

# THE NJSBA DOCKET



September 26, 2025

## Hello friends,

Welcome to the latest issue of *The NJSBA Docket*, a 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—September 2025

- As of Sept. 26, New Jersey attorneys in private practice must report their [succession planning](#) status as part of the annual registration process. The NJSBA is a strong advocate for attorney succession planning to protect both the public and law firms, and has worked alongside the Judiciary to encourage this practice on a voluntary basis within New Jersey's legal community and provide comprehensive guidance and resources for attorneys and their designated successors.
- The New Jersey Office of Attorney Ethics released its [annual report](#) summarizing its activity in the last year. The report highlights investigations, disciplinary measures, attorney demographics and other key information.
- The Judiciary announced [amendments](#) to the Non-Dissolution (FD) Financial Statement for Summary Support Actions form. The revisions ensure the exchange of accurate, updated financial information for calculating child support.
- The Morris County Courthouse will be closed to the public from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on [Oct. 9](#) for a planned security exercise.
- The Judiciary issued [three revised packets](#) to guide self-represented tenants seeking post-conviction relief from eviction.
- The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit is accepting submissions for its annual American Democracy [Video Contest](#). High school students are encouraged to submit original-content videos depicting why our democratic institutions and the fundamental rights and principles associated with them are critical to the future of the country. Entries are due by Nov. 3.
- The state Supreme Court will conclude the [transfer](#) of new matrimonial dissolution (FM) cases from the Mercer Vicinage to the Atlantic/Cape May, Burlington and Middlesex Vincinages, effective Oct. 1.



## Supreme Court, Appellate and Third Circuit Decisions—September 2025

### Health Care

[U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit—Bristol Myers Squibb Co v. Secretary United States Department of HHS](#)—Bristol Myers Squibb Company and Janssen Pharmaceuticals Incorporated challenged the Drug Price Negotiation Program on constitutional grounds. They contended that the Program effects an uncompensated taking of their property, compels speech in violation of the First Amendment, and imposes unconstitutional conditions on participation. The District Court determined that these claims fail as a matter of law and entered judgments in favor of the government. The Third Circuit affirmed.

[U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit—Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corp v. Secretary United States Department of Health](#)—Novartis appealed a summary judgment rejecting its constitutional challenge to portions of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. The company contended that the program threatens it with an excessive fine in violation of the Eighth Amendment; takes its property without just compensation in violation of the Fifth Amendment; and compels it to speak in violation of the First Amendment. The Third Circuit affirmed.

### Second Amendment

[U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit—Ronald Koons v. Attorney General New Jersey](#)—The case presented a question of immense public importance: whether it is likely that provisions of New Jersey Public Law 2022, Chapter 131, which impose certain firearms permitting requirements and prohibit the carrying of firearms in certain “sensitive places,” passes constitutional muster. The Third Circuit upheld the law, finding it consistent with the historical regulation of firearms.

### Criminal

[U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit—USA v. Rajeri Curry](#)—In this case, investigators examined the defendant's phone with her consent. She sought to block prosecutors from using incriminating evidence found on it, but the Third Circuit ruled the evidence could not be excluded under *Edwards v. Arizona*.

### Property Law—Fourth, Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments

[U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit—Honda Lease Trust v. Malanga's Automotive](#)—Honda sued after a towing company contracted by the Borough held its leased car for nearly a year without notice. Honda sued Butler and the towing company on due process, Fourth Amendment, and takings grounds. The District Court sided with Butler, but the Third Circuit ruled Butler's policies violated due process, while rejecting the Fourth and Fifth Amendment claims—reversing in part and affirming in part.

### Education

[Leonor Alcantara, et al. vs. Angelica Allen-McMillan, et al. \(New Jersey Department of Education\)](#)—Petitioners appealed from the final administrative decision of the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Education concluding that the School Funding Reform Act, N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-43 to -70, was constitutional as applied to the Lakewood Public School District. On appeal, the Appellate Division concluded there was ample support in the record to conclude that the SFRA is not unconstitutional as it is applied to the Lakewood Public School District, and affirmed.



## Chancery Division Judges and Clerks Reception—Sept. 30

The NJSBA will welcome the state's Chancery Division judges and their law clerks for a [social reception](#) to start the new term. The event is open to both NJSBA members and non-members. Sitting judges and clerks can attend for free.



## NJSBA PracticeHQ Presents—Use Microsoft's Copilot to Keep Your Firm Flying High

The NJSBA will host a free [lunchtime learning webinar](#) on Oct. 1 designed to help Association members gain an edge with Microsoft Copilot, a powerful AI assistant integrated into Microsoft 365. Learn how Copilot can streamline tasks across applications like Word, Excel and Outlook, helping you draft documents, analyze data and manage communications more efficiently.



## NJSBA To Host 29th Annual Tax Court Judges Reception

Join the NJSBA on Oct. 16 as it welcomes the state's Tax Court judges and their law clerks for a [social reception](#) at the New Jersey Law Center. This event is open to NJSBA members and non-members. Sitting Tax Court judges and their clerks can attend for free.



## Celebrating Pro Bono Service—Oct. 22

All are welcome to attend the NJSBA's annual [Pro Bono Awards](#), dedicated to attorneys who show an outstanding commitment to providing legal services to the state's underserved residents. The awards will honor six inspiring individuals, firms and corporate legal departments who have gone above and beyond in their volunteerism.



## Don't Miss the NJSBA's Fall Conference—A Special One-Day Virtual Event

Enjoy a [CLE extravaganza](#) from the comfort of your warm house on Nov. 24, when the NJSBA will present a slate of timely and cutting-edge programs as part of its Fall Conference. The day promises seminars in a variety of practice areas, with speakers at the top of the profession.

## NJSBA CAREERCENTER

## NJSBA Career Center Helps Attorneys Find Their Next Professional Journey—Posting Ads is Free for NJSBA Members

Check out new job openings in the New Jersey legal market through the [NJSBA Career Center](#). NJSBA members have exclusive access to view the latest job listings and can post ads at no cost.



## Top News Stories for September

*Read the most clicked-on articles from the Daily Briefing this month.*

### Inside the Crisis Gripping New Jersey's Federal Courts

[Trials and hearings have been delayed](#) since a judge ruled that Alina Habba was serving unlawfully as U.S. attorney. The uncertainty may last for months.

### More NJ Parents Could Pull Their Children From Lessons They Object To

As New Jersey students are returning to school, some parents are requesting their children be pulled from classes they find objectionable after a [U.S. Supreme Court ruling](#) expanded the rights of parents to opt their children out of certain lessons for religious reasons.

### US Appeals Court Largely Upholds New Jersey Gun Restrictions

A federal appeals court largely upheld a [New Jersey law](#) that broadly restricts carrying guns at a variety of “sensitive places” including parks, hospitals, libraries, museums, beaches, zoos and casinos. A 2-1 panel held that a lower-court judge wrongly concluded that the law violates the right to keep and bear arms under the U.S. Constitution's Second Amendment and could not stand after a landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling that expanded gun rights.

### This NJ Barista Asked for Privacy to Pump. What Starbucks Offered Sparked an Investigation

New Jersey's top law enforcement officials have found probable cause that [Starbucks violated](#) state anti-discrimination laws by failing to accommodate a lactating employee.

### State Wants Lawsuit Tossed Over Police Use of 'Rapid DNA' Technology

New Jersey Attorney General Matt Platkin is urging a judge to [dismiss a lawsuit](#) the state public defender's office filed to learn more about how state police use and store genetic evidence analyzed using “rapid DNA” technology.

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.](#)