

Robert D. Laurino

Robert D. Laurino has been a member of the Essex County Prosecutors Office since 1980, where he has served in every capacity from general trial attorney to Acting Prosecutor. He presently serves as Special Counsel and Chair of the New Jersey Attorney General's Task Force on Clergy Abuse, where he oversees the investigation and prosecution of all clergy abuse cases in New Jersey. He has completed over 100 jury trials, and handled thousands of cases involving sexual violence, including the notable Glen Ridge sexual assault case, where a young woman with a developmental disability was sexually abused by a group of high school athletes. In 2018, on the 25th anniversary of the successful prosecution of the case, National Public Radio declared the case to have "...revolutionized justice for people with intellectual disabilities." Mr. Laurino was the subject of the book *Our Guys* by Bernard Lefkowitz, and served as a consultant to Robert Greenwald Productions for the 1999 ABC TV television movie "*Our Guys: Outrage in Glen Ridge*," which was based upon his case.

Mr. Laurino has been an advocate for victims of sexual violence for over 35 years. He helped to establish Wynona's House, the state's largest child advocacy center in Newark, and to create Essex County's sexual assault response team. Mr. Laurino served on a committee which developed the state's sexual assault protocol, and on advisory groups that developed both a national adult and pediatric protocol for the care of victims of sexual abuse. He presently is a member of the Governor's Advisory Council Against Sexual Violence and the New Jersey Domestic Violence Fatality and Near Fatality Review Board.

Mr. Laurino has been a faculty member for the National District Attorneys Association, AEquitas: The Prosecutors' Resource on Violence Against Women, the NJ Attorney General's Trial Advocacy Institute, and the New York Prosecutors Training Institute where he has taught trial advocacy courses on matters concerning sexual assault and forensic DNA evidence. He has also served as an instructor for the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) training programs at

both the Seton Hall University College of Nursing and Rutgers University College of Nursing, and for Dr. Linda Ledray's SART-SANE Resource Service. Mr. Laurino has lectured nationally and published on issues involving sexual violence, forensic evidence, attorney ethics, and the abuse of individuals with disabilities.

A *cum laude* graduate of Villanova University, Mr. Laurino received a master's degree from Rutgers University. Mr. Laurino graduated from Seton Hall University School of Law, where he was an editor of the law review. He is a member of the bar of New Jersey and New York, and is certified by the Supreme Court of New Jersey as a Criminal Trial Attorney.