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Gov.-Elect Sherrill Taps Dozens Of Attys For Transition Teams

By [Jake Maher](#) · Listen to article

Law360 (November 26, 2025, 4:11 PM EST) -- New Jersey Gov.-elect Mikie Sherrill's recently announced transition teams feature a number of legal professionals from within New Jersey and outside the state working in a variety of roles as she prepares for her term to begin.



Forty attorneys and people with law degrees are among the members of Sherrill's 10 policy-specific action teams, which cover a wide range of topics from healthcare and housing costs to transportation and jobs.



"We're bringing together experts and everyday New Jerseyans alike on a mission to deliver -- by driving down costs starting with electric bills, improving state services and accountability, and protecting our kids. These teams will embody the spirit of collaboration, creativity, and action that New Jerseyans expect from their next governor," Sherrill said in a Nov. 21 statement.



Sherrill Draws From Legal Community For Transition Teams

Forty practicing attorneys and others with law degrees are part of Sherrill's 10 transition teams.

MEMBER	POSITION	ORGANIZATION
Nina Wells	Former New Jersey secretary of state	New Jersey
Jerry Zaro	Partner	Sills Cummis & Gross
Julia Gordon	Former assistant secretary for housing and federal housing commissioner	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Baye Adofo-Wilson	CEO	BAW Development
Adam Gordon	Executive director	Fair Share Housing Center
Ryan Haygood	President and CEO	New Jersey Institute for Social Justice
Jim Johnson	Chief operating officer	Trinity Church Wall Street
Bill Matsikoudis	Founding partner	Matsikoudis & Fanciullo
Sarah Rosen Wartell	President	Urban Institute

On the "Making Energy More Affordable and Reliable" team, practicing in-house counsels Bhavini Doshi of Aggreko and Babatunde Odubekun of Clean Capital are among a number of others with law degrees, including multiple Biden administration officials serving as co-chairs.

The "Saving You Time and Money: Getting Government to Work for New Jerseyans" team features Esther Suarez — former Hudson County Prosecutor, now a partner at Cleary Giacobbe Alfieri & Jacobs LLC — as well as Thomas Russomano of Schiller Pittenger & Galvin PC and Jerry Zaro of Sills Cummis & Gross PC.

Bill Matsikoudis, co-founding partner of Matsikoudis Fanciullo LLC, will serve on the "Lowering Housing Costs and Expanding Homeownership" team. He's joined by prominent developer Baye Adofo-Wilson; Adam Gordon, executive director of the Fair Share Housing Center; and Ryan Haygood, president and CEO of the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, among others.

Ramon Rivera, a partner at Antonelli Kantor Rivera PC, will serve on the "Delivering a Strong Education for New Jersey Children" team along with Robert Kim, executive director of the Education Law Center.

Sherrill drew on several legal and public health experts for her healthcare affordability group, including Heather Howard, a former New Jersey Commissioner of Health and Senior Service and member of multiple previous governors' administrations; and Linda Schwimmer, a former director of legislation and policy for the [New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance](#).

Sherrill's "Kids Mental Health and Online Safety" team includes Louis Diaz, the chief legal and AI officer for CDS, a company focusing on printers, copiers and other office technology. She tapped Robert Hickman of the Gateway Development Commission for her transportation team. And for the economic growth team, Sherrill tapped Lloyd Levenson, CEO of Cooper Levenson. That team also includes Gina Raimondo, former governor of Rhode Island and U.S. Secretary of Commerce.

Sherrill also drew heavily on the legal community for her teams dedicated to fiscal responsibility and jobs.

Justin Dews, a counsel at King & Spalding LLP, will co-chair the "Fiscal Responsibility and Government Accountability" team, which will also feature Everett Johnson, a partner at Wilentz Goldman & Spitzer PA.

And on the "Jobs, Opportunity and Prosperity for All" team, Sherrill tapped Amol Sinha, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey, along with Aymen Aboushi, a partner at the Aboushi Law Firm.

A spokesperson for the Sherrill campaign did not respond to a request for comment for this article.

--Editing by Rich Mills.

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william Matsikoudis

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