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# THIS WEEK IN TRENTON

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December 15, 2009

## **Christie Nominates Dow to Serve as Attorney General**

Governor-Elect Chris Christie made his first Cabinet appointment this afternoon, nominating Essex County Prosecutor Paula Dow to serve as Attorney General. Dow, a registered Democrat, has served as Essex County Prosecutor since 2003. If confirmed by the State Senate, Dow will become the first African-American woman to serve as Attorney General.

Dow spent seven years as a lawyer for Exxon before joining the civil division of the U.S. Attorney's office in Manhattan from 1987 to 1994. She then moved to the U.S. Attorney's office in New Jersey, where she led the corruption case against former Irvington mayor Sara Bost and oversaw "Weed and Seed," a program combining aggressive policing and social programs in urban areas. She served as counsel to Christie from 2002 to 2003.

Dow, 54, was raised in the Philadelphia suburb of Yeadon, Pa. She graduated from Franklin and Marshall College and received her law degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1980.

Christie also announced that Phillip Kwon, a deputy chief of the criminal division at the U.S. Attorney's Office, will serve as first assistant AG, Marc Ferzan, another deputy chief of the criminal division, will serve as executive assistant AG and First Assistant Essex County Prosecutor Carolyn Murray will serve as counsel to the AG.