



ANNUAL ECONOMIC LEADERSHIP FORUM

Thursday, March 5, 2026 • 8:15 am-3:00 pm

The Embassy Suites by Hilton
Berkeley Heights, NJ



AGENDA

4 CPE, 4 CLE, 5.75 CRCM, 5.75 CERP, 1.5 CFMP
Credits Apply

8:15 am – 9:00 am

Registration, Breakfast and Networking

9:00 am – 9:05 am

Welcome

Michael Affuso, Esq., President & CEO, NJBankers

National and State Economic Outlook

Matt Colyar, Economist, Moody's Analytics

New Jersey's Economic Future and the Film Industry

Moderated by: Karen Kessler, Commissioner, New Jersey Motion Picture and Television Commission;

President & CEO, Kessler PR Group;

Director, Northfield Bank

Eric Brophy, Esq., Member/Co-Chair, Government & Regulatory Law, CSG Law

Jon Crowley, Executive Director, New Jersey Motion Picture and Television Commission

Nicholas Day, President, Screen Alliance of New Jersey;

Co-Chief Executive Officer & President, Edge Auto, Inc.

Nick Maniatis, Director of Studio and Production Policy for the U.S and Canada, Netflix

This panel will discuss the projects and incentives coming to New Jersey, including what the new production houses are doing in the state, and the impact on the local economy, including jobs, housing, unions, training, and more.

11:10 am – 11:30 am

Networking Break

What's Going On In Banking Findings

Ron Shevlin, Chief Research Officer, Cornerstone Advisors and Senior Contributor at Forbes

Former Netscape CEO Jim Barksdale once said, "If we have data, let's look at data. If all we have are opinions, let's go with mine." Cornerstone Advisors' Chief Research Officer, Ron Shevlin, has both (and he's not afraid to share them). The 2026 What's Going On in Banking report revealed important trends impacting the banking industry regarding AI, tokenization, fraud, private credit, open banking, and fintech partnerships. In this session, Ron will share the data and his take on what it means for the present and future of banking.

Continued on Reverse

12:30 pm – 1:20 pm

Networking Lunch

Capital Strategy: Managing Growth, Risk & Regulation in Uncertain Times

Adam Mustafa, President, Invictus Analytics

Financial institutions face a unique paradox: opportunities for growth are opening even as regulatory expectations and economic risks evolve. Capital planning has never been more critical. This session will address the most pressing themes shaping the industry today and into the future.

New Jersey Real Estate and Lending Outlook

Jeffrey G. Otteau, ASA, Managing Partner & Chief Economist, Otteau Group, Inc.

The runup in inflation to a 9% peak – and the corresponding spike in interest rates – triggered significant disruption to New Jersey's real estate markets with CRE deal flow plunging by 60% and home sales volume falling by 40%. Today, those trends are reversing course as concerns over inflation have eased and interest rates are trending lower. In the near term, real estate markets are poised to enter a growth cycle as capital deployment accelerates, and debt markets loosen. Signs of a rebound are already visible as transaction volume, selling prices, and new construction starts are all moving decisively upward. Over the longer term however, New Jersey faces a series of economic, demographic and policy headwinds that demand strategic solutions to ensure future economic viability. This presentation will provide a forecast for New Jersey's real estate economy and lending environment while also highlighting the challenges that lie ahead.

3:00 pm

Program Concludes