



*JUSTICE FOR ALL ...*

THE NATIONAL  
JUDICIAL COLLEGE

*Our Pledge for 60 Years*

# RENO CELEBRATION

*JUSTICE FOR ALL...*

*60 Years of Making the World a More Just Place*

OCTOBER 18, 2023

ATLANTIS CASINO RESORT SPA

RENO, NEVADA

# AFTERNOON PROGRAM

4 - 5:30 p.m.

## WELCOME

Board of Trustees Chair **Edward R. Blumberg**  
President & CEO **Hon. Benes Z. Aldana (Ret.)**

## CHIEF JUSTICES PANEL *Next Generation: Bench, Bar & Bots*



Chief Justice  
**Shannon Bacon**  
New Mexico Supreme Court



Chief Justice  
**Susan Christensen**  
Iowa Supreme Court



Chief Justice  
**Lidia Stiglich**  
Nevada Supreme Court



Moderator:  
Chief Justice  
**Robert J. Torres**  
Supreme Court of Guam

# EVENING PROGRAM

5:30 - 6 p.m. COCKTAIL RECEPTION

6 - 8 p.m.

## WELCOME

Masters of Ceremonies  
President & CEO **Hon. Benes Z. Aldana (Ret.)**  
Chief Academic Officer **Joy Lyngar**  
Board of Trustees Chair **Edward R. Blumberg**  
60th Anniversary Co-Chairs  
Emerita Trustee **Hon. Janet Berry (Ret.)**  
Emeritus Trustee **Mark G. Tratos**

## PERFORMANCE BY RENO TAIKO TSURUNOKAI

## DINNER

## AFTER-DINNER DISCUSSION



President  
**Brian Sandoval**  
University of Nevada, Reno



Chief Justice  
**Lidia Stiglich**  
Nevada Supreme Court

## REFLECTIONS ON THE NJC'S HISTORY

President Emeritus **Hon. William F. Dressel (Ret.)**

## MAKING THE WORLD A MORE JUST PLACE AWARDS

Speaking for the honorees: **Professor Gordon Zimmerman**

## TOAST TO THE NJC'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY



---

# AWARD CEREMONY PARTICIPANTS

---

## Hon. Benes Z. Aldana (Ret.)

Benes Aldana serves as the eleventh president and CEO of The National Judicial College. Prior to joining the NJC in 2017, he served for 22 years in the United States Coast Guard in various leadership roles, retiring as a captain (O-6) and as the first Asian Pacific American to serve as chief trial judge of a U.S. military branch. Under his visionary and transformative leadership, the college has seen unprecedented growth, innovative program development, and a record-breaking enrollment surge in 2020 through online programming responsive to contemporary challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic and social justice concerns. His initiatives, such as the first-of-its-kind *Judicial Academy* for aspiring judges and courses addressing contemporary issues like artificial intelligence, climate science and anti-racism, highlight his dedication to evolving judicial education to meet modern challenges.

## Hon. C. Shannon Bacon

Appointed to the New Mexico Supreme Court in 2019 and elected in 2020, Justice Bacon is now in her second year as chief justice. In addition to her responsibilities on the court, she leads the state judiciary's efforts regarding access to justice, guardianship and conservatorship reform, eviction and foreclosure programs, and equity and justice reform. She recently signed an order requiring all new New Mexico trial judges to attend the NJC's flagship General Jurisdiction course. Justice Bacon, who identifies as a lesbian, is the first openly LGBT member of the New Mexico Supreme Court.

## Hon. Janet Berry (Ret.)

NJC alumna Janet Berry served as a Nevada judge from 1992 until her retirement in 2017. She joined the college's faculty in 1994 and has taught in more than 25 classes, including *General Jurisdiction*, *Sentencing Offenders*, and *Media Issues for Judges in the Information Age*. Judge Berry is also serving as co-chair, along with fellow honoree Mark Tratos, of the NJC's 60th Anniversary Committee. She is one of the few judges in Nevada to obtain the Master of Judicial Studies postgraduate degree from the NJC and University of Nevada, Reno. Judge Berry was a trustee of the college from 1996 to 2003 and served as chair of the board in 2001. She also hosted a weekly television show, *The Language of Law*. She now serves the legal community as a senior judge and private mediator.

## Edward R. Blumberg

The chair of the NJC's Board of Trustees, Edward Blumberg is a founder and partner in the Miami trial law firm of Deutsch Blumberg & Caballero, P.A. He is a past president of the Florida Bar, the country's third-largest bar, and a former member of the Board of Governors of the Florida Bar and the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association.

## Mark F. Bruce

A member of the NJC's Board of Visitors, attorney Mark Bruce helped secure financial support for the College's racial justice initiatives in the wake of the police murder of George Floyd and has also raised support for the annual Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecture and scholarships for the Judicial Academy for attorneys who aspire to become judges. He is the founding partner of the Bruce Law Group in Reno. In addition to his work with the NJC, his many other civic positions include serving as chair and Governing Board member of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, member of the Bi-State (Nevada and California) Consultation Group on Transportation, trustee of Educational Pathways International, fellow of the Desert Research Institute Foundation, and co-chair and panelist of the Philanthropy Leaders Summit.

## Hon. Susan Christensen

Susan Larson Christensen was appointed to the Iowa Supreme Court in 2018 and elected chief justice by her fellow justices in 2020 and again in 2022. She is the court's third female justice and second female chief justice. She chaired the Children's Justice State Council and the Family First Task Force and served on the Child Support Guidelines Review Committee and the Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee, among other groups. As chief, she is administrative head of a judicial branch with a budget of \$190 million, 357 judicial officers, and more than 1,700 employees spread out over 99 counties.

## E.L. Cord Foundation

In 1929 Errett Lobban Cord founded the Cord Corporation as a holding company for more than 150 companies he controlled. The famous names included the Auburn Automobile Company, which built the Auburn and Cord automobiles; Duesenberg Inc.; New York Shipbuilding; the taxicab manufacturer Checker Motors; and American Airways (later American Airlines). Based in Reno, the E.L. Cord Foundation, has supported many nonprofits and worthy causes in the community, including well over \$1 million provided to The National Judicial College through consistent grants since 1965.

## Joseph N. Crowley

Joe Crowley, who passed away in 2017 at age 84, served as the 13th president of the University of Nevada, Reno for a record 23 years, 1978-2001. The many highlights of his administration included the founding of the College of Human and Community Sciences (known today as the Division of Health Sciences) and the Reynolds School of Journalism. Initiatives were also launched to put in place a National Public Radio station and a campus-based, community-owned public television station. He served as president of the National Collegiate Athletic Association from 1993-95. He once described the NJC, which is based at the university but separate from it, as a “jewel in the crown” of UNR.

## Hon. William F. Dressel (Ret.)

A member of the NJC’s faculty since 1989, Bill Dressel was appointed to the NJC Board of Trustees in 1993, and he served as the College’s president from 2000 to 2013. His presidency, the longest in College history, saw the creation of the National Tribal Judicial Center and Reynolds National Center for Courts & Media, the start of the College’s affiliation with the Dividing the Waters water law program, and the creation or expansion of many other education and outreach programs. He was appointed a district court judge in Colorado in 1978 and retained by voters in 1980, 1986, 1992 and 1998. In 1998 he received the Justice Management Institute’s Ernest C. Friesen Award of Excellence for his vision, leadership and sustained commitment to the achievement of excellence in the administration of justice.

## John Farahi

John Farahi is co-chair and CEO of Monarch Casino & Resort, Inc., which owns and operates the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa in Reno and the Monarch Casino Resort Spa in Black Hawk, Colorado. President Obama appointed him to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council. He has also served as chair of the northern Nevada chapter of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, and he founded the Farahi Jewish Day School in Reno. He has served on the Nevada Commission on Tourism, the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority, the V&T Railroad Development Committee, and as a trustee of the Washoe County Airport Authority.

## Elizabeth A. Francis

Elizabeth Francis has taught for the NJC for 46 years. An associate professor of English and judicial studies at UNR, she founded judicial writing as a field of study at The National Judicial College in 1982. Since then she has taught thousands of judges at the college and in court systems, agencies and conferences throughout the United States. She teaches and serves as thesis adviser for judges seeking master’s and doctoral degrees through the Judicial Studies Graduate Degree Program of UNR and the NJC. She initiated the teaching of children’s literature at UNR based on her work at Yale with Maurice Sendak (*Where the Wild Things Are*).

## Rew R. Goodenow

A past president of the State Bar of Nevada, Rew Goodenow is a member of the NJC’s Board of Visitors and has taught judges about *Complex Commercial Litigation*. He was the principal author of Nevada’s Limited Liability Company Act and the treatise “Nevada Business Entities.” He serves as general counsel to the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Nevada and is a member of the Board of Governors of the American Bar Association. He offers legal counsel to businesses from the Reno office of the law firm Parsons Behle & Latimer. He is a shareholder and has also served as a director of Parsons Behle & Latimer, which in addition to Reno has offices in Salt Lake City, Las Vegas, Boise and Spokane.

## Hon. Procter R. Hug, Jr.

A giant of Nevada’s legal profession, Proctor R. Hug, Jr. served as chief judge of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals and was a student, faculty member and early board chair of The National Judicial College. Judge Hug, who died in 2019 at age 88, led the 9th Circuit from 1996 to 2000, a period during which conservative critics sought to have the massive circuit broken up, believing the court had become too liberal. Through speeches, testimony and writings, he successfully thwarted the effort. The late Nevada Senator Harry Reid called him “the man who saved the 9th Circuit.” The Reno native also served as deputy state attorney general and general counsel to the Nevada University System.

## Joy D. Lyngar

The National Judicial College’s chief academic officer since 2008, Joy Lyngar is responsible for the quality and relevance of all education offered by the college. Her work more broadly involves helping to provide technical assistance, share best practices across jurisdictions, encourage leadership, and set standards for ethics and competence across the judiciary. She is the immediate past president of the National Association of State Judicial Educators. The NJC educates more than 10,000 judges and court service professionals each year in person and online. She previously practiced law in her native country of Canada.

## Hon. Michael R. Montero

NJC alumnus Michael Montero is the only judge presiding over the Sixth Judicial District of Nevada, meaning his caseload includes every civil and criminal case that originates in or proceeds to the District Court level in Humboldt County. He also oversees innovative problem-solving courts, including the Humboldt County Adult Drug Court, DUI Court and Mental Health Court. He and his staff opened the nonprofit Family Support Center in 2016 to provide community-based outpatient mental health counseling, drug and alcohol treatment, and wellness services to members of the community. He has taught more than a thousand school children, including every fifth-grader in Humboldt County, about the judiciary through the NJC’s Reading & Robes™ civics outreach program.



## Peter Chase Neumann

Retired Reno trial lawyer Peter Chase Neumann has been a major donor to scholarships at The National Judicial College. He is a former member of the college's Board of Visitors and Advisory Council. He and his late wife, Renate, founded the Angel Kiss Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to helping families of cancer-stricken children. The foundation also presented the Reno White Water Race & Jazz Festival. The Peter Chase Neumann Lecture on Civil Justice is a cornerstone of the Civil Justice Initiative at his alma mater, the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of law.

## Northern Nevada International Center

Over the years, scores of judges, lawyers and law students visiting Reno have connected to The National Judicial College through the Northern Nevada International Center. The Hon. Patrick Flanagan International Judicial Scholarship Endowment Fund, established in memory of a beloved Reno judge and NJC faculty member, provides scholarship support for an international judge or legal official who is an alumnus of the NNIC international visitors programs to attend a course at the NJC. The International Center has resettled more than 300 displaced refugees over the past five years, including Afghan evacuees, victims of international trafficking, asylees, and minors from Central America.

## NV Energy Foundation

The NV Energy Foundation makes grants to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations located within its service territory to support art/culture, education/youth development, environment, and safety/wellness. The National Judicial College has long benefitted from its association with NV Energy through grants from the foundation and by company leaders serving on the college's boards. The NV Energy Foundation's more recent grants have supported existing endowments and the college's civics outreach program for young people, Reading & Robes™.

## Hon. Shelly T. O'Neill

Reno Municipal Court Judge Shelly O'Neill is a first-generation college graduate who became one of the first 100 women admitted to the State Bar of Nevada. Her legal career includes more than a decade as chief public defender and deputy state attorney general for the Antitrust Division. She also served as a prosecutor for the City of Reno and was the general counsel to the Nevada Public Utilities Commission. For more than 15 years, she and her husband, J. Craig Demetras, have operated a small business law practice in Reno's Midtown district. Demetras & O'Neill is a two-time recipient of the Washoe Legal Services' Pro Bono Award for Small Firms. She has served as presiding judge of the Reno Veterans' Treatment Court (CAMO-RNO), begun in 2018.

## William Raggio & Mrs. Dale Raggio

Senator Raggio was the longest-serving state senator in Nevada history, 39 years. During that time, he forged an unsurpassed legacy of legislative achievements for Nevada, particularly in the area of higher education. His leadership helped bring the NJC to Reno from Colorado in 1964, and he played a significant role in securing financial support for the College during his long tenure in office. He was instrumental in the creation of family, drug, mental health and other specialty courts in Nevada. His many contributions to the administration of justice were recognized when he received the Herbert Harley Award from the American Judicature Society. Senator Raggio passed away in 2012 at age 85. In 2015, Mrs. Dale Raggio launched The Senator William J. Raggio Endowment at the NJC in her husband's memory to provide scholarships and program support for Nevada judges.

## James T. Richardson

Jim Richardson led the University of Nevada, Reno's Graduate Degree Program in Judicial Studies from its establishment in 1986 until his retirement in 2016. The program, which includes a master's and the world's only doctorate in judicial studies, is offered in collaboration with The National Judicial College. He directed the master's and doctoral judicial studies program for trial judges as well as the justice management master's program for others who work in the justice system. He has taught at UNR since 1968 and remains on the faculty as an emeritus professor of sociology and judicial studies. He is the co-author and editor of 15 books, including *Regulating Religion: Case Studies from Around the Globe*.

## Hon. Larry Sage (Ret.)

During his 12 years as a judge of the Sparks Municipal Court, Larry Sage helped establish Nevada's first misdemeanor Alcohol & Other Drug Court and the first Native American DUI Victim Impact Panel for the Washoe, Paiute and Shoshone tribes. A member of the NJC faculty since 1998, he holds a Master of Judicial Studies and was selected as an NJC Judicial Ambassador in 2022. He is a retired infantry colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve and was inducted into the U.S. Army Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame and the Nevada National Guard Hall of Fame. He served as a judicial/justice advisor in Afghanistan (2007-10) and as an international peace monitor in South Sudan (2018-19). In 2022 he led the college's *Civics 101* program, presented in partnership with the Reno + Sparks Chamber of Commerce.

## Hon. Brian Sandoval

A former Nevada governor and U.S. District Court judge in Nevada, Brian Sandoval has served as president of the University of Nevada, Reno since September 2020. He served two terms as governor (2011-2019) and during his time in office was chair of the National Governors Association. From 2005-2009 he was a judge of the United States District Court for the District of Nevada. Before that he served two years as Nevada's attorney general. He has also been a senior fellow at the University of Southern California's Annenberg Center on Communication Leadership and Policy and a distinguished fellow of law and leadership at UNLV's William S. Boyd School of Law.



## Yvonne Stedham

A professor emerita in the UNR College of Business Administration's Management Department, Yvonne Stedham has served as faculty for The National Judicial College since 2004. She has taught for the college more than 60 times, in *Management Skills for Presiding Judges*, *Leadership for Judges*, *Mindfulness for Judges* and other courses. She joined the UNR faculty in 1988 and from 1999-2002 served as chair for the Managerial Sciences Department. She has served on the board of directors of numerous nonprofit organizations in northern Nevada and provides consulting and training services to many companies nationally and internationally.

## Hon. Lidia Stiglich

An alumnus of the NJC and member of the faculty since 2014, Chief Justice Stiglich was appointed to the Nevada Supreme Court in 2016 and retained by voters in 2018. She became chief justice this year. As a district court judge in Reno, she was the co-founder and presiding judge of the Youth Offender Drug Court. The specialty court was designed for the young adult population (ages 18 to 24) who are opiate/heroin users as an alternate sentencing/rehabilitation program. She participates in several community organizations, including the Reno Sunrise Rotary. She serves as a board member for Friends of Nevada Mansion.

## Hon. Robert J. Torres\*

Justice Torres was appointed to the Supreme Court of Guam in 2004 and is serving his third term as chief justice. He is an executive committee member of the Pacific Judicial Council, a past president of the American Judges Association, serves on the AJA's Executive Committee and Board of Governors, and is the membership secretary for the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association's Judicial Council. He was the 2022 recipient of the AJA's Judge William H. Burnett Award for outstanding service to the association.

## Mark Tratos

An emeritus trustee and former chair of the Board of Trustees of The National Judicial College, Mark Tratos is also serving as co-chair, along with fellow honoree Hon. Janet Berry (Ret.), of the NJC's 60th Anniversary Committee. He is the founding shareholder of the Greenberg Traurig law firm's Las Vegas office and has represented many artists and performers, including Teller, Ozzy Osbourne, David Copperfield, and Floyd Mayweather, as well as corporate clients Disney and Pixar. He has been a member of the adjunct faculty of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas for more than 25 years and co-founded and is a past president of The Discovery Children's Museum in Las Vegas.

*\* Moderator. Chief Justice Torres received a Making the World a More Just Place Award at the NJC's 60th anniversary celebration in New York City last month.*

## Gordon I. Zimmerman

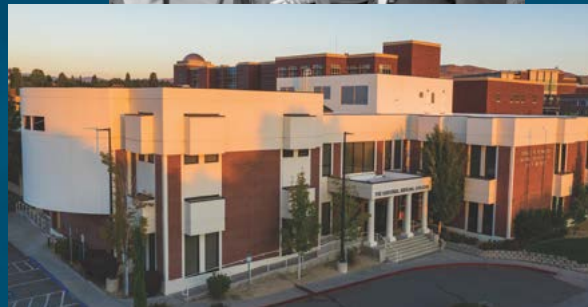
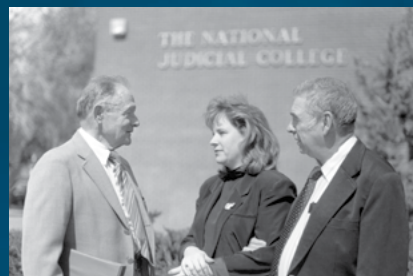
When Gordon Zimmerman retired in 2019, he had established a record as the longest-serving faculty member in the NJC's history: 46 consecutive years teaching for the college. An expert in organizational communication, he served as an instructor in more than 300 courses, including at least one section each year of the college's flagship *General Jurisdiction* course for newer trial judges. He estimates that he taught about 300 NJC course participants per year, which would add up to 14,100 judges, not accounting for those who had him for more than one course. His primary occupation was serving as a professor in the University of Nevada, Reno's Department of Communication. He was chair of the department for 12 years.

## ABOUT THE NATIONAL JUDICIAL COLLEGE



Founded in 1963 and based on the campus of the University of Nevada, Reno since 1964, The National Judicial College remains the only educational institution in the United States that teaches courtroom skills to judges of all types from all over the country, Indian Country and abroad. The categories of judges served by the nonprofit and

nonpartisan institution - trial and appellate, limited jurisdiction, administrative law, tribal and military - decide more than 95 percent of cases in the United States. For more information, visit [www.judges.org](http://www.judges.org).





THE VICE PRESIDENT

September 18, 2023

I am honored to extend my greetings and congratulations to the National Judicial College (NJC) as you celebrate your 60th anniversary.

Since its founding, the NJC has dedicated itself to educating and empowering the next generation of judges by providing key resources and support. Your unwavering dedication to the judicial system promotes freedom and justice for all and will leave a lasting impact for generations to come. I am grateful for your continued leadership.

As former District Attorney of San Francisco and Attorney General of California, I recognize how critical an independent judiciary is to a healthy democracy. When a judicial system is fair, it gives people freedom and the certainty that there will be an equal application of the law to all individuals throughout our country.

Congratulations again on this milestone, and on behalf of our Nation, thank you for all that you do. I send my warmest wishes for a bright future ahead.

CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO  
NEVADA

520 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
(202) 224-3542  
CortezMasto.Senate.Gov

United States Senate

October 18, 2023

COMMITTEES:  
FINANCE  
BANKING, HOUSING, AND  
URBAN AFFAIRS  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
INDIAN AFFAIRS

Dear Friends:

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration for the National Judicial College.

As a former Attorney General for the State of Nevada, I understand the importance of having judges who are committed to achieving professional excellence and regularly improving their skills in the courtroom. And we are fortunate in Nevada to be the home of our nation's only educational institution for sitting judges from courtrooms across America, including Indian Country. Empowering judges to challenge their definitions of justice and learn how better to serve their communities is no small feat, but it is a challenge the National Judicial College (NJC) takes in full stride. The University of Nevada, Reno is fortunate to house NJC on its campus and provide more than 100 courses and 50 online programs to judges all across the country. Our nation's judicial system is critical to the success of our democratic government and institutions and I thank NJC for their commitment to making the world a more just place.



Congratulations to the leadership, staff and supporters of the National Judicial College on reaching this milestone achievement. And my sincere thanks to you all for your work in supporting this important institution and helping it meet its mission of a more fair justice system and a more just world.

To everyone here tonight, thank you for supporting the incredible efforts of National Judicial College and I send my best wishes for a wonderful event.

Sincerely,

Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator

LAS VEGAS  
333 LAS VEGAS BOULEVARD SOUTH  
SUITE 8016  
LAS VEGAS, NV 89101  
(702) 388-5020  
FAX: (702) 388-5030

MOBILE OFFICE  
SERVING RURAL NEVADA  
(775) 225-1457

RENO  
400 SOUTH VIRGINIA STREET  
SUITE 902  
RENO, NV 89501  
(775) 686-5750  
FAX: (775) 686-5757



United States Senate

COMMITTEES  
ARMED SERVICES  
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION  
CHAIR, SUBCOMMITTEE ON TOURISM,  
TRADE, AND EXPORT PROMOTION  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL  
AFFAIRS  
SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

October 18, 2023

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to welcome you to the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of The National Judicial College. Congratulations to the team on organizing tonight's celebration in honor of this important milestone for the nation's oldest and largest school for judges. I am thrilled to celebrate their excellence in educating and inspiring the judiciary.

The National Judicial College was founded in 1963 with a mission to provide judicial education. Thanks to the advocacy of Reno Judge Thomas Craven, the first building for the National Judicial College was constructed on the University of Nevada, Reno campus in 1972. As your Senator, it is a privilege to confirm experienced and qualified judges to sit on the federal bench. I also want to thank those of you here tonight who have helped me and Senator Cortez Masto identify well-qualified candidates through our Judicial Commissions.

Congratulations to Chief Justice Lidia Stiglich and University of Nevada President Brian Sandoval for being recognized tonight for their great service to Nevadans everywhere. I wish The National Judicial College many more years of continued success.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office if we can be of service. I wish each and every one of you a wonderful and memorable event!



Sincerely,

Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator



# CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION

Awarded To

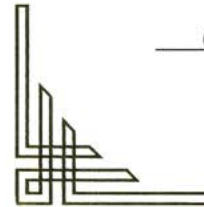


## NATIONAL JUDICIAL COLLEGE

*In recognition of 60 years of making the world a more just place by educating and inspiring its judiciary. Thank you for providing a place to advance the rule of law through the disciplined process of judicial study.*

October 18, 2023

Mark E. Amodei  
Member of Congress





Sponsored by

**GT** GreenbergTraurig

**SIGNATURE**

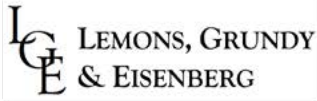
RESOLUTION

**RICHARD HARRIS**  
LAW FIRM

With additional support from



**Hon. Janet Berry (Ret.)**  
**Mediation Services**



**Snell & Wilmer**

