



For Immediate Release
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Newark, NJ

Exciting New Developments at the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice

John Farmer, NJISJ Board President and Dean of Rutgers Law School welcomed three new board members to NJISJ, Mr. Jerome Harris, Chair of the New Jersey Black Issues Convention, President of the Harris Organization and Adjunct Professor at Rowan State University; **Mr. Paul Kurland**, Co-Chair of Litigation for Snow Becker Krauss, P.C. and former President of the NYU Law School Alumni Association; and **Mr. Jacob Herschler**, Vice President of Strategy for Prudential Annuities. Dean Farmer stated that “We are thrilled that Paul, Jerry and Jac have agreed to serve. Their combined expertise and diversity of disciplines including philanthropy, law, community development, marketing and finance will be of extraordinary value in our efforts to advance justice throughout the state. We could not be more pleased.”

The Honorable Sheila Oliver, Speaker of the Assembly, has **appointed NJISJ Executive Director Cornell William Brooks, Esq. to the 5-member New Jersey Network Public Broadcasting Authority** to work with the state Treasurer Andrew Sidamon-Eristoff on options to transition NJN to a private nonprofit. Cornell brings the experience of a civil rights attorney as well as a former official in the Federal Communications Commission to this important post. Responsibilities of the board will include valuing the institution’s assets and making recommendations as to which nonprofit or media entity will assume responsibility for providing New Jersey-centric public broadcasting. Cornell was elected Vice-Chair of the Authority with the Treasurer serving as Chair.

Richard Greenberg will rejoin the Institute as a Senior Fellow, working on our Technology and Opportunity Initiative as well as strategic communications. Rick previously served as the Institute’s Director of Equal Justice Policy & Programs and, most recently, as President of The Fund for New Jersey, the state’s foremost philanthropic investor in public policy initiatives and an Institute partner. Leveraging his recent statewide leadership and experience on digital access issues, Rick will explore ways that digital technology may be used

to promote public policies that advance social justice, enhance self sufficiency and equip urban residents to influence the policy environment. Building upon Rick's successful championing of the state's landmark prisoner reentry legislation, he will also provide strategic advice on the Institute's legislative advocacy as well as contribute to our efforts to make our social policy research more accessible, widely disseminated and impactful. We greatly anticipate his arrival in March.

NJISJ is proud to announce the implementation of WomenBuild, a new pilot program designed to build opportunity for women and families. WomenBuild, supported by the New Jersey Department of Labor, led by Commissioner Harold Wirths, will prepare low income and low skilled women from the greater Newark area for nontraditional careers in the skilled trades sector. WomenBuild incorporates important new thinking including: mentoring by tradeswomen; esteem building; case management specifically anticipating the challenges faced by poor women (including female ex-offenders); hands-on tools training; urban financial literacy and planning; and strong connections with small and large employers over the course of the program. In a first-of-its kind collaboration with the Hispanic Family Center of Camden, WomenBuild will operate in both Newark and Camden to prepare 64 women for careers with family supporting wages sufficient to address the needs of children, purchase homes and plan for the future. Anticipated results also include greatly improved earnings, increased savings, and an upward professional trajectory. Additional partners include the Building Trades Councils in Camden and Essex Counties, and the Department of Corrections and Parole. **Institute Chief Operating Officer, Ellen Brown, and Director of Workforce Development and Training, Albert Williams will lead this effort.**

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