



**Judicial Conduct Board**  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Joseph A. Massa, Jr., Chief Counsel  
717-234-7911

## **Press Release**

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**October 3, 2006**

**TO: Media/Press**

**FROM: Judicial Conduct Board**

**SUBJECT: Court of Judicial Discipline Order of Court  
Ernest L. Marraccini  
Magisterial District Judge  
Magisterial District Court 05-2-26  
Allegheny County  
2 JD 05**

**Harrisburg.** The Pennsylvania Court of Judicial Discipline has reprimanded Allegheny County Magisterial District Judge Ernest L. Marraccini for engaging in conduct which brought the judicial office into disrepute and displaying improper demeanor in violation of Rule 4C of the Rules Governing Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges. The Court's Sanction Order was based upon the manner in which Judge Marraccini announced to defendants in the court waiting room that he was dismissing thirty (30) pending traffic cases. Marraccini was found to have treated defendants with impatience, sarcasm, and discourtesy, asking them if they were "morons" and whether they understood English and bobbing his head back and forth in a belittling manner.

\*\*The Court's Sanction Order can be found at the Board's website: [www.jcbpa.org](http://www.jcbpa.org). (On the home page, click on *Press Releases*).

### **The Board Proceedings**

On February 16, 2005, the Board charged Judge Marraccini with six (6) counts of judicial misconduct. His one-day trial was held before the Court of Judicial Discipline on September 28, 2005.

**Francis J. Puskas II, Deputy Chief Counsel who prosecuted the case, stated,**

*“The Board was convinced that Judge Marraccini’s behavior was anything but patient, dignified, and courteous. His treatment of the defendants in the waiting room was abominable. The Court’s ruling has vindicated the Board’s view of this matter. The Board views impatient, undignified, and discourteous behavior of litigants and parties who appear before judges as particularly troublesome; and similar judicial misconduct will be aggressively investigated and charged in the future.”*

**Counsel**

**Board:** Francis J. Puskas II, Deputy Chief Counsel

**Respondent:** Francis C. Rapp, Jr., Esquire

**Contact:** Francis J. Puskas II, Deputy Chief Counsel

**NOTE:** Court of Judicial Discipline Sanction Order attached.

**END**

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
COURT OF JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE

RECEIVED AND FILED  
COURT OF  
JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE  
OF PENNSYLVANIA  
Oct 2 3 33 PM '06

IN RE:

Ernest L. Marraccini  
Magisterial District Judge In and For : No. 2 JD 05  
Magisterial District 05-2-26  
Allegheny County

**ORDER**

AND NOW, this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of October, 2006, after hearing held on September 28, 2006 on the issue of sanctions, and upon consideration of statement by counsel for the Respondent and by the Respondent himself, and upon the record of the trial of this case, it is hereby ORDERED that the Respondent is REPRIMANDED.

PER CURIAM

Musimanno, J., did not participate in the consideration or disposition of this case.