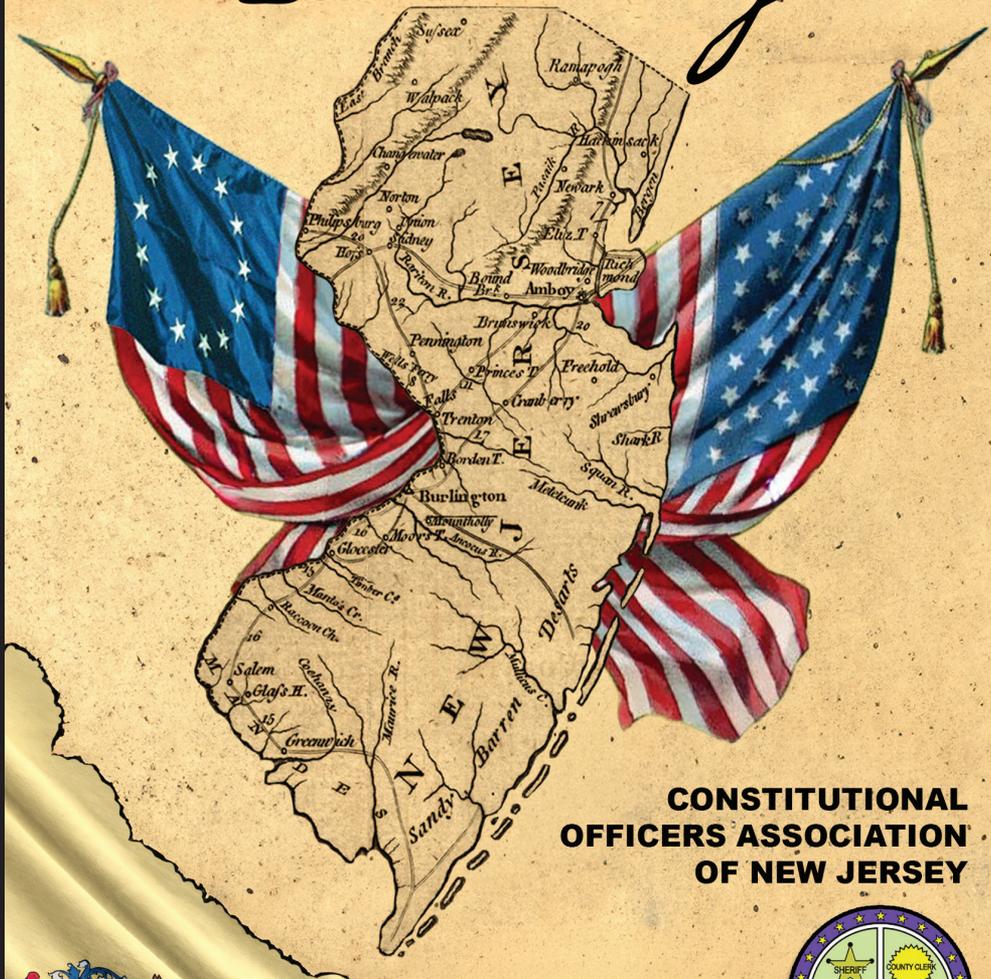


# 2026 Directory



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OF NEW JERSEY**



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## Message from the COANJ President

Greetings! It is my honor and privilege to serve as the 54th President of COANJ.

With 21 counties, this will be our 106th year of service to the People of New Jersey.

As the Morris County Sheriff and COANJ President, I am privileged to represent all the Constitutional Officers: Clerks, Registers, Sheriffs and Surrogates.



I am happy and proud to serve my term with E. Junior Maldonado, Vice President; Dale Cross, Secretary and Claribel Cortes, Treasurer.

A special thanks to our COANJ Section Chiefs - Joe Giraldo, representing the Clerks and Registers; Anthony Cureton, representing the Sheriffs; Zoila Cassanova, representing the Surrogates and Mary H. Melfi, the Legislative Liaison.

As 2026 approaches, it will be a very exciting year for New Jersey and our great Nation as we celebrate our 250th Anniversary. Preparations are well-under way by each county for this memorable day - Stay tuned for celebrations throughout the State!

A heartfelt thank you to our outgoing President Steve Peter for his service and leadership of COANJ.

I look forward to serving as your COANJ President and working with our Section Chiefs and Committees.

Thank you for all that you do and God Bless!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James M. Gannon". The signature is stylized and cursive.

**James M. Gannon**  
*Morris County Sheriff*  
President COANJ 2025-2026

## COANJ OFFICERS

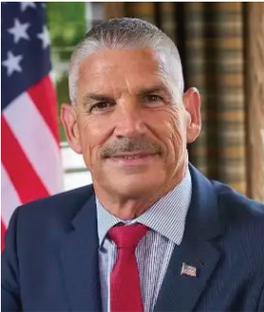
2025–2026



**President**  
**James M. Gannon**  
Sheriff  
Morris County



**Vice President**  
**E. Junior Maldonado**  
County Clerk  
Hudson County



**Secretary**  
**Dale Cross**  
County Clerk  
Salem County



**Treasurer**  
**Claribel Cortes**  
Surrogate  
Middlesex County

## SECTION CHIEFS

2025–2026



### Clerks and Registers

#### **Joe Giraldo**

County Clerk  
Atlantic County



### Surrogates

#### **Zoila Cassanova, Esq.**

Surrogate  
Passaic County



### Sheriffs

#### **Anthony Cureton**

Sheriff  
Bergen County



### Legislative Liaison

#### **Mary Melfi**

County Clerk  
Hunterdon County

# COANJ MEETING SCHEDULE

2026

## Executive Board

**Thursday, February 10, 2026**

1 pm - 3 pm  
via Zoom

**Wednesday, June 17, 2026**

10 am – 12 noon  
via Zoom

**Thursday, August 20, 2026**

10 am – 12 noon  
via Zoom

## General Session

**Monday, March 9, 2026**

10 am – 2 pm  
Mercer County Community College  
1200 Old Trenton Road  
West Windsor, NJ

**Friday, May 8, 2026**

9 am – 12 pm  
NJAC Annual Conference  
Caesar's Hotel and Casino  
2100 Pacific Ave  
Atlantic City, NJ

**Thursday, July 23, 2026**

9 am – 2 pm  
Park Avenue Club  
184 Park Ave.  
Florham Park, NJ

**Thursday, December 3, 2026**

10 am – 1 pm  
Holiday Meeting and Lunch  
Trenton Country Club  
201 Sullivan Way,  
West Trenton, NJ 08628

## Annual Conference

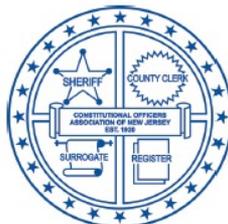
**Monday–Thursday, October 5–8, 2026**

Seaview Hotel  
Galloway, NJ

## WHO WE ARE

We are the Sheriffs, County Clerks, Surrogates, and Registers of Deeds and Mortgages elected directly by the people of our respective Counties throughout the State of New Jersey. We organized in 1920 for the following purposes:

- To establish a cooperative effort among the Sheriffs, County Clerks, Surrogates, and Registers of Deeds and Mortgages of the 21 counties of the State of New Jersey to improve services rendered to their respective counties
- To hold conferences, consultations and meetings to discuss matters of importance relating to the conduct and advancement of the methods of filing, recording, indexing and preservation of the records in the offices of the Sheriffs, County Clerks, Surrogates, and Registers of Deeds and Mortgages and such other matters as may be brought before the meetings of the Association
- To submit and advocate such legislation for the accomplishment of the above-mentioned purposes and such laws which may be found necessary and feasible in relation to the conduct of all the statutory requirements and duties relating to the offices of the Sheriffs, County Clerks, Surrogates, and Registers of Deeds and Mortgages in the State of New Jersey
- To foster new and safeguard old legislation of benefit to members
- To promote the social and general welfare of the members
- To encourage and maintain high standards of service
- To hold an annual conference and special meetings for the discussion of current county problems.



## ATLANTIC COUNTY

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### Chief of Staff

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Sheriffs-Department

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### Undersheriff

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## HUDSON COUNTY

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## MERCER COUNTY

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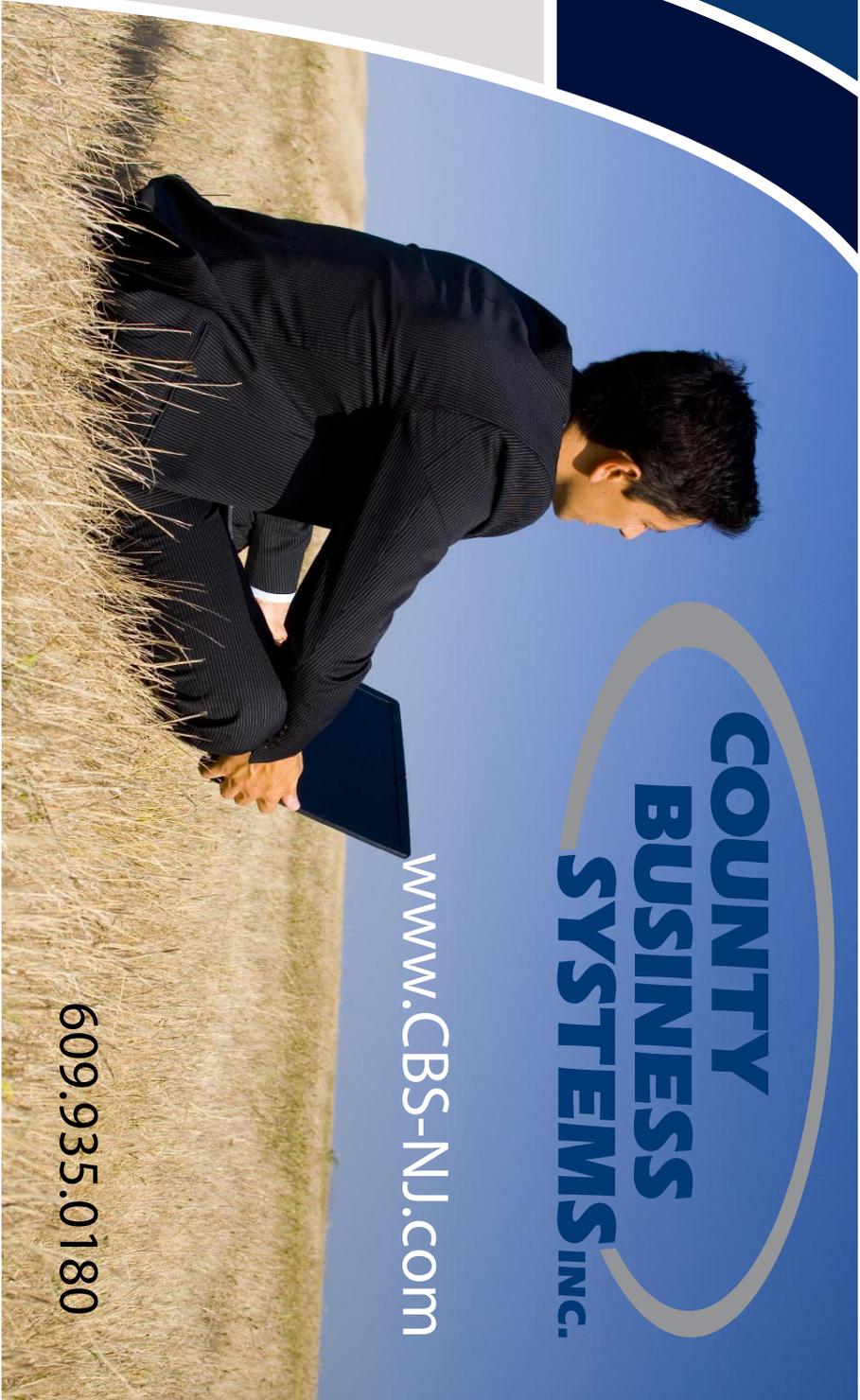


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