

Office of the Governor

NEWS RELEASE

PO BOX 004
TRENTON, NJ 08625

CONTACT: Jayne O'Connor
Gene Herman
609-777-2600

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MEDIA ADVISORY

GOV. TO VISIT ELLIS ISLAND ON MONDAY; NAME KEY MEMBERS OF ELLIS ISLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Gov. Christie Whitman will announce key members, including the chair, of the Advisory Committee on the Preservation and Use of Ellis Island during a visit and tour of Ellis Island on Monday. The Governor also will sign an executive order increasing the number of public members on the Advisory Committee.

The Advisory Committee on the Preservation and Use of Ellis Island will be 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 Advisory Committee was created by Gov. Whitman following a decision of the U. S. Supreme Court in 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 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.