



Judicial Conduct Board
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
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Press Release

February 5, 2020

FROM: Richard W. Long
Chief Counsel

SUBJECT: Judicial Conduct Board of Pennsylvania Elects Officers

HARRISBURG, PA -- At its regularly scheduled meeting held on February 3, 2020, the Judicial Conduct Board of Pennsylvania elected its officers for the coming year. The Board unanimously elected Thomas J. Elliott, Esquire as Chair, Judge Nina Wright Padilla as Vice-Chair and Judge Renée Cohn Jubelirer as Secretary.

The twelve-member Judicial Conduct Board is an independent Board within the Judicial Branch of the Commonwealth's government comprised of twelve Pennsylvania citizens: three judges, three lawyers, and six non-lawyer electors. The Governor and the Supreme Court each appoint six of the Board's members. The Board's members serve four-year terms, without pay, and no more than one-half of its members may be from the same political party.

Created by constitutional amendment in 1993, the Judicial Conduct Board of Pennsylvania is an independent board within the judicial branch of the Commonwealth's government responsible for reviewing, investigating, and, where warranted, prosecuting complaints of judicial misconduct. If the Board, by majority vote, decides that there is probable cause to believe that a judge engaged in misconduct, the Board may file a complaint in the Court of Judicial Discipline where the Board must prove the charges against the judge by clear and convincing evidence. The Court of Judicial Discipline decides if the Board has sustained its burden of proof and decides the sanction to be imposed for any proven misconduct.

About Thomas J. Elliott, Esquire

Mr. Elliott is a Senior Shareholder and Vice President of the Elliott Greenleaf law firm. He is a former member of the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, and is currently a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Committee on Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility. He is currently President of the Historical Society of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

A commercial litigator, he is active in the leadership of the Montgomery County Bar Association, where he served on its Board of Directors, chaired several committees, and was President of its Trial Lawyers Section. He was honored as the Montgomery County Trial

Lawyer of the Year. Since 1984 Mr. Elliott has been rated AV by Martindale Hubbell, it is the highest possible national rating in legal ability and ethical standards. He has been repeatedly selected as a Pennsylvania Super Lawyer. His professional excellence and integrity was recently recognized by his selection as a member of the prestigious Litigation Counsel of America.

Mr. Elliott is admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, the Supreme, Superior, and Commonwealth Courts of Pennsylvania, the United States Courts of Appeal for the Second and Third Circuits, and all of the federal courts in Pennsylvania.

A graduate of Georgetown University where he played varsity baseball, and from Georgetown University Law Center, Mr. Elliott served as a law clerk for Judge John B. Hannum of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. He and his wife Helen have three children, and reside in Blue Bell.

About Judge Nina Wright Padilla

Judge Padilla has served on the Court of Common Pleas since 2003. She currently is assigned to Commerce Court - Civil Trial Division and was previously assigned to the Motions and Statutory Appeals Program. In addition, she also presides over Class Actions and Conservatorships, and is frequently assigned to Election Court. Judge Padilla sat in Philadelphia Family Court, Domestic Relations Branch, from August of 2003 until June of 2012 where she presided over matters of Divorce, Support, Custody, Domestic Violence, and Criminal Abuse. In June 2012, she was reassigned to the Criminal Trial Division where she presided over criminal jury trials.

Throughout her tenure on the bench, she has continually served as a panelist in numerous continuing legal education programs, including programs for the Pennsylvania Bar Institute, the Philadelphia Bar Association, and the Hispanic Bar Association of Pennsylvania. She currently serves as a panelist on the National Business Institute Judicial Forum and the Philadelphia Bar Association Bench Bar Annual Conference. Judge Padilla currently serves as Committee Chair of the Board of View and Board of Revision of Taxes Committee for the Court of Common Pleas Board of Judges.

Prior to her judicial tenure, Judge Padilla maintained a private law practice with her husband, Edward C. Wright, who is presently a Judge assigned to the Civil Trial Division of the Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas. While engaged in private law practice for ten years, her area of concentration was Consumer Bankruptcy, as well as general civil litigation and criminal law. Throughout her years in private practice, Judge Padilla served as a legal analyst on both the Greater Media and Comcast Cable Programs, "*Today's Law*" and "*Legaline*."

Judge Padilla obtained her Juris Doctor from the University of Maryland School of Law, and her Bachelor of Science from the University of Maryland, College Park.

About Judge Renée Cohn Jubelirer

Judge Cohn Jubelirer is currently serving her second ten-year term as a Judge of the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania. She was elected to her first term in November 2001. She secured her current term via a November 2011 retention election. Prior to assuming the bench Judge Cohn Jubelirer was engaged in the private practice of law, serving as Vice President and Shareholder at Frank, Frank, Penn & Bergstein in Allentown where she practiced business, contract, employment and family law before the federal and state courts, and at Sidley & Austin in Chicago. She also worked as in-house counsel for a telecommunications company and served as an assistant solicitor for Lehigh County.

In addition to her primary judicial duties, Judge Cohn Jubelirer plays an active role in furthering the interests of justice in the Commonwealth. She currently serves, via Supreme Court appointment, as Co-Chair of the Pennsylvania Commission on Judicial Independence and as an inaugural member of the Continuing Judicial Education Board of Judges. Previously she served as Co-Chair of the Supreme Court's Public Access Working Group, Trial and Appellate Court Records, as well as a member and past chair of the Supreme Court's Appellate Court Procedural Rules Committee.

She received her Bachelor of Arts from The Pennsylvania State University, her Juris Doctor, *cum laude*, from Northwestern University School of Law, and a Master of Laws in Judicial Studies from Duke University School of Law. At Northwestern, Judge Cohn Jubelirer served as Executive Editor of the Law Review. Judge Cohn Jubelirer served as a teaching fellow at Stanford Law School, an assistant professor at DePaul University College of Law, and as an adjunct professor at Penn State Law.

She is a member of the American Bar Association and the Pennsylvania Bar Association. Judge Cohn Jubelirer serves on the Workers' Compensation Liaison, Appellate Advocacy, Judicial Administration, and Women in the Profession Committees of the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

For further information about the Judicial Conduct Board, visit the Board's Website at www.jcbpa.org.

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