

John Scarpa, Judge Salas Among Recipients of Hughes Center Honors Awards on Nov. 9

Media release with photos
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Galloway, N.J. — Philanthropist and business leader John F. Scarpa will receive the Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to New Jersey public life at the Hughes Center Honors on Nov. 9, 2023.

Other honorees include U.S. District Court Judge Esther Salas, who has turned her family's personal tragedy into a campaign to protect judicial independence and democracy; Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Chair Kevin O'Toole, a former

“It is appropriate that two buildings on Stockton’s campuses are named after Mr. Scarpa. Generations of Stockton students will benefit from his gift,” Tolson said.

Scarpa received honorary doctorate degrees from the American University of Rome, Italy, and Villanova University, where the Villanova Law School building was named “John F. Scarpa Hall” in honor of his charitable giving. Villanova also established the John F. Scarpa Chair in Catholic Legal Studies and the John F. Scarpa Center for Entrepreneurship and Law.

He and his wife, Jana, split their time living in Avalon, Cape May County, and Palm Beach, Florida.

Past Lifetime Achievement Award recipients include the late former New Jersey Governors Brendan Byrne and Jim Florio, former Governors Thomas Kean and Christine Todd Whitman, and the late Ambassador Hughes, who was presented his award in 2017 by then-former Vice President Joe Biden.

The following 2023 Hughes Center Honors awards will also be presented Nov. 9.

Excellence in Civic Engagement Award

In July 2020, an assailant armed with a gun went to the home of Judge Ester Salas and opened fire when the door was answered, seriously injuring Salas’ husband, Mark

Excellence in Community Leadership Award

William T. Mullen is president of the New Jersey State Building & Construction Trades Council, representing 150,000 members in 15 international building trades unions and 13 county councils. Mullen joined Ironworkers Local #11 in 1968 following a two-year stint with the U.S. Army in Korea. He was elected vice president of the more than 500-member Iron Workers Local #11 in 1981 and served in that capacity through 1990 when he was elected president. In 1993, he was elected business manager, the union's highest position, until his retirement in May 2008. Mullen is currently a trustee at Montclair State University, a member of the New Jersey State Building Authority and of the board of the New Jersey Casino Reinvestment Development Authority.

Distinctive Student Leadership Award

Emily Kramer graduated from Stockton University in May 2022 with a dual degree in Political Science and Languages and Culture Studies and a 4.0 GPA. She held a research internship with the Hughes Center, which published her paper, "Changes in Racial and Ethnic Diversity in New Jersey 2000 – 2020," that drew media coverage throughout New Jersey. She also served as an intern for the Ranked Choice Voting

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