



# ANNUAL REPORT 2022

[www.elec.nj.gov](http://www.elec.nj.gov)

April 2023



## COMMISSIONERS & SENIOR STAFF



Clockwise: Chairman Eric Jaso, Commissioner Stephen Holden, Executive Director Jeff Brindle, Deputy Director Joseph Donohue, Director of Review and Investigation Shreve Marshall, Compliance Director Stephanie Olivo, Deputy Legal Director Amanda Haines, Legal Director Demery Roberts, Legal Counsel Edwin Matthews, and Commissioner Marguerite Simon.



New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission  
25 South Stockton Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Trenton, New Jersey

(609) 292-8700 or



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## MISSION STATEMENT

The essence of Democracy is an informed electorate. It is the fulfillment of this goal that the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) embraces as its valued mission.

Established in 1973, ELEC monitors the campaign financing of all elections in the State. Whether the election is for Governor or Mayor, member of the Legislature or a City Council, candidates and campaign organizations are required to file with the Commission contribution and expenditure reports.

The Commission also administers the law requiring candidates for the Governorship and Legislature to make public their personal finances prior to election day. Moreover, ELEC administers those sections of the law, which establish a filing obligation on the part of lobbyists and their clients. Finally, ELEC is responsible for enforcing various aspects of the Pay-to-Play law, particularly as it pertains to disclosure.

In addition, the Commission is responsible for administering partial public financing of gubernatorial primary and general elections, for rule making, and, as part of its regulatory duties, for holding public hearings. Finally, ELEC exercises its enforcement authority, ensuring the integrity of the financial aspects of the State's electoral process.

A major part of New Jersey's system of elections, the Election Law Enforcement Commission has upheld a tradition of fair, but energetic, administration of the State's financial disclosure laws. That tradition is strong today and will remain so in the future.

## PAGE

The Commission.....	1-4
Message from the Chairman .....	5-6
Executive Director's Remarks.....	7-8
Legislative Review and Recommendations .....	9-11
50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ELEC April 24, 2023 .....	12-13
Statutory History of ELEC.....	14-15
Compliance Division .....	16-17
Law Division Legal Section .....	18-19
Review and Investigation Section....	19-20
Information Technology Division.....	21-22
Homepage .....	23
Finance and Administration Division ....	24-26
Commission Staff & Organization .....	27
ELEC Overview .....	28



## THE COMMISSION

### **ERIC HECTOR JASO, CHAIRMAN**

The state Senate on March 13, 2017 unanimously confirmed the nomination of Eric H. Jaso of Morristown to the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

Jaso, a Republican attorney, was nominated on September 8, 2016 by Governor Chris Christie.



**Commissioner Marguerite Simon, Chairman Eric Jaso, and Commissioner Stephen Holden**

Jaso is a partner at the law firm of Spiro, Harrison & Nelson in Short Hills. His practice focuses on complex litigation matters, including civil and criminal cases, primarily in the Federal courts.

From 2003 to 2008, Jaso served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office in New Jersey. Prior to that, he served as counselor to the Assistant Attorney General of the Criminal Division at the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C.

Previous government appointments included serving as Deputy General Counsel at the U.S. Department of Education, working as Deputy Special Counsel to the New Jersey Senate Judiciary Committee investigating racial profiling, and serving as Associate Independent Counsel during the "Whitewater" investigation of former President Bill Clinton.

Jaso also serves as a public member of the New Jersey Urban Enterprise Zone Authority.

In 2011, he was chosen by Republicans to serve on the commission that redrew the boundaries of New Jersey's U.S. House Districts.

Jaso has taught appellate advocacy as an Adjunct Professor at Seton Hall Law School.

He earned his law degree at the University of Chicago. He received his bachelor's degree in Government with honors from Harvard.

His professional memberships include: Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey; National Hispanic Bar Association; Federalist Society; and Association of the Federal Bar of the District of New Jersey.

Jaso lives with his wife and son in Morristown, New Jersey.

Jaso tendered his resignation March 30, 2023.



## THE COMMISSION continued

---

### **STEPHEN M. HOLDEN, COMMISSIONER**

The state Senate on March 13, 2017 unanimously confirmed the nomination of Stephen Michael Holden of Merchantville to the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

Holden, a Democratic attorney, was nominated December 12, 2016 by Governor Chris Christie.

Holden is Deputy General Counsel of the Delaware River Port Authority. He retired as a Superior Court judge upon reaching mandatory retirement age of 70 in 2013 though he later performed temporary service as a recall judge.

Between 1987 and 2003, during a period when he was a solo practitioner, he served as Counsel to the state Senate as well as Senate Parliamentarian.

During an earlier career as an educator, he was a teacher in the Philadelphia school system, an assistant professor at both Glassboro State College (now Rowan University), and Rutgers University, as well as an assistant dean and assistant professor at Bryn Mawr College.

Holden earned his law degree at Rutgers University Night School of Law. He obtained Ph.D. and M.S.S. degrees at Bryn Mawr College, and a B.S. degree with honors at Temple University.

He sits on the Audit, Ethics and Compliance committee of the Board of Directors of Cooper Health System. He also sits on the board of Bryn Mawr College Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research.

Holden is married with two daughters- one a public-school arts teacher, the other a nurse.

Judge Holden resigned March 30, 2023.

### **MARGUERITE T. SIMON, COMMISSIONER**

Marguerite T. Simon became the 32<sup>nd</sup> person appointed to the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission when the State Senate on June 29, 2017 unanimously approved her nomination.

Simon is a Democratic attorney who was nominated February 27, 2017 by Governor Chris Christie.

Simon serves as counsel to the firm of Javerbaum Wurgaft Hicks Kahn Wikstrom & Sinins PC of Springfield and Hackensack. Her practice is primarily concentrated in alternate dispute resolution. She serves as a mediator and arbitrator in private party and court appointed matters.

She also served as a state Superior Court Judge in Hackensack from 1984 until her retirement in 2004 when she was Presiding Judge of General Equity.

She has taught classes and seminars at the New Jersey Judicial College, Institute for Continuing Legal Education, and Bergen Community College.

Among her awards are Super Lawyer, New Jersey, Alternative Dispute Resolution, 2010 to present; and Professional Lawyer of the Year, New Jersey Bar State Bar Association and Bergen County Bar Association, both 2006.

Simon obtained her law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1961. She received her undergraduate degree from Barnard College in 1958.

Her professional affiliations include: Bergen County Bar Association, New Jersey State Bar Association and Women Lawyers in Bergen County.

She is married to Donald Howard. Together they have four children and ten grandchildren. She lives in Edgewater and Cape May.

Judge Simon resigned March 30, 2023.



## THE COMMISSION continued

---

### **JEFFREY M. BRINDLE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Jeffrey M. Brindle's experience as a regulator, as well as in various governmental and electoral capacities, allows him to bring a rare and broad-ranging perspective to the position of Executive Director.

Executive Director Brindle has authored 20 in-depth, analytical white paper reports on campaign financing and lobbying, many of which had a major influence on legislation. He also has published more than 234 articles in newspapers, magazines, and periodicals, including "Campaigns and Elections," "The New York Times," "Politickernj.com," "InsiderNJ.com," "NewJersey Newsroom.com," Public Integrity, "The Star-Ledger," "League of Municipalities Magazine," and "Spotlight."

As Executive Director, Brindle has worked to reduce the backlog of outstanding enforcement cases and speed up enforcement efforts.

He started the ELEC-Tronic newsletter in 2009 to help expand the agency's public profile, and has been a major contributor to the 165 issues that have appeared through March 2023.

Brindle has taken several initiatives to enhance ELEC's basic mission of disclosure. He instituted a database of local political contributions, making New Jersey one of the few states in the nation that provides access to such information. He greatly expanded the number of analytical press releases published on a regular basis by the agency. He also saw to it that more than 400 press releases prepared between 1983 and 2005 were made accessible on the ELEC website.

Annual reports, minutes and advisory opinions dating back to the agency's creation in 1973 also have been made available to the public through the agency's website, which, in 2010, was

recognized as "Best Official New Jersey Website" by the Documents Association of New Jersey.

Prior to being Executive Director, as Deputy Director, Brindle authored the report on the Clean Elections Pilot Program, prepared several Cost Analysis Reports, and wrote a major report on the Commission's technological needs.

He also oversaw budgetary and personnel planning and development, participated in public policy development, and engaged in legislative and press relations. He also guided the Commission's transformation from a manual-based operation to a technological-based one; an effort begun in the 1990's.

Brindle managed governmental offices at various levels and branches of government and brings experience in electoral politics to the position. His academic credentials include a B.A. degree from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey and an M.A. degree in political science from Villanova University. He is also affiliated with the College of New Jersey (TCNJ) as an adjunct professor in the Political Science Department.

Prior to coming to ELEC in 1985, Brindle had been the Director of the Public Information Office at the State Department of Community Affairs, a Legislative Staff Director, Somerset County Deputy County Clerk, New Brunswick Public Information and Complaints Director, and Executive Director of the Union County Chapter of the March of Dimes.

He has also been a candidate for Assembly and a Municipal Chairman. Brindle and his wife Karen have four children.



## THE COMMISSION continued

---

### **EDWIN R. MATTHEWS, LEGAL COUNSEL**

Edwin R. Matthews was selected to be the Commission's Legal Counsel and began serving in that capacity in November, 2012.

Mr. Matthews is a partner with the Summit, New Jersey law firm of Bourne, Noll & Kenyon. He specializes in the areas of civil litigation, municipal law, appellate practice, personal injury, products liability, and tax appeals.

Upon graduation from Law School, Mr. Matthews served as a Law Clerk for Associate Justice Mark A. Sullivan of the New Jersey State Supreme Court and as an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey. He was twice recognized by the United States Attorney General for Sustained Superior Performance. Mr. Matthews has in the past served the Township of South Orange Village, as a member of its governing body, as its Municipal Court Judge, and as its Village Counsel.

Mr. Matthews, a Certified Civil Trial Attorney, is admitted in the State of New Jersey; United States District Courts for the District of New Jersey, the Southern District of New York, and the Eastern District of New York; United States Courts of Appeals for the Third Circuit and Second Circuit; the United States Supreme Court; and the State of New York. He has been designated Mediator for the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey as well as the New Jersey State Court Mediation Program. He has served as an Arbitrator for the Federal Court in New Jersey as well as a number of counties in the state court system. He served as a Member of the Committee on Character, appointed by the New Jersey Supreme Court (1993-2009, 2020 to present) and the Fee Arbitration Committee (2019 to present). His membership in a number of bar associations includes serving as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Trial Attorneys of New Jersey since 1986 and as its President from 2004 to 2005.

Mr. Matthews has lectured frequently at seminars on trial tactics, product liability, the Rules of Procedure and the Rules of Evidence. He is a Master of the Worrall F. Mountain Inn of Court and has been an adjunct faculty member of the School of Law and a Master of the Inn of Court at Seton Hall University School of Law.

Mr. Matthews served in the United States Marine Corps where he attained the rank of Captain. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat V, Navy Commendation Medal with Combat V, two Purple Heart Medals, Combat Action Ribbon, and the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal for service in Vietnam. Mr. Matthews has been recognized as a New Jersey Super Lawyer in the editions for 2009 through 2022. The New Jersey Commission on Professionalism presented him with its Professionalism Award in 2010.

Mr. Matthews received an A.B. degree from the College of the Holy Cross and J.D. degree from Seton Hall University School of Law.



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

While the Commission experienced numerous drawbacks brought about by the pandemic, one stands out: the difficulty it faced in engaging directly with the public.



**Eric H. Jaso, Chairman**

While in the grip of the pandemic, the Commission conducted its meetings remotely, via webinar, an online platform. Though conducting its meetings remotely, the Commission made sure that members of the public could participate directly in the public portions of the meeting.

With a central mission of disclosure, the Commission has always prided itself on its accessibility to the public, and the pandemic notwithstanding, the Commission continued in this manner in 2022.

For example, while the modernization of its information and technology function has been ongoing since the 1990's, efforts to better perfect its electronic filing process continued apace in 2023.

Candidates, committees, political parties, lobbyists and public contractors were able to submit their reports electronically, enhancing transparency by enabling the Commission to provide this information more readily and quickly to the public.

The Commission's emphasis on personally and effectively serving the public is personified in the use of its live receptionists, who, in 2022, were able to patch those who called for information directly through to the appropriate staff member.

The ability of the receptionists to patch members of the public directly to a staff person was aided by an investment in a new phone system that

enabled this function. The vision for the phone system and other innovations was included in a long-term telework plan produced by the Commission in 2020.

Consistent with this long-term plan and with the Governor's directive and guidelines, the Commission implemented a pilot telework plan which required employees to be in the office three days per week and to work remotely two days per week.

Despite the historic changes in the government's work place, the Commission undertook its new role with efficiency and effectiveness, continuing to provide excellent service to the public.

For example, the Commission published a steady stream of analytical press releases, newsletters, columns, and analytical white papers. With the tremendous assistance of Deputy Director Joseph Donohue, Executive Assistant Elbia Zeppetelli, Chief Researcher Steven Kimmelman, and Administrative Analyst Chris Vigale, the Commission was able to keep the public informed about recent trends in campaign finance in New Jersey and throughout the country.

Volume 6 – Interview with former ELEC Chairman Ron DeFilippis 2010 – 2017



The challenge of the Commission to provide the public with information about campaign finance, lobbying, and pay-to-play continued in the form of its History of the Commission Project. This program was greatly assisted by Anthony Giancarli, Ken Colandrea, Lou Solimeo, and Maryanne Garcia.





## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN continued

Interviewed in 2022 were former Chairpersons of the Commission Jerry English and Ron DeFilippis, former Governors Christine Todd Whitman and Jim McGreevey, former Democratic State Chairman Tom Byrne, and David Goodman of Represent.Us. Also interviewed in early 2023 were former Commissioners Paula Franzese and Susan Lederman.

The interviews have all been archived on the Commission’s website and are viewable by the public.

Volume 7 – Jerry English Interview. Former ELEC Chair 2004 – 2010



During 2022, Legal and Investigative functions continued despite enforcement staff often working remotely.

In addition to the Legal Section presenting recommendations for final decisions that emanated from complaints issued by the Section, the Legal Section is required to issue advisory opinions in response to inquiries from the regulated community and public.

In 2022, the Legal Section was managed by Legal Director Demery Roberts, Deputy Legal Director Amanda Haines with the assistance of five attorneys.

In assisting the Legal Section, the Review and Investigation Section, headed by long-term staffer and Director Shreve Marshall, undertakes investigations into all matters under the jurisdiction of the Commission, including candidates, political parties, and continuing political committees.

Completed investigations are then presented to the Legal Section.

Last, but certainly important, the Compliance Section works directly with the regulated and general public to provide up-to-date information on filing reports, accessing reports, and providing transparency for those reports.

Moreover the Compliance Section, headed by Stephanie Olivo, is responsible for lobbying and pay-to-play reports and making sure that lobbyists are properly equipped with badges, which serve as an important credential for accessing the State House and performing their First Amendment protected lobbying function.

Though not a responsibility in 2022, the Commission’s historic Gubernatorial Public Financing Program is administered by the Section, and most directly by the Director.

As noted in last year’s annual report, the Commission has continued to enhance its public profile, exemplified by its status as an example to similar agencies throughout the United States.

Volume 8 – Christine Todd Whitman Interview. Former NJ Governor 1994 – 2001



As such, I proudly submit the Commission’s Annual Report to the Legislature.



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REMARKS

As the result of the pandemic, government had to adjust to and implement new ways of serving the public. When the pandemic took hold in March 2020, the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC), along with all other departments and agencies within State government, quickly introduced measures that would permit it to function remotely in similar fashion to which the public and community of filers were accustomed.



Jeffrey M. Brindle, Executive Director

A common complaint facing government, as well as private businesses in these rapidly changing, technological times is obtaining the services of a real person when contacting a governmental agency or private company.

Though ELEC has embraced much innovation throughout the years it, nevertheless, has maintained that old fashion personal touch by having live receptionists answer the phones.

Moreover, the Commission combined and enhanced that personal touch with the purchase of a new phone system that allows the receptionists, Samantha Schutzbank, Cheryl Lippincott, and important substitutes Tamika McCoy and Aracelis Brown, to directly patch through calls to the appropriate staff members avoiding delays in service.

In terms of continued service to the public, the Compliance Section, under the leadership of Stephanie Olivo, continued to provide answers to

difficult and complex questions involving the filing of reports by candidates, political parties, continuing political committees (CPC's), lobbyists, and business entities.

Part and parcel with compliance includes the work of the Investigative and Legal sections. Consistent with the changing times, the Review and Investigative Section investigated complaints generated by the public and media account in order to provide the results to the Legal Section. The Review and Investigative Section Director is Shreve Marshall.

During 2022, the Legal Section was led by Director Demery Roberts with the able assistance of Deputy Legal Director Amanda Haines plus a staff of five attorneys and a secretarial assistant.

Volume 9 – Jim McGreevey Interview. Former NJ Governor 2002 – 2004



Information and Technology continues to grow in importance as the years pass. ELEC's Information and Technology Section, which includes IT staff and Data Entry staff, is headed by Anthony Giancarli. During the period of the pandemic, the IT Section did not miss a beat, as new innovations in technology were introduced and adopted to the Commission's needs. While improvements were made in terms of technology, Data Entry staff, led by Brenda Brickhouse, continued to input data so critical to the Commission's mission of disclosure, which includes the publishing of analytical press releases and white papers.



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REMARKS continued

Regarding these publications, which in 2023 will include a study of recall elections in New Jersey, Deputy Director Joseph Donohue, Chief Researcher Steven Kimmelman, Executive Assistant Elbia Zeppetelli and various student interns have played important roles.

Last but certainly not least is the Finance and Administration Section led by the Director Chris Mistichelli and Personnel Officer Barbara Rann.

Under the direction of Mistichelli, the Financial aspects of the Commission continued to run smooth as the Commission operated on a fiscal year budget that increased slightly from the previous fiscal year and amounted to over \$5 million.

Further, the Personnel Officer kept all staff up-to-date on Civil Service and Union announcements as well as Covid announcements and guidelines.

Volume 10 – Tom Byrne Interview. Former State Democratic Chair 1994 – 1997



new telephone system and additional technologies as improvements.

Though a challenging year because of the lingering effects of the pandemic, the Commission continued its efforts toward providing the best service to the public.

Volume 11 – David Goodman Interview. "Represent.us".



During 2022, the Administration ushered in a pilot telework program that may lead to a permanent plan in the future. As part of telework, ELEC employees were in office three days per week while working remotely two days per week. The Commission effectively implemented the pilot program and introduced measures that had been set forth in its own telework plan produced the year before, much of which included investments in a

**NJ CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS UNDERGO LARGEST OVERHAUL SINCE 2004**

On April 3, 2023, Governor Phil Murphy enacted a law (S-2866/A-4372) that makes sweeping changes to a key statute enforced by the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).



Joseph W. Donohue, Deputy Director

The last major change to ELEC’s statutory regime took place in 2004, when former Governor Jim McGreevey enacted 20 bills making changes to campaign finance and lobbying laws.

Coincidentally, the Governor signed the latest wave of changes three weeks before the agency reached its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on April 24. Several provisions were drawn from long-standing recommendations made by the bi-partisan commission.

Among the major revisions:

- Independent spending committees that take part in New Jersey elections must now disclose contributions above \$7,500 as well as their expenses. The new disclosure requirements apply to 527 political organizations as well as 501c4 “social welfare” non-profit organizations and 501c6 organizations, which includes chambers of commerce and business leagues.
- Contribution limits that apply to non-gubernatorial candidates, political party committees, legislative leadership committees, continuing political committees and political committees, which had been frozen since 2005, have been increased to offset 18 years of inflation. Additional inflation adjustments will be done every two years except for

gubernatorial candidates, who run every four years.

- All contributions of more than \$200 now must be disclosed publicly. The previous disclosure threshold was \$300.
- Special contribution limits that apply to public contractors under so-called “pay-to-play” laws can no longer be enforced locally. Instead, one state law will apply to simplify regulation.
- The new law gave the Governor a one-time 90-day window to fill the four vacancies on the commission without the nominees undergoing state Senate advice and consent. Two of the members will serve for two years while two will serve for three years. For the first time, commission members will receive \$30,000 annually.
- The statute of limitations that applies to commission enforcement actions has been shortened to two years instead of 10 years. The provision applies retroactively.

Volume 12 – Interview with Paula Franzese - Former ELEC Commissioner.



**WHITE PAPER 30- RECALL ELECTIONS IN NJ**

ELEC research conducted during 2022 led to the state’s first-ever historical record of recall elections and drives.

[White Paper 30- Recall Elections in New Jersey- Citizen Safety Valve or Empty Threat?](#) disclosed that almost 650 elected officials in New Jersey have been targeted for recall since the first state law was enacted in 1911. Just 96 have been directly ousted by voters.



## LEGISLATIVE REVIEW & RECOMMENDATIONS continued

A 1995 law extended the right to recall to state elected officials as well as school board members. Not one state official has been recalled or even been forced into a recall election. Only two school board members have been removed from office by voters during the 28-year period while one survived a recall election.

The pace of local recalls has slowed down since 1995, most likely because the law requires far more signatures on recall petitions than earlier laws that applied to just local officials.

Eighty recall elections have occurred in 112 years. In those elections, 96 officials- all municipal elected officials- were sent packing while 60 other local officials held onto their seats. The last recall election was in 2018. It is the only one in the past 13 years.

One purpose of the report is to provide a historical record and real world perspective for current or future policy-makers who might want to change New Jersey's recall laws.

Since 1990, at least 123 recall committees have filed reports with ELEC though its oversight over recall elections didn't become statutory until the 1995 law.

Under ELEC regulations, targets of recalls and recall organizers both can set up committees to raise and spend funds. Contribution limits that apply to candidates also apply to recall committees. For instance, an individual, corporation or union can contribute \$2,600 for each recall election. ELEC provides a manual to explain requirements for recall elections:

[https://www.elec.nj.gov/pdffiles/forms/compliance/comp\\_recall.pdf](https://www.elec.nj.gov/pdffiles/forms/compliance/comp_recall.pdf)

Copies of this white paper can be obtained at:  
<https://www.elec.nj.gov/aboutelec/whitepapers.htm>

### **PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Broaden the governmental activities law to include lobbying of local governmental entities and to require more disclosure by professionals who advise lobbyists.**

Potential Benefit: Current law requires disclosure by lobbyists who try to influence state officials, but not those who try to influence county or municipal officials. This expansion of disclosure requirements will make the public better aware of influence peddling at local levels of government. For instance, dozens of New Jersey municipalities enacted bans on recreational marijuana in 2018 but no one knows who lobbied them. In recent years, lobbyists increasingly have sought the services of professionals in areas such as public relations, political, legal, and digital and television advertising. Disclosure by these so-called "shadow" lobbyists will provide the public with a more complete picture of lobbying activity in today's digital age. Also seek statutory authority to require lobbyists to provide more details on their quarterly reports when they lobby on substantive matters on their quarterly reports. This might include date and location of meeting, name and title of official or officials who took part in the meeting, and the specific reason for the meeting.

**When candidates spend campaign funds on dinners or other meetings, they must keep detailed records about who attended the event, what was purchased and why they considered the expense "ordinary and necessary."**

Potential Benefit: More disclosure for the public and less chance that a candidate will misuse campaign funds for personal use.

# LEGISLATIVE REVIEW & RECOMMENDATIONS

## continued



### **Enact legislation authorizing public financing in the event of a special gubernatorial election.**

Potential Benefit: Would ensure that candidates involved in a special election can avail themselves of public financing just like candidates in regular election years.

Potential Benefit: More disclosure since an increasing amount of money is being spent on local elections.

### **Change the filing date for personal financial disclosure statements to improve efficiency.**

Potential Benefit: Personal financial disclosure forms of candidates discourage conflicts of interest by revealing information about the wealth and assets of those who seek elected office. Providing candidates with more time in which to carefully complete these forms, along with a less confusing due date, will enhance compliance and disclosure with the law.

Volume 12 – Interview with Dr. Susan Lederman - Former ELEC Commissioner



### **OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **Cost Savings and Efficiencies.**

### **Enact legislation that would require any state and local candidates in New Jersey setting up legal defense funds to disclose their contributions and expenditures in reports filed with ELEC.**

Potential Benefit: Closes a gap in current law, which requires no such disclosure.

- Eliminate the gubernatorial spending qualification threshold.
- Lengthen Commissioner terms to six years from three years and select the Commission Chairman or Chairwoman for a fixed term.

### **Requiring school board candidates to file candidate certified statements (A-1 forms) if they raise no contributions or make no expenditures.**

Potential Benefit: School board candidates are the only candidates except for write-in candidates who are not required to make such a declaration. Given that spending on school elections grew steadily during the past decade, fuller disclosure by candidates seems warranted.

#### **Strengthen Campaign Finance, Personal Financial Disclosure and Lobbying Laws.**

- Enact legislation that gives statutory force to Commission prohibition against the use of campaign funds to pay legal bills that arise from criminal allegations.
- Require candidates who are no longer in office to close their campaign accounts within a specified time set by the Legislature.

### **Expand the 48-hour notice requirement for continuing political committee (PACs) expenditures to require that they file notices for expenditures made to May Municipal, Runoff, School, and Special Elections.**



## 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ELEC – April 24, 2023

During the early 1970s, news about political corruption dominated both national and New Jersey headlines.

On June 17, 1972, the break-in at the Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Watergate office complex in Washington, DC became the focus of a national scandal and intensified public debate about the need for campaign finance reform.

Eleven days later, New Jersey Secretary of State Paul Sherwin became the 131<sup>st</sup> public official indicted for corruption since 1969.

The initial members sworn into office on May 3, 1973 were Chairman Frank Reiche, who later chaired the Federal Election Commission; former Congresswoman Florence Dwyer; former Administrative Judge Sidney Goldman; and Judge Bartholomew Sheehan. The Commission hired David Norcross as its first executive director and Edward Farrell as its first legal counsel.

Donald Herzberg, director of the Eagleton Institute of Politics, predicted that the new law would have a dramatic impact in New Jersey politics. "It's the toughest disclosure law in the United States."



**Commission Staff**

Less than a year later, on April 24, 1973, the New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act (Chapter 83) was signed into law by Governor William Cahill, creating the four-member Election Law Enforcement Commission.



Campaign finance expert Herb Alexander, a consultant to ELEC during its early days, called the new law a national model. “In many respects, it’s about the best state law in the country...Once the Commission gets operating, it will bring increased levels of confidence to the public.”

Decades later, agency commissioners and staff members have worked hard to meet this expectation.

A Trentonian editorial in 2013 said: “ELEC has earned a reputation for being independent, fair and even handed.”

Members of both parties have expressed support.

“One of the best things we have in New Jersey is ELEC,” former Republican Gov. Tom Kean told NJ Advance Media in February 2023.

Former Democratic Assembly Speaker Joe Roberts commented in March 2022: “What ELEC has done here, I think, is extraordinary in New Jersey...we have a reputation for having really intense campaigns, but honest campaigns in New Jersey, for the most part.”

In June 2022, former Republican Governor Christine Todd Whitman said: “We believed in ELEC. I think there’s nothing more important than the public confidence in our electoral system. We lose that without the non-partisan ELECs of the world.”

While presiding at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing in February 2023, chairman and Senator Brian Stack (D-Hudson), said: “I think you do a great job that you do with the limited staff that you have. The budgeting that you have.”

ELEC has always prided itself as a service agency. It has long strived to be as responsive as possible to office-holders and candidates, treasurers, legislative and executive branch staff

members, lobbyists, media members and members of the public.

During a hearing on the state’s public financing program in May 2018, accountant and candidate treasurer Ron Gravino said: “I want to thank you, compliance director (Stephanie Olivo), because you and your staff are very, very hands on and react very, very quickly....This agency is a great agency... You reach out, you educate, you help, you communicate.”

Pete Quist, research director for the National Institute on Money in Politics, said in 2020: “It’s really great that your agency does the kind of research and analysis to contextualize what happens in New Jersey. I wish all states’ campaign and election agencies did!”

Seton Hall Law Professor, former ELEC Commissioner and state Ethics Commission Chairwoman Paula Franzese observed in February 2023:

“You have done such a great job because the website is accessible to the public, and that’s the whole idea.... Our students ... have grown up in a time of cynicism, in a time where politics have become so terribly polarized and tribal...(they) take great solace in knowing that there are bodies supported by government, committed to the twin aims of accountability, transparency and allowing the citizens to be the safest repositories of good government. What ELEC does restores public faith and confidence.”

As ELEC embarks on a new era in the wake of major legislative changes signed by Governor Phil Murphy on April 3, 2023, hopefully it will keep improving as a public agency and continue to live up to its long-standing legacy.





## STATUTORY HISTORY OF ELEC

LAW	CREATED/ESTABLISHED	EFFECTIVE DATE
<b><i>Election Law Enforcement Commission</i></b>	P.L. 1973, c.83 (N.J.S.A. 19:44A-1 et seq.) “The New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act”	April 24, 1973
<b><i>Gubernatorial Public Financing Program</i></b>	P.L. 1974, c.26 (N.J.S.A. 19:44A-27 et seq.)	May 6, 1974
<b><i>Gubernatorial Public Financing Program Extending to Primary Elections</i></b>	Signed by Governor Brendan Byrne (Chapter 74)	July 23, 1980
<b><i>Personal Financial Disclosure Program</i></b>	P.L. 1981, c.129 (N.J.S.A. 19:44B-1 et seq.)	May 1, 1981
<b><i>Lobbying Program</i></b>	P.L. 1981, c.150 (N.J.S.A. 52:13C-18 et seq.)	May 22, 1981
<b><i>Continuing Political Committee Quarterly Reporting</i></b>	P.L. 1983, c.579 (amendments to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-1 et seq.)	January 17, 1984
<b><i>Gubernatorial Campaign Contributions &amp; Expenditures - amendments</i></b>	(amendments to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-3 et al) Signed by Governor Thomas H. Kean	January 10, 1989 January 21, 1989
<b><i>Lobbying Reform</i></b>	P.L. 1991, c.243 (amendments to N.J.S.A. 52:13C-18 et seq.)	January 1, 1992
<b><i>Campaign Finance Reform</i></b>	P.L. 1993, c.65 (amendments to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-1 et seq.)	April 7, 1993
<b><i>Street Money Reform Law</i></b>	P.L. 1993, c.370, (codified as N.J.S.A. 19:44A-11.7)	January 7, 1994
<b><i>Uniform Recall Election Law</i></b>	P.L. 1995, c.105, (codified as N.J.S.A. 19:27A-1 et seq.)	May 17, 1995
<b><i>Political Identification Law</i></b>	P.L. 1995, c.391, (codified as N.J.S.A. 19:44A-22.2 and 22.3)	February 1, 1996
<b><i>Non-Profit Disclosure by Gubernatorial Candidates</i></b>	P.L. 2001, c.20, (codified as N.J.S.A. 19:44A-27 et seq.) Denies eligibility for public financing to gubernatorial candidates who oversaw a 527 or 501(c) non-profit group within four years of their candidacies unless the candidate discloses contributions and expenditures by those committees.	January 30, 2001
<b><i>Contribution Limit Changes</i></b>	P.L. 2001, c.384 (amendments to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-1 et seq.)	January 8, 2002
<b><i>Campaign Financing Reform Initiatives</i></b>	P.L. 2004, c.19, 21, 22, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 123, and 174 (amendments to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-1 et seq.)	June 16, 2004 through January 1, 2006
<b><i>2005 Clean Elections Pilot Project</i></b>	P.L. 2004, c.121	August 11, 2004
<b><i>Lobbying Law Expansion</i></b>	P.L. 2003, c.255 and P.L. 2004, c.20, 27, 34, 36, 37, and 38 (amendments to N.J.S.A. 52:13C-18 et seq.)	April 13 through August 16, 2004



## STATUTORY HISTORY OF ELEC continued

<b><i>Pay-to-Play Contracting Reform</i></b>	(amendments to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-1 et seq.) P.L. 2004, c.19 (codified as N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.3 - 20.12) P.L. 2005, c.51 (codified as N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.13 - 20.25) P.L. 2005, c.271 (codified as N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.26 - 20.27)	January 1, 2006 October 15, 2004 January 1, 2006 January 5, 2006
<b><i>2007 Clean Elections Pilot Project</i></b>	P.L. 2007, c.60	March 28, 2007
<b><i>Office of Lieutenant Governor</i></b>	P.L. 2009, c.66	June 26, 2009
<b><i>Solicitation Ban on Public Property</i></b>	P.L. 2011 c.204	January 17, 2012
<b><i>Eliminates the Requirement of Candidates to File Duplicate Copies of Campaign Treasurer's Reports with County Clerks</i></b>	P.L. 2014, c.58 and N.J.A.C. 19:25-8.12	January 1, 2015
<b><i>Requires Governmental Affairs Agents to Disclose Compensation Received from State or Local Government Entities</i></b>	P.L. 2017, c.49 and N.J.A.C. 52:13C-21	May 1, 2017
<b><i>Requires Gubernatorial Ballot Statements to be Posted Online</i></b>	P.L. 2017, c.177 and N.J.A.C. 19:44A-37	July 21, 2017
<b><i>Election Transparency Act</i></b>	P.L. 2023, c.30	April 3, 2023



*Steve Kimmelman*  
Research Assistant



## COMPLIANCE DIVISION

As the COVID-19 pandemic eased in 2022, the Compliance Division successfully transitioned to more office-based operations. Although some compliance staff participate in a hybrid telework program, it is good to get back to the office to assist the public and the regulated community, in person and with seminars instead of all webinars.

political committees and continuing political committees, governmental affairs agents and those represented by them, professional campaign fundraisers and business entities contracting with public entities. The goal is to ensure that the regulated community files public disclosure reports that are accurate and on time. Staff also assists members of the public and the media with

instruction on the use of the website to search and locate available data and reports, and with Open Public Records requests.

Local elections were in play in 2022 and compliance staff handled election cycle reporting by candidates, joint candidate committees and political committees, which included candidacies for local primary and general, municipal, June and December runoff, school board, fire district and the May Municipal election; quarterly reporting relating to candidates, political party committees, legislative leadership

committees and continuing political committees; registration of governmental affairs agents; annual and quarterly lobbying disclosure; registration of professional campaign fundraisers and quarterly fundraising activity; and business entities with contracts with public entities.

Compliance staff aids all regulated groups and individuals by providing direct mail reminders, delinquent and non-filer letters, guidance documents and reference materials for filing requirements and due dates for filing obligations. Upon obtaining the names of candidates, the division is in immediate and constant contact with those that have filing obligations.



Front row: Kim Key, Gianna Sama, and Desiree DeVito.  
Back row: Nancy Fitzpatrick, Maite Hopkins, Milene Matos, Daniel Horowitz, Stephanie Olivo, Walter Leavey, Jr., Monica Triplin-Nelson, Carl Skurat, and Titus Kamal.

With mandatory electronic filing in its second year, we continue to assist treasurers and candidates in their shift away from paper filing. Seminars, webinars and instructional videos are available to provide instruction on the electronic filing systems.

With the primary purpose of assisting the regulated community, the Compliance Division is only a phone call away. Staff is available in person, over a computer or over the phone to provide guidance regarding statutory and regulatory requirements relative to campaign finance, lobbying, pay-to-play and the Gubernatorial Public Financing Program. Assistance is provided to individuals that are candidates for public office and their treasurers,



## COMPLIANCE DIVISION continued

Election	Number of Candidates	Number of Committees
<b>Fire Commissioner</b>	135 (Including candidates in the General)	2
<b>April Schoolboard</b>	45	5
<b>May Municipal</b>	135	13
<b>June Runoff</b>	6	0
<b>Primary</b>	1,665	304
<b>General</b>	1,898	399
<b>December Runoff</b>	16	4
<b>November Schoolboard</b>	2,174	140
<b>Total</b>	6,073	867

Regulated Group	Number	Reports Filed
<b>Candidates and Committees</b>	6,940	25,008
<b>Public Contractors</b>	2,081	2,273
<b>Lobbyists (Avg)</b>	913	6,183
<b>Professional Fundraisers (Avg)</b>	17	72
<b>Total</b>	12,651	33,536

Business Entity Disclosure of Contract and Contributions for 2020 reported in 2021		
2,081 Business Entities	Number	Total Amount
<b>Reported Contracts</b>	20,230	\$11,800,201,013
<b>Reported Contributions</b>	8,195	\$10,361,759

With mandatory electronic filing in place for all filing entities, ELEC receives nearly all required filings electronically which were disclosed on ELEC's website. Compliance officers review every report to associate the reports to the appropriate filing entity for easy web searching and review for compliance with the applicable law and regulations. Compliance

staff creates correspondence upon review recommending corrections that would assist the filer to comply with the applicable rules for proper disclosure.

Compliance staff creates regulatory guidance documents, gives informational seminars and webinars, responds to telephone inquiries and assists individuals that appear in-person.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE	
<b>Seminars/Webinars</b>	42
<b>Seminars Participants</b>	333
<b>Trained Treasurers</b>	343
<b>Telephone Assistance</b>	9,985
<b>Public Room Assistance</b>	17
<b>Open Public Records Responses</b>	36

Compliance staff continuously attempts to review disclosure reports for assistance with data collection for analytical press releases. It also regularly seeks improvements to forms and ELEC's website to better accommodate the regulated community. Staff reviews statewide election reports for contribution and expenditure totals and conducts a review of annual lobbyist reports to allow for the preparation and posting of analytical data.

The Compliance Division aspires to provide excellent customer service to both the regulated community and the public. Whether compliance is assisting over the phone, in a seminar or at a conference or convention, every effort is made to provide information and instruction on properly completing the disclosure forms and to provide the public with accurate and meaningful disclosure of information to promote the intent of the law and regulations. Compliance staff can be made available outside the office to provide informational seminars or training sessions, or to attend conferences or conventions. Providing helpful, courteous service each day to the regulated community and the public is our highest priority.



## LAW DIVISION

### LEGAL SECTION

The Legal Section (Legal) is responsible for preparing advisory opinions and regulations and interpreting and enforcing the laws under the jurisdiction of the Commission. Complaints, final decisions, advisory opinions, and regulations are posted on the Commission's website to provide the public with timely disclosure of the Commission's enforcement actions and convenient access to legal resources. Legal also advises the Commissioners and staff on various aspects of the Commission's work.

of the Campaign Act by issuing complaints, litigating those cases/enforcement actions to resolution and presenting them to the Commission for a determination that is set forth in a final decision. Enforcement actions are designed to achieve accurate and complete reporting by candidates and committees, and to discourage future violations by imposing appropriate penalties.

### COMPLAINTS

Legal issued 147 complaints in 2022. These complaints resulted from investigations and non-filer recommendations stemming from internal audits

pertaining to the 2020 primary, municipal and general elections. Violations such as receipt of excessive contributions, failure to file 48-hour notices, failure to file reports, and late and non-reporting of contribution and expenditure information by candidates and various committees were alleged.

Upon receipt of a complaint, Respondents have the right to request a hearing and have the matter transmitted to

the Office of Administrative Law (OAL), or they can waive their right to a hearing. Legal's workload included filing briefs with the OAL seeking summary decision and filing exceptions with the Commission. Legal's work resulted in closing 135 cases; 159 cases remained open as of the end of 2022.



From left: Tia Dinh, Theresa J. Lelinski, Gail L. Shanker, Amanda S. Haines, Demery J. Roberts, Kelley Keane-Dawes and Ben Kachuriner.

### ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

The Commission is statutorily authorized to issue complaints alleging violations of the New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act (Campaign Act), N.J.S.A. 19:44A-1, et seq., and to seek monetary penalties. Legal prosecutes violations



**FINAL DECISIONS**

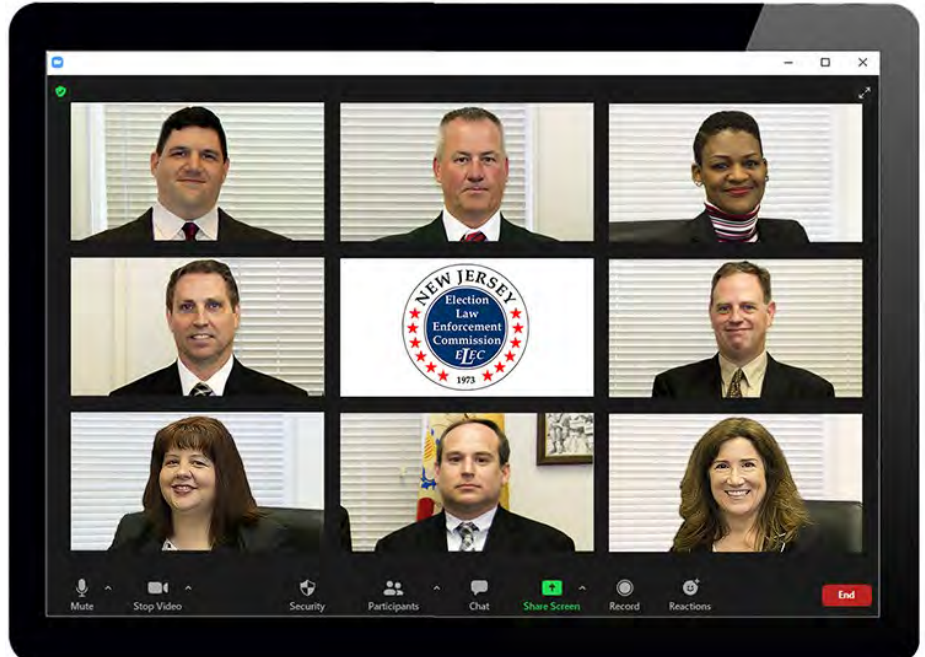
At the conclusion of each case, the Commission issues a final decision that sets forth findings of fact and conclusions of law specifying violations found and penalties imposed for specific violations. Final decisions issued in 2022 found that candidates and committees violated the Campaign Act and imposed penalties for: (1) failing to file reports and filing reports late; (2) failing to file 48-hour notices; (3) failing to report and late reporting of contribution and expenditure information; and (4) receipt by a county party committee of a contribution from another county party committee between January 1 and June 30. The Commission issued 128 final decisions in 2022. Monetary penalties paid during 2022 totaled \$68,376.63.

**CONCLUSION**

Interpreting and enforcing the provisions of law are critical elements of effective administration of the campaign and lobbying financial disclosure entrusted to the Commission. Legal continues to meet its challenges in a professional and responsible manner by enforcing the laws fairly and uniformly, and respecting the protections under the law afforded each Respondent.

**REVIEW AND INVESTIGATION SECTION**

The Review and Investigation Section consists of a Director, six investigators and one support staff.



Top row: Marcus Malmignati, Shreve Marshall, and Tamico Flack.  
 Middle row: Brett Mead and Christopher Gear.  
 Bottom row: Danielle Hacker, Matthew Krinsley, and Laura Jurkiewicz.

In calendar year 2022, the Review and Investigation Section closed six investigations. The investigations primarily focused on the incomplete or untimely filing of campaign reports, campaign report information such as complete disclosure of contribution and expenditure information, receipt of excessive contributions, and reporting obligations of individuals and/or entities that expended funds independently of the candidate.



### **REQUESTS FOR INVESTIGATION**

Any member of the public can request an investigation by completing the Confidential Request for Investigation form, which can be found on the Commission's web site, [www.elec.state.nj.us](http://www.elec.state.nj.us). The Requests for Investigation continue to be a major source of information regarding alleged violations of the Reporting Act as many members of the public continue to hold accountable their elected officials. When submitting a Request, it is helpful if the complainant provides as much information as possible, such as copies of campaign literature, photographs of campaign signs and any other information that may support the alleged reporting violation. However, these Requests cannot be filed by facsimile.

The Commission received a total of 157 Requests for Investigation in calendar year 2022. The Commission also initiates investigations as a result of staff's review of reports filed with the Commission. The Review and Investigation Section opened 47 new investigations in calendar year 2022. The Commission does not release any information to the public, indicating how it may have learned of a specific reporting violation or comment as to how an investigation is initiated.

### **INVESTIGATIONS**

In most cases, R&I will issue a subpoena either to entities that are the subject of the investigation or to financial institutions where a designated campaign or organizational depository is established. Subpoenas are issued for the production of documents that are needed to corroborate the financial information that was reported by the respondents or obtain more accurate information to assist the respondents with their filing obligations. In calendar year 2022, the section issued 96 subpoenas during the course of an investigation and in support of the Legal Section during litigation.

### **NON-FILER COMPLAINTS**

The Review and Investigation Section is also responsible for reviewing the filings of candidates and committees to make referrals for complaint to the Legal Section of those entities that fail to file with the Commission. In 2022, 183 such complaint recommendations were transmitted to the Legal Section

### **ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING AND OTHER LEGAL SUPPORT**

The Section's investigators also review the Commission's files for records of candidates and entities participating in an election who have failed to file any reports.

The R&I section also assists the attorneys in the Legal Section with follow-up enforcement activity such as locating addresses for sheriff's service of complaints and in the preparation of cases for hearings before the Office of Administrative Law. In this instance, the investigator is required to prepare as the State's witness in the cases in which the respondents do not waive their right to such hearings. The investigators are also called upon to review amended reports filed by respondents in response to Commission complaints.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

2022 was a year of transition. For 2 years, ELEC along with all state government, was faced with unprecedented challenges that forced the Commission to abruptly rearrange working conditions.



Front row: Shirley Bryant, Kim Swartz, Aydan Altan, Anthony Giancarli, and Brenda Brickhouse.  
Back row: Peter Palaitis, Elias Amaya, Lou Solimeo, Susan Danley, Helen Kelly, Bettie Michael, Ken Colandrea, and Brian Robbins.

As an integral part of the electoral process, ELEC is committed to providing critical up-to-date financial activity of candidates, party entities, PACs, and lobbyists to the public.

Given this responsibility, ELEC during the crisis enabled staff to maintain services even from remote locations.

As the pandemic has receded, the state has moved ahead with Work from Home (WFH) pilot program, which began in June 2022 and runs through the end of the current fiscal year, June 30, 2023. This pilot program allows eligible staff to work 2 days remotely and 3 days in office.

ELEC has selected Azure Virtual Desktop (AVD) as a permanent solution for remote users. This platform allows IT staff to deploy virtual desktops and applications that run in the cloud. It allows the Commission staff to access their desktops and applications in an easy and secure way from anywhere on any kind of endpoint device from outside the State's network.

While not all employees have participated in the pilot program, IT staff will be configuring enough AVD's for all employees so that ELEC can quickly pivot everyone to work remotely in case another event causes state offices to temporarily close.

ELEC prides itself as being at the forefront of automation. Accordingly, the Commission has been progressively upgrading its internal operational and external filing applications to the latest technologies and current best practices. This modernization effort has spanned many years.

Software and hardware technologies are always evolving. ELEC has embraced cloud computing as the best approach to providing cost savings by replacing expensive data centers and costly hardware upgrades. ELEC strongly believes that cloud Technologies will stand the test of time and will carry the Commission well into the future.





## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION continued

---

Hosting applications in the cloud provides a unified management experience and offers a scalable and flexible environment.

One of the highest priorities with managing remote users is security. State agencies are a frequent target for cybercriminals and others with malicious intent. Cyberattacks and cybercrimes are becoming frighteningly common and protecting the State's infrastructure and private information is of upmost importance. The Garden State Network (GSN) is a shared network that all agencies use and therefore every department needs to approach its security as a shared pool working to limit cyberattacks to the greatest extent possible.

ELEC strives to maintain compliance with all state policies and standards and uses various cybersecurity tools to harden the public trust when utilizing state-owned websites and online applications.

Beginning in 2019 through 2022, ELEC completed its transition to the NJOIT virtual server environment successfully virtualizing its 12 physical servers. The Oracle database is the only physical server that remains on premises as plans to upgrade the database to the latest 2019 version is scheduled for next year.

As part of the transition to support employees who chose to participate in the Work from Home (WFH) pilot program, upgrading of the Commission's existing landline phone system was imperative. ELEC prides itself in personally answering all phone calls and having that call immediately routed to the appropriate individual whether it is a technical help desk call or someone inquiring about proper disclosure requirements.

For calls to be transferred to employees working from home, a new phone system must be in place. After evaluating several options, ELEC has made a decision to move forward with the AT&T

HVS Phone solution in order to have a phone system in place as we enter the hybrid office/home work schedule.

Treasurer Training is mandatory for treasurers of Gubernatorial, Senate, and Assembly candidates, as well as, for treasurers of the legislative leadership committees and the two Senate political party committees. The online treasurer training test was upgraded this year. using ClassMarker's Online Testing platform. The software provides the capability to create secure online exams with advance quiz settings, randomize questions, multiple choice, and instant feedback.

ELEC is proud of the many accomplishments of the talented women and men that work tirelessly to modernize the Commission's technology footprint and provide excellent service to both the public and filing communities.

### **DATA ENTRY SECTION**

The Data Entry staff is tasked with the processing of the registration and PIN applications. All entities required to file reports with ELEC are required to obtain a registration and PIN number. This two-part unique identifier serves as a person's electronic signature.

While contributions, expenditures, and other pertinent data is extracted from the R1 and R3 reports and then automatically uploaded into the database, ELEC Short Form information is not. The Data Entry staff continues to enter data into the database from Campaign and PAC reports filed using the C1, C2, and C3 short forms.

ELEC updates its searchable database daily. The Data Entry staff is also charged with releasing all reports to the website while following a specified disclosure schedule.



# HOMEPAGE



State of New Jersey  
New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission

Governor Phil Murphy • Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver

NJHome | Services A to Z | Departments/Agencies | FAQs

[Home](#) | [Public Information](#) | [Candidates/Committees](#) | [Lobbying](#) | [Pay-to-Play](#) | [Legal Resources](#) | [About ELEC](#)



The History of the Commission Project – Volume XII  
• Interview with former ELEC Commissioner Paula Franzese

## Advice for Filers

Contact ELEC

- Forms (Electronic Filing)
  - Candidates and Election Committees
    - Single Candidates
    - Joint Candidate Committees
    - Political Committee
    - Recall Candidates & Committee
    - Independent Expenditure
  - Committees (CPC, PPC & LLC)
  - ELEC ePayments
- Gubernatorial Public Financing Program
- Professional Fundraisers
- Pay-to-Play
- Treasurer Training
- Lobbying

## Where To Find

Filers	Contributions and Expenditures	Candidate or Committee Reports	Lobbying Reports
Press Releases	Pay to Play Reports	Complaints and Final Decisions	News Letters, White Papers and Other Publications

### Press Releases

- Historical Analysis Shows Recall Elections Are Scarce in NJ**  
March 31, 2023
- Commission Meeting Agenda**  
March 23, 2023
- Lobbying Annual Reports** March 9, 2023
- Election Transparency Act**  
February 27, 2023
- Emergency Meeting**  
February 24, 2023
- Enforcement Action**  
February 15, 2023

### Spotlight On

- ELEC-Tronic Newsletter Issue 165 March 2023 ▶
- White Paper No. 30 ▶  
Recall Elections in NJ- Citizens Safety Valve or Empty Threat!
- 2021 Annual Report ▶
- The History of the Commission Project – Volume 12 – Paula Franzese Interview ▶
- Gubernatorial General Debates Schedule ▶
- NEW JERSEY & ITS PARTY SYSTEM: A Collection of Columns Extolling the Benefits of Political Parties ▶
- 2021 Cost Index Report ▶
- Jersey Matters Dark Money



### Contribution Limits

View contribution limits for candidates, parties, political committees and PACs ▶

### Disclosure Dates

Pending report disclosure dates ▶

### Additional Info

5 Priority ELEC Recommendations

### How do I...?

- Electronically file my reports?
  - Candidates and Committees
  - Lobbyists
  - Public Contractors
  - Gubernatorial Candidates
- Request an Investigation ▶
- Subscribe to ELEC News ▶
- View ELEC Minutes ▶
- View Statistical Information ▶
- View Historical Information



Contact Us | Site Map/Search | Employment Opportunities

Statewide: Privacy Notice | Legal Statement | Accessibility Statement | NJ Home | Services A to Z | Departments/Agencies | FAQs

©2023 | State of NJ | NJ Election Law Enforcement Commission | P.O. Box 185, Trenton, NJ 08625-0185 | Tel. (609) 292-8700





## FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

### FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

During 2022, the Finance and Administration Division continued to play an integral role in the successful operations of the Commission, by providing important management and employee services. Among the major areas handled and overseen by the Division are budget planning and analysis, purchasing/procurement, personnel and payroll administration, mail processing, and facilities management.



Front Row: Barbara Rann, Cheryl Lippincott, and Samantha Schutzbank.  
Back Row: Kelvin Fisher, Aracelis Brown, Tamika McCoy, Christine Clevenger, Christopher Mistichelli, and Elaine Salit.

Additionally, the Finance and Administration Division oversees multi-function devices and all other machinery maintenance for the entire Commission. Finally, reception services for the Commission are housed within the Finance and Administration Division. A great source of pride for all associated with the Commission is the fact that all telephone inquiries are still courteously and efficiently handled personally by a knowledgeable staff member and are not simply forwarded to a voicemail or telephone menu.

### BUDGET

One of the major areas of responsibility for the Finance and Administration Division is the preparation, analysis, and management of the Commission's budget. The Commission's fiscal year 2023 Direct State Services adjusted appropriation is \$5,467,000 which is an increase of \$170,000 from the fiscal year 2022 Direct State Services adjusted appropriation. This increase is from salary program to offset increases in salaries. Thus, the Finance and Administration Division staff continued to work to ensure the accurate budgeting and management of expenditures.

During 2022, the Finance and Administration Division staff worked tirelessly with other Commission Divisions to ensure the efficient management of the budget and the purchasing of necessary supplies and services, in order to keep the Commission functioning at an optimal level.

### PERSONNEL

Another major area of responsibility for the Finance and Administration Division is the coordination and management of personnel activities for the entire Commission. The Finance and Administration Division staff successfully worked with the Civil Service Commission and the Governor's Office during 2022 to comply with all State personnel rules and regulations in backfilling positions. This has allowed overall staff levels to remain unchanged over the past few years.

ELEC staff had been working remotely from 2020 throughout the COVID-19 pandemic but were required to return to full-time in-person work in



## FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION DIVISION continued

early 2022. After a few months of entirely in-office work, the Governor's office and Civil Service Commission introduced guidelines for a Pilot



**Finance and Administration**  
Elaine Salit

Telework Program. The Division of Finance and Administration was tasked with creating and implementing our Pilot Telework Program, which began in June 2022 and runs through the end of the current fiscal year, June 30, 2023. This pilot program allows eligible staff to work 2 days remotely and 3 days in office.

ELEC continues to follow all safety protocols and guidelines set forth by the CDC and the Governor's office, ensuring the well-being of our staff as well as ensuring operations remain uninterrupted. All State and Federal health and safety requirements, such as possible exposure notifications/quarantines, cleaning protocols, and the like have been strictly adhered to as they have been issued and/or updated.

### OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

In addition to handling budget, fiscal and personnel matters for the Commission, the Finance and Administration Division is also responsible for general administrative functions, such as reception, mail processing, overseeing machinery and equipment maintenance, and acting as the Commission's liaison with Building Management. During 2022, the Division continued to work to maintain an atmosphere where all other Divisions could focus solely on their respective roles within the Commission, without concern for these day-to-day administrative issues.

### CONCLUSION

By providing important management and employee services in a timely and professional manner, the Finance and Administration Division has been an integral part of the Commission. During 2022, the Division operated within the parameters established by the Department of Treasury and the Governor's Office and continued to handle all responsibilities effectively.



**Finance and Administration**  
Christine Clevenger



FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION DIVISION continued

In FY 2024, the Commission anticipates an appropriation of \$5,633,000 based on the Governor’s Budget Message.

COMPARISON OF FISCAL YEARS 2022 AND 2023 ORIGINAL DSS APPROPRIATIONS		
	FISCAL-2022 APPROPRIATION	FISCAL-2023 APPROPRIATION
Salaries and Wages	4,551,000	4,721,000
Printing and Supplies	44,000	44,000
Services Other Than Personal	700,000	700,000
Maintenance and Fixed Charges	2,000	2,000
<b>Total Operational</b>	<b>\$5,297,000</b>	<b>\$5,467,000</b>

2022 EVALUATION DATA	
Disclosure Reports (Total) .....	33,536
Campaign & Quarterly.....	25,008
Lobbyist .....	6,183
Pay-to-Play .....	2,273
Professional Campaign Fundraiser .....	72
Investigations .....	6
Complaints.....	147
Public Assistance Requests.....	10,672
Fine Collection .....	\$68,377
Lobbying Annual Fees.....	\$435,875
Campaign Fundraiser Annual Fees .....	\$18,000



# COMMISSION STAFF & ORGANIZATION CHART

## EXECUTIVE

**JEFFREY M. BRINDLE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**JOSEPH W. DONOHUE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR**

- Steven Kimmelman
- Christopher Vigale
- Elbia L. Zeppetelli

## COMPLIANCE DIVISION

**STEPHANIE A. OLIVO, ESQ., COMPLIANCE DIRECTOR**

- Carl Skurat
- Daniel Horowitz
- Deegan Lewer
- Desiree DeVito
- Gianna Sama
- Kimberly Key
- Maite Hopkins
- Michel Donato-Suarez
- Milene Matos
- Monica Triplin-Nelson
- Nancy Fitzpatrick
- Titus Kamal
- Walter Leavey, Jr.

## FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

**CHRISTOPHER MISTICHELLI, DIRECTOR**

- Aracelis Brown
- Barbara Rann
- Cheryl Lippincott
- Christine Clevenger
- Elaine J. Salit
- Kelvin Fisher
- Samantha Schutzbank
- Tamika McCoy

## LAW DIVISION

**DEMERY J. ROBERTS, ESQ., LEGAL DIRECTOR**

**AMANDA HAINES, ESQ., DEP. LEGAL DIRECTOR**

- Benjamin Kachuriner, Esq.
- Gail L. Shanker, Esq.
- Kelley Keane-Dawes, Esq.
- Maureen Tilbury
- Theresa J. Lelinski, Esq.
- Tia Dinh, Esq.

## REVIEW AND INVESTIGATION

**SHREVE E. MARSHALL, JR., DIRECTOR**

- Brett Mead
- Christopher Guear
- Danielle Hacker
- Laura Jurkiewicz
- Marcus Malmignati
- Matthew Krinsley
- Tamico Flack

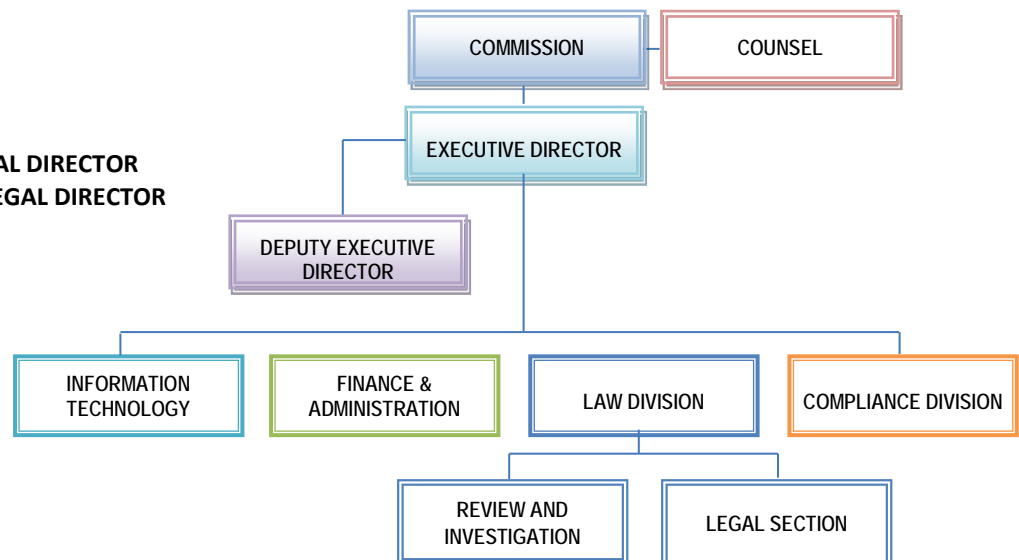
## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

**ANTHONY GIANCARLI, DIRECTOR**

- Aydan A. Altan
- Brian Robbins
- Elias J. Amaya
- Ken Colandrea
- Kim Swartz
- Louis Solimeo
- Maryanne Garcia
- Peter Palaitis
- Susan Danley

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DATA

- Brenda A. Brickhouse
- Darlene Kozlowski
- Elizabeth Michael
- Helen Kelly
- Shirley R. Bryant





## ELEC OVERVIEW

---

### 1973

Frank P. Reiche, Chair  
Judge Sidney Goldmann, Vice Chair  
Judge Bartholomew Sheehan,  
Commissioner  
Florence P. Dwyer, Commissioner

### 1974-1979

Frank P. Reiche, Chair  
Judge Sidney Goldmann, Vice Chair  
Josephine Margetts, Commissioner  
Archibald S. Alexander, Commissioner

### 1980-1981

Judge Sidney Goldmann, Chair  
Josephine Margetts, Vice Chair  
Andrew C. Axtell, Commissioner  
M. Robert DeCotiis, Commissioner

### 1982-1983

Andrew C. Axtell, Chair  
M. Robert DeCotiis, Vice Chair  
Justice Haydn Proctor, Commissioner  
Alexander P. Waugh, Jr., Commissioner

### 1984-1986

Andrew C. Axtell, Chair  
Alexander P. Waugh, Jr., Vice Chair  
Justice Haydn Proctor, Commissioner  
Owen V. McNanny III, Commissioner

### 1987-1988

Judge Stanley G. Bedford, Chair  
Owen V. McNanny, III, Vice Chair  
Andrew C. Axtell, Commissioner  
David Linett, Commissioner

### 1989-1990

Judge Stanley G. Bedford, Chair  
Owen V. McNanny, III, Vice Chair  
David Linett, Commissioner  
S. Elliott Mayo, Commissioner

### 1991-1992

Owen V. McNanny, III, Chair  
Judge Stanley G. Bedford,  
Commissioner  
David Linett, Commissioner

### 1993-1994

Owen V. McNanny, III, Chair  
William H. Eldridge, Vice Chair  
David Linett, Commissioner

### 1995

William H. Eldridge, Chair  
Owen V. McNanny, III, Vice Chair  
David Linett, Commissioner  
Michael Chertoff, Commissioner

### 1996

Judge Ralph V. Martin, Chair  
David Linett, Vice Chair  
Paula A. Franzese, Commissioner

### 1997-2000

Judge Ralph V. Martin, Chair  
David Linett, Vice Chair  
Paula A. Franzese, Commissioner  
Lynnan B. Ware, Commissioner

### 2001

Judge Ralph V. Martin, Chair  
Paula A. Franzese, Vice Chair  
Lynnan B. Ware, Commissioner  
Susan S. Lederman, Commissioner

### 2002-2003

Judge Ralph V. Martin, Chair  
Paula A. Franzese, Vice Chair  
Susan S. Lederman, Commissioner  
Peter J. Tober, Commissioner

### 2004-2006

Jerry Fitzgerald English, Chair  
Peter J. Tober, Vice Chair  
Albert Burstein, Commissioner  
Judge Theodore Z. Davis, Commissioner

### 2007

Jerry Fitzgerald English, Chair  
Peter J. Tober, Vice Chair  
Albert Burstein, Commissioner

### 2008-2009

Jerry Fitzgerald English, Chair  
Peter J. Tober, Vice Chair  
Albert Burstein, Commissioner  
Judge Amos C. Saunders, Commissioner

### 2010

Jerry Fitzgerald English, Chair  
Judge Amos C. Saunders, Vice Chair  
Albert Burstein, Commissioner  
Ronald DeFilippis, Commissioner

### 2011

Ronald DeFilippis, Chairman  
Walter F. Timpone, Vice Chairman  
Judge Amos C. Saunders, Commissioner  
Judge Lawrence Weiss, Commissioner  
(Appointed 4-2011- Deceased 11-13-2011)  
Jerry Fitzgerald English, Commissioner  
(Retired 3-15-2011)

### 2012-2015

Ronald DeFilippis, Chairman  
Walter F. Timpone, Vice Chairman  
Judge Amos C. Saunders, Commissioner  
(Deceased 8-16-2015)

### 2016

Ronald DeFilippis, Chairman  
Walter F. Timpone, Vice Chairman  
(Resigned 5-2-2016)

### 2017

Ronald DeFilippis, Chairman  
(Retired 7-2017)  
Eric H. Jaso, Chairman  
Judge Stephen M. Holden, Commissioner  
Eric H. Jaso, Commissioner

### 2018-2023 (Resigned 3/30/2023)

Eric H. Jaso, Chairman  
Judge Stephen M. Holden, Commissioner  
Judge Marguerite T. Simon, Commissioner

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

1973-1976	David F. Norcross
1976-1981	Lewis B. Thurston, III
1981-1984	Scott A. Weiner
1984-2009	Frederick M. Herrmann
2009-Present	Jeffrey M. Brindle

### LEGAL COUNSEL

1973-1994	Edward J. Farrell
1994-2012	James P. Wyse
2012-Present	Edwin R. Matthews

### CONSULTANT

1973-1978, 1982, 1986-1988  
Herbert E. Alexander