

Thomas P. Scrivo
Vice-Chair

Maxwell L. Billek
Michael J. Mitzner
Joan M. Quigley
Ralphael Salerno
Patrick P. Toscano
Debra S. Weisberg



NEW JERSEY LEGISLATURE
JOINT COMMITTEE ON ETHICAL STANDARDS

STATE HOUSE ANNEX • P.O. BOX 068 • TRENTON, NJ 08625-0068
www.njleg.gov

609-847-3901

Gabriel R. Neville
Secretary and Counsel

Roger Lai
Assistant Counsel

Katelyn McElmoyl Metz
Assistant Counsel

March 20, 2025

Roman Broszkowski

Via e-mail only – opra+request-72067-7ba6aa93@requests.opramachine.com

RE: OPRA Request dated March 11, 2025

Dear Mr. Broszkowski:

This correspondence responds to your Open Public Records Act (OPRA) request dated Tuesday, March 11, 2025. Your request was received electronically and delivered to the Joint Legislative Committee on Ethical Standards (Joint Committee) Records Custodian the same day.

You requested the following:

The following documents related to the June 29, 2021 request for an ethics complaint filed by Sue Altman against Nicholas Scutari concerning his employment as City of Linden municipal prosecutor that was filed with the Joint Legislative Committee of Ethical Standards:

- The initial ethics complaint submitted by Sue Altman et al. concerning Nicholas Scutari on June 29, 2021
- The subsequent request from the Joint Legislative Committee of Ethical Standards for documentation to back up their claims
- Any available correspondence between the Joint Legislative Committee of Ethical Standards
- The final decision of the JLCES on the merits of this complaint
- The list of any witnesses and/or evidence the JLCES considered in deciding the merits of this complaint
- The meeting minutes and/or recording of the meeting of the JLCES immediately after the June 29, 2021 submission

The attached public records are responsive to your request. Please note that no records exist which are responsive to your request for “the list of any witnesses and/or evidence the JLCES considered in deciding the merits of this complaint.”

Roman Broszkowski
RE: OPRA Request dated March 11, 2025
March 20, 2025
Page 2

Thank you for contacting the Joint Legislative Committee for Ethical Standards. Please acknowledge receipt of this response and direct any questions to the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Katelyn McElmoyl Metz

Katelyn McElmoyl Metz

Assistant Counsel to the

Joint Legislative Committee on Ethical Standards

Enclosures

The Hon. John E. Wallace Jr.
Chair
The Joint Legislative Committee on Ethical Standards
New Jersey Statehouse
125 W. State Street
Trenton, NJ 08608

OFFICE OF
LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

2021 JUL -8 A 11:43

June 29, 2021

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

Dear Justice Wallace:

We are writing to file an ethics complaint against State Senator Nicholas Scutari. We further demand an investigation, and public accounting, relating to the conduct of the Senator.

Senator Scutari, in his role as chair of the powerful Judiciary Committee, is almost solely responsible for shaping our state's judiciary and criminal justice policies. He alone is entrusted with deciding whether or not a candidate for the bench gets a hearing, let alone is confirmed, to the bench for the Superior Court, Tax Court or Supreme Court. He alone decides whether to hold hearings to provide advice and consent for nominations for numerous other posts, from county prosecutor to state attorney general.

Yet there are serious allegations concerning the senator's law practice, particularly on behalf of local government, that violate the public's trust in the legislative process and that bring the Legislature into disrepute, in potential violation of Legislative Code of Ethics rule 2:1a.

According to publicly released reports, Senator Scutari allegedly held a no-show job for years as Linden's municipal prosecutor. There was a specific incident where the judge of Linden was allegedly looking for the Senator for a trial that of which he was aware — but he had left the building.

A 59-page internal investigation conducted by the law firm Calcagni & Kanefsky on behalf of the City of Linden found that Senator Scutari engaged in "serial absenteeism" during his last five years as municipal prosecutor, costing the municipality nearly \$200,000.

The report, as summarized by the Bergen Record, found that Senator Scutari missed 255 of 628 court sessions over a five-year period and enlisted replacement attorneys to fill in for him 120 times — without approval from Linden officials.

Indeed, Senator Scutari was paid in full for all his "unauthorized absences," according to the report which, according to the reporting, also permitted Senator Scutari to improperly accrue pension credits.

In the Joint Legislative Committee's investigation, it is essential that the Committee release the full text of the Calcagni & Kanefsky report. This report was commissioned by a local government and paid for by taxpayer dollars.

Continuing to shield this report from the public's view only seems to confirm greater suspicions that Senator Scutari is able to leverage his powerful position as a state legislator to prevent public scrutiny of his taxpayer-funded legal work.

This accusation raises serious questions as to Senator Scutari's ability to perform his taxpayer-funded employment and threaten to undermine the public's trust in the Legislature.

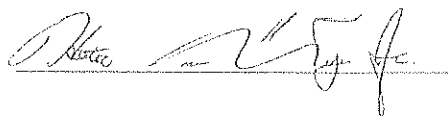
It is incumbent upon this body to conduct a full investigation to determine whether Senator Scutari behaved improperly and unethically as a state senator and municipal prosecutor, costing taxpayers in the state and in Linden excess money and hampering the effective administration of justice — all while potentially enriching his state pension.

Given the serious allegations raised in this complaint, we ask you to immediately launch a full investigation.

Sincerely,



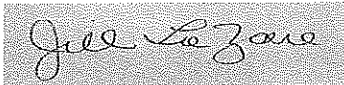
Sue Altman
State Director, New Jersey Working Families Alliance



Hector O. Oseguera Jr., Esq.
Progressive Democrats of Hudson County



Caitlin Sherman
Hudson County Progressive Alliance



Jill LaZare
Activist and Attorney



Shannon Coulter
Resident, Union, New Jersey



Tania Martinez
Rutgers University-Camden College Democrats



Betty L Adams
Resident, Union County



Leslie Bockol
Co-Executive Director, NJ 11th For Change



Mara Novak
Co-Executive Director, NJ 11th For Change



Maggie Savoca
Resident, Fanwood, NJ

John E. Wallace, Jr.
Chairman

John J. Harper
Vice-Chairman

Maxwell L. Billek
Frederick M. Herrmann
Daniel P. Mecca
Michael J. Mitzner
Joan M. Quigley
Patrick P. Toscano



Jason M. Krajewski
Secretary and Counsel

Katelyn McElmoyl Metz
Assistant Counsel

NEW JERSEY STATE LEGISLATURE

JOINT COMMITTEE ON ETHICAL STANDARDS

STATE HOUSE ANNEX • P.O. BOX 068 • TRENTON, NJ 08625-0068
www.njleg.state.nj.us
609-847-3901

July 26, 2021

Sue Altman
State Director, New Jersey Working Families Alliance
Via e-mail only (saltman@workingfamilies.org)

RE: Ethics Complaint Filed Against Senator Scutari

Dear Ms. Altman:

Please allow this letter to confirm receipt of your complaint against Senator Scutari, a copy of which is enclosed. I am also enclosing the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) of the Joint Committee on Ethical Standards. In accordance with Section III the SOP, you are invited to provide any documentation or additional evidence supporting your allegations on or before **Tuesday, August 10, 2021**. If you need additional time to respond, please contact me.

Our office will notify you when this matter is scheduled for consideration by the Joint Committee. Please confirm receipt of this letter and feel free to contact me at 609-847-3901 or kmetz@njleg.org if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Katelyn M. Metz

Katelyn McElmoyl Metz
Assistant Counsel to the
Joint Committee on Ethical Standards

Enclosures
c Members of the Joint Committee on Ethical Standards

John E. Wallace, Jr.
Chairman

John J. Harper
Vice-Chairman

Maxwell L. Billek
Frederick M. Herrmann
Daniel P. Mecca
Michael J. Mitzner
Joan M. Quigley
Patrick P. Toscano



Jason M. Krajewski
Secretary and Counsel

Katelyn McElmoyl Metz
Assistant Counsel

NEW JERSEY STATE LEGISLATURE

JOINT COMMITTEE ON ETHICAL STANDARDS

STATE HOUSE ANNEX • P.O. BOX 068 • TRENTON, NJ 08625-0068
www.njleg.state.nj.us
609-847-3901

October 13, 2021

Sue Altman
State Director, New Jersey Working Families Alliance
Via e-mail only (saltman@workingfamilies.org)

RE: Ethics Complaint Filed Against Senator Scutari

Dear Ms. Altman:

Please be advised that the Joint Committee has been notified of pending civil litigation filed by Senator Scutari on August 4, 2020, involving the same subject matter and allegations raised in your complaint. Section X of the Joint Committee's Standard Operating Procedures concerns pending judicial matters and states: "[w]henver the Joint Committee has an ethics complaint before it and there is an ongoing criminal investigation or case, or civil case related to the same subject matter involving the legislator or legislative officer or employee who is the subject of the ethics complaint, the ethics complaint shall be held in abeyance until such time as the judicial matter, including all appeals, is completed. This procedure may be suspended by a vote of 5 members."

Consequently, the Joint Committee must hold your complaint against Senator Scutari in abeyance until the matter, presently pending in Union County Superior Court, is completed, including any appeals.

Our office will notify you when this matter is scheduled for consideration by the Joint Committee. Please feel free to contact me at 609-847-3901 or kmetz@njleg.org if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Katelyn M. Metz

Katelyn McElmoyl Metz
Assistant Counsel to the
Joint Committee on Ethical Standards

A. Todd Mayo
Chairman

Thomas P. Scrivo
Vice-Chairman

Maxwell L. Billek
Michael J. Mitzner
David A. Nitti
Joan M. Quigley
Patrick P. Toscano
Kerri Wright



Roger Lai
Acting Secretary and Counsel

Katelyn McElmoyl Metz
Assistant Counsel

NEW JERSEY STATE LEGISLATURE

JOINT COMMITTEE ON ETHICAL STANDARDS

STATE HOUSE ANNEX • P.O. BOX 068 • TRENTON, NJ 08625-0068
www.njleg.state.nj.us
609-847-3901

August 31, 2022

Sue Altman
State Director, New Jersey Working Families Alliance
Via e-mail only (s@*)

RE: Ethics Complaint Filed Against Senator Scutari

Dear Ms. Altman:

You will recall that the Joint Committee was unable to process your complaint against Senate President Scutari while civil litigation related to the same subject matter was pending in Union County Superior Court. The Committee is planning to organize imminently. *Kindly advise the Joint Committee by September 8, 2022 if you and the other complainants still wish to proceed with the allegations of your complaint. If you have any additional information for the Committee's consideration, please provide by the same date.*

Please feel free to contact me at 609-847-3901 or km@* if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Katelyn M. Metz

Katelyn McElmoyl Metz
Assistant Counsel to the
Joint Committee on Ethical Standards

A. Todd Mayo
Chairman

Thomas P. Scrivo
Vice-Chairman

Maxwell L. Billek
Francis A. Koch
Michael J. Mitzner
David A. Nitti
Joan M. Quigley
Patrick P. Toscano



Roger Lai
Acting Secretary and Counsel

Katelyn McElmoyl Metz
Assistant Counsel

NEW JERSEY STATE LEGISLATURE

JOINT COMMITTEE ON ETHICAL STANDARDS

STATE HOUSE ANNEX • P.O. BOX 068 • TRENTON, NJ 08625-0068
www.njleg.state.nj.us
609-847-3901

September 21, 2022

Ms. Sue Altman
State Director, New Jersey Working Families Alliance

Via e-mail only (saltman@workingfamilies.org)

RE: Complaint filed July 8, 2021 – Notice of Dismissal

Dear Ms. Altman:

The Joint Committee on Ethical Standards met on September 20, 2022, to consider the ethics complaint you and nine other individuals filed against Senator Scutari. In recognition of your September 8, 2022 notification via email stating that you did not intend to proceed with the complaint, the Joint Committee voted to dismiss the complaint.

If you wish to listen to the proceedings, an audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislature's website under "Archived Proceedings." Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Katelyn M Metz

Katelyn McElmoyl Metz
Assistant Counsel to the Joint
Committee on Ethical Standards

c Members of the Joint Committee on Ethical Standards

A. Todd Mayo
Chairman

Thomas P. Scrivo
Vice-Chairman

Maxwell L. Billek
Francis A. Koch
Michael J. Mitzner
David A. Nitti
Joan M. Quigley
Patrick P. Toscano



Roger Lai
Acting Secretary and Counsel

Katelyn McElmoyl Metz
Assistant Counsel

NEW JERSEY STATE LEGISLATURE

JOINT COMMITTEE ON ETHICAL STANDARDS

STATE HOUSE ANNEX • P.O. BOX 068 • TRENTON, NJ 08625-0068
www.njleg.state.nj.us
609-847-3901

September 21, 2022

Honorable Nicholas P. Scutari
67 Walnut Ave.
Clark, NJ 07066

Via e-mail only (SenScutari@njleg.org)

RE: Complaint filed July 8, 2021 – Notice of Dismissal

Dear Senate President Scutari:

The Joint Committee on Ethical Standards met on September 20, 2022, to consider the ethics complaint filed against you by Ms. Sue Altman and nine other individuals. In recognition of the complainant's September 8, 2022 notification that she did not intend to proceed with the complaint, the Joint Committee voted to dismiss the complaint.

If you wish to listen to the proceedings, an audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislature's website under "Archived Proceedings." Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Katelyn M Metz

Katelyn McElmoyl Metz
Assistant Counsel to the Joint
Committee on Ethical Standards

c Members of the Joint Committee on Ethical Standards

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON ETHICAL STANDARDS

MINUTES

September 20, 2022

The Joint Legislative Committee on Ethical Standards (Joint Committee) met per notice and agenda on Tuesday, September 20, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. in Committee Room 7, State House Annex, Trenton. Chairman, A. Todd Mayo, Esquire, Vice-Chairman Thomas P. Scrivo, Esquire, Assemblywoman Joan Quigley, Patrick P. Toscano, Esquire, Francis A. Koch, Esquire, and David A. Nitti, Esquire, were present. Michael J. Mitzner, Esquire, participated via telephone. Assemblyman Anthony Verrelli, Acting Secretary and Counsel Roger Lai, and Assistant Counsel Katelyn Metz were also present.

Chairman Mayo called the meeting to order at approximately 11:03 a.m. Mr. Lai called the roll and advised that six members were present, plus one participating via telephone, constituting a quorum.

Chairman Mayo introduced the Honorable Anthony Verrelli of the 15th Legislative District, who administered the oath of office to the members of the Joint Committee.

The Joint Committee first considered the adoption of meeting dates for the remainder of the 2022-2023 term. On a request for a motion by Chairman Mayo, Mr. Scrivo moved to adopt the proposed schedule of meeting dates, which motion was seconded by Mr. Toscano and approved by unanimous roll call vote.

The Joint Committee next considered designating the newspapers constituting the State House Press as the newspapers to receive meeting notices under the Senator Byron M. Baer Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA). Mr. Scrivo moved to adopt the State House Press as the designated newspaper for purposes of OPMA. Mr. Koch seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous roll call vote.

The Joint Committee next considered the adoption of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the 2022-2023 session. After the Chairman called for questions or comments, Mr. Koch noted that the draft SOP listed the date “July 20, 2021.” Mr. Lai explained that July 20, 2021 was the date that the previous version of the SOP was adopted by the Joint Committee. The date would be updated to reflect “September 20, 2022” upon this Committee’s adoption. Hearing no more questions, Chairman Mayo requested a motion to adopt the proposed Standard Operating Procedures. Assemblywoman Quigley moved to adopt the SOP, which motion was seconded by Mr. Koch and approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Chairman Mayo announced Agenda Item No. 5 and asked Katelyn Metz to present Counsel’s analysis of the complaint filed by Sue Altman against Senator Nicholas Scutari. Ms. Metz stated that on July 8, 2021, Complainant Sue Altman, State Director of New Jersey Working Families Alliance, and nine additional complainants filed a complaint against Senator Nicholas Scutari. Respondent submitted a written response on August 27, 2021. On September 8, 2022, Ms. Altman advised Counsel that she did not intend to proceed with the complaint. Because complainants do not wish to proceed with the complaint process, Counsel recommended that the Joint Committee act to dismiss the complaint.

Chairman Mayo requested a motion to adopt Counsel's recommendations by dismissing the complaint. Assemblywoman Quigley moved to adopt Counsel's recommendations, which motion was seconded by Mr. Nitti and approved by roll call vote with all members present and participating via phone voting in favor.

Chairman Mayo announced Agenda Item No. 6 and asked Katelyn Metz to present Counsel's analysis of the complaint filed by Jonathan Kurpis against Assemblyman Robert Auth. Ms. Metz stated that on June 7, 2021, Jonathan Kurpis filed a complaint with the Joint Committee against Assemblyman Auth. Assemblyman Auth, through counsel, provided a response on July 9, 2021. Counsel for Assemblyman Auth reported to Joint Committee staff that he was contacted by the complainant shortly after the complaint was filed, and that the complainant was considering withdrawing the ethics complaint. On August 3, 2021, Counsel for the Joint Committee sent correspondence to the complainant directing that any desire to withdraw the complaint be made in writing and addressed to the Joint Committee.

Ms. Metz recounted the diligent attempts made to contact the complainant to determine if he wished to proceed with the complaint. By correspondence dated September 13, 2022, complainant was advised that his complaint was scheduled for consideration and action by the Joint Committee at a public meeting on September 20, 2022. Complainant did not appear at the September 20 meeting, nor did he respond to Counsel's communications since approximately December of 2021. Counsel recommended that the Joint Committee dismiss the complaint for lack of prosecution by the complainant.

Chairman Mayo asked if any members had any questions. Hearing none, Chairman Mayo requested a motion to adopt Counsel's recommendations by dismissing the complaint for lack of prosecution. Mr. Scrivo moved to adopt Counsel's recommendations, which motion was seconded by Mr. Toscano and approved by roll call vote with all members present and participating via phone voting in favor.

Chairman Mayo announced Agenda Item No. 7 and asked Katelyn Metz to present Counsel's analysis of the complaint filed by the Durning family against legislative employee, Eileen Grandrimo. Ms. Metz stated that on February 15, 2022, complainants Thomas M. Durning, Ruth A. Durning, and Catherine M. Durning filed a complaint against legislative employee Eileen Grandrimo and her husband James Grandrimo. The Joint Committee's jurisdictional authority is limited to complaints filed against Members of the Legislature and State officers, special State officers, and employees of the Legislative Branch. As such, Counsel requested a signed, written response from Eileen Grandrimo, only. On February 22, 2022, respondent submitted a written response.

Most aspects of the complaint were well outside the two-year statute of limitations and should not be considered by the Joint Committee. Dismissing allegations that do not comply with the two-year statute of limitations leaves the Joint Committee with the accusation that Ms. Grandrimo used her position as a legislative employee to gain preferential treatment from law enforcement and to harass her family with visits from police "on several occasions." Despite this happening on "several occasions," allegedly, the accusations are undated and unsupported by evidence such as a police report. Counsel recommends that the Joint Committee dismiss the majority of the