

inadmissible

Bronze Star — Former Gov. **Brendan Byrne** got the bronze treatment on Oct. 3 with the unveiling of Newark's newest attraction: a 7-foot, 800-pound statue in his likeness.



PHOTO BY CARMEN NATALE

BRENDAN BYRNE

1959 by Gov. **Robert Meyner** and a Superior Court judge in 1970 by Gov. **William Cahill**, resigning three years later to run for governor.

The statue, funded with \$70,000 in private donations, will most likely have more staying power than Byrne's previous namesake: The Brendan Byrne Arena in the Meadowlands was renamed Continental Airlines Arena in 1996 and the Izod Center in 2007.

Free Man — West New York Mayor Felix Roque reveled in his acquittal on federal computer hacking and conspiracy charges on Oct. 1. But the celebration was bittersweet, as his son Joseph, 23, charged with the same crimes, was found guilty of hacking.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA

FELIX ROQUE

Both men were charged in 2012 after the "Recall Roque" website was hacked into and disabled. They were accused of collecting email addresses and personal information to "identify, intimidate and harass" the people behind the website, run anonymously at the time by Hudson County Freeholder Jose Muñoz.

Father and son testified during the two-week trial, denying they conspired to harass others. Joseph did not contest the hacking charge but he testified that he carried out the hacking by himself and that his father was unaware of it. Joseph, represented by **John Azzarello** of **Arseneault, Whipple, Fassett & Azzarello** in Chatham, could be sentenced to up to a year in prison.

Religious Observation — Eliyahu "Eli" Weinstein, a Lakewood resident who pleaded guilty to wire fraud conspiracy, is complaining that his jailers did not accommodate his request to properly observe last month's Jewish holidays.

In a Sept. 24 letter to U.S. District Judge **Joel Pisano** in Trenton, Weinstein's lawyer, **Eric Creizman** of **Creizman** in New York City, said his client's religious freedom is being inhibited.

The letter, posted on the Orthodox Judaism news blog *Failed Messiah*, notes that Weinstein was transferred from the Monmouth County Correctional Institution in Freehold to the Burlington County Jail in Mount Holly, where rules prevented him from wearing a yarmulke. He also claimed he was denied use of a shofar for Rosh Hashana and a sukkah for Sukkot.

Creizman said Weinstein feels threatened in his new surroundings and asked that he be transferred to the Metropolitan Correctional Center in Manhattan or the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn. Both recognize religious holidays and would make for easier meetings with his client, Creizman said.

Weinstein faces charges of running a multimillion-dollar Ponzi scheme and taking millions from an investor for nonexistent shares in Facebook.

Honorable Mention — **Bill Matsikoudis**, Jersey City corporation counsel for nearly a decade, was recognized by the International Municipal Lawyers Association at its annual conference on Oct. 1 in San Francisco.

Recipients of the Joseph I. Mulligan Jr. Distinguished Public Service Award have "significant and surpassing achievements in the field of local government law," association guidelines say.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WILLIAM MATSIKOUKIDIS

WILLIAM MATSIKOUKIDIS

Matsikoudis, a Jersey City native and Seton Hall School of Law graduate, was appointed corporation counsel in 2004 by Mayor **Jerramiah Healy**. His tenure was highlighted by his work to effectuate remediation of chromium at the Honeywell site along the Hackensack River. He also worked to protect outdoor sites for recreation and pursued green initiatives for city buildings.

In addition to accepting his award, he gave a lecture titled, "Using Affirmative Litigation To Turn Brownfields Green (In More Ways Than One)."

Matsikoudis left his post earlier this year to create the environmental and urban redevelopment law firm of **Matsikoudis & Fanciullo** in Jersey City with **Derek Fanciullo**.

Last Salvo Before Cease-Fire — The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission shut down with a bang, filing eight discrimination suits on Sept. 30, the last day of the fiscal year — and the last day that the agency was open for business before the federal government shut down.

The EEOC is known for bringing a flurry of cases at the end of fiscal years. As Commissioner **Chai Feldblum** tweeted on Sept. 25, "Must be that time of year. 12 cases filed by EEOC in the last 3 days. Wonder how many more before 9/30?"

Altogether, during the last week of the fiscal year the EEOC filed 22 cases, going after big names, including Wal-Mart Stores Inc., Wells Fargo Bank and Bank of America Corp., alleging a range of employment discrimination.

One suit, against a seed and fertilizer company, alleges generic discrimination, a new area of enforcement for the EEOC. Another suit against an insurance company alleges race discrimination because an applicant wore dreadlocks, and another, against Red Lobster, claims that multiple women suffered sexual harassment.

— *By Jennifer Genova and Jenna Greene*
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