

INSIDER NJ'S 2022 INSIDER OUT 100:

LGBTQ+ POWER LIST

INSIDERNJ.COM



Congratulations to our colleague and friend

Thomas Prol

and to the other leaders recognized on the Insider NJ 2022 Insider OUT 100 Power List

Sills Cummis & Gross P.C.

Sills Cummis & Gross is a full-service law firm with offices in New Jersey and New York.

We make it a priority to understand client needs and business objectives.

New Jersey | New York | www.sillscummis.com



P.O. Box 66 Verona, NJ 07044 insidernj@gmail.com www.lnsiderNJ.com





Max Pizarro

Editor-in-Chief

Max@InsiderNJ.com



Pete Oneglia

General Manager

Pete@InsiderNJ.com

Michael Graham *CEO*

John F.X. Graham Publisher

Ryan Graham Associate Publisher

INSIDER NJ

Message from the Author

2022 LGBTQ+ POWER

Welcome to InsiderNJ's 5th Annual OUT 100 LGBTQ+ Power List, a tribute to politically influential LGBTQ+ voices in New Jersey Politics.

YOU CAN'T BE WHAT YOU CAN'T SEE

There's a pronounced and conspicuous glass ceiling for LGBTQs in New Jersey politics. Sure, the gate-keepers are happy to have us as "the help" on campaigns and in government positions. But when it comes to elected office, opportunities are paltry becaused the gate-keepers and party bosses of New Jersey politics still very much prefer a status quo that's overwhelmingly heterosexual.

What's up with that?

Currently, there are two openly LGBTQ US Senators, Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona. At last count, you'll find 11 openly LGBTQ members in the House of Representatives including three from New York, right next door.

None are from New Jersey.

Around the nation, there are dozens of openly LGBTQ state lawmakers as well, doing the peoples' business in state houses from coast to coast, even in some of the most conservative states in America. There are, for example, four LGBTQ state lawmakers currently serving in the Georgia State House.

That's more than New Jersey has elected in our centuries long history.

Assemblyman Don Guardian, a Republican from Atlantic County, is the only openly LGBTQ member of the New Jersey General Assembly and only the 3rd ever. That paltry figure is a bit higher of you count out-ish law-makers of yore like former Assembly Speaker Joe Roberts (D-Camden) and those who came out after retirement like Hazel Gluck an Ocean County Republican who served in the state house during the 1980s.

The elected officials on this year's list - mayors, commissioners, councilmembers alike have already demonstrated that LGBTQs can win.

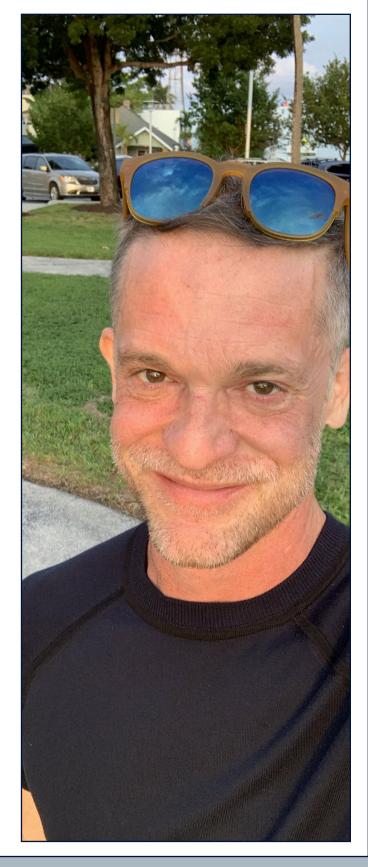
Since losing his first election in 1994 (for Freeholder) Trenton Mayor Reed Gusciora has complied a 12-1 win/loss record. Passaic County Commissioner Bruce James is undefeated on election day with a 5-0 record. Likewise Rebecca Williams, Union County commissioner and former councilwoman, remains undefeated on election day with a record of 4/0. Even this year's top Republican, Assemblyman Don Guardian holds a winning record (2-1) against the South Jersey Democratic Machine, the most well-funded political organization on the state.

My point is that LGBTQ candidates are tough and resilient. When given a chance, LGBTQs have long demonstrated the ability to run and to win.

LeRoy Jones runs the state Democratic Party and Doug Hugin runs the NJGOP. George Norcross runs the Camden Machine. They remain the three most powerful and consequential gatekeepers in NJ politics. The next time you see Mr Norcross, Mr Jones, or Mr Hugin out on the trail (or anywhere for that matter) ask them why LGBTQ candidates so rarely make the ballot on their watch.

Sincerely,

Jay Lassiter





Congratulations

Kari Osmond, Mikey Spadoro, and all of the incredible honorees on the 2022 Insider NJ

Out 100: LGBT Power List!

Happy Pride!

God Bless,

Congresswoman

Bonnie Watson Coleman



bonnieforcongress.com





facebook.com/bwcforcongress

Paid for by Bonnie Watson Coleman for Congress

1. REBECCA WILLIAMS

Union County Commissioner Rebecca Williams tops this year's OUT 100 Power List with the grace and aplomb that's been on display throughout her remarkable career.

Already one of the of highest-ranking LGBTQ elected officials in New Jersey history, Ms. Williams got a promotion this year when she was chosen by her colleagues to chair Union County's 9-member Board of County Commissioners. Ms. Williams' oath of leadership was administered by Senator Nick Scutari, the new-ish president of the New Jersey State Senate.

In her new role, Ms. Williams' goals include better Internet connectivity for Union County's residents and a renewed focus on mental health and social service programs. Mr. Williams is also working to elevate the arts as a cultural and economic engine in Union County, population 575,345.

NJ Governor Phil Murphy noted Ms Williams impact.

"Throughout her career, Rebecca Williams



has worked admirably to promote progressive and responsible economic policies, expand and conserve public parks, bolster employee protections, and enhance local communities," said Governor Phil Murphy. "Her distinguished leadership and advocacy on behalf of the LGBTQIA+ community in particular is why I selected her as a recipient of the Champions of Equality Award just a few short years ago. Her involvement in honoring transgender icon Marsha P. Johnson - also a native of Union County - with a statue in Elizabeth is just one of the many ways she has worked to honor this vibrant community and its meaningful history."

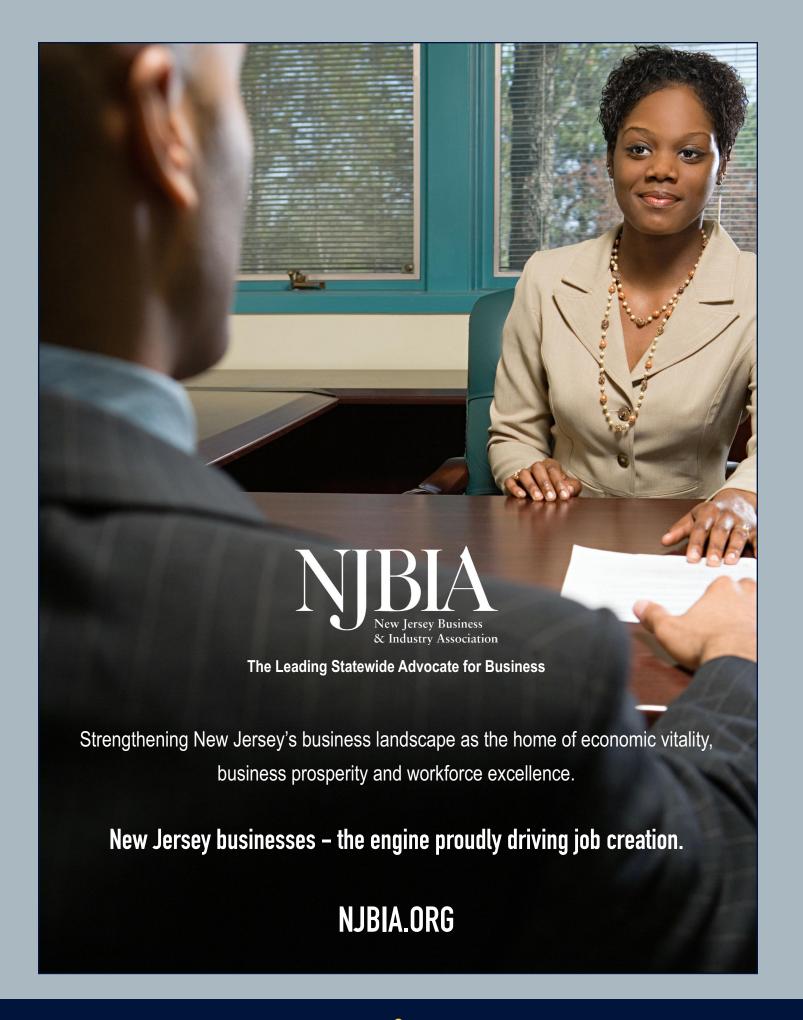
Previously, Ms. Williams served on town council in Plainfield where she twice ran off-

the-line, snatching victory both times. Beyond her powerful defiance of those telling her "wait her turn," Rebecca Williams' ascent provides a template for LGBTQ candidates who dream of higher office.

Forced to play gate-crasher not once but twice, Ms. Williams is now a revered stateswoman, firmly ensconced and with a brand new chairwoman's gavel to prove it.

"Her new role as Chair of Union County's Board of County Commissioners is well deserved and will facilitate her ongoing efforts to improve the lives of countless Union County residents and members of the LGBTQIA+ community across our state," Governor Murphy added.





2. DON GUARDIAN

Assemblyman Don Guardian is just the 3rd openly Gay state lawmaker in New Jersey history. He currently represents 17 Atlantic County municipalities in the New Jersey General Assembly.

Don Guardian took NJ's political world by storm back in 2013 when Atlantic City voters chose him to be their mayor. It seemed novel that so many (non-white) democratic voters would elect a gay white Republican to be their mayor.

Mr. Guardian is one of the few politicians in New Jersey with a winning record against George Norcross, the most powerful political boss in modern New Jersey history. A Moderate Republican, Don Guardian has battled Norcross' much-vaunted Camden County Democratic Machine three times so far during his career and come out victorious on two occasions. This includes a thrilling victory last November when he triumphed in one of the most expensive races in New Jersey history to become NJ's very first openly gay GOP state lawmaker.

Along the way, Mr. Guardian claimed 15 of



17 towns in his district, a dominant performance that saw him neutralize an \$8,000,000 spending spree by his vanquished opponents. During the last few weeks of the campaign, the Norcross Machine targeted Don with a series of meanspirited and dishonest mailers and radio ads clearly indicating that Don Guardian was their #1 target on the entire ticket.

But voters in Mr. Guardian's district tuned out the noise, sending his entire ticket to Trenton with a mandate, a stunning repudiation of a stagnant, Out-of-touch Democratic machine.

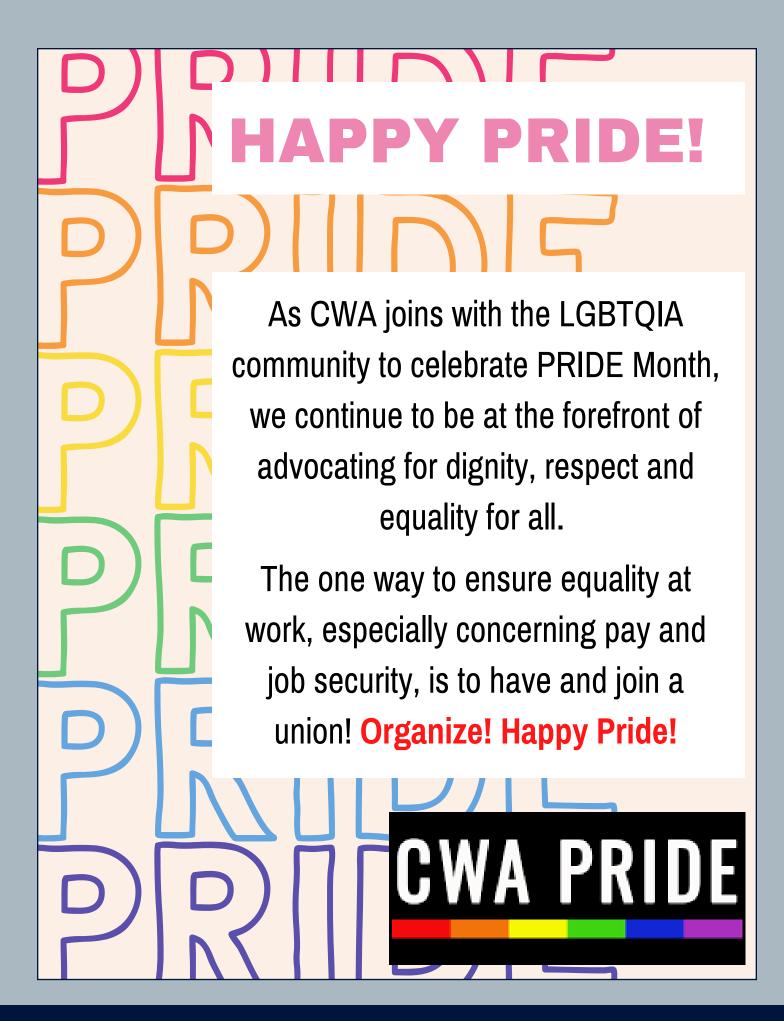
Atlantic County native Micah Rasmussen is one of NJ's top political sages. He's bullish on Don Guardian's potential to matter.

"Given Assemblyman Guardian's depth of expertise in local government as both a mayor and an administrator, his urban experience and his knowledge of the casino industry, it's easy to see him quickly becoming a fixture in Trenton. I can certainly see him paving the way for other gay lawmakers," Mr. Rasmussen told InsiderNJ.

Don Guardian's greatest influence might

happen behind closed doors in Trenton's halls of power. Mr. Guardian's own team, the Assembly GOP Caucus, has incubated all manner of anti-LGBTQ legislation for as long as any of us can remember. Now that one of their most resilient and battletested colleagues also happens to be gay, perhaps some Assembly Republicans will reframe LGBTQ rights as a libertry issue.





3. SHAWN LATOURETTE

Shawn LaTourette is NJ's Environment Commissioner with a mandate to ensure the ecosystem doesn't collapse. No big deal, right? Mr. LaTourette's recent battles include fighting to ensure Ellis Island doesn't end up submerged because our environmental policy is melting faraway icebergs.

The first openly gay man to serve in a gubernatorial Cabinet in New Jersey's history, Commissioner LaTourette was out championing environmental causes long before he was, well, out. At 19, he could be found organizing New Jersey communities whose drinking water was poisoned by pollution, connecting those in need with the law firm that rocketed Erin Brockovich to fame. Now, Commissioner LaTourette can be found at the helm of the state's Department of Environmental Protection, where he is responsible for designing and implementing policies and rules that give shape to Governor Phil Murphy's environmental ambitions. In a state where fewer people are thinking about nature as hippies once did - after all, hippie culture led to the philosophy of taking care of the Earth -each victory is hard fought, and



you can frequently find Shawn making the economic case for greater investments in environmental protection, green jobs and infrastructure.

Experienced as a toxic injury and brownfields redevelopment lawyer, Shawn was a newcomer to state government when he joined DEP as its top legal counsel in 2018 and quickly moved up the agency's leadership ranks. It was no surprise that Phil Murphy tapped him to serve as head of the DEP when his successor retired in 2021, as Shawn has been the steady guide behind the Administration's hallmark initiatives. Among his highest priorities are better protecting communities from flooding and

other climate change threats; delivering cleaner drinking water, free of lead and chemicals, to all New Jerseyans; promoting environmental justice by reducing pollution in Black and brown communities; and increasing investments in parks and open spaces.

While keeping up with a demanding schedule in the effort to protect the planet, Shawn also parents twin girls who are about to graduate the fifth grade and has been busy planning his COVID-delayed nuptials. Earlier this month, he married longtime partner Michael Marielli, an event planner.

Ask what excites him most about what everyone in Trenton acknowledges is one of the most difficult Cabinet posts, and he'll talk to you about an interconnectedness that transcends politics.

"What every last one of us has in common is the environment we share. Red or blue doesn't matter." Mr. LaTourette said. "It's all green – if we do it right."



CONGRATULATIONS to the 2022 INSIDER OUT 100 LGBT POWER LIST

including our own



Kathy Ahearn-O'Brien

Executive Director



Axel Torres Marrero

Sr. Director of Public

Policy & Prevention

We'd also like to thank our legislative champions who worked so hard to pass the legislation we need to end HIV in New Jersey! Thank you, Governor Phil Murphy, for your leadership! Thank you Committee Chairs Senators Joe Vitale and Nellie Pou, and Assemblyman Herb Conaway, MD, and Paul Sarlo! Sponsors of S3707/A-5673: Senators Vitale, Ruiz, Weinberg and Assemblypersons Vainieri, Huttle, Downey, and Zwicker Sponsors of S3009/A4847, Senators Vitale, Gopal and Gill and Assemblymembers Huttle, Quijana and Verrelli



hyacinth.org

4. JEANNINE LARUE

It was a banner year for Jeannine LaRue, an indefatigable Trenton stalwart whose peerless career has been filled with banner years. Ms. LaRue was principal lobbyist for NJ's Reproductive Freedom Act. That means women in NJ can decide for themselves when to start or grow their family. Ms. LaRue also worked with the NJ Harm Reduction Coalition to curb HIV transmissions by expanding needle exchange access in NJ. This is gritty, unpopular work that protects IV drug users, a heavily stigmatized population that's disproportionality LGBTQ. Keeping IV drug users out of the hospital is noble work, especially during a pandemic when our healthcare system is stretched to the limits. Ms. LaRue's efforts did exactly that.

Jeannine LaRue most recently served on former Senator Loretta Weinberg's Workgroup on Sexual Assault, Harassment and Misogyny to make Trenton (and politics in general) a safer place for women to be.

"Moments after I read the (groundbreaking) Star Ledger article on the misogynistic atmosphere in New Jersey's political estab-



lishment, Jeannine Larue was the first to whom I reached out, "Senator Weinberg told InsiderNJ. "And It was with her courageous, fearless Larue Leadership that we were quickly able to form our women's work group which led to a report, and changes in the legal environment for the political atmosphere in our great state. She is a partner, a sister, and a constant source of encouragement in every issue in which I have become involved. I often kid her that she's also one of the few activists I've worked with who is shorter than I am. Her physical stature does not nearly signify the force of good that Jeannine Larue has been for women and LGBTQ people in our state."



Good counsel is no accident

CONGRATULATIONS

To Those Named To Insider NJ's Out 100: **LGBTQ+ List!**



CHERRY HILL OFFICE

457 Haddonfield Road, Suite 500 Cherry Hill, NJ 08002 P: (856) 424-1808

HOBOKEN OFFICE

221 River Street, 9th Floor Hoboken, NJ 07030 P: (877) 567-5293

PHILADELPHIA OFFICE

2400 Market Street Suite 251 Philadelphia, PA 19103

MALAMUTLAW.COM









5. THOMAS PROL

Thomas Prol has always played the long game. A towering figure in the New Jersey legal world, Thomas Prol practices law at Sills Cummis & Gross PC.

Mr. Prol is a past president of the New Jersey State Bar Association (2016-2017) and was the first openly gay leader in the Association's history. He's also the longest serving board member in Garden State Equality's storied history where he advocated for the New Jersey Criminal Justice Reform Act and the New Jersey Anti-Bullying Act.

Mr. Prol has quietly and deftly deployed behind-the-scenes strategy for LGBTQ equality for the better part of two decades, most recently working with the Attorney General to vacate historical laws targeting our community.

Mr. Prol's legal sleuthing led to unprecedented action by former Attorney General Gurbir Grewal who apologized for the sys-



temic harassment of gay bars by the AG office's Alcohol Beverage Control division from 1933 until 1967. During those years, the systemic harrassment of gay bars was quite literally NJ's official policy, codified in stature.

While Mr. Prol remains active on the front lines with other activists in fighting for LGBTQ rights in the Garden State, he's also taken on the role of historian, cutting through the noise, egos & bombast to correctly and precisely document LGBTQ rights in NJ through the ages and, where appropriate, assigning credit where credit is due.

Pashman Stein Walder Hayden

A Passion for Justice. A Tradition of Winning.

Congratulations to our partner, CJ Griffin, and to the other leaders recognized on Insider NJ's 2022 Insider Out 100 Power List!

pashmanstein.com

BERGEN COUNTY

Court Plaza South 21 Main Street, Suite 200 Hackensack, NJ 07601 P: 201.488.8200

MONMOUTH COUNTY

Bell Works 101 Crawfords Corner Road Suite 4202 Holmdel, NJ 07733 P: 732.852.2481

NEW YORK CITY

The Woolworth Building 233 Broadway Suite 820 New York, NY 10279 P: 648.828.8081

WESTCHESTER

2900 Westchester Avenue Suite 204 Purchase, NY 10577 P: 914.612.4092

6. REED GUSCIORA

He's currently the Mayor of Trenton, NJ's capital city, but Reed Gusciora's political career stretches back several decades to a very different era.

When he first ran for a seat in the New Jersey General Assembly back in 1995, Mayor Gusciora was still closeted and it's easy to understand why. There were very few legal protections for LGBTQ people at that point: "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" forced LGBTQ service members into the closet to serve and the so-called Defense of Marriage Act which delayed marriage equality for a generation.

That was the political climate when 35-yearold Reed Gusciora won his campaign for Assembly in November of 1995.

Much has changed since then which enabled Reed Gusciora to publicly "come out" a decade or so later to become the first openly LGBTQ state legislator in NJ history. Reed Gusciora's presence at the table helped usher in marriage equality and marijuana reform, two issues Reed owned long before it was the thing to do.



His reward for being his pioneering prescience? In 2011, Reed Gusciora was orphaned by the redistricting process when Princeton, his hometown, was drawn into another (predominately Republican) district. That basically stripped Reed Gusciora of incumbency by grafting him into a district full of brand new (to him) voters.

Redistricting, by the way, happens after every census, a once-a-decade opportunity for politically-appointed partisans to redraft New Jersey's political boundaries. The Democrats on the 2010 commission wanted to move blue towns (like Princeton) from liberal districts to better compete in places long-represented by Republicans. And it

worked. Districts like LD16 and LD11 became more politically competitive on the back of Trenton's first (and often only) LGBTQ member. That's because redistricting is dominated by self-interested partisans who are all about that status quo.

And in NJ politics, the status quo has always been heterosexual.

For his part, Reed Gusciora took the redistricting slight in his stride. He moved to Trenton (which he represented for decades) and went on to win several more stints.

When Reed gave up his seat in the Assembly to run for mayor of Trenton, he wasn't the odds-on favorite to win in his adopted hometown. Leaving a safe seat in the State House is a risk most politicians would never take. But Reed embraced his underdog status, worked his butt off, and ultimately scored the most votes. He proved his mettle and strategic campaign acumen by scoring that upset win. Two wins actually. The campaign squeezed into a run-off and then pulled off the election day victory a few weeks later.

Trenton Mayor Reed Gusiora is busy running for reelection this year.



CONGRATS to the INSIDER OUT 100 LGBTQ+ POWER LIST!

PUBLIC AFFAIRS STRATEGY

Immersive Research
Campaign and Coalition Management
Issue Advocacy
Stakeholder Engagement

MEDIA & PUBLIC RELATIONS

Message Development & Opinion Research
Media Training
Executive Positioning
Crisis Communications
Rapid Response
Earned Media

Paid Media Advertising

DIGITAL CAPABILITIES

Digital Strategy Social Media Creative Design Data-Driven Analytics Targeting Video Production Content Development Advertising

BRAND POSITIONING

Branding Strategic Consulting Public Affairs Risk Management Start-Up Incubation



CHICAGO

222 W. Merchandise Mart Plaza, Suite 2400 Chicago, IL 60654 312. 664. 0153

MIAMI

3250 NE 1st Avenue Suite 305 Miami, FL 33137 305. 964. 8035

NEW JERSEY

603 Mattison Avenue 5th Floor Asbury Park, NJ 07712 732. 280. 9600

NEW YORK

200 Varick Street Suite 201 New York, NY 10014 212. 929. 0669

WASHINGTON, D.C.

1100 G Street NW Suite 350 Washington, D.C. 20005 202. 331. 1002

7. CJ GRIFFIN

The old adage that "sunshine is the best disinfectant" is particularly true when discussing NJ politics and no one is better at shining light into the darkest crevices than CJ Griffin, a Partner at the law firm Pashman Stein Walder Hayden and director of their firm's public interest center. CJ Griffin is also Vice President of ACLU of New Jersey Board of Trustees.

As this list went to press, CJ picked up the prestigious Whipple Award from the Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers of NJ.

CJ is known for historic, pioneering work in open government cases, but their groundbreaking work extends beyond that. When it comes to racial justice, freedom of the press, free speech, LGBTQ rights, privacy, police accountability, and countless other issues, CJ has strengthened the rights of New Jerseyans and made New Jersey better.

Terrence T. McDonald, #35 on this list and editor at New Jersey Monitor, called CJ "a fierce advocate for private citizens and newspapers and their reporters seeking public records in court."



Hear, hear!!

Mr. McDonald:

Griffin has been the attorney behind two major public records victories out of the Supreme Court, one that opens up settlement agreements signed by public entities to public viewing, and another that says police internal affairs records should not be private when the public's interest in them outweighs an officer's confidentiality concerns.

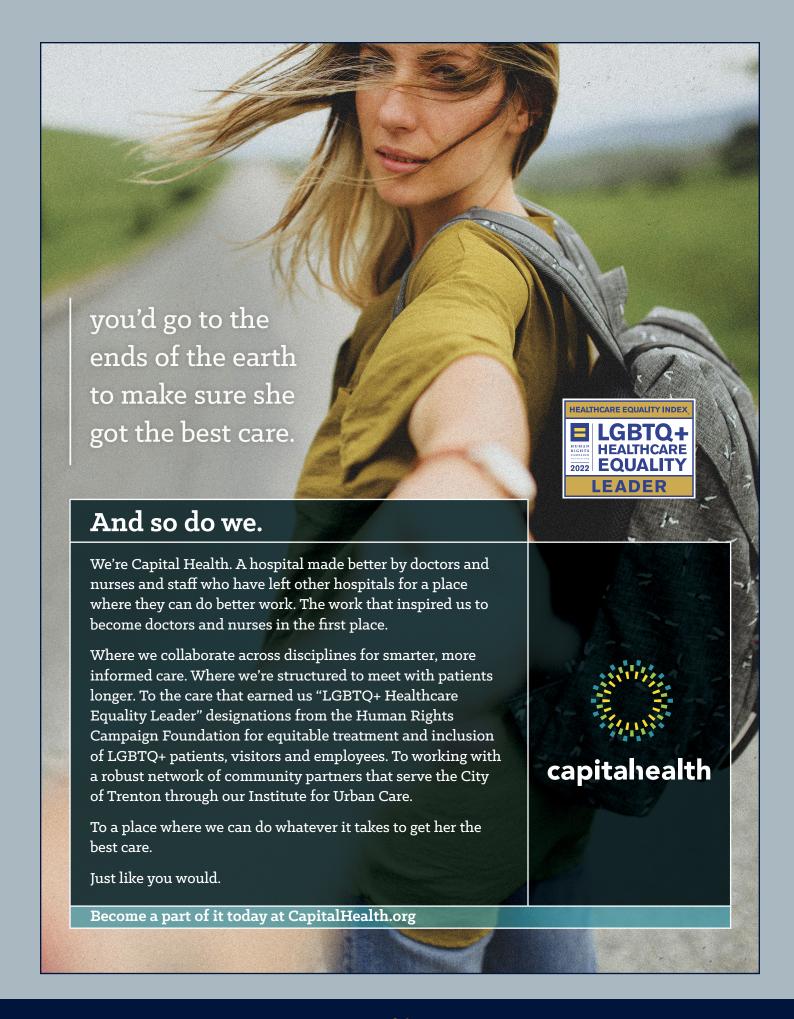
It's hard to overstate the significance of the second decision in a state where internal police documents are damn near impossible to obtain. Even in the case of Neptune cop Philip Seidle, who murdered his ex-wife

on a public street, local and state officials spent years fighting to keep records about him secret, handing them over only after a protracted legal fight.

And what did those records show? That police officials allowed Seidle to remain an armed officer even after a dozen recorded instances of domestic violence involving him and his wife. Sounds like information the public should know without having to spend years fighting in court, no?

We couldn't agree more.





8. CHRISTIAN FUSCARINO

Christian Fuscarino is the long-tenured director of Garden State Equality, NJ's largest LGBTQ rights organization. A LGBTQ leader with an indefatigable work ethic, here's a typical week in the life of Christian Fuscarino might look like:

On Monday, Mr. Fuscarino might be huddled with the Governor's team devising a strategy to promote LGBTQ candidates withith the Murphy administration.

On Tuesday, Christian's in Asbury Park working to implement NJ's historic LGBTQinclusive curriculum. Queer people - our experiences and contributions – have been conscientiously and conspicuously stripped from most historical renderings and this new curriculum changes that.

Wednesday is Clap Back Day because transgender kids are (still) under attack by rightwing politicians and media figures eager to ban them from sports. Painting LGBTQ folk as a threat to your family is the oldest trick in the book and since conservative are still gorging themselves on hatred of gays,



Chrsitian Fuscarino's up before dawn clapping back.

If it's Thursday, Mr. Furscarino's at a signing ceremony of an executive order to include LGBTQ businesses in the procurement process for state bids and congrats. All NJ benefits because diversity among suppliers encourages greater innovation and competition which lowers bid prices.

And that means millions of dollars in taxpayers savings across the Garden State.

Not resting on the laurels of a busy week, Christian will spend Friday working to curb HIV transmission rates by advocating for a

harm reduction/needle exchange program, a service that especially benefits LGBTQs who are 4x more likely to use IV drugs.

None of these issues is easy or popular. But that won't stop Mr Fuscarino from suiting up every day to fight to make NJ better and fairer.

Christian Fuscarino's weekends are often devoted to fundraising and electing LGBTQ people to office, especially this time of year. That's a relentless schedule by any measure. And that's a testament to the level of sacrifice it takes to roll back the systematic oppression LGBTQ people have faced since forever.



"However beautiful the strategy, you should occasionally look at the results."

-Winston Churchill

Congratulations to our very own Jeannine LaRue and to all the Honorees for being their true selves!



Call us at 609.530.1234 or visit kaufmanzitagroup.com

INSIGHT | INTEGRITY | INFLUENCE

9. KARI OSMOND **& JULIA FAHL**

Kari Osmond is the chief of staff for Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman. Julia Fahl is a New Jersey superlobbyist and the former mayor of Lambertville. Together Ms. Fahl and Ms. Osmond are a New Jersey power couple who combine brilliance and resilience while serving as role models for a new crop of LGBTQ activists.

As chief of staff, Ms. Osmond wields tremendous power in the office of Rep. Watson Coleman, NJ's only Congressional appropriator and a national progressive leader.

After crashing the gate to become mayor of Lambertville, Ms. Fahl immediately met resistance from allies of her vanquished foe. Mayor Fahl's attempts to clean up her predecessor's financial messes were met with howls of outrage at her attempts to disrupt business as usual.

When Ms. Fahl declined a bid for reelection. it almost felt like a brilliant women was driven from public service by the same Lambertville



old heads who stood by and tolerated several decades of boorish shenanigans by her predecessor. If that's true, even if it's just a little bit true, it's a very sad indictment of a patriarchal status quo.

With her political ambitions on the backburner for the time being, Ms. Fahl is now a top lobbyist for Tonio Burgos Associates where she's the firm's Vice President for Legislative Affairs in Trenton.





We are the VOICE OF THE MERIT SHOP®

ABC is a national trade association with 69 Chapters and 22,000 members, which represents more than 19,000 construction and industry-related firms. We are the only organization to serve contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and associates of all trades who want to conduct business in an unrestricted market, regardless of labor affiliation.



Call: 856.437.4130

Click: www.abcnjc.org

Connect: 10 1 2

 ${\bf Paid}\ for\ by\ Associated\ Builders\ and\ Contractors\ New\ Jersey\ Chapter.$

10. DEAN DAFIS

He's the newly-minted Mayor of Maplewod (population 26k) but Dean Dafis's most influential and life-saving role is as an activist working to end conversion therapy (aka "pray the gay away") a practice that's now illegal in New Jersery thaks to Mr. Dafis' efforts.





With adult recreational pot sales at long last ramping up, it's very much worth noting Mr. Dafis' enduring, outsized advocacy for more sensible drug policies, including the end of cannabis prohibition. So it's fitting that Apothecarium, a Maplewood pot shop that got a warm welcome from municipal government, was dispensing legal weed the very first day it was possible to do so.

And not for nothing, given his fluent mastery of the Greek language, Maplewood Mayor Dean Dafis is probably the very best person on this entire list to visit a Jersey diner with.



is proud to support

INSIDERNJ

&

CONGRATULATES
OUR COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS

named to the

INSIDER OUT 100 LGBT POWER LIST

Sean M. Darcy, President

PO Box 397, Belmar, NJ 07719 | 609-610-0543

11. KATHY AHEARN-O'BRIEN

Kathy Ahearn-O'Brien has continued to shepherd the largest HIV organization in New Jersey as it continues to face HIV and the COVID-19 pandemic. The organization recently opened an eighth site in West New York, NJ to provide

services in northern Hudson County. Hyacinth embraced a status-neutral program for all those seeking services and is working with the State to create more innovative prevention programs aimed at eliminating transmission of HIV, particularly amongst young gay men and transgender women of color. Two significant legislative victories were achieved - the HIV Modernization Act and another bill which will allow for the expansion of harm reduction services.

Kathy continues to work with the New Jersey Department of Health/Division of HIV, STI and TB services on the implementation of the Statewide Task Force's plans to end the HIV epidemic by 2025. Two legislative victories mentioned above were just some of the recommendations outlined in the task force's report.

Additionally, Ms. Ahearn-O'Brien co-chairs the Essex County LGBTQ Advisory Board, designed to provide Essex County Executive Joe DiVincenzo advice and guidance on LGBTQ issues throughout the County. For the past year, Kathy has worked with the Advisory Board to propose the need for more sustained services, resulting in the creation of the Essex County Office of LGBTQ Affairs, with Reginald Bledsoe as its full time, paid Director.

12. DAVE PARANO

The president and CEO of Parano and Associates, David Parano is perhaps the savvyist, smartest, and shrewdest campaign manager of his generation. Mr. Parano managed the Vote By Mall operation for NJ Governor Phil Murphy's winning-against-the-tide re-election campaign. Murphy's margin of victory, 3.22%, suggests Mr. Parano's effort might have made the difference.



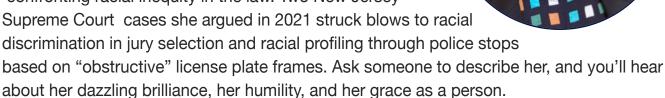
He wins tough races in innovative ways with a singular focus on the prize: 50% + 1 on election day. His wizardry has propelled numerous LGBTQ candidates into office including Trenton Mayor Reed Gusciora and Lambertville Mayor Julia Fahl.

A NJ operative who's not afraid to battle NJ Machine Politics, Mr. Parano's stellar track record also includes wins for Congressman Bill Pascrell and NJ Senator Emerita Loretta Weinberg.

12. KAREN THOMPSON

Senior Staff Attorney, ACLU of New Jersey

The New Jersey Law Journal named Karen Thompson its 2021 Attorney of the Year, and for good reason: her pioneering work has contributed to building justice and confronting racial inequity in the law. Two New Jersey



13. MICHAEL "MIKE" **DEFUSCO**

Michael FeFusco is a second-term city councilman in Hoboken. He became the first openly gay man to hold an elected position on the municipal level in Hudson County when he bested a 21-year incumbent in 2015 to represent downtown Hoboken's dazzlingly vibrant First Ward.



A former two-term zoning commissioner, Mr. DeFesco now chairs the LGBTQ+ Caucus for Hudson County's Democratic committee.

14. PAT HANSEN & **EDDIE FREEMAN III**

Pat Hansen and Eddie Freeman III comprise 40% of Evesham Town Council. The fact that Evesham town council is nearly half gay is a remarkable trasnformation for a once-conservative stranglehold in Burlingrton County's largest town.

Ms. Hansen, a former transportation expert, and Mr. Freeman, a lawyer whose 9+ year stint in the Army Reserves included a deployment to Afghanistan, are now leaders in a town that once used tools of the state (ie: school boards) to erase LGTBQs from the picture.



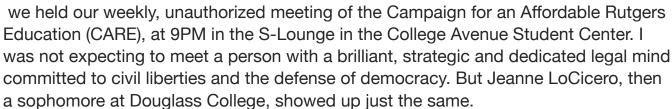


15. JEANNE LOCICERO

Legal Director, ACLU of New Jersey

A tribute by her friend Staci Berger

I met Jeanne LoCicero almost thirty years ago. At the time, I was one of 19 Rutgers students arrested for civil disobedience to freeze tuition and put three student votes on the Board of Governors. As we did every Wednesday at 9PM,



A few weeks after I met Jeanne, singer-songwriter and college folk music shero Ani DiFranco was playing a free show at the Douglass Student Center. I called Jeanne (on a landline!) and invited her to come with a group of us attending the show. I am glad she accepted, as I have been proud to call her my friend ever since.

Jeanne joined CARE, and together, with lots of other students and allies, we all worked hard to make college affordable for New Jersey's working families. Later, we shared a New Brunswick apartment with other friends and activists, and had hilariously good times while we all navigated our way into adulthood. From that cramped apartment, which has long since been replaced, we planned protests and continued our campus and then community organizing. In the heady summer days, which is what I remember most, we drank ice cold gin and tonics and watched endless reruns of the Golden Girls. None of us quite had our futures figured out, but we all knew Jeanne would be successful at whatever she did.

Nobody who knew her then, or has known her in the intervening decades, would be at all surprised that she has made an indelible mark on the legal fabric of our state and the policies we hold dear. In addition to winning the seminal right to be listed on her child's

INSIDER OUT 100 LGBTQ+

birth certificate along with her wife Kim, Jeanne has led numerous legal and policy efforts for civil rights and civil liberties. Jeanne joined the ACLU-NJ as a staff attorney in 2004 and served as its Deputy Legal Director for ten years prior to becoming legal director in 2018.

Jeanne's work has focused on prison conditions, racial equity, LGBTQ rights, women's rights, and reproductive health. She recently served on New Jersey's Transgender Equality Task Force, is a trustee of the Association of the Federal Bar of New Jersey, and serves on other legal and policy committees.

Knowing that Jeanne is in the leadership of one of the most prominent civil rights organizations has made the horrific rise of Trumpism, extremism and white supremacy just slightly less terrifying than it otherwise is. I knew she would be at the airport to help immigrants when Trump's anti-Muslim ban went into effect. I also knew she would take – and win – the case to allow his supporters to exercise their free speech rights, when a municipality tried to restrict their speech. I appreciate her leadership and her unrelenting commitment to do what it is right, even if it is not always popular. We are all indebted to her strategic thinking and her fierce commitment to our civil liberties.

Even more, though, I am deeply grateful for her abiding friendship, through the many twists and turns in both of our lives. I know she will always be there, with her incisive wit and willingness to help. I sometimes pester her with free speech issues (hello Piscataway's now-defunct ban on recording public meetings), and ask her questions about voting rights. But, we also check in to see how the other is holding up, and make plans to get together as old friends do.

It's hard to believe Jeanne and I both have kids who are close to the same age as when we first met on the Banks of the 'ole Raritan. It seems like just yesterday that were still kids ourselves, trying to decide what to do after college. I am so glad Jeanne decided to pursue her law degree and that she landed at ACLU-NJ. We all need her, New Jersey and the rest of our nation, now more than ever.

16. JEREMY FEIGENBAUM

A stalwart from NJ's Office of Attorney General, Jeremy Feigenbaum is our State Solicitor, the top appellate advocate in the state. That means he argues on behalf of the Attorney General on issues before the U.S. Supreme Court, federal circuit courts, and the New Jersey Supreme Court.



Known for getting untraceable "ghost guns" off the streets, Mr. Feigenbaum's impressive string of wins included a victory against the Penn East pipeline, a controversial fossil fuel infrastructure project that would transport 1,000,0000,000 cubic feet of highly toxic and flammable compressed natural gas along a120 route from Pennsylvania across the Delaware River and through the heart of central NJ.

17. MARIA RODRIGUEZ-**GREGG**

The first Latina Republican to serve in the statehouse, Maria Rodriguez-Gregg spent 4 years representing much of Burlington County in the NJ General Assembly. Currently the Director of Government Relations and Community Affairs at



Montclair State University, Ms. Rodriguez was recently nominated by Governor Phil Murphy to be a commissioner for the NJ Board of Public Utilities where she'll be a watchdog for Garden State ratepayers.

Through it all, Maria Rodroguez, a proud bisexual woman, remains a powerful voice for victims of domestic violence in New Jersey.

18. PERRY HALKITIS

Dr. Perry Halkitis' ongoing 41 year (!) battle with HIV represents the resilience of America's LGBTQ population.

A brilliant, renowned scientist who came of age during the AIDS crisis, Dr. Halkitis is the Dean at Rutgers School of Public Health where he's a professor of biostatistics and Urban-Global Public Health. A national and regional public health expert, Dr. Halkitis spent the past 2½ years educating Trenton lawmakers about COVID and how to navigate a healthcare pandemic that arrived abruptly and without an instruction manual.

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in which Mr. Halkitis has been actively engaged, he's done nearly 2,500 media appearances on TV and across the web. Dr. Halkitis' work empowering citizens, doctors, and policy makers (despite a blizzard of COVID misinformation) continues to save lives.

Dr. Halkitis leads Rutgers Center for Health, Identity, Behavior, and Prevention Studies (CHIBPS) which tracks HIV/AIDS, substance use, and mental health issues facing LGBTQ people. This data is used to address the healthcare disparities faced by Queer people.

Currently, Dr. Halkitis is working on book that marries the lessons of HIV and COVID 19. Considering his epidemiological expertise plus his decades long tango with the AIDS virus, it's a story he's uniquely suited to tell.

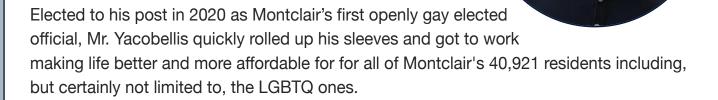
Out, proud, and powerful.

Congratulations to all those recognized this year!



19. PETER YACOBELLIS

A well-connected power player from the Amy Klobuchar wing of the Democratic Party, Peter Yacobellis is also an at-large councilman in Montclair and the principal organizer of Montclair's huge Pride event this year.



That said, Mr. Yacobellis' fingerprints are all over Montclair's warm embrace of the LGBTQ community.

Since 2004, Mr. Yacobellis has advised elected officials around the U.S. about LGBTQ issues. He's also founder of the Trevor Project NextGen Volunteer Organization, a direct response to the tragic death of Tyler Clementi.

Mr. Yacobellis remains at the forefront in the fight for LGBTQ liberty, his path to leadership propelled by a 1998 discharge from Air Force basic training under the Pentagon's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. In 2009, he helped organize the March on Washington that led to the policy's reversal because that's what Peter Yacobellis does: he overcomes an obstacle then removes the obstacle for those who came later.

19. LIZ SCHEDL

As Executive Director Hudson Pride Center, Liz Schedl secured the largest donation in the organization's history, from Lord, Abbett & Co, which will contribute \$700,000 over three years to Hudson Pride Center's budget. The financial support will allow them to both continue providing a safe physical home for the LGBTQ+ community as well as enhancing the ongoing diverse programming and social services on offer.



During Elizabeth's tenure, Hudson Pride has expanded their programming and staff significantly in the past year including an in-house Free HIV Testing Program. Hudson Pride has expanded its training program to include a significant partnership with Rutgers School of Social Work's Institute of Families to deliver a series of educational LGBTQ+ sensitivity trainings to agencies funded through the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development.

This past year, Ms. Schedl led her team to engage with over 14,000 individuals about health and supportive services. A prolific fundraiser, under Ms. Schedl's leadership, Hudson Pride Center held the largest fundraising event in its 30 year history, raising significant discretionary dollars for the organization's overall operating needs.

20. BRENDA "SUE" FULTON

A Former military officer who was among the first cohort of women to graduate from West Point, Brenda Sue Fulton is now the Chair and Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC). Ms. Fulton was the first, and for a while the only, LGBTQ cabinet memeber in the Murphy Administration.

21. KOREN FRANKFORT

Essex County born, Hudson County resident Koren Frankfort is the CFO of the New York Senate Democrats where she raised and steered dozens of millions of dollars towards securing a historic Democratic Supermajority in the New York State Senate, the one responsible for getting Trump's tax returns out in the light for Tish James to then ravage his corruption.

Aside from that, where Koren goes, predators drop like flies. Since her piece in 2017 regarding rape culture in NJ government and politics (where she stuck her neck out alone with little support) the League of Municipalities and Chamber Train events have changed dramatically. Further, in 2019 follow up reporting at the heels of her piece reintroduced Koren's concerns leading to the Anti Harassment task force that introduced and passed *some* good legislation. However, Koren's voice echoes loudly through the halls, and if ever an empty measure is promoted, she will read it to shreds and pull no punches to block it.

In New York, what she brings to the table is the table, the chairs, and the lights above; she is a master of finding resources to win campaigns.

22. ELAINE HELMS

Elaine Helms founded the Reaching Adolescents in Need (RAIN) Foundation in East Orange after noticing the high rate of prostitution among homeless LGBTQ kids who engaged in so- called "survival sex" out of desperation. It's gritty, wildly unpopular work and Elaine Helms is (still) there in the trenches lifting up our most vulnerable youth and helping them reach their vast potential.

Recently, Ms. Helms' organization (literally) broke ground in Newark's West Ward on new housing for 11 homeless LGBTQ individuals. In the long run, supportive housing saves money and saves lives in a vulnerable, often stigmatized population that's disproportionately queer.

Ms. Helms won the support of powerful politicians like NJ Governor Murphy, Essex Co. Executive Joe DiVincenzo, and Newark Mayor Ras Baraka who already pledge support for RAIN Foundation's 2nd and 3rd supportive housing buildings.

"We need helpers," Mayor Baraka said at the groundbreaking. "And I think God for giving us the RAIN Foundation to be helpers who are making sure that we have housing for a particular set of individuals in our community who have been left out for a very very long time. Count us in when you're ready to do projects number two and number three. Because we will be here."

23. FRANCELINE EHRET

One of the most powerful and influential union leaders in the state, Franceline Ehret is the NJ State Director of the Communication Workers of America. CWA represents more than 70,000 working families in The Garden State.



After decades working in the rough-and-tumble boy's club known as NJ politics, Ms. Ehret's powerful and withering denunciations of workplace misogyny left Trenton shook.

Appointed by Governor Phil Murphy to NJ's LGBTQ Taskforce, Ms Ehert prioritizes issues like youth homelessness (including young adults aging out of housing) and housing discrimination against LGBTQ seniors.



ANDY KIMFOR CONGRESS

Congratulations to the Out 100 LGBTQ Power List Honorees! Thank you for all you do for NJ and the LGBTQ+ community.

Congressman Andy Kim NJ-03

PAID FOR BY ANDY KIM FOR CONGRESS

24. CHRIS HILLMAN

A councilman for Hasbrouck Heights (Bergen County) Chris Hillman's unimpeachable reputation makes him an avatar for LGBTQ liberty in New Jersey's halls of power. A long tome Chief of Staff for numerous state lawmakers, Mr. Hillman is currently the director of legislative affairs at the NJ Motor Vehicle Commission.

25. JEN SCIORTINO

The communications director for New Jersey's treasure department, Jen Sciortino is also the mayor of Bordentown City, a charming and historic hamlet located on the Delaware River in Burlington County.



Bordentown City, population 3,792, is the kind of place where it's still possible to campaign door-to-door the old fashioned way: pressing the flesh, one or two voters at a time. That was Jen Sciortino's plan when she ran for Bordentown City Council.

Jen Sciortino easily won her council race but it gets better! By snagging the most votes that day, Jen Sciortino became Mayor of Bordentown.

Campaigning door-to-door has given Bordentown Mayor Jen Sciortio a pretty good idea of what's on voters' minds, valuable insights for any mayor. But doing it the old fashion way, one voter at a time, has also reinforced the importance of representation and role models.

26. ALYSSA KAYE DAWSON

Erstwhile youngest city councilmember in NJ history (Westwood) Alyssa Kaye Dawson is the chief of staff for Senator Holly Schepisi, a Bergen Republican who occupies a political middle ground often underappreciated in New Jersey's halls of power.



More recently, Ms. Dawson has emerged as a compelling voice to end the stigma that silences those who struggle with their mental heath. Look for Alyssa Kaye Dawson to spend the rest of her career fighting for anyone battling mental health issues.

27. SHARRONDA WHEELER

A mentor first and foremost who nurtures LGBTQ youngsters to be leaders, Sharronda Wheeler is also Board President at Newark Pride, Inc.



Pride is about more than rainbows. And it's Sharronda Wheeler's mission Newark Pride is joyous and reflective in equal measure.

28. REGGIE BLEDSOE

Longtime activist and chair of the Essex County LGBTQ Democratic Caucus, Reginald "Reggie" Bledsoe is also the newly-minted Director of the Essex County Office of LGBTQ Affairs. Mr. Bledsoe's close Trenton ties extend his sphere of influence well beyond his hometown of Newark where he's still close allies with some of the brightest lights on NJ's political candelabra including Senator M. Teresa Ruiz and Joseph DiVincinzo, the Essex County Executive.

29. BETSY DRIVER

Betsy Driver is the first-term Mayor of Flemington Borough, population 4,500ish, in Hunterdon County. Ms. Driver is the first intersex person elected to office anyhwere in America history. Ms. Driver was also selected as a grand marshal for the 50th Pride Parade in New York City.

Mayor Driver is up for re-election later this year. Previously, she spent 2 years as on borough council. She famously triggered a blizzard of snowflakes by talking to Trump loyalists the same way Trump talks to people who didn't vote for him.

I don't typically cover the anatomical or reproductive characteristics of anyone on these pages but as Mayor Driver told InsiderNJ, "once you're quoted in the New York Times talking about your genitals, there's not a lot you're afraid of!"

In the ever-changing alphabet soup to describe the Queer community, the "I" in LGBTQI+ stands for Intersex. This refers to an inate (ie: born this way) or congenital variation of sex charactersions, including anatomical characteristics (ie: what you see) and reproductive traits that are usually not self-evident.

Ms. Driver was born with something called congenital adrenal hyperplasia which, in her case, led to the presence of both male and female anatomical sex characteristics.

Ms. Driver's genitals were mutilated at 8 months of age by a surgeon who, after deeming the infant's clitoris too large, cut it "to the nub," those exact words appearing in Ms. Driver's medical record, a revelation she discovered in her thirties.

Ms. Driver's family was led believe her condition was incredibly rare, that they were the only ones. But they weren't the only ones. Some estimates suggest that 1%-2% of Americans are born Intersex, rivaling the population of Los Angeles, roughly 4,000,000 people.

INSIDER NJ INSIDER OUT 100 LGBTQ+

Mutilating the genitals of an 8-month-old infant is a barbaric practice we Americans might attribute to uncivilized, backward people in faraway places and certainly not here, and certainly not anymore.

As it tuns out, what happened to Ms. Driver back in the 1960s is still happening today in children's hospitals all over America, perpetuating a stigma while diminishing for a lifetime the sexual pleasure associated with what was taken without consent.

"When you talk to people about what happens to children born with an intersex variation and the nonconsensual surgeries, they tend to be pretty horrified by it. I think there's a lot of respect out there for anyone who is trying to change that," Ms. Driver told the media.

Boston Children's Hospital and Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago no longer perform the kind of surgery Ms. Driver endured.

Boston Children's Hospital explained to 19thnews.com that it "will not perform clitoroplasty or vaginoplasty in patients who are too young to participate in a meaningful discussion of the implications of these surgeries, unless anatomical differences threaten the physical health of the child."

It's past time to end the practice of infant genital mutilation in New Jersey as well, a cause Ms. Driver is actively pursing in Trenton's halls of power.



- Best Wishes -

PLUMBERS AND PIPEFITTERS LOCAL UNION NO. 9 CENTRAL NEW JERSEY



Business Manager MICHAEL K. MALONEY

Assistant Business Manager
CHARLES "CHUDDY" WHALEN III

Business Agents
JOHN E. HOEY, JR.
ROBERT A. DILL
MICHAEL A. TRANBERG
JOHN E. BOYLE III
DEAN FEASEL

Organizers
WILLIAM K. GRAYBUSH
PATRICK M. SCHARNITZ

President EDWARD F. BURNS

Vice President
JUSTIN MALONEY

Executive Board
MICHAEL J. SIMON
MICHAEL DOS SANTOS
BRIAN THOMS
MICHAEL BELL

There Is No Substitute for Skilled U.A.
Building and Construction Trades Craftsmen

2 IRON ORE ROAD AT ROUTE 33, ENGLISHTOWN, NJ 07726
Telephone: (732) 792-0999 • Fax: (732) 792-1999
Website: www.ualocal9.org

30. ANDREW NOWICK

A Delaware Riverside town of 4,139 seeped in American Revolutionary War history, Lambertville has a new-ish mayor named Andrew Nowick. Located in Hunterdon County, Lambertville is often called NJ's second LGBTQ city (behind Asbury Park) and co-hosts a massive yearly Pride festival in conjunction with New Hope, PA.



By replacing Julia Fahl, who didn't seek reelection, Mr. Nowick's victory keeps Lambertville City Hall in LGBTQ hands for a second consecutive term.

31. AMY QUINN

Amy Quinn is the longtime Deputy Mayor of Asbury Park, New Jersey's undisputed LGBTQ capital and home to the largest annual Pride celebration in the Garden State.



After losing her first run for office, Ms. Quinn persisted.

Undaunted, she tallied the most votes of anyone on the ballot the past four times her name's been on the ballot, compiling a 4-1 win/loss record along the way.

32. ED WENGRYN

The New Jersey Farm Bureau's venerable field rep and research associate, Edward Wengryn had a busy, influential year in Trenton and beyond. In addition top passing wildlife management legislation for farms - and also scoring the money in the budget to implement it – Mr. Wengryn also worked with New Jersey Board of Public Utilities to set up a solar panel program for working farms. The goal to increase New Jersey's renewable energy supply and also to keep the land under and around the panels in active agriculture production.

33. AXEL TORRES MARRERO

The Senior Director of Public Policy at Hyacinth, NJ's largest AIDS organization, Axel Torres Marrero remains the guiding force on HIV-related legislative activities. Each day, he represents marginalized communities in the larger debate surrounding access to quality health care and prevention. This past year, he fought to ensure that our public policy follows the science on HIV with the HIV Modernization Act. This resulted in Governor Murphy signing S3707/A-5673, sponsored by Senators Vitale, Ruiz, Weinberg and Assemblypersons Vainieri, Huttle, Downey, and Zwicker which repealed New Jersey specific HIV criminalization statute. New Jersey's HIV criminal law was based on stigma and fear, rather than modern science. In 2022 it no longer reflects the current science of treatment and transmission of HIV.

Mr. Torres Marrero also worked with our partners to ensure that harm reduction centers have the ability to expand in New Jersey based on decisions driven by data.

34. ROBYN GIGL

An author and towering legal figure at Gluck Walrath LLC, Robyn Gigl is a long-serving board member at Garden State Equality, New Jersey's largest LGBTQ rights organization.



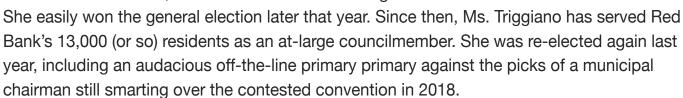
Ms. Gigl's activism has garnered awards from ACLU NJ and the NJ Pride Nework.

35. TERRENCE T. MCDONALD

The editor of New Jersey Monitor, Terrence T. McDonald wields his keyboard like a big can of Lysol, probing deep into the dark and shady crevices of NJ's political cesspool. One of the smartest writers in the game, Mr. McDonald's pointed prose and well-researched conclusions leave his sometimes shady subjects scrambling like cockroaches when the lights come on. Mr. McDonald has dozens of press accolades on his glittering resume for trenchant political analysis and fearless commentary.

36. KATE TRIGGIANO

After being told "no, it's not your turn" by guardians of a patriarchal status quo, Kate Triggiano crashed the gate to win a contested primary convention and with it, the nod for Red Bank borough council in 2018.



Along the way, Kate Triggiano has repeatedly overcome a bewildering series of abuses from an uninspiring municipal chair more interested in bullying than leading.

Ms. Triggiano deserves more credit that she gets for helping created Red Bank's first Pride Event, now an annual thing called "Pride in the Park."

37. SAM PARKER

Sam Parker is the Director of Appointments for Gov. Phil Murphy. She works with senators, senior staff, the First Lady's office, and stakeholders to field suggestions for political appointments to the judiciary and also to the vast constellation of boards and commissions which govern things like our bridges and the Pinelands.



38. JOEY FOX

The Statehouse reporter for *NJ Globe*, Joey Fox is one of the brightest journalistic prospects of his generation. An expert on New Jersey's wacky, hyper-partisan redistricting process, Mr. Fox will probably spend the next decade teaching political geography to the rest of us.





Congratulations!

ECEA 2nd Vice President Chris Cannella ECEA LGBTQ+ Chair Micah Gary-Fryer ECEA LGBTQ+ Committee Member Danielle Earle

and all the honorees listed in the 2022 Insider NJ Out 100

39. ALONZO S. BLALOCK

Alonzo S. Blalock (p/k/a Prince Derek Doll) is a Newark-based ac performing and recording artist, multi-media personality, journalist, entrepreneur, and LGBTQ activist. He is the CEO of Dollhouse Unlimited, LLC, and seeks to serve LGBTQ creatives with event production / management, merchandising, and marketing. He also serves as the Executive Vice President of Newark Pride, Inc. Last July he led the charge for the 16th Annual Newark LGBTQ Pride Festival – a full week of programming with 45 community partnerships that served nearly 5,000 participants – making it the largest Newark Pride celebration to date. Mr. Blalock intentionally uses his platform to advocate for diversity, inclusion, and equity both on and off stage. He is a 2021 alum of the inaugural Ron L. Simmons Leadership Institute and has recently been positioned as the new Manager of In-School Programs at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. In March 2022, his article "Displaced Yet Not Discouraged: A Profile of Don Knight-Powell", a story of a young Black gay man's struggle with homelessness, was even featured by Newark News & Stories on Medium.com.

From welcoming Governor Murphy to the City of Newark during his re-election bid to producing show-stopping performances that highlight the impact of the LGBTQ community on pop culture, this multi-hyphenate artivist will continue to leverage his political influence on issues like LGBTQ youth homelessness, trans health and wellness, protecting the right to privacy, and the expansion of safe spaces.



40. STEPHEN BLAZEJEWSKI

A financial planner in his day job, Stephen Blazejewski is president of the New Jersey Pride Chamber of Commerce where he works to advance the commercial interests of LGBTQ+ businesses and professionals in the tri-state area.



This year, Mr. Blazejewski worked with the Murphy Administration, who earlier this Spring issued an executive order to instructing NJ's Treasury Department to establish a state certification program for LGBTQ-owned businesses. Promoting LGBTQ-owned businesses by making the contract procurement process more inclusive and equitable is a good deal for all NJ because diversity among suppliers encourages greater innovation and competition which lowers bid prices. And that means millions of dollars in taxpayers savings across the Garden State.

41. DANNI NEWBURY

A Rahway Councilmember who represents her town's vibrant 5th Ward, Danni Newbury also runs the Union County Office of LGBTQ Affairs, the first county-wide government run- organization to support the LGBTQ community. Ms. Newbury cemented her legacy and influence by modeling how its done. Recently, the Newbury Model the template for Essex County to follow Union's lead and open their own Office of LGBTQ Concerns.

According to Union Councilman John Francis Roman (who's straight but not narrow) Ms. Newbury is exactly the kind of public servant NJ needs more of.

"Danni is the model public servant, the model wife, the model mother to her two beautiful girls, and a model friend to those lucky enough to know her," Mr. Roman noted. "She continues to be a role model to our youth and to all those she serves as Councilwoman in Rahway."

42. JULIO CEASER ROMAN III

Julio Roman's destiny as a fighter was forged very early. A fearless advocate and activist from Newark, Mr. Roman was 11 years old when he helped his Mother care for their Aunt Naomi as she died AIDS. That fateful experience propelled Mr Roman to become one of NJ's most respected AIDS activists.



Mr. Roman's book, Out of Space: Creating Safe Places in Unlikely Places, debuted earlier this year to considerable acclaim.

Julio Ceaser Roman III currently directs a collective of 40+ LGBTQ groups nationally to address harm reduction programming in safe spaces and LGBTQ medical setting. Fighting for people who use drugs, and for policies which protect them, is wildly unpopular work. Just like fighting for AIDS once was. Needle exchange saves money and saves lives in a vulnerable population that's disproportionately queer.

Mr. Roman was appointed a Newark LGBTQIA+ Commissioner and LGBTQIA Advisor on human trafficking for Ark Foundation where he created a program to address truma for LGBTQ victims of human trafficking.



43. SERGIO BICHAO & **JOE VORTRUBA**

With all that drive-talk buffoonery on weekday mornings, it's easy to forget that NJ101.5 has a pretty terrific, award-winning newsroom doing good and influential work.



Sergio R. Bichao is one of NJ's most seasoned and decorated journalists. He's NJ101.5's digital director where he's snagged press awards for, among other things, writing about shady superintendents gaming the salary cap and doctors who betray their patients. More recently, Sergio snagged honors from the New Jersey Society of Professional Journalists for his coverage of NJ's pension crisis. Since then, NJ Governor Murphy has made massive contributions to stabilize NJ's pension situation. Unfortunately not all Trenton lawmakers have completely absorbed the lessons from Sergio's pension coverage. But that's not Sergio's fault. He's a journalist, not a magician.

Joe Votruba is NJ1015's longtime producer and on-air presenter. Since coming out to his radio audience in 2015, Mr. Votruba has become an outspoken advocate for the LGBTQ community, dedicating countless hours of air time to issues that affect the community including reparations to LGBTQ service members unfairly discharged from the military. It's easy to preach to the choir. What makes Joe unique and special is his willingness to serve digestible equality nuggets to a largely conservative audience at NJ's largest radio station.

(As this went to press Mr. Votruba left NJ101.5 for a full time job at FOX where'll he continue to be a bring light preaching to a conservative audience that needs to hear his message.)

44. AMANDA HOFFMAN

An activist who splits her him between defending Net Neutrality and ending cannabis prohibition, Amanda Hoffman is a board member and social media manager for the Coalition for Medical Marijuana of New Jersey, the oldest cannabis reform group in New Jersey.



45. LAUREN ALBRECHT

The recipient of the inaugural Brian Holland Legacy Foundation award for LGBTQ+ advocacy, Lauren Albrecht also chairs the NJ Democratic State Committee's LGBTQ Caucus. Typically the loudest voice in the room for greater LGBTQ representation in politics at all levels of government. Lauren is your "ride-or-die" on election day: sleeves rolled up, bending over backwards, knocking on every door, win or lose.

46. BRIAN HACKETT

One of New Jersey's most well-respected activists for animals and their habitat, Brian Hackett is the newly minted Legislative Affairs Manager for the Animal Legal Defense Fund's where he directs key legislative priorities to create stronger animal protection laws, as well as improve the awareness and enforcement of these policies with public officials and the general public.

He was previously the New Jersey state Director for the Humane Society of United States. A moderate Republican with an uncanny ability to make friends on both sides of the aisle, Mr. Hackett is equally fluent in right- and left wing idiom. Mr. Hackett derives his influence and power from his own reputation as a straight shooting honest broker, a rarity in Trenton. Likewise, Mr. Hackett's ability to build a consensus is without peer in NJs's halls of power.

Recently, his tenacity paid off with the cancellation of New Jersey's annual bear hunt, a vestige of the Chris Christie era and a big love note to the NRA. So if you enjoy hiking in the woods without worrying about running into trigger-happy men with guns, you can thank Brian Hackett and his fellow animal rights activist for that.

47. WESLEY MCWHITE

A former top lieutenant at Garden State Equality, Wesley McWhite III directs NJ's Cannabis Regulatory Commission's office of diversity inclusion. He's there to ensure the same communities long over-policed by the War on Drugs get their fair share of the economic dividends of legalized cannabis.



McWhite's appointment to the CRC continues a long and venerable tradition of LGBTQ people reforming America's backwards and remorseless marijuana laws. It's also a resounding reminder that the days of ensnaring Black kids into legal trouble for a dime bag are rapidly winding down.

Congratulations To The 2022 Insider Out 100 NJ'S LGBTQ POWER LIST

NEW JERSEY WORKING FAMILIES PARTY

48. EILEEN DELLA VOLLE

An Ocean County stalwart, Eileen Della Volle serves on the board of the Women's Political Caucus of New Jersey. She's also on the Board of Adjustment for Brick Township, the 12th largest town in New Jersey. A former candidate for the NJ General Assembly, Ms. Della Volle is also a NJ Democratic Party's state committee.



49. JOE FORTE

Joe Forte is a Murphy Administration stalwart currently working at the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Although Mr. Forte has been influential with many campaigns over the years and is most known for his role as Vice-Chair of the NJ DSC LGBTQ Caucus, he has deep local roots in Mercer County. Joe is theis 2nd Vice-Chair of the Lawrence Democratic Club where he also chairs his township's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. He's also on the zoning board.

A prodigious fundraiser with serious policy chops, Joe Forte would make a great elected official. We need more LGBTQ+ elected officials throughout the State. Let's get him into office!

50. JOE SIMONETTA

A widely respected lobbyist and fundraiser, Joseph "Joe" Simonetta is a senior partner at Public Strategies Impact, a bluechip government affairs firm in Trenton.



Mr. Simonetta was busy during the pandemic helping to craft and secure a \$25,000,000 supplemental to help New Jersey's beleaguered hospitality industry manage (and ultimately recover from) the effects of COVID.



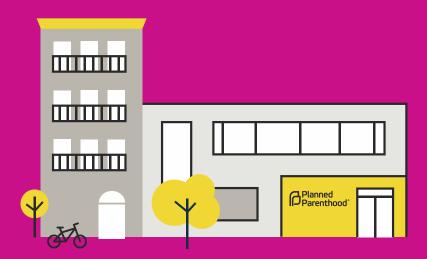
Planned Parenthood Action Fund of New Jersey

Congratulations to the 2022 Insider 100: LGBTQ Honorees!

Planned Parenthood is PROUD to provide high-quality sexual and reproductive health care for ALL.

We thank all of our statewide leaders who pledge to protect and expand access to the full range of sexual and reproductive health care services.

For more information on ways policymakers can take action to support legislation that advances this goal, visit our website at www.PPActionNJ.org.



Planned Parenthood Action Fund of New Jersey is a nonprofit, non-partisan group advocating on behalf of the tens of thousands of New Jerseyans who rely on Planned Parenthood health centers for high-quality, affordable reproductive health care.

www.PPActionNJ.org

51. CHRIS CANNELLA

Mr. Cannella helps lead one of the most powerful and influential teachers unions in New Jersey.



Since basically forever, Queer people have been conscientously and conspicuously stripped from the narraitve.

Like the time a gay man saved the world.

You may know that the Nazis rounded up queer people (and those perceived as gay) for torture and extermination. Perhaps you've also heard about the Enigma machine, an encryption device used by the Nazis to protect military communication and to propagate their genocidal madness.

Did you know that a British man named Alan Turing, a gay computer scientist with a PhD from Princeton, ultimately cracked the Enigma code to turn the tide of WWII? Alan Turing's reward for saving humanity from Hitler's madness? He was prosecuted for being gay and chemically castrated by his own British government in 1952.

He died by suicide 2 years later at 41 years of age, a victim if state-sponsored oppression that left no Queer person unscathed, not even one of Britain's most heroic wartime geniuses.

Eventually, history caught up.

There's been a Hollywood movie. In 2013, Alan Turing received a pardon from the Queen which followed an official apology from the British government for the "appalling way he was treated."

Now widely recognized at one of the most consequential figures in modern history, Alan Turing's face appears on the British £50 note, opposite Her Majesty.

INSIDER NJ INSIDER OUT 100 LGBTQ+



That's an LGBTQ-themed history nugget that NJ middle- and high school students can learn in history class thanks to a curriculum that includes the contributions of LGBTQ people. This curriculum gives our students a fuller version of history and teaches them to think critically.

There are lawmakers out there who disparage NJ's inclusive curriculum. They twist the next curriculum's true intent to gin up anger and contempt among those who hate gay people.

The blowback from the haters belies the genuinely positive effects an LGBTQ-inclusive curriculum will have on the critical thinking skills of all our students.

We won't let them win.

And as Alan Turing proved, history won't let them win either.

It take a village to pass laws and to implement laws like these. And it takes persistence to swat down the the ignorant characterizations of those who prefer their gays under the bus.

Chris Cannella's persistant contribution to NJ's LGBTQ-inclusive curriculum can't be overstated. The 2nd Vice President of the Essex County Education Association, Mr. Cannella helps lead one of the most powerful and influential teachers unions in New Jersey.

52. AMIE MARIA BABISCHKIN

Amie Maria Babischkin is an ER nurse who sacrificed her sanity (and tons of free time) protecting the rest of us from COVID's pitiless wrath. Ms. Babischkin brings the same tireless commitment to her political activism in New Jersey. For her efforts, Ms. Babischkin was chosen by the Bernie Sanders campaign to be a Bernie delegate in the 2020 presidential primary race. She's also in the steering committee of South Jersey Women for Progressive Change,

A native of Cumberland County, Ms. Babischkin's promotion of LGBTQ candidates for office often puts her at odds with a South Jersey Democratic Political Machine that treats LGBTQs like hood ornaments and ATM machines. The much-vaunted Norcross Democratic Machine, perhaps the most powerful in the state, has never once elected an LGBTQ person to higher office. That's a status quo that Amie Maria Babischkin is working 24/7 to disrupt.



53. LA'NAE GRANT

La'Nae Grant is the Director of the Child and Adult Care Food Program for the City of East Orange. She's also one of NJ's more prominent and well-respected transgender activists. A long time advocate for incarcerated transgender folk, Ms. Grant was recently appointed by Governor Murphy to basically clean up a huge mess at the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women Board of Trustees.



"These appointments, combined with the many other reforms and efforts made under our Administration, will effectuate improvement in oversight of the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility," said Governor Murphy. "I look forward to working with La'Nae on important prison reform efforts as we move to responsibly close this facility."

Previously, Ms. Grant worked closely with Garden State Equality to ensure East Orange (pop. 65k) provided comprehensive health care for its transgender employees. LaNae epitomizes the very best in local, community organizing and advocacy.

Ms. Grant was a principal lobbyist to ban to so-called "panic defense" cited repeatedly by those who do violence to LGBTQs, especially to our transgender sisters who are repeatedly targeted for living openly.

54. ALANA BURMAN

Alana Burman (They/She) has been a consistent voice on issues ranging from educational and gender equity, to civil rights and social justice. Some recent accomplishments were founding the inaugural NJ Federation of Democratic Woman DEI committee during her tenure as President and stewarding the Anti Defamation League's Memo of



Understanding with NJ NAACP to create meaningful conversations about race and faith. Blessed with parents who never tried to make her something she wasn't, Alana encourages her allies, friends, and colleagues to do the same; supporting and helping others to show up as their true selves in personal and professional environments to create direct, impactful, systemic change. These days, Alana works in Jewish communal service focusing on interfaith and intergroup advocacy, and proudly showing up as a professional queer, tattooed practicing Jew. Her life is graced with the world's most cuddly cats: Boo Bear and Miss B.

WESSINESS OF CONTOUR AND ADDRESS OF CONTOUR A



55. JENNIFER WILLIAMS

The Trenton GOP municipal chair, Jennifer Williams played a pivotal roll sending Assemblyman Don Guardian to Trenton as the first GOP state lawmakers in NJ history. The first transgnder GOP elected official in NJ history, and also the Trenton Zoning Board Chair, Ms. Williams persists despite copious invectives thrown her way by an NJGOP in the grips of an uncommonly meanspirited anti-LGBTQ mean streak.

56. ED POTOSNAK

A former Congressional candidate and one of NJ's best known environmentalists, Ed Potosnak is also a councilman from Franklin NJ. Mr. Potosnak's promotion by voters to borough council came after a stint on the Franklin Board of Education.

57. MIKEY SPADORO

A prolific fundraiser whose clients include heavy hitters like Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman and Garden State Equality, Mikey Spadoro is New Jersey's youngest elder statesman.



58. SHANNON CUTTLE

During Shannon Cuttle's tenure as a school board member in the South Orange Maplewood district, polices like erasing school lunch debt were enacted. Shannon was the first transgender/non-binary elected to state office in New Jersey as well at the first trans delegate to the Democratic National Committee's quadrennial convention.



59. CARA PARMIGIANI

One of NJ's sharpest legal minds, Cara Parmigiani was the first openly LGBTQ+ candidate to run for the office of Morris County Commissioner (then Freeholder) in 2019. She was the highest Democratic vote-getter in Morris County that year. Ms. Parmigiani is currently on the Executive Board of the Morris County Democratic Committee.

She remained active in the Morris County LGBTQA+ community by co-founding Morris County Pride with Sean Dorsa, and is the founding chair of the Morris County Democratic LGBTQA+ Caucus. Additionally, Cara serves as a founding board member of Elect Women NJ, and serves on the Advisory Board of the Stonewall Community Development Corp.

A longtime GOP bastion, Morris County has in recent years gown more politically competitive. With help from Cara Parmiagiani and Morris' LGBTQA+ caucus, two democrats, Mikie Sherrill and Tom Malinowski, got reelected to Congress in very competitive districts last tilt. I'm not saying The Gays made all the difference in Malinowski's narrow victory.

But I'm not not saying it either.

Malinowski's in another nailbiter this year. Look for LGBTQS like Cara Parmagiani to make an outsized contribution to the final tally.

60. MIKE STRACCO

A longtime English teacher with a penchant for theater, Mike Stracco leads the Pride Alliance in Hawthorne – a first for the Passaic County town. Mr. Stracco has hit the ground running, determined for the Pride Alliance make a positive impact in town and it has. In fact, the entire



council, mostly Republican, hopped on Mike's bandwagon proving the old adage that, if you build it, they will come.

61. ELVIN MONTERO

A Trenton native of Puerto Rican descent, Elvin is known to both Democrats and Republicans and since 2004, he has been among the few out people working in senior leadership for a major trade association in New Jersey.



During the pandemic, as the director of communications for the Chemistry Council of New Jersey, which represents the state's largest manufacturing sector, he worked closely with state and local officials to ensure the lifesaving products his members manufacture were available for the state's COVID-19 mitigation, preparedness, and response efforts.

The first openly gay person to run for city-wide office in Trenton, Mr Montero is vice-chair of the Mercer LGBTQ Democrats, and serves on the executive board of both the Trenton Democrats and Mercer County Democrats. He remains one of Mayor Gusciora's most trusted advisors after co-chairing his transition team and was integral in organizing Trenton's first LGBTQ Pride Festival.

Elvin Montero is a member of the Board of Directors of the Capital City Redevelopment Corporation and The Passage Theatre in Trenton. He also is a member of the Columbia Care New Jersey Advisory Board.

62₋FRANKLIN CUMBERBATCH, JR.

A cable TV executive by day, Franklin Cumberbatch, Jr is also the longtime chair of Garden State Equality Education Fund 501(c)(3) Board.



63. CATHY RENNA

One of the most well-respected comms pros in the game, Cathy Renna's national profile extends her sphere of influence well beyond her Montclair base.



You won't recall a major LGBTQ issue of the past generation where Cathy Renna wasn't front and center, driving the debate. From the reaction to the murder of Matthew Shepard in 1990s to the fight for marriage equality and the repeal of "Don't Ask Don't Tell," Ms. Renna continues to work to ensure LGBTQ voices remain part of the media narrative.

64. DAVID GRANT

A longtime presence in Trenton who got married and spent a few years in Philly, David Grant is back in Collingswood where he's a senior strategist at Z/Axis Strategies, a political consulting firm co-funded by New Jersey's Jen Holdsworth Karp focused on reducing polarization in American politics.



Mr. Grants close ties to US Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigleg combined with his enduring presence in Trenton's halls of power make David Grant a DC+NJ double threat.

65. BRIELLE WINSLOW-MAJETTE



Seton Hall University alum Brielle Winslow-Majette is the newly minded Deputy Director Garden State Equality's NJ's largest LGBTQ rights organization.

66. JAKE HUDNUT

The lead prosecutor in Jersey City, Jake Hudnut is perhaps the most unsung cannabis reformer in New Jersey. When Mr. Hudnut teamed up with Jersey City Mayor Steve Fulop to decriminalize pot in Jersey City, they did so without any fanfare and without indecision because halting cannabis arrests was (and still is) the right thing to do. He ruffled some feathers in the law enforcement world but by halting cannabis arrests in NJ's 2nd largest city, Jake Hudnut joined a long and venerable tradition of queer people fixing America's backwards drug laws.

67. IAN MOSLEY

A former winner of the prestigious Camden County Freedom Medal, Ian Mosley is a rarity in the Garden State: an openly LGBTQ municipal chair (Lindenwald) in New Jersey. An elected delegate for President Joe Biden, Mr. Mosley snagged 29,366 votes to secure his second term on the NJ Democratic State Committee where he represents Camden County.

68. ROSIE DRISCOLL

A renowned reproductive rights advocate, Rosie Driscoll is currently the deputy director of legislative services at NJ Department of Heath. Her current post comes after a stint at Planned Parenthood (where she worked the keep the government out of your womb) and for US Senator Bob Menendez.

69. LAURA BUSTAMANTE

A rising star in the world of New Jersey politics, Laura Bustamante is Policy & Campaign Manager at the New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice. Ms. Bustamante previously served as Chief of Staff for Jersey City Councilman James Solomon.



Ms. Solomon's off-the-line re-election slamdunk was propelled by Ms. Bustamante's campaign wizardry.

70. DAVID NELSON

David Nelson is Director of Operations and Finance at New Jersey Policy Perspective, a data-driven lefty think tank that's been pushing for economic justice and prosperity for all New Jerseyans for over two decades. A former Eagleton Fellow, Mr. Nelson's peerless commitment of fairer state budgets make makes his the conscience of NJ's annual budget debate.

71. AARON WILLIAMS

Aaron Williams is an aide to NJ Governor Phil Murphy, providing this administration with advise and insights on issues affecting veterans and their families. Mr. Williams travels the state meeting with mayors and local veterans groups to better connect our service members to the resources they need to thrive.

A United States Marine who answered the call to protect America from all enemies foreign and domestic, Aaron Williams embodies the world envisioned by advocates who fought to end "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" the Clinton-era half measure that forced LGBTQ service memebrs into the closet.

A recent graduate from Monmouth University Mr. Williams is also a tennis teaching pro who founded the Asbury Park Tennis Initiative. When he's not advising Gov. Murphy on Veterans issues, Mr. Williams is often busy bringing the sport of tennis into underserved communities.

72. ERICA BOLAND

Erica Boland is Digital Communications Manager at New Jersey Policy Perspective. As NJPP's first Digital Communications Manager, Erica has expanded the think tank's digital and social media footprint to include video and led the video ad campaign for NJPP's Blueprint to



Secure a Just Recovery, which has nearly 1 million online impressions (and counting.) As NJPP's in-house design guru, Erica branded the "Affordable for All" campaign, which has everyone in Trenton asking "affordable for who?" whenever a politician touts a new proposal aimed at making the state more affordable. Erica also serves in both the Gender Equity Workgroup and the LGBTQ+ Equity Workgroup with the State Priorities Partnership, with the goal to help the national network of think tanks advance equity in its work.

73. MICHELE KIDD

Michele Kidd chairs the Somerset County LGBTQ+ Advisory Board where she leads the fights for LGBTQ+ rights and representation in Somerset County government and boards. Michele and the Advisory Board pushed to hold Somerset County's first LGBTQ+ meet and greet where they held workshops on LGBTQ+ health and law and promoted diversity throughout the county. A stickler for substance, Ms. Kidd also knows the value of symbolism which propels her work to ensure that PRIDE flags and rainbow lights are shown in every municipality building in Somerset County during Pride Month.

In coordination with Somerset County Sheriff Darrin Russo and his department, Michelle has been working to heal the divide that still exists between the LGBTQ+ community and law enforcement. A proud bisexual woman, Ms. Kidd is an advocate against bi-phobia within the LGBTQ+ community.

Ms. Kidd was nominated for this year's list by Assemblyman Roy Freiman.

74. JASON DEALESSI

A former member of the Kinnelon Board of Education, Jason DeAlessi is New Jersey political operative on the rise. Mr. DeAlessi owns/runs Fuerza Strategies, a team of four full-timers and 15 other part-timers with tentacles in campaigns all over New Jersey. An amateur hockey



zealot, Mr. DeAlessi spends lots of time in the ice playing and officiating amatuer hockey.

JEANNINE LA RUE CONGRATULATES

2022 OUT 100 POWER LIST HONOREES

If you are part of the LGETQIA+ family and are closeted because you don't know how your family and friends will accept you...just know...we see you! We see you, love you, and celebrate you through this list.

This is your space...right here...and right now. Why? **Because you are worth it!**





LaRuelist Café (609) 273-3234 jlarue@jeanninelarue.com www.laruelistcafe.com

75. MARSHA SHAPIRO & **LOUISE WALPIN**

Marsha Shapiro and Louise Walpin were the first gay couple to legally marry in the state of New Jersey which imparted instant ICON status on the historic duo. The ground-breaking wedding, held in the home of Senator Raymond Lesniak and his late wife Salena Carroll-Lesnik, was one for the ages.

76. DAVE D'AMICO

A long time member of Garden State Equality's executive board, Dave D'Amico's work to foster better relations between police and the LGBTQ community that stand out. Mr. D'Amico's efforts to build bridges between law enforcement and queer people is among GSE's most important and innovative work.

There's work to do still to build trust. But Dave D'amico, a gay man who spent his entire career is law enforcement, is a reminder of the progress made toward between relations between LGBTQs and police.

77. CHARLES EADER

The chairman Somerset County's LGBTQ+ Advisory Board, Charles Eader was also featured in the Pride Month 2021 LGBTQ mural in downtown Somerville, which recognized prominent advocates for LGBTQ rights.



78. BRIAN K. EVERETT

Brian K. Everett is a South Jersey policy wonk determined to make positive change. He currently advocates to amend the New Jersey Municipal Land Use law to require developers to plant native and pollinator-friendly plants. He also is calling for HUD to investigate rent statewide, but especially in Camden County. Most importantly, Brian has also advocated to end New Jersey's use of incarcerated labor on dangerous highways. He serves as an assistant dean at Rutgers University - Camden and also as a University Senator. Mr. Everett is working toward a PhD in community development. Not bad for a guy who arrived on the scene by exposing public workers doing campaign work for the Camden Democratic Machine

79. HARMONICA SUNBEAM

Using the art of Drag to change the world, Harmonica Sunbeam weaves a heaping helping of her political sensibilities into every performance, leaving her audiences both entertained and empowered.

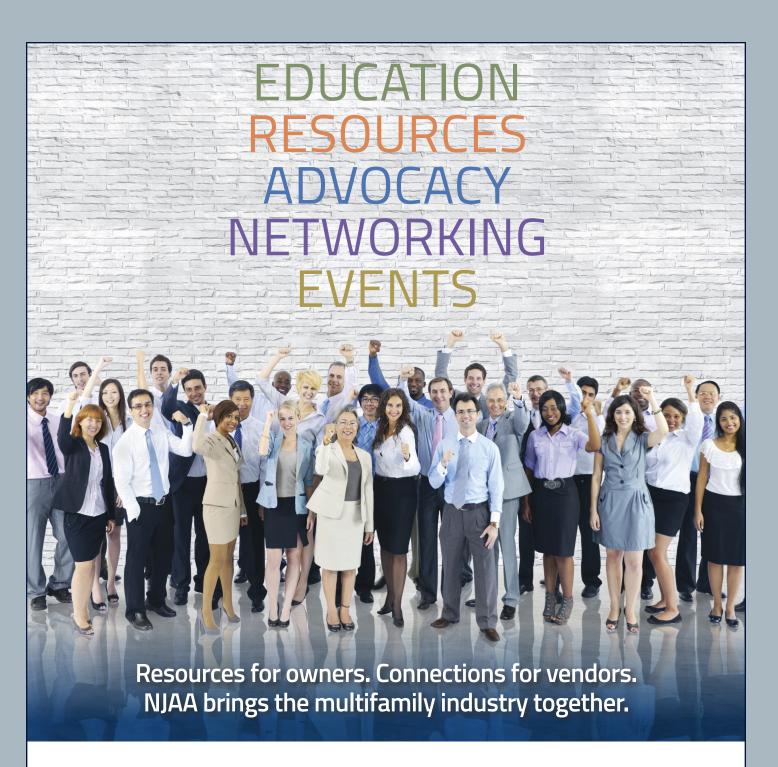


In a world where some lawmakers want to legislate us out of existence, queer people challenging gender norms are still leading the fight for queer liberty.

80. BRIAN MCGINNIS

The longtime equality advocate and politico recently decamped to Philly but Brian McGinnis still has everyone from Norcross World on speed dial and that still counts for a lot.





The NJAA is the premier trade association for New Jersey's apartment industry.

Join us today at njaa.com.



81. CAITLIN GILES-MCCORMICK

A former Flemington Borough Council President, Caitlin Giles-McCormick is project director at the New Jersey Economic Development Agency where she's committed to ensuring NJ that businesses have the tools and resources they need to grow and to thrive.

NJEDA remains a lifetime to countless NJ businesses affected by COVID.

82. MOIRA NELSON

A successful entrepreneur, a whip smart policy expert, and a proud bisexual woman, Moria Nelson is Director of Drug Policy Reform for Action Together New Jersey.



Ms. Nelson makes a persuasive argument why cannabis reform is a good deal for the taxpayer. Prohibition is expensive, especially considering the diminished prospects of someone ensnared by the war on drugs.

By helping set the table for recreational cannabis sales which began this year in New Jersey, Ms. Nelson continued a venerable tradition of queer people fixing America's (mostly) retrograte approach to drug policy.

83. JOHN TRAIER & PAM DANIELS

Two GOP stalwarts. John Traier and Pam Daniels are seasoned voices of common sense and moderation in a party that doesn't always appreciate its own LGBTQ voices.

Ms. Daniels serves on the NJ Federation of Republican Women Board of Governors. Mr. Traier's fundraising efforts helped Don Guardian become NJ's first openly gay state lawmakers.

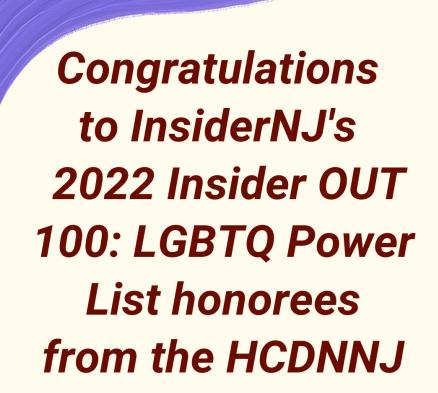
84. JUDY AMOROSA

An anti-machine good government stalwart, Judy Amorosa remains a thorn in the side of politicians who treat the public sector like it's their own private candy store. We could use 10 more just like Judy Amorsa here in New Jersey.



85. LAWRENCE BLUESTONE

A partner at Genova Burns, perhaps the most political wired law firms in New Jersey, Lawrence Bluestone manages the firm's Jersey City office. Mr. BLuestone focuses his practice on complex commercial litigation and appellate law matters on behalf of public and private sector clients, primarily focusing on management of multi-million dollar companies and business disputes.



Housing is a human right.

That's why Housing Help NJ was developed, to connect New Jersey renters, landlords, & homeowners to information available from multiple sources to help keep NJ residents safely and stably housed.

More information is available at **HousingHelpNJ.org**.



Visit us at hcdnnj.org

86. JESS ALAIMO

An uncommonly strident lesbian who uses art and comedy to change the world, Jess Alaimo is also a Democratic committee member in Tinton Falls, Monmouth County. Credited with helping to sire Long Branch's Pride Celebration, Ms Alaimo is also a writer at *TriCity News* where she pens the often witty, sometimes skeptical Rainbow Room column.

If revival chatter of an Asbury Women's March is true, look for Ms. Alaimo's ranking to skyrocket.

87. MICAH GARY-FRYER

Longtime educator and Union labor leader Micah Gary-Fryer is the LGBTQ+ caucus chair for the Essex County Education Association, one of NJ's most influential county-wide teachers unions.



Micah is one of the very few openly HIV+ names on this year's list, a testament to a powerful stigma that forces many with HIV back into the closet. That same stigma makes Mr. Gary-Fryer's openness both remarkable and impactful. Standing on the shoulders of the ACTUP generation of queers who demanded a better Federal response to the AIDS crisis, Micah's longevity is a powerful reminder that HIV treatment has come light years thanks primarily to the activism of LGBTQ folk.

When COVD struck, the response globally and in America was to aim a firehose of money towards vaccine development and within year, lines were forming at vaccine clinics around the nation. That's stark contrast to the malignant neglect of AIDS by our own federal government. There's still no AIDS vaccine because that's how it goes with diseases that primarily affects Queers and drug users.

America's neglectful response to the AIDS crisis is the most ghastly example of systematic oppression of Queer people you'll find anywhere on this list, and with deadly consequences. Micah Gary-Fryer's good health and ability to lead are a repudiation of an approach that left LGBTQ people on the margins.

88. KADJA MANUEL

An Army veteran who joined the service just three years after the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell, Kadja Manuel is the executive assistant and community organizer at Garden State Equality, NJ's largest civil rights organization.



Look for Mr. Maunel's ranking to skyrocket if he wins his election to the city council of Trenton.

89. ZOE HEATH

An LGBTQ stalwart in one of the reddest corners of New Jersey, the indefatigable Zoe Heath fights for liberty with optimism and integrity. All the recent pro-LGBTQ changes in Sussex County have Ms. Heath's fingerprints all of it.



90. ED ZIPPRICH

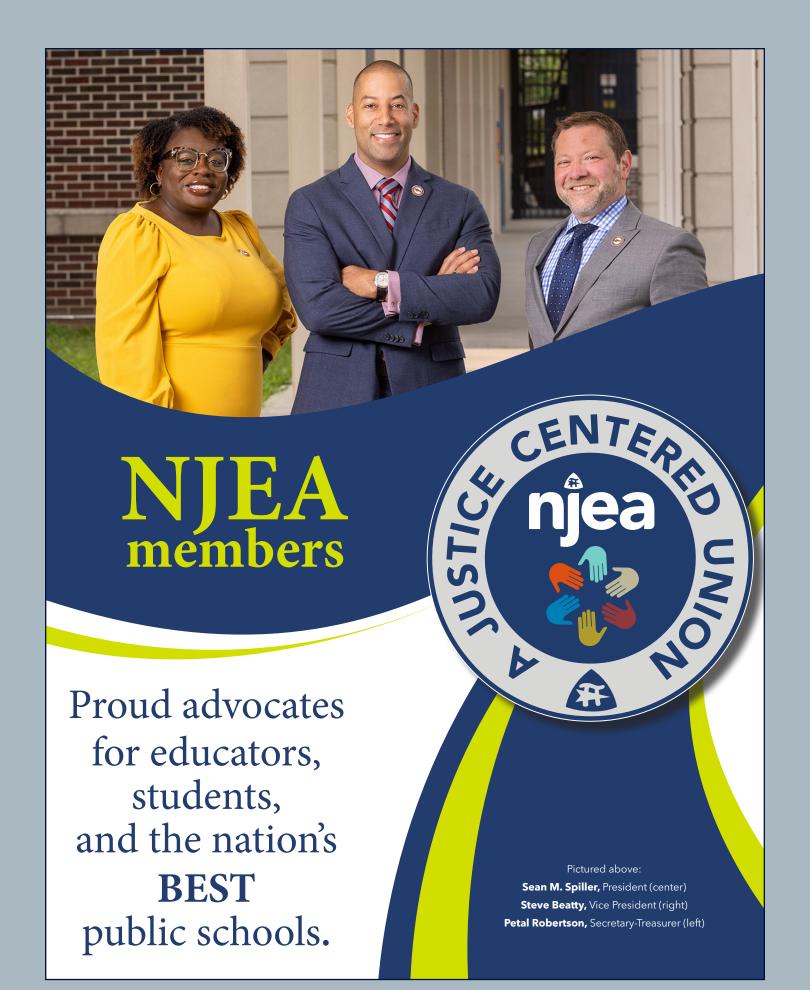
Ed Zipprich is a Red Bank Councilmember and, for the time being, chairman of the Red Bank Municipal Committee.



91. ALISHA DE LORENZO

Alisha De Lorenzo oversees Garden State Equality's Adverse Childhood Experiences programming. Ms. De Lorenzo brings her expertise from over 16 years in public education and as a licensed mental health clinician to guide the development and expansion of this programming.





92. RYAN ALBRIGHT

The president and founder of Pride of Evesham, Ryan Albright has worked with lawmakers from both parties to transform Burlington County's largest town into an LGBTQ-friendly bastion/destination.



93. GUS PENARANDA

A champion of mental health and wellness, Gus Penaranda is the Executive Director of the New Jersey Pride Chamber of Commerce, a trade association that advances the business interests of LGBTQ+ (and allies) in New Jersey and the tristate area.



Previously, Mr. Penaranda was Public Information Officer for NJ Attorney General's Office.

94. DANIELLE EARLE

A teacher in Orange in Essex County, Danielle Earle is part of a long tradition of LGBTQ people using art (in this case film) to change the world. Ms. Earle also serves on the board of OUT Montclair, a nonprofit created to provide awareness and provide support for Montclair's vibrant Queer community.



95. DAMIEN LOPEZ

An up-and-coming transgender activist with talent to spare, Damien Lopez is Project Manager and a trainer at Garden State Equality, NJ's largest LGBTQ rights organization.



This list would look very different without AIDS, a deadly plague that decimated our community barely a generation ago. We'll always reserve a spot on this list as a tribute to reflect on all those brilliant, beautiful, talented queers who perished from AIDS.



96. IAN HOLMES

A debutant on this year's OUT 100 Power List, Ian Holmes chairs the New Jersey Young Democrat's LGBTQ Caucus. He demonstrated his civic mindedness by running for the NJ General Assembly while he was still in school.



97. JENNIFER GODOSKI

A government affairs pro with overt two decades in the game, Jennifer Godoski directs policy and government affairs at New Jersey Resources. She's worked for three Governors including a stint for the NJ Department of Transportation where she served as chief of staff.

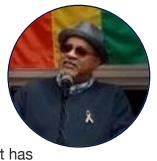


Multiple decades in Trenton give her more longevity than nearly everyone on this list.

98. GARY PAUL WRIGHT

The executive director of the African American Office of Gay Concerns, Gary Paul Wright has done more to fight HIV/AIDS than anyone on this list.

By any metric, the believed and venerable Mr. Wright deserves a permanent place in the Top 10 of every OUT 100 Power List. The musical chairs with this year's placement was to highlight new names and faces, something Mr. Wright has selflessly done for his whole career.



99. ALLISON "AK" KOLARIK

Semi-famous on TikTok, Allison "AK" Kolarik is owner of Futile Device (futiledevice.com) and co-founder of Asbury Park Dinner Table, a civically-wired charity that paid COVID-addled restaurants to cook for people who might otherwise go hungry.



AK has been cultivating a dedicated and vibrant community on social media, through which they raise cash money for various organizations (MMIW USA, Feeding America, Doctors Without Borders, et al...)

Best Wishes to InsiderNJ and Everyone on Their 100 LGBT Power List for 2022



Congratulations to #28 Reginald Bledsoe

Essex County Director of LGBTQ Affairs



Joseph N. DíVíncenzo, Jr. Essex County Executive

Paid for by Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. for Essex County Executive

100. JIM MCGREEVEY

Most of us know him as NJ's 52nd Governor. But for the 8,500 clients he serves at the New Jersey Reentry Corporation, Jim McGreevy is a mentor and a lifeline helping to end the revolving door of prison recidivism in New Jersey.

Gov McGreevy is New Jersey's principal lobbyist for laws to enable former prisoners to thrive and contribute to society after they've served their time. With COVID raging, efforts to reduce prison population are more urgent than they've ever been. When he isn't busy helping people navigate a criminal justice system that seems built for recidivism, Jim McGreevy is lobbying to create a system where people leave jail rehabilitated and with the tools they need to succeed on the outside.

Mr. McGreevy surely deserves a higher ranking but we're putting him at the end so prison reform is the last thing you read about on this list.

ANYONE CLOSETED

Even in the year 2022, the closet remains a lonely, damaging place. With all the recent advances on LGBTQ rights, its easy to forget that there's still plenty of anti-LGBTQ stigma out there.



We will always bear witness to that loneliness and suffering on this list.