

NOTICE TO THE BAR

NEW JERSEY FALSE CLAIMS ACT ACTIONS -- COVER SHEET REQUIREMENT

The New Jersey False Claims Act, *N.J.S.A. 2A:32C-1 et seq.*, creates a cause of action against individuals who knowingly submit, or cause another person or entity to submit, false claims for payment of State government funds. Pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 2A:32C-5*, a complaint filed under the False Claims Act must remain under seal for at least sixty (60) days. The purpose of the sealing is two-fold – to encourage citizens to come forward in such situations without fear of reprisal, and to allow the Attorney General time to investigate and determine whether to intervene in the action. To ensure that False Claims Act complaints are kept confidential, the Judicial Council has approved the use of a standardized cover sheet when filing such complaints. The use of a cover sheet will not conflict with *Rule 1:38-3*, which excludes from public access records “required to be kept confidential by statute,” nor will it conflict with *Rule 1:38-11(c)*, which specifically provides that the “good cause” standard for sealing a record does not apply to actions required to be sealed pursuant to the False Claims Act.

Accordingly, this Notice is to advise the bar that, effective immediately, the False Claims Act Cover Sheet published herewith must be filed with all False Claims Act complaints. The cover sheet also is available on the Judiciary’s website (www.njcourts.com).

Any questions concerning this False Claims Act Cover Sheet requirement may be directed to Taironda E. Phoenix, Esq., Staff Attorney, Civil Practice Division, Administrative Office of the Courts, Hughes Justice Complex, P.O. Box 981, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0981; Telephone (609) 292-8471; E-mail address: taironda.phoenix@judiciary.state.nj.us.

/s/ Glenn A. Grant

Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

Dated: November 14, 2011

Attention

[False Claims Act Cover Sheet]



In compliance with the New Jersey False Claims Act (N.J.S.A. 2A:32C-1 et seq.), the enclosed pleading is submitted **"under seal"** and will remain as such until further order of the court. The **sealed** envelope includes a complaint and Case Information Statement.

TO: SUPERIOR COURT, COUNTY OF _____

FOR FILING PURPOSES, PLEASE FIND ENCLOSED:

- ▶ 1 Envelope marked **"Sealed"** (contains original pleading)
- ▶ 2 Copies of the first page of the Complaint
(Caption for data entry: **"Anonymous v. Anonymous"**)
- ▶ 2 Copies of the Case Information Statement
(Caption for data entry: **"Anonymous v. Anonymous"**)
- ▶ Self-addressed stamped envelope
- ▶ Filing Fee in the amount of \$_____ (do not include party names on check)
- ▶ Attorney Charge Account Number _____

THE COMPLAINT IS FILED BY:

Attorney/Firm Name: _____
Attorney/Firm Address: _____

City: _____
State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Attorney/Firm Phone: _____

FOR COURT USE ONLY (Finance Division)					
Date Filed:	Batch #:				
Payor:	Payment #				
Amount:	CA	CK	CC	MO	CG

Note: If payment is by check, case caption should not be referenced on check