

Matthew J. Berns

Counsel

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OVERVIEW

Drawing on his experience in senior leadership roles in the New Jersey Attorney General's and Governor's Offices and as a trial attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice, Matt provides an insider's perspective when guiding clients through complex government investigations, litigation, and other actions.

As chief counsel to the New Jersey Attorney General, Matt oversaw the Divisions of Law, Consumer Affairs, and Civil Rights, and served as the Attorney General's most senior advisor on non-criminal matters. He oversaw civil litigation and investigations, including affirmative civil enforcement matters in the areas of antitrust, consumer protection, data privacy and cybersecurity, environmental law, false claims, professional licensure, securities fraud, and worker protections.

As deputy chief counsel to the New Jersey Governor, Matt oversaw the office's litigation, rulemaking, executive order, clemency, and oversight functions. He also advised the Governor on pending legislation.

During his time with the U.S. Department of Justice, Matt defended the federal government in litigation challenging the constitutionality of statutes and the legality of agency rules and policies. Among other matters, he handled litigation challenging the constitutionality of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and some of the Bureau's earliest regulations, as well as numerous lawsuits involving the Medicaid and Medicare programs.

Before entering public service, Matt worked for another major law firm, where he represented clients in state and federal litigation, investigations, administrative proceedings, and appeals. As part of his diverse practice, he frequently represented clients challenging federal agency action under the Administrative Procedure Act.

TOP AREAS OF FOCUS

- Regulatory Investigations, Strategy + Enforcement
- State Attorneys General

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Deputy chief counsel, Office of New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy, November 2022 – October 2025
- New Jersey Office of the Attorney General, February 2018 – November 2022

- Trial attorney, U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Division, Federal Programs Branch, 2015-2018
- Intern, Justice Virginia Long, Supreme Court of New Jersey, 2007

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

EDUCATION

- Georgetown University Law Center, J.D., *magna cum laude*, 2009, editor-in-chief, *Georgetown Law Journal*
- University of Pennsylvania, B.A., *summa cum laude*, 2006

BAR ADMISSIONS

- District of Columbia
- New Jersey
- Pennsylvania

CLERKSHIPS

- Hon. Thomas B. Griffith, U.S. Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit, 2009-2010

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Speaker, “[Navigating State AG and Regulatory Investigations Involving Online Lending](#),” 2026 OLA Legal Issues Conference, February 24, 2026.

PUBLICATIONS

- Podcast, “New Jersey’s Big Bet on Disparate Impact: What the AG’s New Rules Mean for Lenders and AI,” [The Consumer Finance Podcast](#) and [Regulatory Oversight](#) Podcast, January 29, 2026.
- Co-author, “[Colorado AG Fines Cannabis Company for Violating Prior Settlement](#),” [Regulatory Oversight](#), January 21, 2026.
- Co-author, “[Justices’ Separation-Of-Powers Revamp May Hit States Next](#),” [Law360](#), January 6, 2026.

MEDIA COMMENTARY

- Mentioned, “[On the Move and After Hours: Post Polak; Troutman Pepper; Capehart Scatchard; Sills Cummis](#),” [New Jersey Law Journal](#), January 16, 2026.
- Quoted, “[Pennsylvania Justices Asked to ‘Embrace’ SCOTUS Standard on Securities Enforcement and Void Fine](#),” [The Legal Intelligencer](#), January 13, 2026.
- Quoted, “[Troutman Adds Longtime Counsel To NJ Governor, AG](#),” [Law360](#) and [Law360 Pulse](#), November 5, 2025.