THE NJSBA DOCKET



October 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

Followers of the NJSBA's LinkedIn page can subscribe to receive *The NJSBA Docket* in their LinkedIn inbox at the end of every month. Subscribe today.



News and Notices from the Courts—October 2026

- The state Judiciary created two new areas of attorney certification—taxation law and residential real estate law—expanding the number of recognized specialties from five to seven. The NJSBA has advocated for residential real estate law certification for many years, recognizing the growing complexity of this practice area and the specialized knowledge needed to practice in the space. The NJSBA commended the Judiciary for recognizing this need and creating certifications that will help qualified attorneys better serve New Jersey residents.
- The Judiciary announced procedures for public access and attorney participation in election-related court proceedings. All election hearings will be open to the public and available via livestream. Attorneys seeking to participate must submit a notice of appearance to the designated email address for the appropriate vicinage.

The Judiciary announced the following judicial assignments in October:

- Retired Superior Court Judge Deborah Silverman Katz, serving on recall, temporarily assigned to the Civil, Criminal, and Family Divisions in Atlantic County
- Lisa D. Bigony named as deputy clerk of the Appellate Division.
- Superior Court Judge Kurt Kramer designated the Criminal Presiding Judge for the Camden Vicinage.
- Superior Court Judge Gwendolyn Blue named the Assignment Judge of the Superior Court for Camden County.
- Superior Court Judge Francisco Dominguez designated as Acting Assignment Judge for Camden County in the event of the unavailability of the Assignment Judge.
- Superior Court Judge Jean S. Chetney assigned to the Civil Division in Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem Counties.
- Superior Court Judge Mara Zazzali-Hogan temporarily assigned to the Appellate Division, Part G.
- Superior Court Judge Noah Franzblau designated as the Civil Presiding Judge for Morris and Sussex Counties.
- Superior Court Judge Linda Grasso-Jones named the Presiding Judge of the General Equity Division in Monmouth County.
- Superior Court Judge Frank J. DeAngelis temporarily assigned to the Appellate Division, Part E.



Top News Stories for October

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

New York's Archdiocese and Survivors of Clergy Abuse Agree to $800 Million Legal settlement

The Archdiocese of New York and attorneys for about 1,300 parishioners who said they were sexually abused by clergy agreed to an $800 million settlement of their legal claims, the second-largest involving a Catholic archdiocese in the U.S.

Lawmakers Want NJ to Lead the Way on Holding AI Firms Liable for Harm

In the absence of meaningful action on the federal level, state lawmakers are moving New Jersey to be one of the first states to ensure artificial intelligence companies can be held legally—and financially—liable for any harms caused by their technologies.

Ex-Justice Details How NJ Courts Fail Disabled Kids and Their Families

New Jersey is still trapping families in special education court battles "well beyond" the legal time limit, according to a new judicial report, leaving scores of disabled children without timely services.

Bipartisan Coalition of States Urge Supreme Court to Let Them Regulate Prediction Markets

Dozens of states backed New Jersey in a high-stakes legal clash against prediction markets that has landed at the Supreme Court. An *amicus* brief, signed by state attorneys general representing 39 states and Washington, D.C., urged the Supreme Court to take up a case brought forth by New Jersey, which is seeking to overturn an appellate court ruling earlier this year that found federal law regulating commodity trading superseded the state's gambling laws.

NJ Lawmakers to Consider Parole Reform, Expanded Holistic Defense Program, New Solitary Confinement Rules

New Jersey lawmakers will consider legislation that could change how the state handles parole violations and how the public defender's office helps people facing criminal charges. A Senate hearing will also examine whether to loosen restrictions on solitary confinement in state prisons.



Paint, Sip and Sing with the Young Lawyers Division

Join fellow young lawyers in Edison on Nov. 17 for an evening of painting, karaoke, food and drinks. The event includes a guided painting session with all materials provided, along with beer, wine and food. No painting or singing experience required.



Women in the Profession Wine Tasting is Nov. 4

Join the NJSBA's Women in the Profession Section for an evening celebrating the connections and community of women in the legal profession. Enjoy a guided wine tasting and educational experience led by a certified sommelier while networking with colleagues and raising a glass to another year of building a strong and supportive professional network.



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.



NJSBA Offers Informational Resources for November Election

Ahead of the Nov. 3 general election, the NJSBA has compiled helpful resources for New Jersey voters, including information on voter registration, early voting, mail-in ballots, important election deadlines and voting rights and election protections.



Supreme Court, Appellate and Third Circuit Decisions—October 2026

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

Antitrust—Pharmaceutical Patent Agreements

Sandoz Inc v. United Therapeutics Corporation

Criminal—Sex Offender Registration

USA v. Charles Summers

(New Jersey Supreme Court)

**No decisions in September*

(New Jersey Appellate Division)

Employment—Administrative Appeal Timeliness

Jorge Feliciano vs. Board of Review, et al. (Department of Labor and Workforce Development)

Family—Civil Restraint Agreement

D.V. vs. S.L. (Gloucester County and Statewide)

Landlord-Tenant—Overdue Rent

Warner Village Group vs. Brenda Crawford, et al. (Mercer County and Statewide)



PracticeHQ Presents: Succession and Contingency Planning for Lawyers

Protecting your firm and clients starts with planning ahead. Join the NJSBA for a free lunchtime webinar on Jan. 12 to learn how to prepare for retirement, ensure a smooth transition out of practice and safeguard your firm and clients.

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.