

SETON HALL | LAW

Seton Hall Legislative Journal Symposium
Lessons in Leadership on the 50th Anniversary of Watergate
Friday, October 20, 2023



James McGreevey
Chairman of the Board
N.J. Re-Entry Corporation
Panel: 3

James E. McGreevey is a seasoned political figure known for his dedicated service in various public offices. After graduating from St. Joseph's High School, McGreevey earned a bachelor's degree from Columbia University and a law degree from Georgetown University. His commitment to education extended further, culminating in a master's degree in education from Harvard University.

From 1994 to 1997, McGreevey represented his constituents in the state senate, actively supporting key legislation such as the establishment of a state budget cap, the implementation of stringent ethical standards for public officials, and health reforms, including a state law mandating insurers to cover mammograms. He also played a pivotal role in the passage of the Pollution Prevention Act and the creation of a permanent New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education.

Serving as the Governor of New Jersey from 2001 to 2004, McGreevey distinguished himself through his fiscal stewardship and commitment to public service. During his tenure, he navigated the challenging fiscal landscape, successfully closing a significant budget gap of \$14 billion without raising sales or income taxes. His administration prioritized job growth, establishing New Jersey as a hub for high-tech, biotech, and financial services, and he oversaw the state's largest-ever school construction project, investing \$8.6 billion over a decade to enhance educational infrastructure. McGreevey also championed environmental protection, emphasizing clean air and water, sustainable development, and the preservation of natural resources.

After leaving the governor's office, McGreevey continued his dedication to public service by taking on the role of Chair of the New Jersey Reentry Commission. In this capacity, he played a pivotal role in addressing the critical issue of prisoner reentry into society. McGreevey's leadership focused on providing formerly incarcerated individuals with the tools and support necessary to successfully reintegrate into their communities, reducing recidivism rates, and fostering a more rehabilitative approach to criminal justice. His work with the New Jersey Reentry Commission exemplified his commitment to social justice and his belief in second chances, making a lasting impact on the lives of many individuals seeking to rebuild their futures after incarceration.

James E. McGreevey's extensive experience in government, his dedication to education, and his commitment to addressing complex challenges make him a valuable contributor to discussions on charting a path forward during politically tumultuous times.