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2022

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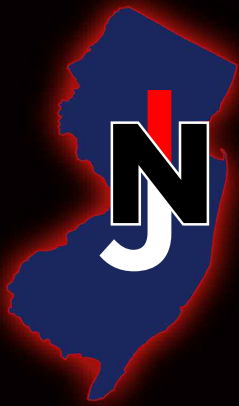


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INSIDER NJ

Message from the Editor

INSIDER 100 POLICYMAKERS

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★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



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Photo Credit: Kevin Sanders for New Jersey Globe

Welcome to our annual list of InsiderNJ's Policymakers, those Statehouse urchins of statecraft, who preoccupy themselves less with punishing political power and more with the intellect – or power expressed as intellect.

These are not merely ivory tower occupants, but movers and mechanics of more than lower primate functions, who engineer issues and ideas into laws, and the public province of vigorous discussion about the law.

This list is subjective, and changes from year to year, mostly based on the concentration of those particular issues examined by the Legislature. At its most vital, we like to see it as a collective of serious-minded and substantive individuals dedicated, finally, to people's happiness.

This is important, especially in New Jersey, where we routinely fall prey to accepting only the Machiavellian definition of politics, which posits nothing more than the raw wielding of power.

If we extol and practice power for its own sake and fail to consider its use for some good, namely the community and those binding forces of a common destiny, we cheapen our institutions and make them continually vulnerable to ever worse expressions of corruption.

Aristotle had another view from Machiavelli, actually invoking the concept of “the good” - imagine that.

“Since we see that every city-state is a sort of community and that every community is established for the sake of some good (for everyone does everything for the sake of what they believe to be good), it is clear that every community aims at some good, and the community which has the most authority of all and includes all the others aims highest, that is, at the good with the most authority. This is what is called the city-state or political community.”



Some – in fact, many – do imagine it, and with some degree of courage and eloquence in the midst of the muck that is our public life at present. They are those seeking a finer and more civilized expression of our common union and common humanity.

Here’s to them, in the words of our own favorite Jersey Boss:

*“A cheap romance, you say it’s all just just a crush
You don’t want nothing that anybody can touch
You’re so afraid of being somebody’s fool
Not walking tough, baby, not walking cool
You walk cool, but darling can you walk the line*

“And face the ties that bind

*“The ties that bind
Now you can’t break the ties that bind.”*

—Max Pizarro, Editor, InsiderNJ



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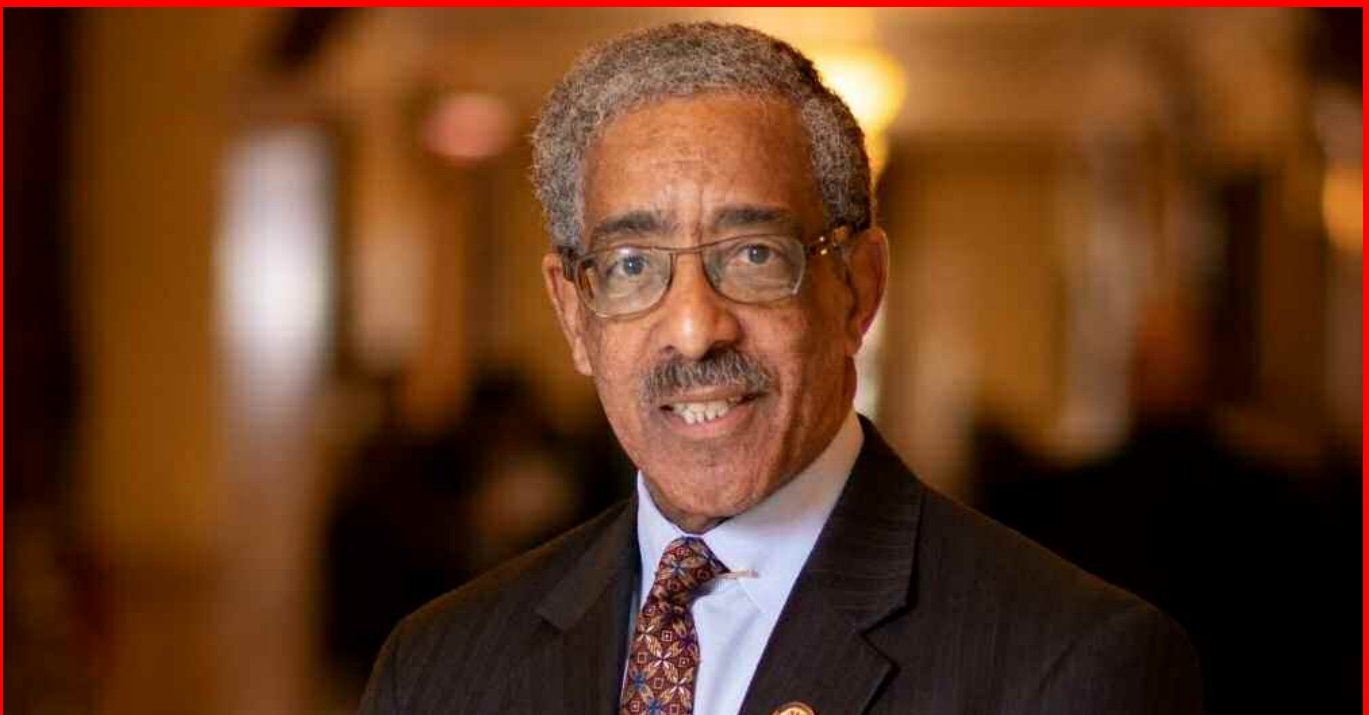
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1 RONALD L. RICE

STATE SENATOR, LD-28



In a virtual world where the unreal is a substitute for the real, Rice may be the most misunderstood of public servants. He is real. Moreover, in a New Jersey public space given over to private gain, Rice actually dares to be real on a key front: public service, and policy knowledge for the purpose of the public good. The Newark-based Senator built a career out of taking tough – and detail-oriented – stands on the issues impacting his constituents, and during the debate over marijuana legalization, staked out a strong position in favor of decriminalization as an alternative to legalization.

His views put him in opposition with Governor Phil Murphy and Senator Nick Scutari, who would go on to become senate president.

Why?



“It’s not about social justice, it’s about money,” Rice told InsiderNJ in 2019 in his Newark West Ward office at the intersection of South Orange and Sanford avenues.

“This new generation of black elected officials is not paying attention,” he said. “They’re not paying attention to the fact that black and brown people are being played. We have a greater responsibility. Why? Because we’re the folks who were promised 40 acres and a mule, which we still never got, see? We’re the group that’s underrepresented in politics when white folk – political power – people are in control. There’s an injustice taking place. The number of black folk in jail is three times greater than white folks. We’ve been trying to fix it. We think it’s a social justice question. The guys in jail on marijuana possession convictions say, if it’s about social justice, then turn me loose. And [then-Senate President Steve] Sweeney and the Governor are saying, “Well, I can’t do that. You have to legalize recreational marijuana so my people can make a lot of money off of you.’ Look, that’s what’s going on, okay? We should shut this state down because it’s the most racist-intended thing since Jim Crow and some black leaders and clergy – under the auspices of social justice – are buying into that.”

Rice wanted the legislature to move a social justice bill, which would free convicts incarcerated on nonviolent marijuana possession. “That would tell me you really are mature about social justice,” said Rice. “Then you can have your debate on recreation once you pass social justice. They play one off the other, these guys. Why? They know the majority of my colleagues are never going to vote for recreational marijuana – they don’t want to vote recreation – without the social justice tease. They’re holding us hostage; hostage to the anticipated revenues from drugs.”

Rice sought separate social justice and decriminalization bills ultimately securing some of what he wanted in Murphy’s legalization sign-off, but not enough and not with the legal teeth he hoped to secure. The full realization of expungement remains an elusive legal point, which only Rice went statewide on in a sustained and impassioned way, with the precision of one who long ago gathered evidence in his work as a detective with the Newark Police Department.



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2 MATT PLATKIN

ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY



The Stanford-educated Platkin started his policy career at the Brookings Institution in Washington D.C., advising members of Congress on job growth and economic recovery following the 2008 financial crisis. In 2018, he became Chief Counsel to Governor Phil Murphy, where he oversaw an office of over 20 attorneys that advised the Governor on all legal matters, including legislation, executive orders, and administrative regulations. Platkin also was responsible for coordinating with the Attorney General's Office on civil matters, including affirmative litigations, and oversaw judicial and prosecutorial nominations. As a counterweight to U.S. Supreme Court rulings, he serves as a fierce guard dog of his boss' agenda, forming the Reproductive Rights Strike Force, to protect access to abortion care; and joining a national effort to regulate ghost guns.



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3

DIANA HOUENOU

CHAIR, NEW JERSEY CANNABIS REGULATORY COMMISSION

At a critical time, the fluent French speaker chairs the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission. Appointed by Governor Murphy, Houenou works with other members of the commission to regulate legalized cannabis. A former senior policy advisor and associate counsel for Murphy, Houenou advised the governor on policy and legislative issues concerning criminal justice, military and veterans, community affairs, and immigrants' rights.



4

JUDITH PERSICILLI

COMMISSIONER OF THE NJ DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Murphy came to his job of governor with money, but without any real government experience, which at the height of the COVID-19 crisis in particular made his reliance on Persichilli – a nurse by trade with years in the trenches as a healthcare executive – crucial.



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

-Winston Churchill

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5 ED LISFSHIFTZ

MEDICAL DIRECTOR OF THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES, COMMUNICABLE DISEASE SERVICE

The private practice Rutgers University physician continues to prove a critical forward position player during the COVID-19 crisis.



6 GEORGE HELMY

CHIEF OF STAFF, GOVERNOR, PHIL MURPHY

The Harvard-educated wonk deserves credit for having dumbbed himself down enough to convince long-serving legislative leadership staffers that they're smarter than he is, which had the supposedly public-interest effect of soothing egos and unruffling a sufficient number of feathers in time for the governor's (and the legislature's) 2021 reelection effort. The end result of that was they're gone now (the career of former Senate President Steve Sweeney exploded in spectacular fashion) and Helmy's still around, that is at least as long as he likes, and before he moves to a big corporate job on his own terms, probably sometime this year.



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CONGRATULATIONS

To Senator Troy Singleton
and all those honored in the 2022
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7 SHIRLEY TILGHMAN

POLICY HEAVYWEIGHT

Co-Chair (with Merck CEO Kenneth Frazier) of Murphy's Restart and Recovery Commission. The former Princeton University President (2001-2013) teaches molecular biology and public policy at Princeton.



8 MARCIA MARLEY

BLUEWAVENJ PRESIDENT

Head of the state's progressive movement, Marley occupies a position on the New Jersey Policy Perspective Board of Trustees, and, critically, a seat on the revitalized Economic Development Authority (EDA), which needed some policy – and moral – authority after getting run into the ground during the Chris Christie years.



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9

JEFF BRINDLE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ELECTION LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

A true public servant, the Executive Director of the Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) spends as much time teaching and explaining the nuances of election law as he does enforcing it, accomplishing the double impact of chastising thugs *and* making better citizens.



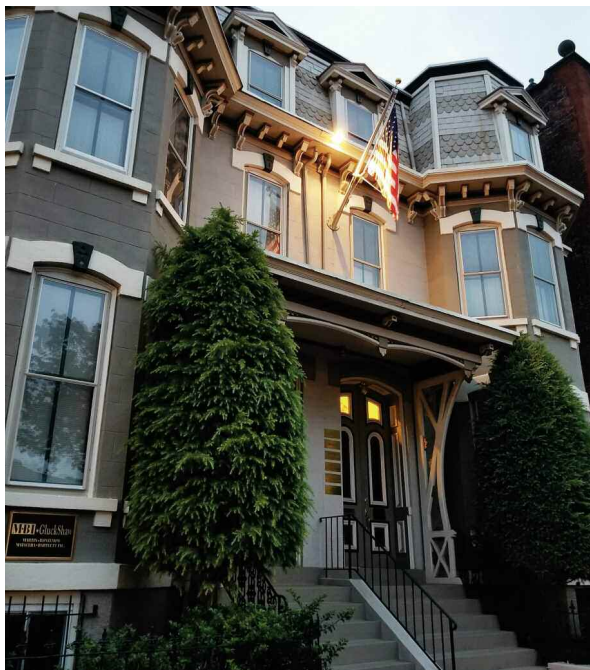
10

PARIMAL GARG

CHIEF COUNSEL, MURPHY ADMINISTRATION

When Platkin left the Murphy Administration last year (only to later return to become the state's new Attorney General, see above), Garg stepped up to become the governor's new chief counsel. Formerly having clerked for state Supreme Court Justice Stuart Rabner, Garg received his B.A. from Georgetown University, magna cum laude, and J.D. from Harvard Law School, cum laude.





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11 DENNIS ZEVELOFF

DEPUTY CHIEF POLICY ADVISOR

Appointed earlier this year, Zeveloff succeeds Zakiya Smith Ellis.

“Throughout the past four and a half years, Dennis has served as an invaluable advisor who brings to his work a spirit of fairness, integrity, and excellence,” said Governor Murphy of his former Director of Budget and Outcomes where he coordinated the Governor’s state and federal spending proposals and helped jumpstart numerous initiatives across departments.

“His critical thinking, balanced approach, and expertise on our budget and economic proposals have guided our Administration’s efforts to build an economy that offers a pathway to opportunity for all who pursue it. I am confident that his unwavering commitment to public service and extensive experience

make him uniquely prepared to serve our state in his new capacity as Chief Policy Advisor.” Zeveloff previously served as the Policy Coordinator for then Governor-elect Murphy’s transition team and as Policy Advisor during then-candidate Murphy’s gubernatorial campaign. He grew up in Bergen County and received his Bachelors of Arts Degree from Dartmouth College and Juris Doctor and Master of Business Administration Degrees from Yale University.



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CWA DISTRICT 1 VICE PRESIDENT

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CWA NJ AREA DIRECTOR



12 LEROY JONES

CHAIRMAN, DEMOCRATIC STATE COMMITTEE

The political leader of the Democratic Party in New Jersey, Jones simultaneously occupies the chairmanship of the powerful Essex County Democratic Committee. As head lobbyist at 1868 Public Affairs, he has more than a nodding acquaintance with the ins and outs of Statehouse-debated policy, and proved his redistricting chops as co-chair of the legislative redistricting committee.



13 EVAN WEISS

CEO OF THE NEWARK ALLIANCE

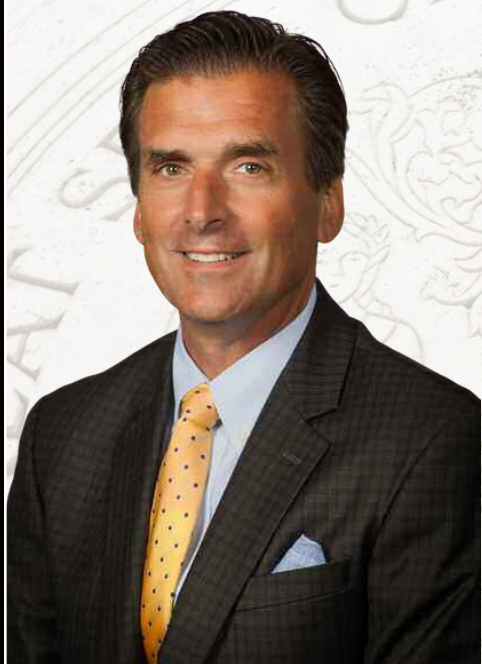
Formerly in the Governor's Office as Murphy's go-to person on finance and Budgeting, Weiss in 2021 became head of the leading nonprofit dedicated to the ongoing economic revitalization of New Jersey's largest city.





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14

DEB CORNAVACA

**DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT
RELATION-POLICY AND POLITICS
AT NEW JERSEY EDUCATION
ASSOCIATION**

Formerly a community organizer and lobbyist for nearly two decades and NJEA Associate Director of Government Relations, and Legislative Director of New Jersey Working Families, Cornavaca left her policy job in the Murphy administration to go back to the NJEA. Cornavaca graduated cum laude from Dartmouth College, and holds a masters and Ph.D. from UCLA in Anthropological Archaeology with a specialization in Latin American cultures prior to Spanish contact, where she was a Fulbright scholar.



15

KATE MCDONELL

The highly valued Deputy Chief Counsel for Governor Murphy served as General Counsel to the Assembly Majority Office for eight years, and before that worked as Associate General Counsel in the Majority Office. McDonnell is a magna cum laude graduate from the University of Notre Dame and holds both a J.D. from the Rutgers School of Law – Camden and a Master's Degree from Rutgers – New Brunswick's Bloustein School of Policy and Planning.





16 MICHELE SIEKERKA

PRESIDENT OF THE NEW JERSEY BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Siekerka's organization serves the state's private sector employee and business sector base. During the Murphy years, and especially during the COVID era, she has been a leading voice in opposition to those policies detrimental to the state's business community.



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About policies **WORTH** a damn



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17 JENNIFER TAYLOR

NUMBERS-CRUNCHER

The lead Democratic aide for the Assembly Appropriations Committee is New Jersey's go-to person for all budget-related issues in Trenton.



18 JOE FIORDALISO

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

The long-serving NJBPU Commissioner serves as Co-Chair on the NJ Council on the Green Economy, and also serves on the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' (NARUC) Committee on Critical Infrastructure and Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment, is a member of the Executive Committee for the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), is a member and Secretary-Treasurer of the Mid-Atlantic Conference of Regulatory Utilities Commissions (MACRUC), is a member of the National Council on Electricity Policy (NCEP), is on the Board of Directors of the Organization of PJM States (OPSI), and is a member of the Advisory Council to the Board of Directors of the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI).





19 LIZ MUOIO

TREASURER, NEW JERSEY

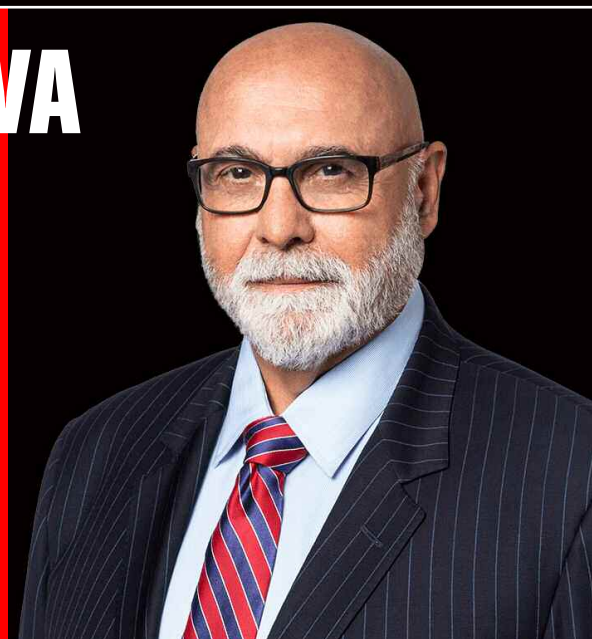
An LD15 assemblywoman from Pennington prior to going to the Murphy Administration, Muoio argued the benefits of the historically gigantic, federal surplus-assisted \$50.6 billion budget for FY2023. “Since our first days in office, fiscal responsibility has been a guiding principle. Four years later, we have received two of only four credit rating upgrades that the State has seen since the 1960s,” said the State Treasurer. “Going into this year’s budget, the Governor made it clear we needed to continue on this path by building our surplus even higher, reducing our debt even further, meeting our obligations, and delivering tax relief. And that is exactly what we have done.”



20 ANGELO GENOVA

CHAIRMAN AND MANAGING PARTNER, GENOVABURNS

The state’s foremost election law attorney, look for the veteran legal mind to engage as the crisis of the current elections intensify. If you’re doing a Deja vu double take right now it’s because this write-up on Genova is the same as last year. That’s because the crisis of the current elections remains just as applicable, in fact more than last time, as intensity compounds intensity and democracy continues to frightfully derail.



~ Best Wishes ~

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21 MARK MAGYAR

**DIRECTOR, STEVE SWEENEY CENTER FOR PUBLIC
POLICY, COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL
SCIENCES, ROWAN UNIVERSITY**

The longtime Sweeney-affiliated policy nerd followed Sweeney out of the Statehouse to South Jersey, where he chairs the former senate president's embryonic academic endeavor, presumably as a celebrating catalyst for a Sweeney political comeback.



22 JOHN REITMEYER

**BUDGET REPORTER, NJ SPOTLIGHT
SCIENCES, ROWAN UNIVERSITY**

There's no reason to look at the budget report or listen to "the experts," as long as NJ Spotlight pays Reitmeyer to pour through the beast and write about it. In a word, the best.



23 KEN FRAZIER

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF
MERCK AND CO., INC.**

Co-chair of Governor Phil Murphy's Restart and Recovery Commission, Frazier represents the real-world angle as a counterweight to the academic brain overload on the other side of the co-chairmanship.





24

CHRISTINA TAN
STATE EPIDEMIOLOGIST

Tan represents one of a handful of individuals in the vicinity of New Jersey politics who actually radiates “educated.” How’s this for an academic resume: -A.B. in History from Princeton University in 1992; MD from Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai; MS in Public Health from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health; Residency in Internal Medicine/Primary Care at New York University Medical Center. State Treasurer. “Going into this year’s budget, the Governor made it clear we needed to continue on this path by building our surplus even higher, reducing our debt even further, meeting our obligations, and delivering tax relief. And that is exactly what we have done.”



25

JANE COHEN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT THE
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
CLIMATE ACTION AND THE
GREEN ECONOMY

Governor Phil Murphy’s Maplewood-based Senior Policy Advisor has her roots in government, international affairs and human rights, with expert focal points in energy, environment and climate policy, international relations, and investigative research. Proficient in Mandarin Chinese and French – she also speaks the language of enviros, who are routinely understandably apoplectic.





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Sean M. Spiller, President (center)

Steve Beatty, Vice President (right)

Petal Robertson, Secretary-Treasurer (left)



26

BILL PASCRELL III

PRINCETON PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A key driver behind the legalization of sports betting and online gaming in the United States, Pascrell remains one of the state's experts on the gaming industry, and the Legislature's go-to guy on the industry.



27

BOB HENNELLY

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER

One of journalism's prized possessions, investigative reporter Hennelly has occupied a relentless forward position on every major issue of our time: from housing to healthcare, from education, economics, and social justice, to voting rights and labor. A specialist in drilling down into the core of where real people live and work, Hennelly gathers his materials on the ground, to unleash the toughest, most uncomfortable questions on those at the top of the ivory tower power chain.





28 NICOLE RODRIGUEZ

NJ POLICY PERSPECTIVE PRESIDENT

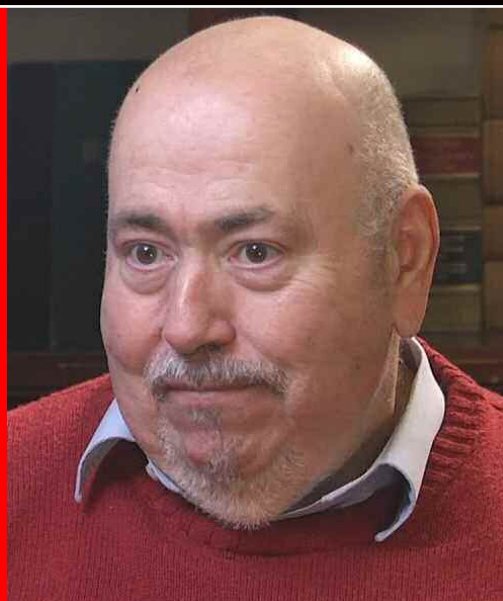
The successor to Brandon McKoy, Rodriguez, formerly NJPP's research director, has guided the think tank's policy agenda and supervised its research staff since 2019. "I'm honored to take on the role of President of NJPP, an organization with a legacy of not only getting things done but doing so in a way that puts people first in the policy-making process," said Rodriguez, a Boston native and former star at the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center. "With democratic institutions and basic freedoms under attack in our nation's halls of power, the need for community-driven policy has never been greater. We have a lot of work to do in building a state and economy that works for everyone, and I know that with this team we can get it done."



29 JOE DORIA

SPEAKER EMERITUS

The former Speaker of the General Assembly, former Department of Community Affairs Commissioner, and former Mayor of Bayonne remains Hudson County's leading (only?) intellectual on policy matters. We jest. Actually, there are others – former state Senator Bernard Kenny for one, and... well, we trust they're out there.



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30 RYAN HAYGOOD

**PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE NEW JERSEY
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(THE “INSTITUTE”)**

Haygood primarily concerns himself with policy that empowers at-risk urban communities. As such, he finds himself engaged 24-7, mostly against a political establishment primarily consumed with disempowering at-risk urban communities.



31 STACI BERGER

**PRESIDENT OF HOUSING COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT NETWORK**

A real advocate, who assumed a frontline to save Affordable Housing Trust fund money for the last three years, She also radiates no fear when it comes to putting her name on a lawn sign, as she did when she ran for office in her home town of Piscataway.



32 SEAN SPILLER

PRESIDENT NJEA

The President of the powerful New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) also serves as Mayor of Montclair and continues to generate buzz as a possible 2025 gubernatorial candidate.



**33 TIM SULLIVAN****CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE NEW
JERSEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
(NJEDA)**

Sullivan still comes from New York, where he served as Chief of Staff to the New York City Deputy Mayor for Economic Development, and where he'll probably return once his gig in this state is over.

**34 CECILIA
ZALKIND****PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF
ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN OF NEW JERSEY**

Zalkind stands at the forefront of key policy advances in child welfare, early care and education and health care in New Jersey.

**35 CHARLES BOYER**
**FOUNDING DIRECTOR OF
SALVATION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE**

Now Pastor of Greater Mount Zion AME Church in Trenton, The Reverend Pastor Boyer helms a powerful advocacy organization that harnesses the resources of the African American faith community.



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36 SONIA DELGADO

A former policy analyst with the New Jersey Senate Majority Office, Delgado is one of the state's healthcare systems experts. Prior to joining PPAG—Princeton Public Affairs Group in 1999, Delgado held senior executive positions at HIP Health Plan, UMDNJ-University Hospital, and Mercy Health Plan of New Jersey.



37 JEH JOHNSON

ATTORNEY, PAUL WEISS FIRM

The former Secretary of Homeland Security occupies a seat on Governor Murphy's Restart and Recovery Commission. An expert on counterterrorism; cybersecurity; border, port, aviation and maritime security; enforcement and administration of immigration laws; response to national disasters; detection and prevention of nuclear, chemical and biological threats; and the protection of critical infrastructure and the nation's leadership.



38 LISA JACKSON

VICE PRESIDENT OF ENVIRONMENT, POLICY AND SOCIAL INITIATIVES AT APPLE INC.

Another bigshot from the Obama Administration reanimated in Murphy World, Jackson served as administrator of the national Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and had a no-nonsense reputation as Jon Corzine's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner. Now she sits on Murphy's Restart and Recovery Commission.





39 AMY TORRES

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT THE NEW JERSEY ALLIANCE FOR IMMIGRANT JUSTICE

Torres played a critical advocacy role during 2020-21 redistricting by advocating for greater political representation for key communities of interest.



40 CHARLENE WALKER

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FAITH IN NEW JERSEY

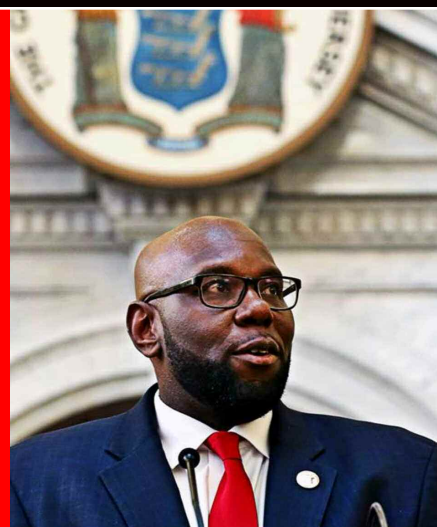
Visible and energized, Walker has staked out ground on fair redistricting representation, anti-gun violence and same-day voting, among other progressive policy initiatives.



41 TROY SINGLETON

LD7 SENATOR

The LD7 Senator, schooled by former Speaker Joe Roberts, is the chair of the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee; keyed into water and air quality, social justice, economic growth and housing affordability.





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42 KEVIN DRENNAN

FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT NEW JERSEY
SENATE DEMOCRATS AND OFFICE OF THE SENATE
PRESIDENT AT NEW JERSEY SENATE DEMOCRATS

Bounced out of power with the rest of the Statewide cocoon around Sweeney that didn't see the marauding forces mobilizing back in LD3, Drennan resurfaced as a Mercury guy.



43 SHEILA OLIVER

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

The state's LG Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs – a former Speaker of the Assembly – has one of the most extensive policy backgrounds in the state. She's also not afraid to dive into the fray, as she proved last year when she wrote a letter resisting Camden County's efforts to assume responsibility for the City of Camden's finances. "Our ultimate goal in Camden is to build capacity so they can be locally governed," Oliver told InsiderNJ. "We're not interested in stripping municipalities of local control. That is not the best thing for Camden."



44 BILL MULLEN

BUILDING TRADES PRESIDENT

Head of the state's Building Trades, Mullen is not only a fierce labor advocate but an expert on labor issues. With Sweeney gone from Trenton, Mullen has animated a whole new strata of connections.





45 DAVID BANDER

The bow-tied policy office Executive Director at the Department of Labor and Workforce Development – former chief of staff to Senator Linda Greenstein – offers the whole package of policy and political expertise. One of the brightest minds in the state.



46 PAT COLLIGAN

PRESIDENT NJ STATE POLICE
BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

Colligan is an in-the-trenches trained expert on public pensions and benefits, and provides critical overarching insight to power players into police reform issues at a critical time in law enforcement history.



47 SHIRLEY TURNER

SENATOR, LD-15

What were you doing as insurrectionists tried to bury the country? While idiots wearing Confederate flags stormed the U.S. Capitol in 2020, the former chair of the Senate Education Committee continued to press forward with legislation to prioritize civics education.





48

**PATRICK
MURRAY****DIRECTOR OF MONMOUTH
UNIVERSITY'S POLLING
INSTITUTE**

Murray built his seaside operation into one of the country's most-discussed and respected polling institutions. You know how you know he's good? He makes squirm those same people who were comfortable sitting on their hands during the storming of the Capitol.

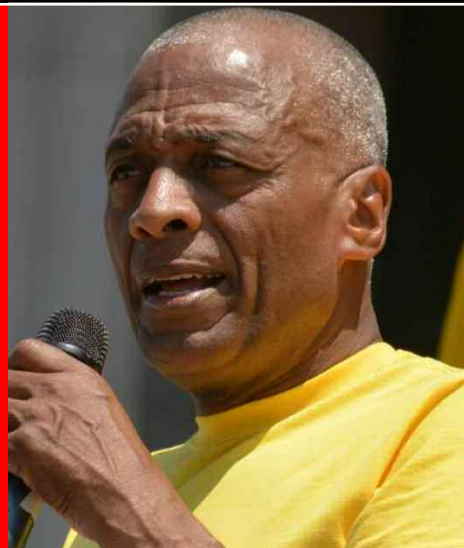
***Komjathy & Kean, LLC****Aladar G. Komjathy
Eileen Kean, Esq**222 West State Street, Suite 202 Trenton, NJ 08608
609-695-5840*



49 LARRY HAMM

FOUNDER OF THE PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION FOR PROGRESS

Larry “Don’t Shop Where You’re Not Respected” Hamm descended on the Bridgewater Mall this year in the aftermath of a police knee on the back of a young Black man’s neck. The truth of the matter is no one else mobilizes like the Princeton University-educated unreconstructed activist.



50 CATHERINE TUNG

ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE ASSEMBLY MAJORITY OFFICE

The former Senior Policy Analyst staffs a few committees: commerce and economic development; environment; community development and community affairs; and budget.



51 JOHN MCKEON

ASSEMBLYMAN, LD-27

A legal brain and the natural heir to intellectual heavy hitters from another era like Wilfredo Caraballo and Joe Doria, the Assemblyman from the 27th District came up short after he interviewed for the position of attorney general. Still one of the most educated elected officials on environmental issues.





52 **BRITNEE TIMBERLAKE**

ASSEMBLYWOMAN, LD-34

In the aftermath 2020-21 redistricting, the 34th District Assemblywoman – very good on housing, healthcare and economic issues – stands poised to succeed state Senator Nia Gill (D-34).



53 **SHEREEF ELNAHAL**

PRESIDENT/CEO UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

The 21st Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Health in the State of New Jersey in July 2019 became president/CEO of University Hospital in Newark. Elnahal oversees the hospital at a critical time, a he hopes to effect \$1 billion in modernization upgrades.



54 **SHOSHANNA PAGE**

**SENIOR POLICY ADVISER TO NEWARK
MAYOR RAS BARAKA**

An inner sanctum occupant of Baraka world, Page is one of New Jersey's premier experts on urban issues at a critical time of growth for the City of Newark.





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55 AMOL SINHA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE ACLU-NJ

Sinha touts a background in journalism and law and is regarded by his peers as a constitutional rights expert.



56 KRISTINE ALLEN AND CARY LOPEZ

ACT NOW FOUNDATION IN HUDSON COUNTY

The pair have built and expanded their non-profit, Act Now Foundation, into a leading Alzheimer's care and awareness organization advocating for those afflicted with the disease – including patients, caretakers, and family. Having been part of Statehouse legislative efforts in the past, they combine policy expertise with a real-world understanding of the reality of Alzheimer's.



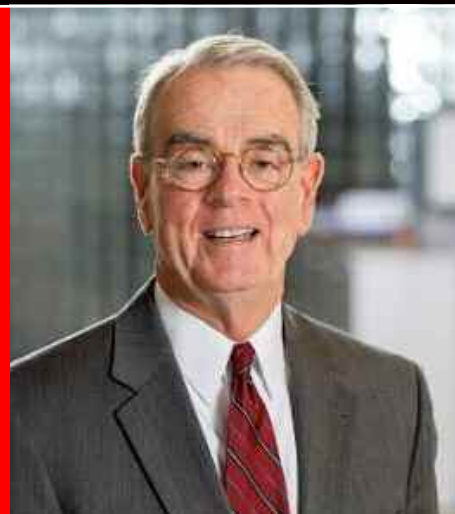


57

JOE HAYDEN

ATTORNEY

We're biased – Hayden serves as InsiderNJ's legal adviser – but the celebrated criminal defense attorney possesses one of the best legal minds in the state, and has the moral foundation to match. During the Civil Rights era, Hayden drove down to Alabama to march at the side of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



58

JEANNINE FRISBY LARUE

SR. VP, KAUFMAN ZITA

A former elected official, lobbyist, educator, healthcare executive, and government official, she lives at the nexus of NJ politics.



59

JENNIFER SCIORTINO

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR AT NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Former Statehouse veteran Sciortino, an active community member with years of government experience, who currently serves as Communications Director for the NJ Department of the Treasury, last year scored a seat on the Bordentown City Commission.



Congratulations

to the Institute's

Ryan Haygood and Henal Patel
for making the Insider 100 Policymakers List!



**60****GENE LEPORE****EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NJ
ASSOCIATION OF STATE COLLEGES AND
UNIVERSITIES (NJASCU)**

Assuming leadership of the NJASCU in 2020, Lepore works with seven key public colleges and universities in the State. Previously, he spent over 10 years in the Senate Majority Office, where he served as Deputy Executive Director and Director of Budget and Fiscal Analysis. He has become a go-to higher education policy expert for legislators, staffers, the executive branch, and members of the media since taking over NJASCU. Of his recent accomplishments, he ushered in helpful changes to the State College Contracts Law (S-4043/A-6005 signed in Jan. 2022) for member institutions. He has also been an instrumental part of higher education budget negotiations given his extensive experience in the budget process while working in the Legislature.

**61****SAM PESIN**
**PRESIDENT, FRIENDS OF
LIBERTY STATE PARK**

New Jersey's leader in the protection of Liberty State Park, Jersey City's Pesin fights doggedly to withstand the commercialization of a precious national resource.



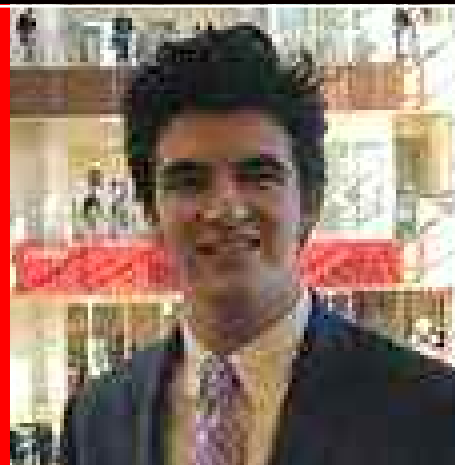


62

LUKE WOLFF

BUDGET DIRECTOR, NJ SENATE
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

A frontline staffer on the budget – a go-to guy on Senate Budget and Appropriations – Wolff made the transition from Sweeney to Nick Scutari, much to the relief of the caucus.



63

TARA COLTON

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR SPECIAL
PROJECTS AT THE NEW JERSEY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (NJEDA)

As the system absconds with people's tax dollars, and Legislative leadership attempts to figure out how to keep its dream of domination alive, Colton's actually doing something substantive and humane. She's acting to eliminate New Jersey's urban food desert crisis in cities like Camden, which coincidentally serves as the epicenter of political power in the state.



64

TOM
BRACKEN

PRESIDENT, NJ CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The veteran business leader helms the powerful Chamber organization, and has been on frontlines advocating for relief for businesses during the FY2023 budget process.





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65 MEDINAH MUHAMMAD

SENIOR LEGISLATIVE AIDE
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Formerly Chief of Staff to Assemblywoman Timberlake, Muhammad covers housing, economic development, criminal justice and the Legislative Black Caucus.



66 TAI COOPER

CHIEF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER,
NEW JERSEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The veteran Cooper has an intimate knowledge of government at all levels. He cut her teeth in the late Senator Frank Lautenberg's office, then worked in the Baraka Administration before going to work for Governor Phil Murphy.



67 HENAL PATEL

SOCIAL JUSTICE CHAMPION

The former clerk for Justice Stuart Rabner directs the Democracy and Justice Program at the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice.





68 PHYLLIS SALOWE-KAYE

PRESIDENT, NEW JERSEY CITIZEN ACTION

In an era of diminished trustworthy media sources, Salowe-Kaye leads a staff of public-minded commandos.



69 JACK CIATTARELLI

FORMER LD-16 ASSEMBLYMAN

Ciattarelli, the 2021 Republican nominee for Governor, ran a very credible campaign for governor, coming within three points of defeating incumbent Democratic Governor Phil Murphy. A CPA and small businessman by trade, Ciattarelli is very strong on budget and financial issues.



70 MARCUS RANDOLPH

PRESIDENT/CEO INVEST NEWARK

Formerly executive director within community development real estate for JPMorgan Chase Bank, Randolph oversees the City of Newark's Economic Development Corporation, which supports small, women and minority-owned businesses, invests in world-class internet service, spurs real estate development and executes economic development activities to produce and sustain equitable economic growth, generate jobs and create wealth for the citizens of Newark.



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71

KATHLEEN LONG**CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER FOR THE CITY OF
PATERSON**

Long prides herself on paying special attention to urban, grass-roots, and faith-based institutions. In her own words, this includes operations, budgets, strategic planning, project management, government/foundation/corporate relations, communications and marketing, social media engagement, and strategic fundraising (major gift solicitation, special event management, capital campaign design, grant writing, planned giving.



72

DENNIS HART**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CHEMISTRY COUNCIL
OF NEW JERSEY**

With a background in environmental protection, Hart is one of New Jersey's leading authorities on water resource issues, solid and hazardous waste management, environmental safety health, and air quality.



73

HUGH O'BEIRNE**NJ CANNABIS INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT**

Skilled in cannabis regulation and policy, government relations and legal writing, O'Beirne founded Hawthorne Ave. Strategies, which focuses on optimizing business outcomes and strategic goals for US and international cannabis operators.





74 ALLISON LADD

DEPUTY MAYOR/DIRECTOR ECONOMIC AND HOUSING DEVELOPMENT (EHD) FOR THE CITY OF NEWARK

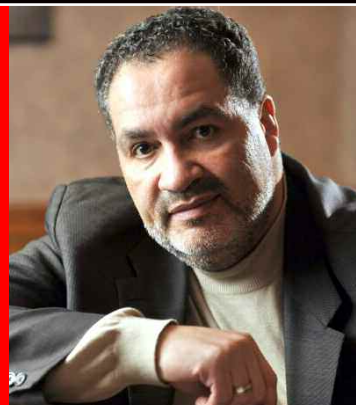
Expert in Real Estate Finance, Affordable Housing, Policy Analysis, Economic Development, and Real Estate Development, Ladd has key allies in Newark as a consequence of her constant insistence on equity. Key in the development of the Gant-Gilbert Arts Collective at 505 Clinton Avenue.



75 RICHARD SMITH

PRESIDENT OF THE NEW JERSEY CHAPTER OF THE NAACP

Trenton native Smith, a retired corrections officer, played a critical role in bringing this year's national NAACP conference to Atlantic City.



76 ERIC DOBSON

FAIR SHARE HOUSING CENTER DEPUTY DIRECTOR

A major lowkey force, ordained minister Smith possesses deep powers of coalition building, the result of interfaith outreach.





Planned Parenthood Action Fund of New Jersey

Here in New Jersey, abortion remains legal and available. It is a right that is protected in New Jersey state law, thanks to the Freedom of Reproductive Choice Act, signed into law by Governor Murphy in January of this year.

But while abortion remains legal in New Jersey, we must continue to fight forward to ensure everyone can get the care they need, without stigma or delay. In fact, at this moment in our nation's history, every elected official in the country should be seeking to not just protect, but expand access to the full range of reproductive health care services, especially abortion care.

Right now, New Jersey has an opportunity to lead by example and chart a different path: the Reproductive Equity Act (S2918/A4350). The Reproductive Equity Act will meaningfully expand access to abortion in New Jersey by breaking down barriers to care so that everyone – regardless of income, insurance coverage, or immigration status – can access the care they need and deserve. This legislation goes beyond just safeguarding our rights alone – it ensures that everyone can actually exercise those rights, and access the care they need to make their own personal decisions about their bodies and their lives.

We're proud that New Jersey has been a leader in the fight for the human and civil rights of women and pregnant people. We hope that our state will continue to lead our nation and our state in the right direction by supporting this legislation without any delay.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Cory M. Neering'.

Cory M. Neering
Board Member,
Planned Parenthood Action
Fund of New Jersey



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Roslyn Y. Rogers Collins'.

Roslyn Y. Rogers Collins
Board Member,
Planned Parenthood Action
Fund of New Jersey

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



77 JESSELY DE LA CRUZ

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT LATINO ACTION NETWORK

De La Cruz focuses on systemic approaches to the prevention and treatment of sexual abuse, and the healing of intergenerational trauma in families through the use of mindfulness based psychotherapies, play therapy and multi-systemic family therapy.



78 PATRICIA CAMPOS-MEDINA

Executive Director for the Worker Institute, School of Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell University

No critical Latino issue moves in New Jersey without the input of the good doctor, who proved a particularly potent force in securing drivers' licenses for noncitizens. Now the host of Activist Rise Up!, a substantive social issues platform.



79 DAN HARRIS

LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR FOR SPEAKER CRAIG COUGHLIN

Harris possesses real world grounding as a member of the Woodbridge Board of Education. Highly regarded as the most dedicated public servant in the business, he's the speaker's right hand man.





80 CHRISTOPHER EMIGHOLZ

**VICE PRESIDENT OF THE NEW JERSEY
BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS**

Emigholz has moved to the fore as a fierce small business advocate, with a keen eye for state budget analysis.



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BRENDAN GILL
CEO



ALIXON COLLAZOS
SENIOR PARTNER



81 DECLAN O'SCANLON

13TH DISTRICT STATE SENATOR

As a member of the state Senate Budget Committee, the Monmouth-based Republican provides a crucial watchdog role in a Democratic Party-dominant legislature.

"Democrats," O'Scalon said this year, "opted for huge increases in pork spending ... that will do nothing to help New Jersey families suffering today from high gas prices, soaring inflation, and property taxes."



82 STEPHEN M. SCHEINTHAL

DOCTOR OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

Chair for the Department of Psychiatry at Rowan University's School of Osteopathic Medicine and president of the New Jersey association of Osteopathic Physicians and surgeons, Scheinthal is a key resource on the issue of mental health.





83 PHILIP CARCHMAN

LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING TIEBREAKER

As the 11th member of the Redistricting Commission, Judge Carchman this year finalized a map that made New Jersey history as the first time both Republicans and Democrats reached an agreement on its dimensions as opposed to relying on the tiebreaker to pick either partisan version of a map.



84 PRISCILLA GARCES

ACTIVIST

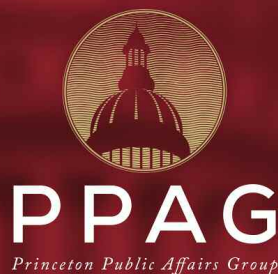
Blind since birth, Garces wants to keep people connected worldwide, and to that end this year she co-organized a summit with representatives from different groups for a “Discussion on Empowering Different Abilities.” A member of Emerge New Jersey, Garces worked in the office of U.S. Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ) and later ran for the School Board in Newark. She also works as a climate activist and routinely publishes articles related to her work in climate and disability advocacy.





Congratulations to Sonia Delgado and Bill Pascrell, III

2022 Insider 100 Policymakers List



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85 WAYNE RICHARDSON

PRESIDENT LABORERS LOCAL 55

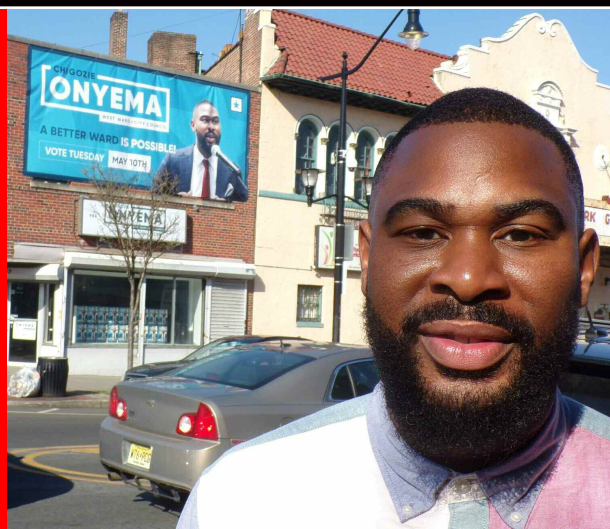
Richardson also serves as President of the Essex County Commissioners Board. An expert on labor training issues, he co-founded the Pathways to Apprenticeship New Jersey, which helps prepare Black and Brown citizens for Building Trades jobs.



86 CHIGOZIE ONYEMA

ATTORNEY

Unsuccessful this year in his anti-machine bid for a Newark West Ward Council seat, Onyema nonetheless proved his unique set of urban policy chops.



87 JEFF TITTEL

FORMER DIRECTOR, NEW JERSEY SIERRA CLUB

Even in retirement, Tittel remains a vital resource on New Jersey's environmental apocalypse. His secret? Policy grounded-ness, political astuteness and intimate awareness of local issues statewide.



**88****SAM ALOI****SENIOR POLICY ANALYSTS, ASSEMBLY
MAJORITY OFFICE**

Aloi has turned heads with the excellent work he has done over the past few years.

**89****ANDREW
MCALLISTER****SENIOR POLICY ANALYST**

Also a key player in the Assembly Majority Office, McAllister has emerged as an expert Trenton policy mind.

**90****FAYEMI SHAKUR****ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR FOR THE
CITY OF NEWARK**

Shakur knows all about the city and its deep cultural impact. Critically involved in the development of the arts scene in Newark and those cutting-edge government-supported amenities like the Gant-Gilberts Arts Collective.

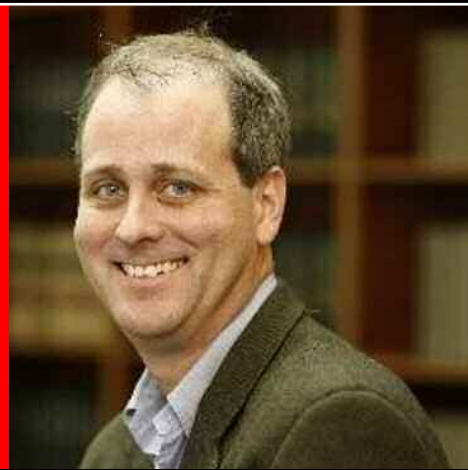




91 MATT HALE

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS AT SETON HALL UNIVERSITY**

A regular media commentator on New Jersey politics, the veteran Hale's research focuses on how the media covers the public and nonprofit sectors.



92 KEVIN KELLEHER

**DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC
SERVICES AT NEW JERSEY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**

Kelleher has expertise in the preparation of analytical and statistical information concerning economic issues, including public pension plans, the School Employees' Health Benefits Plan, state and local budgets, school finance, taxation, and member compensation. He has considerable experience analyzing the fiscal impact of proposed legislation, provides guidance on issues relating to member benefits and retirement, and reviews educational research.



93 ROB ASARO-ANGELO

**COMMISSIONER OF THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT
OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

Asaro-Angelo fought through criticism over his department's handling of massive unemployment claims at the height of the COVID-19 crisis, but had the public support of Governor Murphy.





94 STEVE ADUBATO, JR.

HOST OF NJTV'S STATE OF AFFAIRS

A former Assemblyman from Newark, Adubato has a deep understanding of the economic and financial problems ailing his home state, knows how to fix them, and is one of New Jersey's best communicators.



95 MARIA LOPEZ-NUÑEZ

DEPUTY DIRECTOR, ORGANIZING AND ADVOCACY,
IRONBOUND COMMUNITY CORPORATION

At a time of booming development in the Ironbound section of Newark, Lopez-Nunez has stepped forward as a grassroots advocate for the historic neighborhood's residents.



96 JAMES WILLIAMS

FAIR SHARE HOUSING CENTER'S DIRECTOR OF
RACIAL JUSTICE POLICY

After working for Philadelphia Works and New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, the Williams Fayetteville State University-educated Williams can be found advocating for people wherever the legislature considers landlord-tenant issues.





97 BEVERLY BROWN RUGGIA

NEW JERSEY CITIZEN ACTION

Insiders value Brown Ruggia for her work on consumer protections and tenant landlord relief bills, including the People's Bill.



TRUST. WOMEN.



NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN OF NEW JERSEY

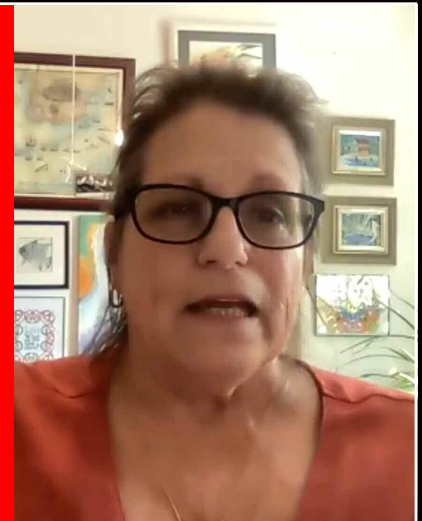
WWW.NOWNJ.ORG



98 JODY STEWART

**ORGANIZER, NEW JERSEY RESOURCE
PROJECT II NEW JERSEY ORGANIZING PROJECT**

Pried praised for her work during COVID-19 on tenant landlord relief bills, including the People's Bill, Stewart helped whip bi-partisan support for each housing bill that made it to the floor.



99 DAVID H. BROGAN

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CEO NJ APARTMENT
ASSOCIATION**

Government affairs expert Brogan continually seeks to educate on those issues impacting the apartment industry. Specifically, he wants lawmakers to view them as more than a landlord renting housing to a tenant. "In reality," Brogan wrote in a Real Estate NJ column, "the construction, maintenance and operation of hundreds of thousands of apartments is complicated. Furthermore, we support over 50,000 people in full-time jobs, with benefits. Collectively, all of this helps revitalize municipalities and boost economic activity throughout the state."



100 JOE DONOHUE

ELEC DEPUTY DIRECTOR

The former storied Star-Ledger reporter provides considerable detail-oriented work in support of Director Brindle.

