

# Office of the Governor

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **New Attorney General Sworn In**

John J. Farmer, Jr. was sworn in today as Attorney General in a private ceremony at Drumthwacket. Farmer most recently served as the Governor's Chief Counsel.

"John has served me tremendously well as Chief Counsel. I'm confident that he will bring the same dedication and motivation to the Attorney General post on behalf of all New Jerseyans," said Gov. Whitman. "I have long been impressed with John's mastery of the law and his ability to take complex issues and find solutions that would easily baffle others in the field. These skills will serve him well as Attorney General. I have the utmost faith that his fairness and effectiveness will make him an excellent Attorney General."

Farmer, 41, of Flemington, joined the Whitman administration after serving as an assistant US Attorney prosecuting criminal cases including organized crime, narcotics, white collar crime, and kidnappings. He received the special achievement award from the US Department of Justice in 1993 for his work in the US Attorney's Trenton office.

Farmer was named as Chief Counsel to the Governor in 1997. He previously served as Deputy Chief Counsel and Assistant Counsel to Governor Whitman. He received both his 1979 bachelor's degree and his 1986 law degree from Georgetown University. He began his legal career in 1986 as a law clerk to NJ Supreme Court Justice Alan B. Handler. From 1988 to 1990 he was an associate with the Morristown firm of Riker, Danzig, Scherer, Hyland and Perretti.

A formal swearing in will take place later this month.