

Office of the Governor

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NEWS RELEASE

Gov. Christie Whitman today signed Executive Order 93, which expands the number of public members on the Advisory Committee on the Preservation and Use of Ellis Island from seven to ten. The committee is responsible for investigating all potential uses of the structures on Ellis Island and considering the best methods to maintain, restore, and put the structures to beneficial use.

The Governor announced the creation of the Advisory Committee on the Preservation and Use of Ellis Island following a decision of the U. S. Supreme Court last May that declared that the majority of Ellis Island belongs to New Jersey.

The decision ended a dispute that spanned over 160 years. As a result, New Jersey's laws will now apply to 22.5 of the island's 27.5 acres. Part of the main building and several other buildings, including the hospital complex, now belong to New Jersey.