



**Judicial Conduct Board**  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
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## **Press Release**

**Monday, March 14, 2022**

**FROM: Francis J. Puskas, II**  
**Chief Counsel**

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

HARRISBURG, PA -- The Judicial Conduct Board of Pennsylvania is pleased to announce the recent appointment of Sudhir R. Patel, Esquire, to the twelve-member Board. Governor Tom Wolf appointed Mr. Patel to serve as a lawyer member of the Board. His four-year term commenced February 8, 2021.

The Judicial Conduct Board is an independent body of Pennsylvania citizens that comprises three judges, three attorneys, and six non-lawyer electors. Half of the Board members are appointed by the Governor and half by the 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.

Sud Patel is a partner in the Pottsville, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania law firm of Fanelli, Evans & Patel, P.C. He is a trial lawyer who has handled and tried cases in various state and federal courts throughout Pennsylvania, as well as before the Court of Federal Claims, the United States Tax Court, the American Arbitration Association and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Board of Claims. He has also litigated claims in New Jersey, Virginia and Georgia, along with other states. His areas of practice include personal injury, medical malpractice, construction litigation and criminal defense. He is a member of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum and has also successfully handled hundreds of criminal cases, including first degree felony cases. He is one of few lawyers who has secured both first degree felony acquittals in criminal cases and million and multi-million dollar-plus civil jury awards and settlements.

Mr. Patel served as President of the Pennsylvania Association for Justice (PAJ), formerly the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers' Association, from July of 2019 through July of 2020. He has been a long-standing member of the PAJ's Board of Governors as well as its Executive Committee. Mr. Patel is also a member of the American Association for Justice (AAJ), and is also actively involved in the Schuylkill County Bar Association, where he served as President for 2012-2013. He has chaired the Schuylkill County Bench-Bar Committee and chairs the Community Development/Public Relations Committee which he founded. In 2005, Mr. Patel organized and implemented an alternative dispute resolution program in Schuylkill County. Mr. Patel has also been a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Judicial Review/Evaluation Committee.

Mr. Patel has been a speaker at numerous continuous legal education seminars, speaking on issues ranging from social media to personal injury/medical malpractice damages and developing a profitable law practice. He also serves as a Mediator, both privately and through the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania's Mediation Program. He has successfully mediated many civil cases, including several multi-party cases, one of which involved a seven-figure medical malpractice settlement.

Mr. Patel has also served as the Solicitor for numerous municipal and governmental entities, as well as a local school districts. He has been active throughout his community in activities ranging from fundraising for community projects to various athletic leagues. He regularly speaks at school districts throughout Schuylkill County on the dangers of distracted driving, and has also lectured hundreds of teens on responsible social media use. In what he describes as the most thankless of his community service forays, he has served multiple terms as President of the Orwigsburg Little League.

Mr. Patel is a 1988 graduate of Blue Mountain High School. He received his undergraduate degree from Lehigh University in 1992 and his law degree from Villanova University School of Law in 1995.

Mr. Patel was appointed to succeed Mandi L. Culhane, Esquire, of Allegheny County. Ms. Culhane's term expired February 4, 2022.

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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 also decides the sanction to be imposed upon the judge for any proven misconduct.

For further information about the Judicial Conduct Board, please visit the Board's Website at [www.jcbpa.org](http://www.jcbpa.org).

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