

Judicial Conduct Board

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Robert A. Graci, Chief Counsel 717-234-7911

Press Release

March 14, 2016

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 on February 29, 2016, Governor Tom Wolf appointed Mustafa Rashed to the twelve-member Board. As specified in the Constitution, he will serve as a non-lawyer elector of the twelve-member Board.

The Judicial Conduct Board is an independent body of Pennsylvania citizens comprised of three judges, three lawyers and six non-lawyer, 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.

Rashed is the President and CEO of Bellevue Strategies, a Philadelphia based, minority-owned government relations, advocacy and strategic communications firm. Rashed serves as the firm's manager of day-to-day operations and is responsible for operations, technology, human resources and vision.

Prior to this role, Rashed served as the vice president of media and brand strategy of the Bellevue Communications Group a public relations firm in Philadelphia. In addition to work for corporate clients Rashed has also worked as an effective veteran intermediary on campaigns from political to non-profit advocacy.

A veteran of the United States Navy, Rashed served with distinction in Operation Desert Storm in Iraq and Operation Restore Hope in Somalia. Rising to the rank of Petty Officer Third Class, he received numerous commendations for achievement and leadership.

Rashed has also always been invested in the educational and entrepreneurial opportunities for youth and minorities. As such he serves on the Board of Directors of the African American Museum in Philadelphia, on the Dean's Council at Temple University's School of Tourism & Hospitality Management and as a member of the National Urban League's Philadelphia Chapter.

Rashed is an advocate of public education and a strong municipal public school system. He is a graduate of John Bartram High School of the Philadelphia school system and holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from Temple University.

Rashed was appointed to complete the unexpired term of former Board Member Thomas M. Tigue who passed away in February. The term will run through September 3, 2017. At that time, the Governor can appoint Rashed to the balance of a four-year term. The Constitution prohibits Board members from serving more than four consecutive years.

Created by constitutional amendment in 1993, the Judicial Conduct Board of Pennsylvania is an independent state agency 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 for any proven misconduct.

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

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