

New Jersey Law Journal

PRESENTS

PROFESSIONAL 2017 EXCELLENCE

■ DISTINGUISHED LEADERS ■



Peter Harvey, a former state attorney general and the first African American to hold that position, was selected as Department of Justice monitor for Newark Police last year—at least in part because of what then-U.S. Attorney Paul Fishman called Harvey’s

Peter Harvey

“extraordinary reputation in the legal and law enforcement communities.” As attorney general, Harvey oversaw the consent decree stemming from a DOJ suit over racial profiling practices by New Jersey state troopers, and went beyond the terms of the decree to issue a directive banning racial profiling by any police officer in the state. He is currently a partner at Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler in New York.

Distinguished Leaders in many cases have praiseworthy careers, but most importantly they continue to be leaders in the profession. What are some of your proudest recent achievements?

In 2016, I was named the Independent Monitor of the Newark Department of Public Safety’s Police Division (“NPD”). In this role, I am responsible for overseeing the

implementation of the consent decree that resulted from the findings by the U.S. Department of Justice that NPD officers have engaged in a pattern or practice of unconstitutional policing. I am honored to have the opportunity to work with the NPD and the community of Newark as the NPD implements modern policing practices that will make Newark a safer place to live and work for all residents. I also am working on domestic violence and sexual assault policy issues through my service as a board member of Futures Without Violence (www.futureswithoutviolence.org). This work has led to my participation in the revisions to the National Football League's Personal Conduct Policy.

What does it mean to be a leader? Leading by example? Being active in professional and community organizations? Professional successes?

Leadership means service to others. It's an outward focus. Leadership should be selfless and focused upon improving the human condition. Working with others to achieve the goals of the task at hand is what matters most. While the quality of one's ideas and work certainly matter, the

respect that one gives to another is just as important. A leader establishes the vision to be achieved, frames the work plan, and is responsible for creating an inclusive workplace where diverse personal differences are affirmed and celebrated.

How are the business and profession of law changing, and is the New Jersey bar well-positioned for the future?

The business and profession of law are changing rapidly. We are leveraging technology to greater extent, which is making almost everything move at a faster pace. New areas of law are also emerging as a result of these technologies, including cybersecurity and drone law. Also, we are witnessing diverse leadership among private CEOs, general counsel and governmental leaders. The New Jersey bar is very well-positioned to adapt to these changes. Thanks to the wealth of talent and diverse backgrounds of its attorneys, the New Jersey bar can adapt to the changing landscape of law, and in many instances can be innovators and leaders in change.

How can the bench and bar most effectively hold their mem-

bers accountable to clients and the public?

The bench and bar must challenge one another to be both diverse and inclusive with respect to entry level and leadership positions in the court system and law organizations. Good thinking is not race- or gender-specific. We cannot simply talk about the concept of justice, we must live it. Transparency and communication are critical for accountability. We must communicate our initiatives, accomplishments, and challenges, and be willing to engage in open and honest dialogue with our clients and the public.

What is the best advice for someone considering a career in law, or someone already in the profession who is seeking to make a greater impact?

In my view, success is found at the intersection of one's genuine interests and innate abilities. Find your passion, and the rest will follow. Money must not be one's principal goal. When you do what you care about, the chances are that there will be a chance to solve some of society's major problems (whether or not others notice) and grow into your full potential. ■