



**PRESIDENT**  
John C. Gillespie  
Parker, McCay, P.A.  
P.O. Box 5054  
9000 Midlantic Dr., Ste 300  
Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054-1539  
(856) 596-8900

**1<sup>st</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**  
Richard P. Cushing  
Gebhardt & Keifer, P.C.  
P.O. Box 4001  
1318 Rt. 31  
Clinton, NJ 08809  
(908) 735-5161

**2<sup>nd</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**  
Michele R. Donato  
P.O. Box 145  
106 Grand Central Avenue  
Lavallette, NJ 08735  
(732) 830-0777

**TREASURER**  
Steven P. Goodell  
Parker, McCay, P.A.  
3840 Quakerbridge Rd.  
Hamilton, NJ 08619  
(609) 620-7812

**SECRETARY**  
Douglas L. Heinold  
Raymond Coleman  
Heinold LLP  
325 New Albany Rd.  
Moorestown, NJ 08057  
(856) 222-0100

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear NJILGA Colleagues:

In these most extraordinary and uncertain of times, local government attorneys are challenged to offer solutions - - often untested, given the circumstances - - to clients responsible to serve the general public. Their daily routines have been disrupted; their personal interactions with their constituents effectively suspended; and their understanding of how to fulfill their responsibilities unclear.

Local government officials, whether elected or appointed, rely upon us to guide them through uncharted waters on issues as diverse as: (1) how to notice for, and conduct, governing body meetings and land use board hearings; (2) complying with the various employment laws and evaluating and implementing remote work responsibilities, furloughs and layoffs; (3) making emergency purchases under the Local Public Contracts Law; and (4) what to do when tax revenues begin to “dry up” as a result of mortgage “freezes.” They also seek our guidance in interpreting and implementing Executive Orders, and Guidance Documents from State agencies, many of which are available on our NJILGA website.

This, of course, is just a partial list of the types of advice sought by local government clients. I am proud of the outstanding work our NJILGA members are doing in providing public sector guidance, and in sharing with one another our ideas, experiences, and advice; and in offering assistance in the development of legislation and state agency guidance documents.

In the meantime, the Institute is doing its part. Our Member Assistance Committee has held periodic member conference calls to discuss local government legal issues and problems related to the continuing COVID-19 health emergency. We are providing copies of

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COVID-19 resource documents on our NJILGA website and our Members Forum discussion site is available in the Member Section of NJILGA.org. This is in addition to our regular member resources such as the Quarterly Law Review, our Municipal Law Year End Review and our periodic CLE programs and networking events.

To all our members – please feel free to communicate with us if you need assistance. We are here for you. Keep up the great work and stay safe!

Sincerely,  
John C. Gillespie, Esquire  
President