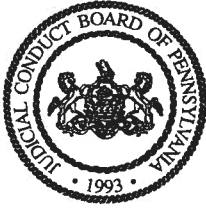


Judicial Conduct Board

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



Joseph A. Massa, Jr., Chief Counsel
717-234-7911

Press Release

May 9, 2011

TO: Media/Press

FROM: Judicial Conduct Board

**SUBJECT: Maryesther Merlo,
Magisterial District Judge;
Magisterial District 31-1-02;
Lehigh County
1 JD 2011**

Harrisburg. The Court of Judicial Discipline has ordered that the trial of the Merlo case shall commence on Tuesday, May 31, 2011, at 11:00 a.m. in Commonwealth Court, Courtroom No. 2, Widener Building, One South Penn Square, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

This trial will be open to the public.

Upon completion of the trial, if the Court determines that the charges have been proven by clear and convincing evidence, it will schedule a Sanctions Hearing to determine what sanctions should be imposed upon the magisterial district judge for violating the Rules Governing Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges and the Pennsylvania Constitution. Possible sanctions include reprimand, suspension, or removal from office.

Counsel

**Board: Francis J. Puskas II – Deputy Chief Counsel &
Joseph A. Massa, Jr. – Chief Counsel**

Respondent: Samuel C. Stretton, Esquire

Contact

Joseph A. Massa, Jr., Chief Counsel

For more information about the Judicial Conduct Board, please visit our website at www.jcbpa.org.

END