

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
MERIT SYSTEM BOARD
AND
PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION

In the Matter of

MIDDLESEX COUNTY SHERIFF

Respondent,

-and-

JOSEPH A. KASHA and STEVEN ECKEL,

Docket No. CI-H-98-59

Charging Parties.

COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX,

Respondent,

v.

STEVEN ECKEL,

OAL Dkt. No. CSV 10229-98

Appellant.

SYNOPSIS

The Chair of the Public Employment Relations Commission in a joint decision with the Merit System Board consolidates for hearing an unfair practice charge filed by Joseph A. Kasha and Steven Eckel against the Middlesex County Sheriff and a Merit System Board appeal filed by Eckel against the County. The charge alleges that the employer violated the New Jersey Employer/Employee Relations Act by treating FOP members disparately. The appeal challenges a ten-day suspension imposed upon Eckel. The consolidated matter will be heard by a Hearing Examiner designated as a Special Administrative Law Judge. The record will first be reviewed by the Commission to determine whether the employer violated the Act, including whether it did so in suspending Eckel. If the Commission finds that the suspension violated the Act, the decision and record will be sent to the Merit System Board for imposition of whatever specialized relief is warranted under Merit System law. If the Commission finds that Eckel would have been disciplined even absent his FOP activity, the Merit System Board will determine whether the suspension was otherwise warranted under Merit System law.

This synopsis is not part of the Commission decision. It has been prepared for the convenience of the reader. It has been neither reviewed nor approved by the Commission.