



Judicial Conduct Board
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
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Press Release

Monday, March 27, 2023

FROM: Melissa L. Norton
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SUBJECT: Appointment of New Member to the Judicial Conduct Board

HARRISBURG, PA -- The Judicial Conduct Board of Pennsylvania is pleased to announce the recent appointment of Judge Risa Vetri Ferman to the twelve-member Board. Governor Josh Shapiro appointed Judge Ferman to serve as a judge member of the Board. Her term commenced on March 20, 2023, and she will serve the balance of an unexpired four-year term with eligibility for re-appointment.

The Judicial Conduct Board is an independent body of Pennsylvania citizens that comprises three judges, three attorneys, and six non-lawyer electors. Half of the Board members are appointed by the Governor and half by the 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 Ferman is a trial court judge in the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas. She was elected in 2015 and took the bench in January 2016. She currently serves in the Criminal Division.

Judge Ferman previously served as Administrative Judge of the Juvenile Division, overseeing dependency and delinquency cases. She has served in the Family and Criminal Divisions of the Court of Common Pleas. Prior to her election to the bench, Judge Ferman was twice elected as the District Attorney of Montgomery County where she served two terms. Judge Ferman was the first woman to serve as President of the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association. Before becoming District Attorney, Judge Ferman spent fifteen (15) years working in the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office as a courtroom prosecutor, specializing in homicide, child abuse, sexual assault, and domestic violence cases. She was appointed as First Assistant District Attorney before her election.

As an attorney, Judge Ferman co-founded two nonprofit charities to protect and support abused children, Mission Kids Child Advocacy Center and the Montgomery Child Advocacy Project (MCAP). Judge Ferman wrote two children's books, "The Mouse Who Went Surfing Alone" and "The Mouse Who Beat the Jungle Bullies". Both books were developed as teaching tools to educate youngsters and their parents about dangers online and how to deal with bullies.

Awards recognizing Judge Ferman include: Children's Champion 2015, PA State Chapter of Child Advocacy Centers and Multi-Disciplinary Teams, 2015 MCAP Salute to Heroes; 2015 Mission Kids Honoree, 2015 Montgomery County Black Law Enforcement Officers Association Lifetime Achievement; 2015 Martin Luther King Community Service Award for "Back On Track" Youth Mentoring Program, 2015 Honoree Children's Crisis Treatment Center, 2014 Girl Scouts "Take The Lead" Award; 2013 Aspen Institute's Aspen-Rodel Fellowship in Public Leadership; 2012 L'Oreal Paris USA National Honoree/Women of Worth; 2012 Alan Lerner Child Advocacy Award-Field Center at the University of Pennsylvania, the 2010 National Children's Advocacy Center Award, and the 2003 Montgomery Bar Association Louis D. Stefan Law Enforcement Award.

Judge Ferman was appointed to complete the unexpired term of former Board member, Judge Mia R. Perez, who left the Board to serve as a Federal District Court Judge for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

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 Judicial Conduct Board, please visit the Board's Website at www.jcbpa.org.

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