

# GINA M. LAPLACA, ESQ.

10 Middleton Drive • Lumberton, NJ 08048

## OVERVIEW

Accomplished attorney with proven aptitudes for legal counsel, research, analysis, and policy development in the public and private sectors. Over a decade of experience in public policy, government affairs and community service. Established relationships with public officials at all levels of New Jersey government.

## EXPERIENCE

Verizon New Jersey, Trenton, NJ

December 2008 – Present

### *Director, State Government Affairs*

- Represent Verizon before various agencies of New Jersey State government, with particular focus on the Executive and Legislative branches
- Monitor and analyze the impact of proposed legislation and regulations to ensure that they align with the company's interests and goals
- Provide legal and political advice on legislation and policy initiatives and recommend appropriate company action
- Oversee and direct the activities of external lobbyists and consultants on behalf of Verizon
- Administer a \$2.5 million outreach and education budget in conjunction with Verizon's Communications Lifeline program
- Coordinate with internal and external media consultants to develop messaging and public relations strategies in connection with the company's legislative activities
- Provide background information and testimony to legislative committee hearings, and meet with elected officials to educate them regarding company positions on pending legislation
- Draft briefing memos, talking points and other policy documents for use by Verizon Regional Vice President and other members of the Senior Leadership Team
- Provide support to Verizon New Jersey External Affairs and Regulatory Affairs teams
- Represent Verizon to various industry and trade associations, including New Jersey Utilities Association, New Jersey Retail Merchants Association, and NJ Society for Environmental, Economic Development
- Provide constituent relations and support to local and State officials in conjunction with service outages or other customer issues
- Maintain strong relationships, and communicate regularly, with an extensive network of public officials at all levels of New Jersey government

New Jersey General Assembly Majority Office, Trenton, NJ

January 2006 – December 2008

### *Deputy Budget Director/Associate General Counsel*

- Provided legal advice on legislation, policy initiatives, and legislative interactions for the 48-member Assembly Democratic Caucus
- Integral part of a three member team responsible for the coordination, management, and legislative implementation of the annual Appropriations Act
- Analyzed budget documents, fiscal notes, and amendments
- Assisted in preparation of committee agendas and brief members on pertinent legislation; acted as staff liaison to the Budget and Appropriations committees
- Served as Democratic staff liaison for the Financial Institutions and Insurance; State Government; and Telecommunications and Utilities Committees, as well as the Joint Legislative Committee on Constitutional Reform and Citizens' Property Tax Constitutional Convention during the 2006 Special Legislative Session on Property Tax Reform
- Formulated policy, set agendas, and conducted research and analysis of initiatives impacting the caucus with regard to banking, insurance, telecommunications, government, and ethics
- Major policy initiatives included "Cable Competition and Choice" statewide cable television franchise law and 2007 "Clean Elections" public campaign finance program

New Jersey Office of Legislative Services (OLS), Trenton, NJ

November 2004 – January 2006

### *Deputy Counsel – Authorities, Utilities, Transportation and Communications Section*

- Drafted and analyzed legislation pertaining to telecommunications and transportation policy
- Provided feedback on issues and policy matters of legislative concern; prepared background materials for use by legislators and staff
- Conducted legal research and wrote legal opinions on the constitutionality of proposed legislation

## EDUCATION

**Fordham University School of Law**, New York, NY

Juris Doctor, August 2004

Honors: Writing & Research Editor, Journal of Corporate & Financial Law

**University of Pennsylvania**, Philadelphia, PA

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science and Communications; (minors) History and Legal Studies (with the Wharton School of Business), May 2001

## ADMISSIONS & ASSOCIATIONS

- **Supreme Court of New Jersey**
- **Supreme Court of New York**
- **United States District Court for the District of New Jersey**
- **New Jersey State Bar Association**
- **New York State Bar Association**

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- **New Jersey World Trade Center Scholarship Fund – Board of Trustees**, May 2008 to present
- **New Jersey Society for Environmental, Economic Development (NJ SEED) – Board of Trustees**, October 2009 to present
- **Chamber of Commerce Southern New Jersey – Board of Trustees**, December 2011 to December 2017
- **New Jersey Utilities Association — Board of Directors**, June 2018 to present
- **NJ SHARES – Board of Directors**, July 2012 to present
- **New Leaders Council**
  - **National Board of Directors**, December 2016 to present
  - **New Jersey Advisory Board**, February 2014 to present
- **Camden County Police Foundation — Board of Directors**, December 2014 to present
- **Boys and Girls Club of Camden County — Board of Trustees**, January 2015 to present
- **Girl Scouts of Central and Southern New Jersey — Board of Directors**, April 2018 to present
- **Mount Holly Municipal Utilities Authority**, January 2017 to present
- **Cherry Hill Township Planning Board**, January 2014 to January 2016

## AWARDS/HONORS

- *Burlington County Times*
  - **Emerging Leader Award**, 2015
- *InsiderNJ*
  - **Insider 100 Top Policymakers**, 2017, 2018
  - **Insider 100 Power List**, 2018