



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

## Press Release

February 9, 2007

**TO: Press**

**FROM: Joseph A. Massa, Jr.  
Chief Counsel**

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

The Judicial Conduct Board of Pennsylvania has elected officers for 2007.

The Board elected Patrick Judge as its Chair, the Honorable Jack A. Panella as Vice-Chair and re-elected Carolyn "Raven" Rudnitsky as Secretary.

Patrick Judge has served as a lay member of the Board since August 16, 2003. Mr. Judge is Executive Vice-President and Secretary of Keystone Automotive Operations, Inc., the nation's largest of its kind automotive accessory and parts distribution company. Mr. Judge is the first lay member to Chair the Board. Mr. Judge resides in Moosic, Pennsylvania with his wife, Kimberly. He is the father of two sons, Patrick and Timothy, both attorneys.

Judge Jack A. Panella was elected to the Superior Court of Pennsylvania in November 2003. His election to the appellate court followed twelve years as a trial judge. He was initially sworn in as a trial judge on the Court of Common Pleas of Northampton County in October 1991, and was subsequently elected to a ten-year term commencing January 1, 1994.

In 2004, he was appointed by Chief Justice Ralph J. Cappy to the *Commission for Justice Initiatives in Pennsylvania*, a committee organized to coordinate and recommend judicial outreach and specialized court programs. He is the Chair of the Public Education and Community Outreach subcommittee of the Commission. He also is a member of the Justinian Society, an organization concerned with maintaining the highest standards of the legal profession.

On August 26, 1997, Judge Panella was appointed by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania to be a judge of the Pennsylvania Court of Judicial Discipline. In June 2000, he was elected President Judge by his fellow judges. The Court of Judicial Discipline is a constitutional court, which hears charges filed by the Judicial Conduct Board against judicial officers. His four-year term expired in August 2001. In 2005, he was appointed by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania to the Judicial Conduct Board, which is the investigatory and prosecutorial arm of the judicial discipline system in Pennsylvania.

Carolyn W. "Raven" Rudnitsky has a private practice in Family Therapy in Selinsgrove, (Snyder County). Married to Attorney Marvin Rudnitsky, she is a graduate of the Pennsylvania State University and received a Master of Science degree in Education, *Suma Cum Laude*, from Bucknell University. A community leader, she was the first woman and first non-lawyer to serve as Chair during a six-year membership on the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. She is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Quality of Life/Balance Task Force and a speaker and facilitator for the American and Pennsylvania Bar Associations.

Created by constitutional amendment in 1993, the Pennsylvania Judicial Conduct Board is an independent state agency responsible for reviewing, investigating, and where merited, prosecuting complaints of judicial misconduct. The Board is composed of twelve (12) Pennsylvania citizens, six (6) appointed by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and the other half appointed by the Governor, including three (3) judges, three (3) lawyers, and six (6) non-lawyers. No more than half of the appointed board members may be from the same political party. Appointed board members serve four-year terms without pay and meet regularly to review filed complaints against Pennsylvania Judges.

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

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