



To: Probation Association of New Jersey

From: Elizabeth A. Meyers
Capital Impact Group

Date: December 17, 2009

Re: December 2009 Legislative Report

The Legislature returned on November 23, 2009 after their customary recess and begin the final portion of the year commonly known as "Lame Duck." This session will run until January 11, 2009. The new Legislature will be sworn in on January 12, 2010 and Governor-elect Christie will take the oath of office one week later on January 19, 2010.

Legislation

Given the transition period in Governor's and need to move expeditiously through bills that are partially through the legislative process, it became apparent that our transfer legislation would not move at this time. The bill has not yet received votes in either house which makes it difficult to receive all of the necessary hearings and votes required for a constitutional amendment before the session ends.

We have been focusing in earnest to resolve the issue regarding legislation needed to effectuate the memorandum of agreement on the pension calculation for cost-of-living deferral. At the present, there is a senate version (S-3020) sponsored by Senator Scutari. We have assurances from the Senate that the bill will be heard by the Senate State Government Committee on Monday, January 4, 2010 and voted out of the Senate in time. We are concerned, however, that there is no Assembly version introduced. We have been reaching out to both the Assembly and Senate staff as well as Governor Corzine's office to impress upon the importance of moving these bills. The Pension and Health Benefits Review Commission will review the bill on Friday, December 18, 2009 at a hearing where George will speak on the bill and the agreement that had been reached. This will remain our top priority for the next few weeks.

Incoming Christie Administration

Governor-elect Christie has begun making his announcements with respect to his front office and cabinet officials. Cabinet officials will, for the most part, require advice and consent of the Senate.

Appointment and nominations announced thus far include:

Chief of Staff: former Assemblyman Richard Bagger

Chief Counsel: Michael Chiesa (former partner at Christie law firm)

Deputy Chief Counsel: (formerly at the U.S. Attorney's office)

Deputy Chief of Staff: (Christie Campaign Manager)

NJ State Attorney General: Essex County Prosecutor Paula Dow

(a confirmation hearing will be held on January 6 to expedite her nomination)

Secretary of State: Lieutenant Governor-elect Kim Guadagno

The gubernatorial transition team also has announced their respective sub-committee membership and is in the process of crafting their reports. We have requested a meeting with either the Governor-elect or Lieutenant Governor-elect to meet with PANJ leaders. While we will continue to push for a top level meeting, the fast pace of the transition is such that a meeting may not occur until after the first of the year.

There is no sub-committee on the Judiciary, however, below is the membership for the Law and Public Safety and Corrections and Homeland Security committees. You will notice that there is not significant representation from rank-and-file law enforcement. Many of these individuals traditionally picked to serve on the transition teams are previous campaign supporters.

LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY

- **Chair** David Samson, Former Attorney General and Senior Partner, Wolff & Samson P.C.
- Fred Alworth, Esq., Director, Gibbons P.C.
- Richard Badolato, Esq., President, NJSBF and Partner, Connell Foley LLP
- Peter Bogaard, Bogaard & Associates
- Paula Dow, Esq., Essex County Prosecutor
- Norman Feinstein, Esq., Founding Partner, FRBK and Former President, NJAA
- Christine Hanlon, Esq., Menna Supko & Nelson, LLC
- Kenneth Laptook, Esq., Partner, Wolff & Samson P.C.
- Joe Oxley, Former Monmouth County Sheriff
- Richard D. Pompelio, Esq., Executive Director / Law Director, New Jersey Crime Victims Law Center
- John Sierchio, Detective, Bloomfield Police Department
- Mark Sheridan, Esq., Partner, Drinker Biddle LLP
- Wayne Positan, Partner, Lum, Drasco & Positan, LLC
- Barbara Silver Hutcheon, Esq., Wolff & Samson P.C.
- Patrick P. Toscano, Jr., Esq., President, The Toscano Law Firm, LLC.
- Geoffrey S. Berman, Esq., Partner, Greenberg Traurig, LLP

CORRECTIONS AND HOMELAND SECURITY

- Joe Billy, **Chair**, Former Special Agent in Charge, New Jersey Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Warden Bill Fraser, Executive Board, New Jersey County Jail Wardens Association
- Jerry Decicco, President, Jersey City Police Officer's Benevolent Association
- Dr. Ralph Fretz, Director of Assessment, Community Education Center
- Dan Lombardo, President / CEO, Volunteers of America Delaware Valley, Inc.
- Cornell Brooks, Executive Director, NJ Institute for Social Justice
- Nancy Wolff, Director, Center for Behavioral Health Services and Criminal Justice Research and Public Policy Professor, Rutgers University
- Ralph McGrane, Retired Warden, Rikers Island
- Jan Gilhooly, Former Special Agent in Charge, United States Secret Service

Public relations:

As is customary, press releases were all written and released for award recipients from the PANJ conferences. Press releases were written for: Citizen of the Year, Legislator of the Year, the John Augustus Award, Probation Officer of the Year, and Supervisor of the Year. Please keep an eye out for these announcements in the hometown newspapers of award recipients.