

Judicial Conduct Board

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Robert A. Graci, Chief Counsel 717-234-7911

Press Release

February 19, 2016

TO: Press

FROM: Robert A. Graci Chief Counsel

SUBJECT: Appointment of New Member to the Pennsylvania Judicial Conduct Board

The Judicial Conduct Board of Pennsylvania is pleased to announce that on January 20, 2016, the Supreme Court appointed Lisa Kronenfeld Steindel to the Judicial Conduct Board. She will serve as a non-lawyer, lay member of the twelve-member Board.

The Judicial Conduct Board is an independent body of Pennsylvania citizens comprised of three judges, three lawyers and six non-lawyers. Half of the Board members are chosen by the Governor and half by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. The Board's members serve four-year terms, without pay, and no more than half of its appointed members may be from the same political party.

A native of Erie, Pennsylvania, Steindel is a 1970 graduate of Academy High School. She went on to receive a B.S. in Psychology from the University of Pittsburgh and a Masters of Education in Vocational Counseling. Following her certification in Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling, she was employed as a Career Counselor at the Career Development Center, assisting displaced workers, recent graduates, and homemakers returning to the work force. Steindel went on to establish her own career counseling practice, What Should I Be, LLC. Through her practice, she was called to act as an expert witness in divorce cases.

Steindel is married to Rabbi Stephen Steindel, who serves as Rabbi Emeritus of Congregation Beth Shalom in Pittsburgh. During their 35 years in Pittsburgh, they have served two Congregations in the area. She was among the founders of the Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Pittsburgh and was involved in the merger of that school with The Community Day School in 1988. She was on the Board of Directors of the Rainbow Kitchen in Homestead, and served as Chairman of its Capital Campaign in 1998. She was also instrumental in the establishment of the Squirrel Hill Kosher Pantry and served for three years as its Director. The Steindels have been married for 40 years and are the proud parents of four children and eight grandchildren.

From 2004 to 2009, Steindel was the Executive Director of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Jewish Committee and worked to establish and maintain interfaith relations with the Catholic Diocese, the Hindu Sri Venkateswara Temple Community, and the

Islamic Center of Pittsburgh. After retiring in 2009, she continues to teach in the Pittsburgh Catholic Diocese High Schools as part of the Catholic-Jewish Education Enrichment Program.

Steindel is a Life Member of the National Council of Jewish Women, Hadassah, and Na'amat. She currently serves as President of the Pittsburgh Counsel of Na'amat, an organization dedicated to the support of all women and children in the State of Israel, across ethnic and religious lines.

Steindel was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Samuel M. Magaro, who passed away in April 2015, during his third four-year term on the Board. Steindel's term runs until September 24, 2016. At that time, the Supreme Court can appoint her to the balance of a four-year term. The Constitution prohibits Board members from serving more than four consecutive years.

Created by constitutional amendment in 1993, the Judicial Conduct Board of Pennsylvania is an independent state agency 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 also decides the sanction to be imposed for any proven misconduct.

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