

**2015 District Court of New Jersey**  
**Professionalism Day Program**

**PANELISTS**

**The Honorable Freda L. Wolfson**

Judge Wolfson has served as a U.S. District Judge for the District of New Jersey since 2002. Prior to her appointment, she served for 16 years as a U.S. Magistrate Judge in Trenton. Judge Wolfson is the author of numerous opinions and articles on a wide array of subjects.

Judge Wolfson began her legal career as a litigator, handling commercial and employment litigation, as well as casino licensing applications at Lowenstein Sandler and at Clapp & Eisenberg. She has been honored as an American Bar Foundation Fellow and has received a New Jersey State Bar Association Young Lawyer Division's Professional Achievement Award. She received an Outstanding Alumnus Award from the Alumni Association of Rutgers School of Law – Newark in 2002 and the 2008 Women's Initiative & Leaders in Law Platinum Award from New Jersey Women Lawyers Association. Judge Wolfson was the recipient of the 2013 Women in the Profession Section's Justice Marie L. Garibaldi Award for Distinguished Service and Excellence. More recently, Judge Wolfson was appointed by Chief Justice Roberts as a member of the Committee on the Administration of the Magistrate Judges System of the Judicial Conference of the United States.

Judge Wolfson was an Eagleton Institute of Politics Undergraduate Fellow and a member of Phi Beta Kappa at Rutgers University, Douglass College. She graduated in 1976 magna cum laude. In 1979, she graduated cum laude from Rutgers School of Law – Newark, where she worked both as a teaching assistant and research assistant while serving as an editor of the Rutgers Law Review.

## **Elie Honig, Director, New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice**

Elie Honig was sworn in as the Director of the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice on February 27, 2013. As Director, Honig oversees a staff of over 500 law enforcement professionals, including prosecutors, detectives, analysts and support staff. During his time as Director, the Division has charged and prosecuted sweeping cases against street gangs, drug trafficking organizations, illegal firearms traffickers, corrupt public officials, child predators and white-collar corporate thieves. The Division also has built new practice areas aimed at emerging criminal threats including post-Sandy fraud, cybercrime, human trafficking, and diversion of prescription painkillers. During Honig's term, the Division has taken the lead on statewide law enforcement initiatives focused on criminal justice reform and smart policing, including bail reform, police body-worn cameras, investigative protocols for police use-of-force incidents, and law enforcement training on mental health, prescription drug abuse and addiction treatment, domestic violence, and cultural awareness.

Prior to joining the Division of Criminal Justice, Honig worked for eight years as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, prosecuting and trying cases involving organized crime, human trafficking, public corruption, and violent crime. From 2010 through 2012, Honig served as Deputy Chief, and later Co-Chief, of the Organized Crime Unit. Honig successfully prosecuted over 100 members and associates of La Cosa Nostra, including Bosses and other high-ranking members of the Gambino and Genovese Organized Crime Families. Honig convicted several mafia leaders of crimes including murder, racketeering, robbery, extortion and other charges at various trials. Honig also charged and tried large-scale cases involving public corruption and human trafficking. As an Assistant United States Attorney, Honig tried 15 cases to jury verdict, and argued over 20 cases in the Second Circuit Court of Appeals.

Before joining the United States Attorney's Office in 2004, Honig worked as an associate at the law firm of Covington & Burling, in Washington, DC.

Honig obtained his undergraduate degree from Rutgers College (New Brunswick) in 1997, and his law degree from Harvard Law School in 2000.

Honig lives with his wife and two children in Middlesex County.

### **Joseph A. Hayden, Esq.**

Joseph Hayden graduated magna cum laude from Rutgers Law School in Newark, New Jersey. After a clerkship with the Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court, he was appointed a New Jersey Deputy Attorney General in the Organized Crime and Special Prosecution Section, where he tried New Jersey's first wiretap case.

Since 1974, Joe has been in private practice where he has been primarily involved in criminal defense work in federal and state court, successfully defending murder and vehicular homicide and political corruption cases. Many of his trials have attracted substantial media attention and televised coverage, including the manslaughter trial of former NBA star Jason Williams.

Joe is the founder and first president of the Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers of New Jersey (ACDLNJ), which was established to provide a forum for defense lawyers to exchange information about criminal law and trial strategies and take a unified position on matters affecting the defense bar in the criminal justice system. He is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers (ACTL) and the American Board of Criminal Lawyers (ABCL).

As an undergraduate at Boston College, Joe participated in the third civil rights march in Selma, and has remained active in the civil rights movement. At present, he serves on the Jersey City Employment and Training Program's Reentry Task Force, providing direction for Jersey City in linking supportive services to formerly incarcerated persons. He serves on the board of directors of Integrity House, which is a therapeutic community directed to rehabilitation for people suffering from drug and alcohol addiction.

Joe is a partner in the firm of Walder Hayden. Further details about Joe and his firm can be found on the web at <http://www.walderhayden.com/firm/>.

### **Andrea Dechene Bergman, AFPD**

Andrea Dechene Bergman has a B.A. in English Literature from Skidmore College. She worked at the American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey prior to earning a J.D. from Santa Clara University. After a short stint in private practice at the law firm of Victor Rotolo, Esq., she joined the Federal Public Defender, where she has worked for 18 years.

### **Jerome A. Ballarotto, Esq.**

Since 1987, Mr. Ballarotto has practiced in state and federal courts throughout the United States defending individual and corporate clients in criminal prosecutions, grand jury inquiries, IRS and other financial investigations, and civil and administrative actions. Additionally, Mr. Ballarotto has a wealth of experience supervising regulatory, administrative and corporate internal investigations.

Mr. Ballarotto has over 25 years of experience in the conduct and defense of investigations and prosecutions by the United States Government and its agencies. His former positions include being the Criminal Division Chief at the U.S. Attorney's Office; Special Agent U.S. Secret Service; and Deputy Attorney General.

## **Eric Moran, U.S. Attorney's Office**

Eric Moran has been a practicing attorney for 14 years and currently serves as the Attorney-in-Charge of the U.S. Attorney's Office's Trenton Branch Office. After attending West Virginia University and Rutgers School of Law in Camden, New Jersey, Eric began his legal career at the Woodbridge, New Jersey law firm of Wilentz Goldman & Spitzer, where he litigated real estate and business disputes. Eric clerked for (then) U.S. Magistrate Judge Patty Shwartz, and U.S. District Judge Stanley R. Chesler. After his clerkships, Eric returned to private practice, handling environmental and business litigation matters with the firm of Drinker Biddle & Reath. Eric joined the U.S. Attorney's Office's Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force unit in 2008. In recent years, he has handled a variety of white collar matters, with a focus on public corruption.