



ATRA

American Tort
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NEW JERSEY
2017-2023

CAMPAIGN FINANCE ANALYSIS

*Plaintiffs' Firms &
PAC Contributions*

POWER PLAYERS: TOP PLAINTIFFS' FIRM DONORS

Lawyers from 20 plaintiff's firms gave a combined \$2 million to New Jersey political campaigns and committees from nearly 3,000 individual contributions since 2017. The lawyers from two of these firms – Malamut & Associates and Javerbaum Wurgraft – gave more than \$200,000 over these years, with Malamut lawyers giving over \$275,000 and Javerbaum lawyers giving over \$240,000. Seven additional firms gave more than \$100,000 to candidates and committees since 2017.

Top 20 Plaintiffs' Firm Donors In New Jersey Since 2017	
Law Firm	Total Given
MALAMUT & ASSOC	\$278,875
JAVERBAUM, WURGRAFT, ET AL	\$234,446
STARK & STARK	\$158,713
CASHA & CASHA, LLC	\$140,685
GINARTE, O'DWYER, ET AL	\$127,890
LOMBARDI & LOMBARDI	\$127,205
DASTI MURPHY & MCGUCKIN	\$115,631
BATISTA LAW FIRM	\$110,114
COSTELLO & MAINS	\$109,035
DAVIS SAPERSTEIN & SALOMON	\$93,915
BRAMNICK RODRIGUEZ GRABAS ARNOLD & MANGAN	\$75,340
MARTIN KANE & KUPER LLC	\$67,150
LEVINSON AXELROD	\$67,045
CORRADINO & PAPA LLC	\$65,200
D'ARCY JOHNSON DAY	\$61,688
LOMURRO MUNSON COMER BROWN & SCHOTTLAND	\$60,559
SCAFFIDI LAW	\$59,800
BRESLIN & BRESLIN	\$48,414
WEITZ & LUXENBERG PC	\$43,290
FLYNN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.	\$34,150
Grand Total	\$2,079,145

(Source: New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission)

TOP RECIPIENTS FROM TOP PLAINTIFFS' FIRMS

Ten politicians and committees in New Jersey received at least \$25,000 from the Top 20 plaintiffs' law firm political donors noted above. The New Jersey Association for Justice PAC, the political arm of the New Jersey Association for Justice, received over \$400,000 from those 20 firms. Four additional campaigns and committees – Donald Dinsmore's combined campaign committees, the personal committee for New Jersey Senate President Nicholas Scutari, the campaign committee for "Team Batista" and current New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy – each received over \$100,000.

Top Recipients from Top 20 Plaintiffs' Firms for Campaign Contributions Since 2017	
Campaigns And Committees	Total Received
NJ ASSOCIATION FOR JUSTICE PAC	\$412,895
SCUTARI, NICHOLAS P	\$189,400
DINSMORE, DONALD S CAMPAIGNS	\$133,802
BATISTA GREENBLATT BROWN & SILEEM TEAM BATISTA	\$106,214
MURPHY, PHILIP	\$106,100
NJ SENATE DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY	\$91,600
UNION COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CMTE	\$82,900
BRAMNICK, JON	\$71,951
PASSAIC COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CMTE	\$30,500
JUST THE FACTS NEW JERSEY	\$25,000

(Source: New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission)

NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION FOR JUSTICE ANALYSIS

Since 2017, five separate campaign committees and candidates received \$50,000 or more from the New Jersey Association for Justice PAC most of which are affiliated with the Democratic party. A combined \$280,000 went to the New Jersey Senate and Assembly Democratic campaign committees, with an additional \$75,000 going to the Democratic State Committee.

Fourteen of the Top 20 plaintiffs' firms for political giving contributed to the New Jersey Association for Justice PAC. Malamut & Associates, which gave the most money of the 20 plaintiffs' firms analyzed, did not contribute to the New Jersey Association for Justice PAC, instead donating to individual campaigns and smaller PACs.

Top Recipients of New Jersey Association for Justice Since 2017	
Campaigns and Committees	Total Received
NJ SENATE DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY	\$155,000
NJ DEMOCRATIC ASSEMBLY CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE	\$125,000
NJ DEMOCRATIC STATE COMMITTEE	\$75,000
BRAMNICK, JON	\$51,100
ASSEMBLY REPUBLICAN VICTORY	\$51,000
GOPAL, VIN	\$49,200
GREENWALD, LOUIS D	\$44,300
COUGHLIN, CRAIG J	\$41,000
QUIJANO, ANNETTE	\$34,000
TESTA, MICHAEL L JR	\$32,800
DOWNEY, JOANN	\$32,800
ZWICKER, ANDREW	\$32,100
GREENSTEIN, LINDA R	\$28,400
SCHAER, GARY	\$27,100

(Source: New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission)

Top New Jersey Assoc. for Justice Donors Since 2017	
Law Firm	Total Given
JAVERBAUM, WURGRAFT, ET AL	\$77,735
STARK & STARK	\$65,471
COSTELLO & MAINS	\$54,910
LOMBARDI & LOMBARDI	\$37,680
DAVIS SAPERSTEIN & SALOMON	\$36,055
LEVINSON AXELROD	\$28,880
D'ARCY JOHNSON DAY	\$25,700
FLYNN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.	\$25,700

(Source: New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission)

INTERESTING DATA POINTS & ANALYSIS

Plaintiffs' Firms Broad-Based Support for Gov. Murphy and State Sen. Scutari

New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy and New Jersey Senate President Nicholas Scutari each received more than \$100,000 from the top plaintiffs' firm donors, and each received contributions from at least half of the Top 20 firms analyzed in this report since 2017.

NJ State Sen. Nicholas Scutari Campaign Contributions from Top Plaintiffs' Firms	
Firm	Total Given
JAVERBAUM, WURGRAFT, ET AL	\$53,650
DAVIS SAPERSTEIN & SALOMON	\$22,000
STARK & STARK	\$20,700
COSTELLO & MAINS	\$17,750
GINARTE, O'DWYER, ET AL	\$16,950
LEVINSON AXELROD	\$16,050
LOMURRO MUNSON COMER BROWN & SCHOTTLAND	\$8,950
WEITZ & LUXENBERG PC	\$7,950
MALAMUT & ASSOC	\$6,700
D'ARCY JOHNSON DAY	\$5,600
FLYNN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.	\$3,850
BRESLIN & BRESLIN	\$3,150
LOMBARDI & LOMBARDI	\$3,100
BATISTA LAW FIRM	\$3,000

(Source: New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission).

Gov. Phil Murphy Campaign Contributions from Top Plaintiffs' Firms	
Firm	Total Given
LOMBARDI & LOMBARDI	\$24,600
JAVERBAUM, WURGRAFT, ET AL	\$23,100
COSTELLO & MAINS	\$14,700
STARK & STARK	\$11,100
D'ARCY JOHNSON DAY	\$8,400
DAVIS SAPERSTEIN & SALOMON	\$8,400
BRESLIN & BRESLIN	\$5,300
LOMURRO MUNSON COMER BROWN & SCHOTTLAND	\$5,000
WEITZ & LUXENBERG PC	\$4,500
FLYNN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.	\$1,000

(Source: New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission).

Self-Funders Skew Some Data

Both Casha & Casha and the Batista Law Firm employed attorneys who ran for office, and the majority of their campaign contributions went toward those campaigns. Of the \$140,000 contributed by Casha & Casha, \$133,000 went to the campaign of one of their attorneys, Donald Densmore. Densmore ran for elected office in Morris County in 2019 and self-funded much of his campaign. Of the \$110,000 contributed by the Batista Law Firm, \$106,000 went toward Jorge Batista’s ticket for Hillside Mayor in 2017.

Malamut’s Burlington County Contributions

While Malamut & Associates gives a large amount of money across the board to various campaigns and committees in New Jersey, the firm was the sole top plaintiffs’ firm contributor to three separate Burlington County political committees that were in the Top 12 political candidates and committees receiving contributions from plaintiffs’ firms. Malamut gave \$18,200 to New Jersey state senator Troy Singleton, who previously held local office in Burlington County.

Malamut & Associates are also the only top plaintiffs’ firm of those analyzed to donate to Allison Eckel, who was appointed to the Burlington County Commission in 2022.[1] Prior to being appointed to the Burlington County Commission, Eckel served on the Lenape Regional High School District’s Board of Education.[2] In 2019, the Lenape Regional High School District’s Board of Education voted to add Malamut & Associates as a designated “Special Counsel” for the district.[3]

Ginarte and Union County

Ginarte, O’Dwyer is the only top plaintiffs’ firm contributor for the Union County Democratic Committee, giving more than \$88,000 combined in 2022 and 2023. Much of the rest of the \$133,000 given by the law firm went to the campaign committees of Nicholas Scutari and the committee for the New Jersey State Senate Democrats.

Ginarte O’Dwyer Contributions Since 2017	
Recipient	Amount Given
UNION COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CMTE	\$81,800
NJ SENATE DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY	\$25,000
SCUTARI, NICHOLAS P	\$16,950
NJ ASSOCIATION FOR JUSTICE PAC	\$2,640
LINDEN DEMOCRATIC CITY CMTE	\$1,000
AMADOR, AUGUSTO	\$500

(Source: New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission)

[1] Press Release, “Allison Eckel Appointed To Commissioners Board,” Burlington County Democrats, 5/28/22

[2] Ibid

[3] “Regular Board Meeting Agenda,” Lenape Regional High School District Board Of Education, 2/20/19

CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS FROM TOP NEW JERSEY LEGAL SERVICES ADVERTISERS

Ten firms that also are active in the legal services advertising sphere also donated money directly to candidates and committees in New Jersey, totaling approximately \$186,000. The biggest political donor among these advertisers is Ginarte Law, which gave more than \$125,000 to candidates and committees since 2017. One additional firm – Weitz & Luxenberg – gave more than \$43,000.

Five candidates and committees received \$5,000 or more from the top legal services advertisers in New Jersey, with the biggest recipient being the Union County Democratic Committee, which received more than \$80,000. Three additional committees – the New Jersey Senate Democrats, Sen. Nicholas Scutari and the New Jersey Association for Justice PAC – received more than \$20,000.

Campaign Contributions from New Jersey Top Local Legal Services Advertisers Since 2017	
Firm	Total Given
GINARTE, O'DWYER, ET AL	\$127,890
WEITZ & LUXENBERG PC	\$43,290
MORGAN & MORGAN, P.A.	\$4,800
LAW OFFICE OF JACOB ORESKY	\$2,900
POND LEHOCKY LLP	\$2,500
KLINE & SPECTER, P.C.	\$1,500
LUNDY LAW	\$1,050
THE BARNES FIRM PC	\$1,000
RUBENSTEIN LAW FIRM LLC	\$750
JACOBY & MEYERS, LLP	\$400

Top Recipients of Campaign Contributions from New Jersey Top Local Legal Services Advertisers Since 2017	
Candidate or Committee	Total Received
UNION COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CMTE	\$81,800
NJ SENATE DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY	\$28,600
SCUTARI, NICHOLAS P	\$24,900
NJ ASSOCIATION FOR JUSTICE PAC	\$22,880
MURPHY, PHILIP	\$9,300
WILDES, MICHAEL J	\$2,600
NATALE, MARK	\$2,500
GOPAL, VIN	\$2,000
WISNIEWSKI, JOHN S	\$1,700
PENNACCHIO, JOE	\$1,400
LINDEN DEMOCRATIC CITY CMTE	\$1,000
GILL, NIA H	\$1,000
MUSELLA, JUSTIN	\$1,000
TEAM FULOP 2017 – LAVARRO RIVERA WATTERMAN ROBINSON RIDLEY KINBERG PRINZ-AREY HANUSSAK (FULOP OSBORNE)	\$1,000
QUIJANO, ANNETTE	\$1,000
MORIARTY, PAUL D	\$1,000
PRIETO, VINCENT	\$500
AMADOR, AUGUSTO	\$500
STACK, BRIAN	\$500
RANDOLPH REPUBLICAN CLUB	\$500
RIZZO, PHILIP	\$400

(Source: New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission).

METHODOLOGY

The New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission designates all campaign contributors by occupation. As such, this analysis was put together by creating a database of all campaign contributors who noted they were a lawyer when giving their campaign contribution. With this database of lawyer contributors in place, a second database was created by firm name and amount given. The Top 20 law firm contributors were analyzed from this secondary database, analyzing all campaign contributions from individuals who named one of the previously noted Top 20 plaintiffs' firm political donors as their employer from 2017 onward to create a more complete and robust database of contributions from these Top 20 plaintiffs' firm donors.