

## STATE HOUSE NEWS - DECEMBER 2009

*Public and Government Affairs Review*

### SILVER ALERT SYSTEM

Governor Jon Corzine is expected to sign into law A-2844 (*Love D-4/DeAngelo D-14*), which establishes an emergency "Silver Alert System" to provide a statewide program for the dissemination of information concerning a person who is believed to be suffering from dementia or a cognitive impairment such as autism.

The initiative is based on the "Amber Alert System" used by State police to locate missing children, and would be a voluntary cooperative effort between State and local law enforcement agencies, and the broadcast media. Upon notice by the State police, broadcast media would transmit an emergency alert to inform the public of the disappearance of an elderly person or a younger person suffering from a cognitive impairment. The alerts would include a description of the person, and highlight how people with information relating to the missing person may contact law enforcement accordingly.

### ELECTRONIC SMOKING DEVICES

Governor Corzine is also expected to sign into law A-4227 (*Wagner D-38/Munoz R-21*), which prohibits the use of electronic smoking devices in indoor public places under the New Jersey Smoke Free Air Act, and bans the sale of such devices to persons under 19 years of age.

Electronic smoking devices are commonly known as e-cigarettes, and operate by a battery that warms liquid nicotine and propylene glycol from a replaceable plastic cartridge when inhaled from such devices. Propylene glycol then vaporizes when exhaled, and produces a mist that is nearly identical in appearance to tobacco smoke.

### PREVAILING WAGE LEGISLATION

When the Senate returns on January 4<sup>th</sup>, it may likely consider A-4268 (*Cryan D-20*), which extends prevailing wage requirements to certain maintenance-related projects, and is part of a package of three similar bills. Local governments should pay close attention to A-4268, as it applies to any work on maintenance-related projects that exceed the scope of work and capabilities of in-house maintenance personnel, requires the solicitation of bids, and has an aggregate value over \$50,000. The General Assembly passed the measure along partisan lines on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

### STATE HOUSE TRIVIA

In the spirit of Christmas, here are my top three holiday memories – kind of:

- (3) Watching my son Anthony plow into and flatten our fully decorated Christmas tree for the second time;
- (2) Serenading my lovely bride with "I'll have a Blue Christmas," after learning that her mother was staying with us for the holidays; and
- (1) Listening to Mrs. Donnadio order my son Nicholas to take the ... .. Christmas cookies to school, as the poor kid crawled to the bus stop bundled up with 20 pounds of winter gear, three school projects, and presents for all five of his teachers.

*GluckWalrath attorney Cindy M. Perr was recently selected to serve as a moderator for the Burlington County Bar Association's seminar entitled, "Effectively Navigating Federal Practice in the District of New Jersey." Mrs. Perr concentrates her practice in general litigation with an emphasis in the areas of commercial, real estate, and municipal law.*