

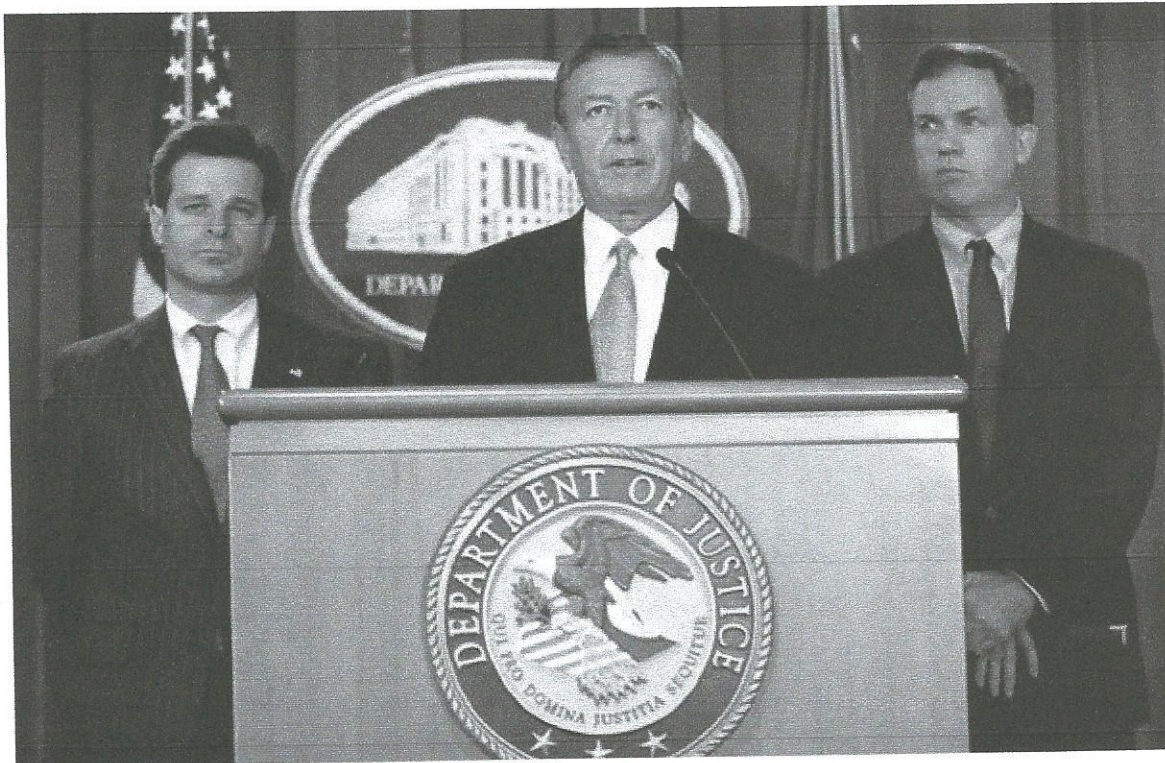
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NEW JERSEY POLITICS

Trump picks Christopher Wray, Christie's Bridgegate lawyer, to run FBI

Updated June 7, 2017 at 12:38 PM;

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U.S. Attorney General for the Criminal Division,
Christopher Wray, left, stands beside U.S. Attorney



General John Ashcroft in this August 2004 file photo.
(Getty Images)

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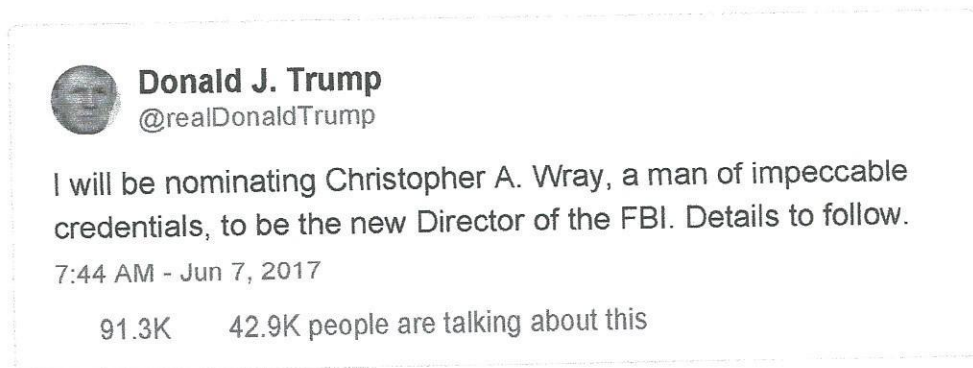
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By Susan K. Livio, slivio@njadvancemedia.com,
NJ Advance Media for NJ.com

TRENTON -- Christopher Wray, a former U.S. assistant attorney general who represented Gov. Chris Christie in the fallout of the Bridgegate scandal, is President Donald Trump's pick to run the FBI.

Wray was the head of the Justice Department's criminal division under President George W. Bush and is now in private practice at the law firm King and Spalding.

Trump made the announcement in a tweet Wednesday morning:



Wray opened a twitter account Wednesday morning and wrote:  1
"It is a great honor to be considered for the position of #FBIDirector I look forward to working with the good men and women of the @FBI."

Wray would replace the man Trump fired, James Comey. Trump disapproved of the way Comey was handling the investigation into allegations the Russian government interfered with the 2016 presidential election. Trump also described Comey as "a whack job" to Russian officials in the Oval Office.

Wray was one of several lawyers to personally represent the governor in the aftermath of the George Washington Bridge lane closure scandal. Christie has repeatedly said he did not know about the lane closures beforehand. He was never charged with any wrongdoing.

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Two members of Christie's administration were convicted last fall of conspiring to close the bridge toll lanes in a scheme to punish Fort Lee Mayor Mark Sokolich, a Democrat, for refusing to endorse the Republican governor for re-election.

→ Another lawyer who represented Christie in Bridgegate matters, Craig Carpenito, is in the running to be New Jersey's next U.S. attorney, a job Christie once held.

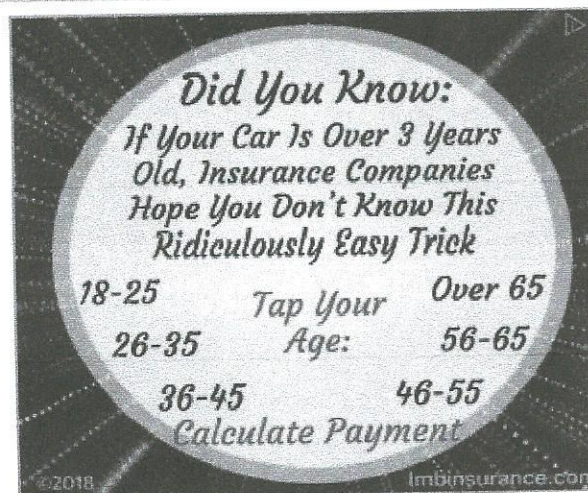


Christie, Trump's friend and adviser, lobbied for Wray. At an unrelated press conference last week, Christie said he had "the utmost confidence in Chris. He's an outstanding lawyer. He has absolute integrity and honesty."

The governor worked under Wray at the U.S. Department of Justice when Wray served as assistant U.S. attorney general from 2003 to 2005, heading its criminal division at the same time Christie was U.S. attorney for the district of New Jersey.

Wray received both his undergraduate and law degree from Yale University, where he served as executive editor of the Yale Law Journal, according to his biography on his law firm's website.

Working from the firm's Washington, D.C., and Atlanta offices, Wray chairs the Special Matters and Government Investigations Practice Group, specializing in "white-collar criminal and regulatory enforcement matters, parallel civil litigation, and internal corporate investigations," the website said.



Wray did not return a telephone call to his Washington, D.C.