

THE NJSBA DOCKET



September 30, 2026



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:



The Docket is Available on LinkedIn

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News and Notices from the Courts—September 2026

- 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. 2.
- The state Supreme Court [denied an application](#) to designate New Jersey state court litigation involving independent dispute resolution payment determinations under the federal No Surprises Act as multicounty litigation. The decision followed the Court's consideration of public comments.
- The New Jersey Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection released its 2025 [annual report](#) for public viewing.
- The state Judiciary issued an electronic [New Jersey Bail Recognizance form](#) for use by law enforcement agencies equipped to automate the process and in circumstances governed by Directive #04-22. The directive allowed the release of defendants, except those charged with domestic violence offenses, who are subject to a Municipal Court bench warrant with bail of \$500 or less and are unable to post bail.



Top News Stories for September

Catch up on the top Daily Briefing articles of the month.

Trump Administration Drops Appeal Over \$16B Gateway Tunnel Funding, But the Legal Fight Continues

The Trump administration [dropped its appeal](#) claiming it had the right to strip funding from the Gateway tunnel project, but its larger lawsuit challenging the project is still moving forward. The administration sought to halt the Gateway project after freezing federal funding for it last year. The \$16 billion project includes construction of new rail tunnels beneath the Hudson River.

Payout in \$96.5M Generic-Drug Legal Case May be Coming Your Way

New Jersey residents who bought certain generic drugs—including off-brand versions of Celebrex, Prozac, Coumadin and other commonly prescribed medicines—may be due payments as a result of a \$96.5 million multistate [legal settlement](#) with manufacturers.

Is Big Law Paying Too Much for Star Partners?

Can a law firm partner dramatically increase their value simply by moving to a competitor? [That's a bet](#) many law firms are making these days, as it becomes almost routine for the most profitable firms to pay star recruits \$20 million or more. But the firms making those investments have their own data suggesting the hires don't always pan out.

American Bar Association Ends DEI Standards Under Trump Pressure

The American Bar Association [eliminated a diversity requirement](#) for law schools after facing pressure from the Trump administration. The bar association said that the diversity requirement could jeopardize its role as an accreditor that oversees nearly 200 juris doctorate programs.

Thomson Reuters Court Software Breach May Have Exposed SSNs and Sealed Data

Thomson Reuters disclosed that an [unauthorized party obtained files](#) from C-Track, the court case management platform sold by its West Publishing Corporation unit, in March, affecting courts in 11 U.S. states, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Ontario, Canada.



PracticeHQ Presents: Tame the Inbox Monster—Email Tools and AI to Take Back Control

Join PracticeHQ on Oct. 13 for a [free lunchtime webinar](#) on how to take control of your inbox with practical strategies for getting more out of Outlook, including its latest features and AI-powered Copilot integration. Learn how to better organize emails and attachments, adjust frustrating default settings for email, calendar, contacts and tasks, and discover productivity tools and features that can help streamline your daily workflow.



Volunteers Needed for Union City Law Day

The NJSBA seeks volunteers to take part in [Union City Law Day](#) on Oct. 5 to provide brief consultations for Union City residents on a variety of topics, including immigration, guardianship and criminal expungements. Bilingual attorneys are especially encouraged to volunteer, however, interpreters will be available for attorneys who are not bilingual.



Raise a Glass with Young Attorneys at Oct. 28 Wine Mixer

Join the [Young Lawyers Division](#) at Hopewell Valley Vineyards in Pennington for a curated selection of exquisite wines and delicious appetizers in a relaxed, elegant setting. This is the perfect opportunity to expand your professional network, meet fellow young lawyers and unwind after a busy week.



Supreme Court, Appellate and Third Circuit Decisions—September 2026

(U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit)

First Amendment—Telemedicine

[Shannon MacDonald v. President NJ State Board of Medical Examiners](#)

Constitutional Law—Second Amendment

[National Shooting Sports Foundation v. Attorney General New Jersey](#)

Family/Civil Rights—Fourth Amendment Violation

[Kindra O'Bryant v. DCP&P](#)

Administrative—Paycheck Protection Program

[Celebrity of Springfield LLC v. SBA](#)

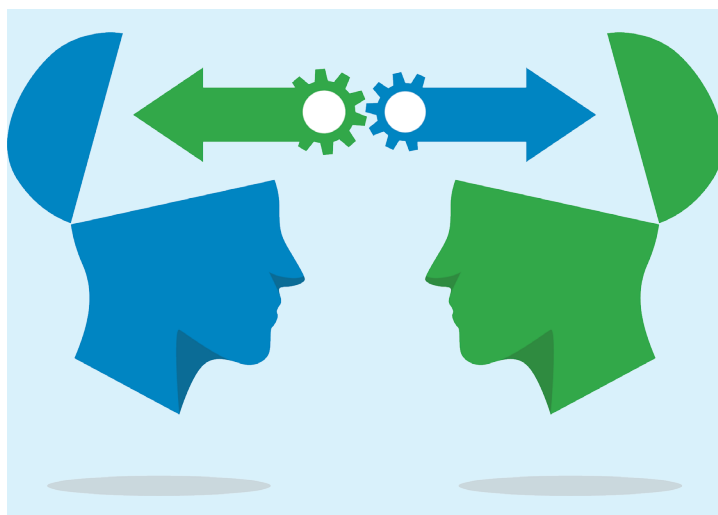
(New Jersey Supreme Court)

*No decisions in September

(New Jersey Appellate Division)

Administrative—Accidental Disability Retirement Benefits

[Michael Carbone vs. Board of Trustees, Etc. \(Police and Firemen's Retirement System\)](#)



NJSBA Member Assistance Program Offers Effective Strategies for Assertive and Mindful Communication

Difficult conversations are never easy, but knowing how to navigate them is essential for building strong relationships with colleagues, clients and even family members. Join the NJSBA Member Assistance Program for a [free Nov. 10 webinar](#) exploring how mindfulness principles can improve communication, strengthen relationships and help you manage the demands of a busy life and career.



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

Settle in for a full day of timely [CLE seminars](#) from the comfort of your home at the NJSBA Fall Conference on Nov. 23. Explore a wide range of cutting-edge programs across multiple practice areas, featuring leading speakers and insights on the issues shaping the legal profession.



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.](#)