
THIS WEEK IN TRENTON



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Christie Reappoints Velez, Rieth; Appoints Considine

Governor-elect Chris Christie today announced his decision to reappoint Jennifer Velez as Commissioner of the Department of Human Services and Major General Glenn Rieth to remain as Adjutant General of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Christie also announced his decision to nominate Tom Considine to serve as Commissioner of the Department of Banking and Insurance.

Governor Jon Corzine nominated Velez to serve as Human Services Commissioner in 2007. She served as Deputy Commissioner for Family and Community Services at DHS from January 2006 until her nomination.

Velez came to DHS from the Office of the Child Advocate, where she was named the Office's First Assistant Child Advocate when it was created in September 2003. From 1998 until 2003, Velez served Governor James E. McGreevey, Acting Governor Donald DiFrancesco and Governor Christine Todd Whitman as Senior Associate Counsel and Assembly Liaison in the Office of Governor's Counsel.

Before entering public service, Velez was in private practice at the law firm of Pitney, Hardin, Kipp & Szuch. She received her law degree from Rutgers School of Law in Newark, NJ and her undergraduate degree in Economics from Drew University in Madison, NJ. She lives in Summit with her husband and two children.

Rieth was confirmed by the New Jersey State Senate as the 30th Adjutant General of New Jersey on March 4, 2002. General Rieth commands more than 9,000 Soldiers and Airmen of the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard. General Rieth's military service began in 1980. He received his commission as a Second Lieutenant through the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps. He earned his pilot's wings at Fort Rucker, Alabama in July 1981. Prior to being appointed as The Adjutant General of New Jersey, General Rieth was the Director of the State Army Aviation Office for the New Jersey Army National Guard. Major General Rieth earned a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from The Citadel-Military College of South Carolina where he was the Distinguished Military Graduate.

Considine, a lawyer, is a vice president and government relations counsel at MetLife. He joined MetLife in 1993 and is currently responsible for a range of state government relations and public policy issues for both the financial services and auto and home companies nationally. Considine has served on various committees for the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, on the board of directors for the National Organization of Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Associations, the national coordinating group for the state guaranty system. He also serves on the Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association Board of Directors in New Jersey as Treasurer. Considine was a founding appointee to the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance Financial Services Advisory Board.

Prior to joining MetLife, Considine served as a litigation associate at Connell, Foley and Geiser, a New Jersey law firm involved in insurance litigation. Considine is a Democrat.