****

**Judicial Conduct Board**

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Robert A. Graci, Chief Counsel

717-234-7911

**Press Release**

**August 26, 2014**

**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 by Order dated August 14, 2014, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court has appointed James C. Schwartzman, Esquire, to a four year term on the Judicial Conduct Board commencing August 16, 2014. Mr. Schwartzman will serve as one of the members of the bar appointed to the twelve-member Board. He is a Republican.

Jim is a shareholder in the Philadelphia office of Stevens & Lee where he chairs the Ethics and Professional Responsibility Group. He previously ran his own firm and was a named partner in Schwartzman & Hepps. Jim has extensive experience representing and counseling lawyers, law firms and judges on ethics-related issues. He has an active federal white collar criminal defense practice and extensive trial experience in both civil and criminal matters in most of the courts in southeastern Pennsylvania. Jim holds memberships in the Philadelphia and Pennsylvania Bar Associations, the Philadelphia and Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Associations, and the Association of Professional Responsibility Lawyers.

Jim is a former Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and was a law clerk for the Honorable J. William Ditter, Jr., United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. He has been an instructor at the United States Attorney General’s Advocacy Institute and Temple University School of Law. He has served by appointment of the Supreme Court on the Disciplinary Board, the Continuing Legal Education Board, and the Interest on Lawyers Trust Account (IOLTA) Board. He served each of these Boards as both Chair and Vice-Chair. Jim has been a member of the Southeast Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) Board of Directors since 1991 and served as Vice-Chair from 1999 until 2013. He has also been a member of the Independence Blue Cross Board of Directors since 1993 and serves on its Executive and Finance Committee.

Selected by his peers as among the top five percent of lawyers in the Commonwealth, Jim has been recognized as a Pennsylvania Super Lawyer from 2004 through 2014. He was named one of the top 100 Super Lawyers in Pennsylvania in 2009, 2010 and 2012, and one of the top 100 Super Lawyers in Philadelphia in 2010 and 2012. In addition, Jim has been selected by his peers as one of The Best Lawyers in America for his work in Malpractice Law and Ethics and Professional Responsibility Law, and he has been named Lawyer of the Year in the areas of Ethics and Professional Responsibility Law and Legal Malpractice Law.

\_\_\_\_\_\_

The Judicial Conduct Board is a constitutionally created independent board within the Judicial Branch of the Commonwealth’s government. It is charged with the responsibility of investigating allegations of misconduct by the Commonwealth’s judges. The Board is comprised of 12 members, six of whom are appointed by the Governor and six of whom are appointed by the Supreme Court. No more than half of the members may be of the same political party and no member may serve more than four consecutive years. 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 is required to 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 Pennsylvania Judicial Conduct Board, please visit the Board’s Website at [www.jcbpa.org](http://www.jcbpa.org).

**## END ##**