



Meet the Garden State Team

True independence and understanding are at the core of our unique value proposition. Caring for and thoughtfully guiding our clients has created the strong trusting relationships we have nurtured over many decades. That's why so many people rely upon our independent company for wealth management and trust & estate services.



Adam B. Brower, CTFA
Vice President & Trust Officer
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abrower@gstrustco.com

Adam takes pride in finding solutions for client's needs while developing strong and lasting relationships. He is a member of the Estate and Financial Planning Council of Central New Jersey and holds a Life Insurance and Property & Casualty Insurance license through the State of New Jersey.



Ira J. Brower
President & CEO
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ibrower@gstrustco.com

As Founder, President and CEO of Garden State Trust, Ira has grown the company with the simple premise that caring for and thoughtfully guiding clients develops strong trusting relationships that span generations.

In his professional activities, Ira is a Trustee and Chairs the Investment Committee of the 21 Plus Foundation. He is also a member of the Central Ocean Rotary.



Siobhan M. Connolly, CTFA
Vice President & Trust Officer
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Siobhan develops relationships with investment management, trust, and charitable foundation clients. Her focus on Special Needs Trusts often requires navigating dilemmas faced by clients and their families.

Siobhan serves on the Board of Directors for SCAN which provides support for the senior population of Monmouth and Ocean Counties.



Barbara Kannheiser
Executive VP & COO

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Barbara is a principal of Garden State Trust Company with over 25 years of experience in fiduciary administration and operations.

Barbara oversees all facets of fiduciary activities and is responsible for all financial reporting for Garden State Trust Company. Barbara's experience and dedication to problem solving promote a culture of quality within the company, as well as responsive service to clients.



Sean M. Rice, CTFA
Vice President & Trust Officer
CHERRY HILL REGIONAL OFFICE
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Sean's role is in expanding our professional network and cultivating new client relationships via professional associations, local community events, and a wide array of relationship building activities.

Sean is a member of the Estate and Financial Planning Council of Southern NJ, and the Moorestown Rotary Lunch Club. He is a non-lawyer member of the Board of Trustees for the Camden County Bar Foundation.



John P. Ritter
Senior Vice President & Trust Officer
CHERRY HILL REGIONAL OFFICE
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John has worked in the trust and wealth management industry for the past thirty years in the South Jersey marketplace.

His extensive knowledge of trust administration, portfolio management and retirement planning has enabled John to provide guidance and maintain relationships with his clients for decades.



Kurt G. Talke, ctfa
Senior Vice President & Trust Officer
LEBANON REGIONAL OFFICE
ktalke@gstrustco.com

With over 25 years of experience in this industry, Kurt continues to build and develop strong relationships with new and long-time clients through professional associations.

He is a Certified Trust and Financial Advisor (CTFA) through the American Bankers Association and is active in many local estate planning associations.



John M. Bonk, CTFA
Senior Vice President & Trust Officer
LEBANON REGIONAL OFFICE
jbonk@gstrustco.com

John's role is to expand our Investment and Fiduciary Service business. His approach has always been to provide trust, estate, investment and tax services in a coordinated manner to enhance the client experience.

He is a Certified Trust and Financial Advisor (CFTA) through the American Bankers Association and serves as Trustee of various foundations and associations within the community.



Mary Gonzalez
Assistant Trust Officer
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Mary began her career with Garden State as an Administrative Assistant supporting our trust and investment officers. Since that time Mary's responsibilities have grown to include working directly with clients in meeting their needs and account management. Mary takes pride in working with our clients and helping them reach their goals.



Emily Brower
Compliance Officer
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As compliance officer, Emily is responsible for ensuring that Garden State continues to adhere to the highest industry standards through diligent oversight of policies and procedures necessary to properly manage and safeguard our client's accounts.



Elicia Salmons
Assistant Trust Officer
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esalmons@gstrustco.com

In addition to working with the trust officers in meeting the needs of our clients, Elicia is responsible for accounts payable and internal office management. Both Garden State and our clients benefit from her professional experience and warm and friendly attitude.



Kerri Jablonski
Administrative Assistant
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Kerri is responsible for client bill pay and other operational tasks. During tax season she works directly with the Company's COO to meet the tax needs of client accounts.



Michelle Black
Administrative Assistant
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mblack@gstrustco.com

Working out of our Lebanon, NJ location, Michelle handles internal office management including interoffice communications and operations as well as assisting trust officers with client relationship management.



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