



Judicial Conduct Board
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
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Press Release

Thursday, March 5, 2020

FROM: Richard W. Long
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SUBJECT: Appointment of New Members to the Judicial Conduct Board

The Judicial Conduct Board of Pennsylvania is pleased to announce the recent appointments of Magisterial District Judge William C. Wenner, Ms. K. Celeste Trusty and Mr. Wayne Evans to the twelve-member Board. Judge Wenner and Ms. Trusty will serve four-year terms while Mr. Evans will serve the balance of an unexpired four-year term with eligibility for re-appointment.

Governor Tom Wolf appointed Mr. Evans and Ms. Trusty to serve as non-lawyer elector (lay) members of the Board. Their terms commenced on February 20, 2020 and March 1, 2020, respectively. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court appointed Judge Wenner to serve as the magisterial district judge member of the Board. His term commences March 14, 2020.

The Judicial Conduct Board is an independent body of Pennsylvania citizens comprised of three judges, three lawyers, and six lay members. Half of the Board members are appointed by the Governor and half by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. The Board's members serve four-year terms, without pay, and no more than half of its appointed members may be from the same political party.

Judge Wenner, of Dauphin County, assumed office as Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) for the northern portion of Lower Paxton Township upon his June 1, 2003 appointment. Judge Wenner served as Chief County Detective for the Criminal Investigation Division (CID) of the Dauphin County District Attorney's Office from 1995 until ascending to the bench. He had joined the CID staff as a county detective in 1988 and had been promoted to Detective Sergeant in 1992. Prior to joining CID, Chief Wenner served as a law enforcement officer in positions of successively greater responsibility with the police departments of the Dauphin County municipalities of Paxtang, Penbrook and Susquehanna Township.

Judge Wenner currently serves as a member of the Special Court Judges Association of Pennsylvania, the Dauphin County Prison Board, and the MDJ Court Security Task Force of the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts. Judge Wenner serves as the lead firearms instructor for the police academy of Harrisburg Area Community

College. He also serves as a regular guest lecturer for both the Pennsylvania State Police Academy and the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Judge Wenner earned an Associate Degree in Police Science from Harrisburg Area Community College and has completed advanced undergraduate work through the University of Virginia. He graduated from the 34th Municipal Police Officers Academy of the Pennsylvania State Police in 1979.

Judge Wenner and his wife have two grown children. He is a 30-year member of the St Nicholas Orthodox Church in Oberlin, Pennsylvania. He enjoys an active family life and participation in his church community. His other interests include reading, golf, hunting, motorcycling and sea kayaking.

Judge Wenner was appointed to succeed Magisterial District Judge Elizabeth S. Beckley of Cumberland County. Judge Beckley's final day of service on the Board will be March 13, 2020.

Mr. Evans, of Lackawanna County, is a Broker and the Owner of Wayne Evans Realty in Scranton. Prior to opening Wayne Evans Realty, he retired from Verizon Communications where he served as an engineer. Mr. Evans also served as Director of the Assessment Office of Lackawanna County, as a consultant for 21st Century Appraisals for the Luzerne County Reassessment, as Finance Chair while serving as a Scranton City Councilman and also served as Interim Mayor of the City of Scranton from July 24, 2019 to January 6, 2020.

Mr. Evans currently is a Member of the Architectural Heritage Association, the Greater Scranton Board of Realtors, Pennsylvania Association of Realtors, National Association of Realtors, and a Board Member Economic Committee – Scranton Tomorrow. He was the President of the Greater Scranton Board of Realtors, South Scranton Residents Association, South Renaissance Community Development Corporation and the Architectural Heritage Association. He was also the Chairman of the Elm Street Program – Steering Committee. Previously, Mr. Evans was a Member of the Historic and Architectural Review Board (HARB) City of Scranton, Scranton City Planning Commission for 10 years, Ethics Board of Scranton and the Chamber of commerce Metro Action Board.

Mr. Evans was appointed to serve the balance of the four-year term of Mr. Michael P. Martin of Erie County who resigned prior to the end of his term of service. Mr. Evans' term will end on February 19, 2022, but he is eligible for re-appointment so as to provide four years of service to the Board.

Ms. Trusty, of Chester County, is the Pennsylvania State Policy Director for FAMM, a nonpartisan, nonprofit sentencing reform advocacy organization founded in Washington, DC in 1991. In this role, Ms. Trusty works closely with policymakers and stakeholders to advance justice reform policy in the Commonwealth. She has also 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.

Ms. Trusty was appointed to succeed Mr. Mustafa L. Rashed of Philadelphia. Mr. Rashed's term ended on February 29, 2020.

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 also decides the sanction to be imposed upon the judge for any proven misconduct.

For further information about the Pennsylvania Judicial Conduct Board, please visit the Board's Website at www.jcbpa.org.

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