



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

**Tuesday, August 10, 2021**

**FROM: Richard W. Long**  
**Chief Counsel**

**SUBJECT: Judicial Conduct Board of Pennsylvania Elects Officers**

HARRISBURG, PA -- At its August 2, 2021 meeting, the Judicial Conduct Board of Pennsylvania elected a new Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary. The Board unanimously elected Judge Nina Wright Padilla to Chair, Judge Renée Cohn Jubelirer to Vice-Chair, and Ms. Celeste Trusty to Secretary.

The Board acted to fill its vacant Chair, previously held by Thomas J. Elliott, Esquire, who departed the Board at the conclusion of his four-year term on July 16, 2021. Judge Wright Padilla previously served as Vice-Chair and had assumed the duties of the Chair since the end of Mr. Elliott's term. Judge Cohn Jubelirer previously served as Secretary and her election filled the Vice-Chair vacancy created upon the election of Judge Wright Padilla to the Chair. Ms. Trusty filled the Secretary vacancy created upon the election of Judge Cohn Jubelirer to Vice-Chair.

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.

### **About Judge Nina Wright Padilla**

Governor Tom Wolf appointed Judge Wright Padilla to the Board on January 25, 2018 to fill the balance of an unexpired term. He reappointed her on October 31, 2018. She serves as the common pleas judge member of the Board. The Board elected her Vice-Chair on February 3, 2020. Her term of service on the Board will conclude January 24, 2022.

Judge Wright Padilla, of Philadelphia, has served on the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas since she was elected in 2003. She currently serves as Supervising Judge of Commerce Court where, in addition to her supervisory responsibilities, she presides over business disputes including actions relating to trade secrets, non-compete agreements, purchases or sales of businesses, their assets, goods and services, declaratory judgments, third party indemnification

claims involving commercial policies, derivative actions, shareholder class actions and other class actions. In 2014, Judge Wright Padilla was assigned to the Civil Trial Division where she presided over civil jury trials. She was subsequently assigned to the Motions and Statutory Appeals Program and has frequently served in election court.

Judge Wright Padilla sat in Philadelphia Family Court, Domestic Relations Branch for nine years where she presided over matters including Divorce, Child Support, Child Custody, Domestic Violence and Criminal Abuse. In June of 2012 she was assigned to the Criminal Trial Division where she presided over major criminal jury trials.

Throughout her tenure on the bench, she has continually served as a panelist for Continuing Legal Education programs for the Pennsylvania Bar Institute, the Philadelphia Bar Association, the Hispanic Bar Association of Pennsylvania and the National Business Institute. Judge Padilla currently serves as Committee Chair of the Board of View and the Board of Revision of Taxes for the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Board of Judges. She also co-chairs the Judicial Fellows Program for the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas.

Prior to her judicial tenure Judge Wright Padilla maintained a private law practice with her husband, Judge Edward C. Wright, who presently sits on the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, Civil Trial Division. While engaged in private practice for ten years, she concentrated her practice on Consumer Bankruptcy, general civil and criminal litigation. She obtained her Juris Doctor from the University Of Maryland School Of Law and her Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Maryland, College Park.

She serves as a mentor for many college and law school graduates and was previously a mentor for the Big Brothers Big Sisters of America youth mentoring program.

### **About Judge Renée Cohn Jubelirer**

The Supreme Court appointed Judge Cohn Jubelirer to serve as the appellate judge member on the Board effective August 31, 2019. The Board elected her Secretary on February 3, 2020. Her term of service on the Board will conclude August 30, 2023.

Judge Cohn Jubelirer, of Centre County, 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.

### **About Celeste Trusty**

Governor Tom Wolf appointed Ms. Trusty to serve as a non-lawyer elector Board member effective February 29, 2020. Her term of service on the Board will conclude February 28, 2024.

Ms. Trusty, of Chester County, currently serves as Political Director for Lieutenant Governor John Fetterman’s United States Senate campaign. Previously, she worked as Pennsylvania State Policy Director for FAMM, a nonpartisan, nonprofit sentencing reform advocacy organization founded in Washington, DC in 1991. In that role, Ms. Trusty worked closely with policymakers and stakeholders to advance justice reform policy in the Commonwealth. She also previously served as regional organizer for FAMM, working with the incarcerated and impacted families in the Philadelphia area to advocate individualized, proportionate sentencing laws that protect public safety and support second chances.

Prior to joining FAMM, Ms. Trusty was a long-time advocate for justice reform in Pennsylvania, organizing support networks and resources for the incarcerated, justice-involved, and their loved ones. She was also featured as lead researcher and assistant producer for a 2018 series arc of the *Undisclosed* podcast, and spent time volunteering for the Pennsylvania Innocence Project.

Ms. Trusty holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminology & Criminal Justice from Arizona State University, a graduate certificate in Forensic Criminology from the University of Massachusetts, Lowell, and a Master of Liberal Arts from the University of Pennsylvania, where her studies focused on the social, political, racial, and environmental history of the American criminal justice system.

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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 decides the sanction to be imposed for any proven misconduct.

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

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