# Mercer County Lawer County

Spring 2023

A Publication of the Mercer County Bar Association

Volume 42, Issue 2

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#### **Upcoming Events**

PRIDE Parade June 17, 2023

MCBF Mini Golf July 9, 2023



# From the President's Desk...

June is finally here, and summer awaits for all the weary attorneys of the Mercer County Bar Association! As we all look forward to some muchneeded rest and fun in the sun, the change in season provides an excellent chance to reflect on the last few months of my MCBA presidency. One item of advice I received from almost every past President I spoke to prior to my term was this: Expect the unexpected. You have no idea what is going to happen. Were any of these fine attorneys foreseeing a literal smoke storm that forced the postponement of our Golf Outing? Who can say; I doubt it. No doubt their advice was meant to be more metaphorical. But I took their advice to heart as the skies turned apocalyptic outside my office window, and with the trusty guidance of our Golf Co-Chairs, Ross Switkes and Bryan Roberts, and our Executive Director, Anita Mangat, we made a quick decision in the best interest of our members and postponed our outing to the fall. I'm very happy to announce that we are rescheduled for **September 28**, still at the Hopewell Valley Golf Club, and that there is still plenty of room for you and your guests to join us! No doubt, one of the highlights of my



Margaret A. Chipowsky, Esq.

presidency thus far was our General Membership Meeting and Trivia Night on May 11, at the Boathouse on Mercer Lake. I was so pleased to present Rob Bratman with his award as our Professional Lawyer of the Year. As many of you know, the MCBA President chooses the Professional Lawyer of Year – no committee, no input, it is just your selection. It is one of the greatest honors of the position, but with it comes a responsibility to ensure that each recipient upholds the very highest standards of professionalism. That includes civility to colleagues, dedication to clients, and service to the profession as a whole, whether through mentoring younger attorneys, teaching in seminars, or providing service to the broader community. I have been lucky throughout my career to know so many attorneys

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A Publication of the Mercer County Bar Association

# Lawyer

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Volume 42, Issue 2

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who uphold these ideals, and Rob is a perfect example of an attorney who exemplifies professionalism. It was a beautiful evening, and I was so glad to see many of our members there. I also must congratulate the winners of our Trivia Night – the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office! I very begrudgingly congratulate Angelo Onofri, who defeated me on the night's final question, earning a beautiful trophy and no doubt, life-long bragging rights. Many congratulations also to Judge Pereksta and best wishes for a happy retirement!

The entire spring was very busy for the MCBA office, with events for the Mercer County Bar Foundation, multiple bench bar meetings, several CLEs, Lawyers Care, and a very successful Young Lawyers Happy Hour. Our wonderful staff has been very busy and is gearing up for a full slate of activities in the fall.

In June, we always turn our attention to both Juneteenth and Pride. This year, we are celebrating both in a special way. On June 15, we will host a CLE with authors Beverly Mills and Sharon Buck, who will discuss the history of African-Americans in Mercer County, and the legal steps taken to end slavery. On June 17, we will attend the Princeton Pride Parade, and provide information to the community on the MCBA and various legal resources available. Many thanks especially to our presidentelect Jennifer Zoschak, who has been instrumental in planning these programs. Please join us and support our efforts! During April, the Awards Committee also met and chose this year's recipients of the MCBA's awards. Though the winners have already been announced, I want to again congratulate Kiomeiry Csepes, our Young Lawyer of the Year, Arthur Sypek, this year's Harry O'Malley Award recipient, Anchor House, which is receiving the Community Partner Award, and Mercer County Prosecutor Angelo Onofri, who is this year's recipient of the Michael J. Nizolek Award. Kiomeiry will receive her award at our Judges and Law Clerks Dinner on September 20 at Mercer Oaks, and Anchor House, Art, and Angelo will receive their awards at our Awards Gala, on Friday, October 27, at the Trenton Country Club.

I also want to thank Jennifer Downing-Mathis for agreeing to serve as the Secretary of the MCBA through the end of 2023. She has always brought enthusiasm to all our MCBA activities, including planning many CLEs and other events, and we are so grateful and thankful to have her on board with us. Enjoy the summer! Always feel free to reach out with any ideas, questions or concerns.

## **Upcoming Events & Meetings**All Attorneys Are Invited To Attend Bench Bar Meetings

#### **Municipal Bench Bar**

Wednesday, June 14, 2023 @ 3:30 pm

- This meeting will be held virtually via Zoom
- Free CLE program; must be a paid member to receive credit
- Register <u>here</u> for this meeting

#### **Juneteenth CLE**

Thursday, June 15, 2023 @ Noon

- This program will be held via Zoom
- \$25 Members | \$45 non-Members
- Register <u>here</u> for this CLE program

#### **Princeton PRIDE Parade**

Saturday, June 17, 2023 | 11:00—5:00 pm

- Join us in this celebration of PRIDE
- Sign up <u>here</u> to participate, donate and support!

#### **Family Bench Bar**

Thursday, June 22, 2023 @ 3:30 pm

- This meeting will be held virtually via Zoom
- We ask that you complete the survey prior to attending this meeting. Please
  access the survey <u>here</u>.
- Register here for this meeting

#### **Mercer County Bar Foundation Miniature Golf Event**

Sunday, July 9, 2023 @ 4:30 pm

- SAVE THE DATE
- Hamilton Golf Center | 5 Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. Way
- Family event



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MERCER COUNTY

BAR ASSOCIATION

MCBA

#### Juneteenth

1.0 DEI CI,E Credit NJ/NY/PA Credits NJ Provider #268 - PA Provider #1006

DATE: Thursday, June 15, 2023

TIME: Noon to 1:00 pm

PLACE: Virtual Zoom Meeting

#### **Program Moderators:**

- Nikki J. Davis, Esq., Davis Law Firm, LLC
- Jennifer Downing-Mathis, Esq., Deputy First Assistant Prosecutor, Mercer County

#### **Program Panelists:**

- · Elaine Buck, Author
- · Beverly Mills, Author

#### COST:

Members- \$25 (Member must be in good standing) Affinity Bar Members- \$25 Non-members- \$45

PA Credits \$10.00 & NY Credits \$7.50

Pre-registration is required: www.mercerbar.com

Proceeds to benefit the Capital Area YMCA

#### About the Program:

Join us as our esteemed panelists discuss their journey of writing, "If These Stones Could Talk", which details the historical African American presence in the Hopewell Valley, Sourland Mountain and surrounding regions of NJ.

#### Send your reservations to: Mercer County Bar Association: info@mercerbar.com

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# Join us this year as The Mercer County Bar Association celebrates:

# Princeton PRIDE Parade

Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>
11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Princeton YMCA | 59 Paul Robeson Place

MCBA will host a table at this event.

We hope you will join us at our information table (with giveaways!), by taking part in the parade, by making a donation, or just by being there to show your support!

Contact us at: info@mercerbar.com or 609-585-6200

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# 15 Reasons to Love NJ during PRIDE (and all year long)

Submitted by: Jennifer Millner, Esq.

New Jersey is often made fun of. Who hasn't gotten the question, "hey, what exit?" or some weird comment about how we are all part of Tony Soprano's crime family? Those of us who are true New Jerseyans love our state for all of its misguided highway signs. We know that there is a reason that we are called the Garden State. There is nothing better than Jersey corn, Jersey tomatoes and blueberries in the summer. The Jersey shore is so special it even has television shows named after it. In June, as we celebrate pride month, I thought that I would point out some of the reasons why, as a staunch LGBTQ+ Ally, I am thankful to live in New Jersey.

- 1. Because we have remarkable supportive organizations that work tirelessly to protect the rights and emotional well-being of people who are marginalized. One example is right here in Princeton, Mercer County. Check out the amazing work of the Bayard Rustin Center for Social Justice and its Chief Activist, Robt Seda-Schreiber. <a href="www.rustincenter.org">www.rustincenter.org</a>. Programs include the Queer Youth Brigade, the Trans Justice Collective and the Welcomin' the Community Breakfast every First Friday.
- 2. Because unlike St. Cloud, Florida which cancelled its pride Parade this year due to the "Climate of Fear," my community will have a Princeton Pride Parade and celebration on June 17<sup>th</sup> in which I will participate proudly and securely wearing my rainbow paraphernalia. Hope you come out to join us.
- 3. Because my fellow NJ citizens can easily change or correct their name and sex designation on their birth certificate, which is far more difficult in Iowa and Missouri.
- 4. Because those who are non-binary can wear what they believe allows them to express their identity and what feels comfortable to them. As opposed to those in Tennessee who have to deal with legislatures who have passed laws that consider those who have been assigned male at birth and who choose to wear a skirt as "doing drag" which is now afoul of the law.
- 5. Because I don't live in Ohio, where GOP representative once gave a sermon defending conversion therapy and linking LGBTQ identity to Satan and Nazism.
- 6. Because our courts allow parents of trans kids to parent them appropriately. As opposed to Florida, where the law allows courts to exercise emergency temporary jurisdiction in limited cases to modify an existing custody agreement to stop necessary and vital treatment which has been approved by the American Academy of Pediatrics; or Texas, which has approved a ban on genderaffirming care for minors and whose Governor ordered investigations of families who received care.

7. Similarly, because I don't live in Kentucky where House Bill 470 has passed the House much to the dismay of some, and joy of others which states that gender transition services under the age of 18 by a medical or mental health provider is unprofessional and unethical.

- 8. Because Executive Order 326 establishes New Jersey as a safe haven for people seeking gender-affirming are.
- 9. Because I don't live in Florida. Enough said.
- 10. Because the women in my life (and the women who are not) have reproductive rights. They do not have to risk the trauma-physical, emotional and financial- of having to wait for an abortion until they are so ill that they need to have IVs inserted in both arms and both legs to get transfusions of blood quickly enough to combat the hemorrhaging caused by a condition called placenta accrete, followed by an emergency hysterectomy which happened to a woman in Tennessee after a trigger ban went into effect after the US Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade. They do not have to suffer the pain of being diagnosed with horrific fetal anomalies and be deprived of making choices that are right for them.
- 11. Because I don't live in one of the five states that are least LGBTQ+ friendly according to Out Leadership, an organization that connects LGBTQ+ people and their allies with companies around the world. Those five states are, in order of worst to just awful: Arkansas, South Carolina, Louisiana, Tennessee and South Dakota. On the other hand, the five states that are most friendly include New Jersey which is fourth after New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts and closely followed by Colorado.
- 12. Because our Constitution recognizes same-sex marriage.
- 13. Because our Governor joined eight other state Governors in a letter to text book publishers making clear that censorship will not be tolerated in our state.
- 14. Because our Department of Education has statutorily required policies and guidelines in place for schools designed to ensure "a supportive and nondiscriminatory environment" for all students, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation.
- 15. Because we not only tolerate but welcome those who have opinions that are different than ours and who look different than we do. Except, of course, when it comes to food. Don't you dare come near me with Taylor Ham. This girl is Team Pork Roll.



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### Save the Date

# Family Miniature Golf Sunday, July 9, 2023 | 4:30 pm

Hamilton Golf Center | 5 Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. Way

Join us for family fun and a picnic to help raise proceeds for the Mercer County Bar Foundation





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# Past MCBA President Jonathan I. Epstein, formerly of Faegre Drinker, joins Szaferman Lakind as Partner

Epstein to focus practice on commercial litigation, real estate and business dispute resolutions

TRENTON, N.J., June 1, 2023—Szaferman Lakind announced today that Jonathan I. Epstein has joined the firm as Partner. Epstein formerly practiced at Faegre Drinker for more than 35 years and specializes in commercial litigation and real estate development. He brings a wealth of experience to the firm and aims to build a new practice handling mediations and all facets of commercial disputes. Jonathan was the Managing Partner of the Faegre Drinker Princeton office for 25 years and formerly served as president of the Mercer County Bar Association.

"We are pleased to have my longtime friend and highly experienced attorney Jon Epstein join our ranks," said Szaferman Lakind Managing Partner Barry Szaferman. "Jon is an accomplished lawyer with a track record of success, and we're looking forward to leaning on his experience as both an excellent attorney and a mentor to many young lawyers."

Epstein's departure from his longtime firm, Faegre Drinker, was amicable, he explained. "Faegre Drinker is a fantastic law firm. The team there is outstanding, and I undertake this next chapter of my career with gratitude and admiration for all of my former colleagues," he said. "Looking forward, I am excited to finish out my career with longtime friends at Szaferman Lakind and to continue my real estate development and business litigation practice along with the opportunity to grow a commercial mediation practice with my retired judge friends at the firm." Epstein's office is located in the Szaferman Lakind Lawrenceville office at 101 Grover Mills Road. His new e-mail address is <a href="mailto:Jonathan.Epstein@szaferman.com">Jonathan.Epstein@szaferman.com</a>.

###

For more information, please contact Mandy Glidewell, marketing and media consultant for Szaferman Lakind at mglidewell@zellastella.com

# Welcome, Jon



We are pleased to announce that JONATHAN I. EPSTEIN has joined the firm as Partner







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## Mercer County Bar Association May General Membership Meeting & Trivia Night May 11, 2023 | The Boathouse

On May 11, 2023 the May General Membership meeting & Trivia night was held at The Boathouse. J. Robert Bratman, Esq. was honored as the Professional Lawyer of the Year. There was also recognition of the retirement of the Hon. Darlene J. Pereksta, J.S.C.(Ret.).











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#### New Jersey Phone (609) 921-9001

#### Freehold 901 West Main St. Building A. Ste. 267 Freehold, NJ 07728

Flemington 190 State Hwy 31, Ste. 300B Flemington, NJ 08822

#### Lawrenceville 558 Lawrence Square Blvd S Lawrence Township NJ 08648

#### Mullica Hill 199 Mullica Hill Road Mullica Hill, NJ 08062

#### Oakhurst 1912 State Rt. 35, Ste. 101 Oakhurst, NJ 07755

#### Pennsauken 7150 N Park Dr. Ste. 420 Pennsauken, NJ 08109

#### Princeton 731 Alexander Rd., Ste. 200 Princeton, NJ 08540

#### Somerset 81 Veronica Avenue Ste. 203 Somerset, NJ 06873

#### Pennsylvania Phone (215) 741-3141

#### Allentown 800 West State St. Ste. 201 Allentown, PA 18104

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While we specialize in treating concussions and spinal injuries, we offer conservative intervention and surgical management for these conditions—and more. Our full-service team treats everything from general medical management to therapeutic care, including physical therapy, chiropractic care, sports medicine, EMGs and surgical services.

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We understand that patients involved in work-related injuries require specialized treatment plans. Our goal is to restore clients to optimal health after an injury or accident. We are committed to ensuring clients receive the most clinically appropriate treatment, which may or may not include minimally invasive surgical procedures and traditional open surgery.

Our experienced physicians and staff have fostered positive working relationships with workers' compensation adjusters and case managers and are familiar with New Jersey and Pennsylvania guidelines for at-work injuries. We are contracted with most major New Jersey Compensation Carriers. Our dedicated workers' compensation department ensures that patients, attorneys, case managers, and insurance adjusters receive efficient, responsive service. We do provide need for treatment evaluations as well as second surgical opinions.

We work daily to deliver the individual treatment plans and administrative attention your case deserves.

With offices throughout New Jersey & Pennsylvania, Princeton Brain, Spine and Sports Medicine is the primary neurosurgery group at several New Jersey hospitals, including Capital Health Systems, Penn Princeton Medical Center, CentraState Medical Center, Hunterdon Medical Center, Inspira and Salem.

Trust our team of injury experts to take appropriate care of your client. We welcome referrals for most brain and spine disorders and accept most major insurance providers including Medicare & Medicaid. We accept referrals for evaluations by both defense and plaintiff attorneys for expert review and/or treatment. We accept direct referrals from the work compensation nurse case managers/adjusters.

#### Contact our legal team at Princeton Brain, Spine and Sports Medicine

To learn more about workers' compensation and personal injury services& our practice:

Carol Slack, Head of Legal Department:

Direct: 732-813-0020

Email: c.slack@princetonmmi.com

Denise Fox, Head of Workers Compensation Department:

Direct: <u>215-795-3015</u>

Email: d.fox@princetonmmi.com

Bridget Quinn, Marketing Manager for any personal injury referral:

Email: b.quinn@princetonmmi.com

Website:

www.princetonbrainandspine.com

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# How New Jersey Law Firms Can Attract & Retain Staff Leap Software Blog

New Jersey law firm owners feel the pressure to ensure that their staff members and qualified candidates for open roles have the resources and support needed to excel at their jobs. This is just one of the many challenges caused by the legal skills shortage that law firms face. In fact, 60% of surveyed law firms reported a strain on their operations due to a lack of skilled workers, according to <u>TheLawyer.com</u>. As the competition heats up to recruit employees in a job seeker's market, it is daunting for law firms to create a marketable work environment for new and prospective staff members. There are four simple steps that New Jersey law firm owners and partners can take to attract and retain top legal talent.

# 1. Streamline Manual "On-location" Tasks

Attorneys and legal professionals pursue careers in the legal industry because they enjoy practicing law and helping people going through difficult times. Therefore, law firm

staff members likely don't want to be stuck in an office for 50 hours a week completing manual tasks that take away from the work they enjoy doing. Clients are often unavailable during standard business hours to provide matter details, schedule meetings, respond to information requests, or provide updates. This means that legal secretaries and attorneys spend extra hours in the morning or late at night to ensure no delays, making it difficult to establish a strong work-life balance. However, legal technology can streamline these processes so that staff members no longer need to give up their personal time while providing clients with a seamless experience.

Let's use matter creation and management as an example. Historically, attorneys or their support staff would have to set up a manila or desktop folder for any new matters. This manual work is eliminated with the right legal software. Pre-built matter types for the most common cases a firm manages means that client and case-

related data only needs to be entered once across relevant documents and forms without manually keying information multiple times. Additionally, any staff member working the case can access the information from anywhere and contact clients to set up meetings, request additional information, and provide updates. As the team spends less time on manual case management, they can focus on the work they enjoy and billable tasks during the day to get home on time.

#### 2. Implement Flexible Work Options

Many New Jersey legal professionals leave their jobs to pursue a career at a different firm or legal organization because they offer the flexibility to work where and when it is convenient for them. In 2022 alone, a survey found that nearly 50% of legal hiring managers reported that candidates would reject a job offer if they weren't offered remote work options. This means that a firm could lose out on top legal talent solely because they don't have the flexibility needed to manage their professional and personal obligations.

Legal software eliminates this challenge. When employees can access

software to see all the details, updates, documents, and correspondence related to the cases they're working on from anywhere, they can effectively work at any time whether they're at the office, home, in between school drop-off or doctor appointments, and even from a completely different geographical location! Additionally, remote work options enable New Jersey law firms to reduce their overhead spending as they reduce the amount of office space, desks, and utilities needed to accommodate their staff in person.

#### 3. Train and Mentor Jr. Attorneys

New Jersey attorneys who are early on in their careers face a Catch-22. While technology can automate many of the manual workflows they previously managed, legal automation tools also allow them to grow their technical skills and develop career plans that align with their goals. Law firm owners and partners must work with their staff members to understand how they want to grow and allow them to develop a career plan to achieve those outcomes. Previously, asking senior attorneys to dedicate more time to mentoring and training new staff members would mean that

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they had to work longer hours to get their work done. However, software eliminates several hours of tedious work a week to allow them to support junior attorneys.

#### 4. Increase Recruitment Efforts

Lastly, New Jersey law firms can mitigate skill gaps by expanding their recruitment efforts beyond their local community. While larger cities tended to be the concentrated hubs for top legal talent, many legal professionals have taken advantage of the increased presence of remote access software to work from all over the country. In the past, dispersed legal talent meant that "main street" law firms could not recruit or hire these attorneys and support staff. However, the right legal software provides the opportunity to bring these legal professionals on board.

Cloud-based legal software enables partners to call on senior attorneys that have retired or moved away to serve as senior team members and provide consulting services by providing them access to case-related information from anywhere. Additionally, law firms can create new revenue streams by bringing on staff

members in different locations to service new jurisdictions and areas of law they couldn't in the past.

#### Conclusion

New Jersey law firms face more competition than ever to hire and retain highly skilled legal staff. The legal skills shortage will continue to pose challenges for law firms if they cannot offer flexibility, automation, and advancement opportunities in a job seeker's market. As firm owners and partners consider how to establish a modern law firm to mitigate these risks, they need to embrace cloudbased legal software to automate mundane, in-person tasks that force their staff to work longer hours instead of focusing on billable work and career development opportunities.

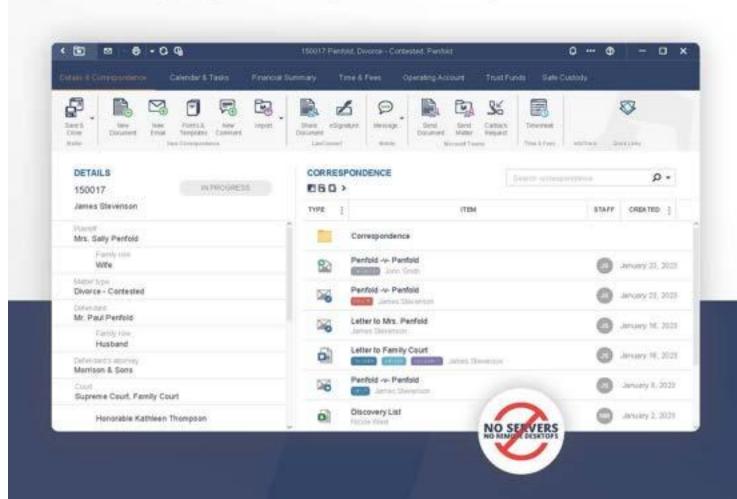
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# WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE that we have achieved a highly distinctive award in our industry, \*ANOTHER\* factor that sets us apart from our competitors!

Hamilton, NJ – Monday, May 15, 2023 – RedEye, Inc. announced today that it has achieved SOC 2 Type II compliance in accordance with American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) standards for SOC for Service Organizations also known as SSAE 18. Achieving this standard with an unqualified opinion serves as third-party industry validation that RedEye, Inc. provides enterprise-level security for customer's data secured in the RedEye, Inc. System.

<u>RedEye</u>, <u>Inc.</u> provides cloud-based infrastructure management and virtual computing platforms to customers throughout the United States. For more information on RedEye, Inc. please reach out at <u>info@redeye.tech</u>.

RedEye, Inc. was audited by <u>Prescient Assurance</u>, a leader in security and compliance attestation for B2B, SAAS companies worldwide. Prescient Assurance is a registered public accounting in the US and Canada and provides risk management and assurance services which includes but is not limited to SOC 2, PCI, ISO, NIST, GDPR, CCPA, HIPAA, and CSA STAR. For more information about Prescient Assurance, you may reach out them at info@prescientassurance.com.

An unqualified opinion on a SOC 2 Type II audit report demonstrates to RedEye, Inc.'s current and future

customers data with the security and



that they highest compliance.



manage their

standard of



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# Not All Private Investigators Are Created Equal Submitted by: Harris Investigations, LLC

Not all Private Investigators are created equal so be sure to ask questions before hiring them. One thing to always keep in mind is MOST Private Investigators are required to be Licensed, Bonded and Insurance so ask for that and verify that 1st.

What do I mean by we are not created equal? Its not a man or women thing. Its some investigators only do investigations or surveillance, some just accident reconstruction. Some just part time as they have a full time job or a pension. Not all investigators serve papers either.

Why does that matter? Well as stated before Private Investigators are licensed, bonded and insured, process servers do not have to be! So if they mess up you have their insurance to fall back on. Process servers can only sit and stake out a house for a short period of time before being accused of being investigators on stake out. Could cause your case to get thrown out.

Some investigator just do skip traces or locates and never leave their office. That is a nationwide service that really any good investigator should offer. Some just do assets searches or title searches, again so they don't have to leave their office.

A well rounded agency will do most of the above. Offer 15-20 different services. Have references. Been in the industry for some time. Know the Rules (like no Sunday service rules or subserve rules), check in with law enforcement on surveillance to not blow their cover. Have sources and resources to get the job done for you, right, the first time.

Good and legit investigators will know they cant pull credit reports or phone records like you see on TV. Good investigators will not cross the gray line that could cost you your case.

Remember to 90 percent of what you see on TV done by those investigators

in TV shows is far from legal! Some tap phones, break in houses, put GPS on a vehicle, that is so not legal! Some record conversations and many states are two party states!

So you see we are not all created equal! I know you can get the above things done but are they legal and will they hold up in court. I bet not.

If you have any questions about this article feel free to reach out to us at <a href="mailto:harrisinvestigationsllc@yahoo.com">harrisinvestigationsllc@yahoo.com</a>

Michele M. Harris-Woodrow, LPI | Harris Investigations, LLC



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# We Move the Documents That Move the Court ~ Service of Process

#### Submitted by: Carl P. Sartori

On September 5, 2000, the private sector was granted, by the court, the privilege of serving summons and complaints. Up until that time, the service of original process, with rare exceptions, was controlled and completed by the Sheriff. Some inroads had been completed prior to September 5, 2000, but the rules were restrictive and compliance difficult. As a result of the court decision, many process serving companies sprung up, some still doing business to this day.

The advantages of utilizing the private sector are obvious. They are faster, more efficient, cost effective and not protected by sovereign immunity. Using GPS, mobile printers, video technology and producing proofs in the form of affidavits. A process server, in the private sector, serves, on average 20 plus documents daily, works seven days a week and can turn a document around in the same day it is received and often within minutes of receipt. Unlike the Sheriff, where it takes days and sometimes weeks to serve a document, the private sector out performs Sheriff ten (10) to one (1).

It is difficult to comprehend why Sheriffs' still have a process serving unit in every Sheriff's office in New Jersey. The Sheriff is not cost effective and in no hurry to get process served. It's a back burner operation and often, not done well.

The Sheriff is a LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER and serving process is not enforcing any laws. The service of process is controlled by the rules of the court. Nothing about serving process even remotely resembles an act of LAW EN-FORCEMENT. Those in the Sheriff's office who serve process, can be better utilized should they be allowed to perform the duties they were hired for. The service of civil process is best left to the private sector and those who have the necessary skills to properly get the job done. Approximately, Thirty to Forty Thousand (30,000 to 40,000) documents are still being served by the Sheriff. With, on average, seven officers in each county, we can estimate that the Sheriffs employ about One Hundred Forty (140) officers to serve these Thirty plus Thou-



sand documents annually. The private sector does this in the first two (2) months of each year. Mistakes are made, both by the Sheriff and the private sector. But you can't sue the Sheriff. The private sector moves the documents that move the court. Delay is a cost factor that is underwritten by the plaintiff. The services being made by the Sheriff's Office are supplemented by the tax payers. The private sector gets paid directly from the plaintiff and does not become a cost burden to the public. There is no reason why the citizens of this state should be compelled to pay the cost of litigation for the plaintiff.

The private sector works 24/7. Any delay in the private sector is most likely because the entity is evading service or otherwise impossible to serve. The question is whether it makes sense to use any process server outside of the private sector. We think not. So why are the sheriff officers still serving process? Serving process by the Sheriff is a dream job, in that it is the next best thing to doing nothing. The deputy sheriffs should be enforcing the law, not serving process. It is time to have all process emanating out of the court and into the hands of those who do it best, private professional process servers.

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May 17, 2023

Joe Valenti

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# Parker McCay Attorney Stephanie Shreibman Voted to Advisory Board of Volunteer Up Legal Clinic

**Mount Laurel, NJ-** Parker McCay is proud to announce Stephanie Shreibman, Counsel with the firm's Medical Malpractice team has been voted to the Advisory Board of Volunteer Up Legal Clinic.

Shreibman, a native of Southern New Jersey recently begun working with the charity, dedicated to their mission of providing quality pro bono legal services to those in need in Camden and the surrounding communities. As a member of the Advisory Board, Shreibman will work to help inspiring and coordinating her colleagues in the private sector to the critically underserved.

"I am very excited about the opportunity to be closely involved with such a wonderful organization that gives local members of the community access to top-notch legal representation.", exclaimed Shreibman.

Stephanie focuses her legal practice with parker McCay in the areas of healthcare law, medical professional liability, and hospital-related litigation, and views the opportunity with Volunteer Up as a way to continue her dedication and service of others. Those interested in learning more about Volunteer Up Legal Clinic can visit their website at <u>volunteeruplegalclinic.org</u>.

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Parker McCay is a regional law firm serving the diverse legal needs of New Jersey clients for over 100 years. The firm provides comprehensive legal services to a wide array of clients in such specialties as public schools and education, public finance, corporate, municipal, creditors' rights, construction, real estate, medical malpractice defense, insurance defense, commercial litigation, cannabis, and employment law. Parker McCay is headquartered in Mount Laurel, N.J., with offices in Hamilton and Camden, N.J.



May 31, 2023

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#### Parker McCay Attorney Linda Galella Unanimously Voted Judge of the New Jersey Superior Court

**Mount Laurel, NJ-** Parker McCay is proud to announce that the New Jersey State Senate confirmed Parker McCay attorney Linda Galella as a Judge of the New Jersey Superior Court. The full-Senate vote came after a unanimous approval of Galella by the New Jersey Senate Judiciary Committee.

Galella, who has been a part of Parker McCay since 2015, focused her practice with the firm in the areas of municipal government, redevelopment, affordable housing, employment, land use and zoning, and government liability. Prior to joining Parker McCay, Galella represented municipalities in all aspects of litigation, and also served on the Mantua Township Board of Education and Zoning Board of Adjustment. As a result of the appointment, Galella has immediately ceased all work at Parker McCay to prepare for her new role.

"I am honored to be nominated to the bench by Governor Murphy with the advice and consent of the Senate", says Galella. "Further, I will forever be grateful for the support of my colleagues at Parker McCay."

Effective upon taking the judicial oath of office, Galella will initially be assigned to the Superior Court, Family Division, Cumberland County (Vicinage 15). Parker McCay wishes to thank Linda for her time at Parker McCay and wish her well in the next phase of her excellent legal career.

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