statewide\)](#)—A case involving the novel issue of whether the “public safety prongs” in the termination provisions of Megan's Law require trial courts to consider all subsequent non-sexual and sexual offenses when determining whether a registrant poses a threat to the safety of others.
- [Debra Gottsleben, et al. vs. Christopher Annese, et al. \(Morris County and Statewide\)](#)—In this slip and fall case, the Appellate Division rejected the plaintiff's attempts to expand the principles of sidewalk liability for commercial properties to a residential property that was unoccupied and undergoing renovations.
- [Michael Hopson vs. Anthony Cirz, et al. \(Ocean County and Statewide\)](#)—The appellate panel reversed the trial court's decision permitting three write-in votes to be counted in the February Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners, District No. 1 election.
- [In the Matter of G.W., etc. \(Bergen County and Statewide\)](#)—A case of first impression on whether a future statutory lien pursuant to N.J.S.A. 30:4D-7.2 (“Medicaid Lien Statute”) has priority over an accrued Division of Developmental Disabilities lien.



Join the NJSBA for Networking and Baseball on Aug. 6

Don't miss your chance to [mix and mingle](#) with fellow NJSBA members as Yankee Double-A Affiliate Somerset Patriots take on the Binghamton Rumble Ponies on Aug. 6 at TD Bank Ballpark in Bridgewater. The \$40 ticket includes admission, a parking pass, access to the Diamond Club Suite, food and soft drinks. Gates open at 5:30 p.m. and the first pitch is at 6:30 p.m.

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.](#)