

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD
601 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 3500
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PENNSYLVANIA JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

601 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 3500 ♦ P.O. Box 62525 ♦ Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120-0901
(717) 234-7911 ♦ www.jcbpa.org

May 2025

TO:

The Honorable Josh Shapiro
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

The Honorable Debra B. Todd
Chief Justice of Pennsylvania
One Oxford Centre, Suite 3130
301 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

The Honorable Kim L. Ward
President Pro Tempore
Senate of Pennsylvania
292 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120-3039

The Honorable Joanna E. McClinton
Speaker of the House
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
139 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120-2191

The Honorable Jay Costa
Minority Floor Leader
Senate of Pennsylvania
535 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3043

The Honorable Jesse Topper
Minority Leader
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
423 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2100

Pursuant to Article V, Section 18(a)(6) of the Pennsylvania Constitution, and Section 2104 of Title 42, Judiciary and Judicial Procedures, the Judicial Conduct Board of Pennsylvania respectfully submits this Annual Report covering the period from January 1 through December 31, 2024.

This Annual Report is available to the general public on the Board's website at <http://www.jcbpa.org>.

Respectfully submitted,



Melissa L. Norton
Chief Counsel

On Behalf of the Judicial Conduct Board

MISSION STATEMENT

The Judicial Conduct Board is an independent Board within the Judicial Branch mandated by the Pennsylvania Constitution to receive and investigate complaints of misconduct against judges of Pennsylvania's Unified Judicial System and, where appropriate, to file formal charges against, and prosecute, those judges found to have engaged in improper behavior.

The Board, through its staff, is required to investigate every allegation made against Pennsylvania state court judges. This procedure is an essential safeguard to the integrity of, and public confidence in, the judiciary and the judicial process. Judges are held to a high standard of conduct. This standard is set forth in the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as well as in the Code of Judicial Conduct and the Rules Governing the Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges.

The members and staff of the Judicial Conduct Board are committed to preserving the honor, dignity, independence, and integrity of Pennsylvania's judiciary. Race, color, age, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, ancestry, religious creed, disability, political affiliation and the position or status of the complainant or judge are not considerations in reviewing cases. The Board's duties to the public require the honesty, intelligence, professionalism, and diligence of every Board and staff member.

The Board's objective is to enforce high standards of ethical conduct for judges, who, when serving in their adjudicatory function, must be free to act independently and in good faith on the merits, but who also must be held accountable to the public should they engage in misconduct.

MISSION STATEMENT

OVERVIEW OF THE BOARD

2024 BOARD MEMBERS

JUDGE MEMBERS

Honorable Alice Beck Dubow*
(Term expiration 08/30/2027)

Honorable Risa Vetri Ferman*
Secretary of the Judicial Conduct Board
(Term expiration 01/25/2026)

Honorable William C. Wenner
(Term expiration 03/13/2024)

Honorable William J. Kissner*
(Term Expiration 03/13/2028)

ATTORNEY MEMBERS

Scott B. Cooper, Esquire*
Chair of the Judicial Conduct Board
(Term expiration 07/29/2025)

Sudhir R. Patel, Esquire*
Vice Chair of the Judicial Conduct Board
(Term expiration 02/07/2026)

Honorable Susan Peikes Gantman*
(Term expiration 08/15/2026)

PUBLIC MEMBERS

Marie Conley*
(Term Expiration 6/13/2027)

William J. Joyce, Sr.*
(Term Expiration 06/19/2028)

Tara Mobley*
(Term Expiration 11/13/2026)

Michael D. Brunelle
(Term Expiration 02/29/2024)

Reverend Dr. Alyn E. Waller*
(Term Expiration 11/06/2028)

Joseph M. Brown*
(Term Expiration 06/02/2028)

Andrew E. Masich, Ph.D.
(Term Expiration 11/06/2024)

Rev. James P. McCloskey, Ph.D.
(Term Expiration 06/19/2024)

Janine F. Macklin*
(Term Expiration 5/13/2028)

BOARD STAFF

Melissa L Norton, Chief Counsel

James P. Kleman, Jr.
Deputy Chief Counsel

Elizabeth R. Donnelly
Deputy Counsel

Elizabeth A. Hoffheins
Deputy Counsel

Elizabeth B. Ruby
Deputy Counsel

Sarah E. Malek
Assistant Counsel

Paul A. Fontes
Chief Investigator

Leo P. Zuvich
Investigator

Tammie L Kelley
Investigator

Joelle E. Conshue
Legal Assistant

Pamela D. Scipioni
Legal Assistant

Susan Tyrone
Administrative Coordinator

Colleen M. McKinney
Administrative Assistant

Elizabeth A. Sickler
Administrative Assistant

* Current members as of December 31, 2024

OVERVIEW OF THE BOARD

AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD

The Judicial Conduct Board was created by an amendment to the Pennsylvania Constitution adopted on May 18, 1993, and declared in effect by the Governor on August 11, 1993. It is the independent board within the judicial branch of the Commonwealth's government responsible for investigating allegations of judicial misconduct or physical or mental disability.

The Board has jurisdiction over Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justices, Superior and Commonwealth Court Judges, Common Pleas Court Judges, Philadelphia Municipal Court Judges, and Magisterial District Judges. The Board has no jurisdiction over federal judges and magistrate judges, administrative hearing officers or administrative law judges for state agencies or mediators, arbitrators or masters.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

There are 12 members of the Board. Board Members serve staggered four-year terms. The Board comprises the following individuals:

- Six citizen members who are neither attorneys nor judges;
- Three attorneys who are not judges; and
- Three judges, one from each of the following court levels: an appellate court judge from either the Superior or Commonwealth Court; a common pleas court judge; and a magisterial district judge.

Members meet regularly to conduct Board business and receive no compensation for their service.

One of the critical features of the Board's system is its structural independence. The 12 board members are appointed by two appointing authorities: the Governor appoints six members and the Supreme Court appoints six members. The Governor appoints a common pleas court judge, two attorneys and three citizen members. The Supreme Court appoints a Superior or Commonwealth Court judge, a magisterial district judge, an attorney and three citizen members. Neither the Governor nor the Supreme Court controls a majority of the appointees to the Board. No more than half of the members may be registered in the same political party.

GOVERNING LAW

The Board is governed by Article V, Section 18(a) of the Pennsylvania Constitution, and Chapter 21, Subchapter

A of Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes (available on website <http://www.jcbpa.org>). As an independent Board in the Judicial Branch having its own constitutional and statutory provisions regarding confidentiality of papers, records, and proceedings, the Board is not governed by the Open Meetings Act or the Pennsylvania Administrative Code.

DEFINING JUDICIAL MISCONDUCT

Judicial misconduct is conduct that, among other things, violates either the Pennsylvania Constitution, the Code of Judicial Conduct, or the Rules Governing Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges.

EXAMPLES OF JUDICIAL MISCONDUCT

The conduct forming the basis of a judicial misconduct complaint could arise from the judge's violation of the law or the rules promulgated by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. Examples of judicial misconduct include: inappropriate courtroom demeanor such as yelling, profanity, gender bias, or racial slurs; improper ex parte communications with only one of the parties or attorneys in a case; a public comment regarding a pending case; or failure to recuse or disqualify in a case where the judge has an interest in the outcome of the case or in which the parties or attorneys are related to the judge. Judicial misconduct also arises from out-of-court activities such as driving under the influence or other criminal activity, improper financial or business dealings, sexual harassment or official oppression. Lastly, judicial misconduct could occur through a judge's failure to cooperate with respect to his or her obligations arising from a Board inquiry or for a judge's retaliating against a party or the party's attorney for cooperating in a Board inquiry.

Importantly, however, the Board cannot and does not act as a criminal investigation agency; it has no authority to arrest and imprison a judge. Likewise, the Board cannot intervene in a case pending before a judge and cannot reverse rulings of a judge (which is the role of the appellate courts) or reassign a case to another judge or remove or seek the recusal of a judge from a particular case.

SOURCES OF COMPLAINTS AND ALLEGATIONS

The Board has the duty to consider allegations from any source, including complaints from individuals, public news sources, or information received in the course of investigations that form the basis for new allegations. The Board also accepts and, where warranted, investigates, anonymous complaints.

OVERVIEW OF THE BOARD

BOARD LIMITATIONS

The Board does not have the authority to review the correctness of the legal decisions of any judge for any possible errors or to change the decision or ruling of any judge. For example, if the Board finds that a judge's actions constitute any form of misconduct, the Board can only file formal charges in the Court of Judicial Discipline and seek an appropriate sanction against the judge, which could include the judge's removal from the bench. However, even removal would not change the judge's ruling in the underlying case. Only an appellate court or the Pennsylvania Supreme Court acting in its supervisory capacity or exercising its so-called King's Bench authority can review and reverse a particular court decision.

Additionally, the Board cannot provide legal assistance or advice to a complainant. The Board cannot remove a judge from a case. The Board cannot award damages or provide monetary relief to complainants, get prisoners out of jail, or jail a judge who violates the criminal law.

BOARD INVESTIGATIONS AND ACTIONS

Cases are reviewed, analyzed, and investigated by the Board staff. The first step in an investigation involves a preliminary inquiry, which may include interviews with the complainant, attorneys and other witnesses, and the review of relevant documents. The Board then considers the results of the investigation in reviewing the complaint. The Board has several options available when deciding whether to take action on a case. At this stage, the Board is most likely to make one of two choices:

- Dismiss the complaint because it is clear that the allegations do not warrant disciplinary actions against the accused judge because no provisions of the Constitution, the Code of Judicial Conduct or the Rules Governing Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges have been violated; or
- Authorize a full investigation to determine if there is evidence of misconduct.
- After a full investigation is authorized and conducted, the Board will:
- Dismiss the complaint because there is no probable cause of judicial misconduct. Typically, the allegations resulting in a dismissal involve legal error, are time barred by the Board's four-year limitations period, or cannot be proven; or
- Issue a Letter of Caution to the judge under investigation where the conduct did not rise to a violation of the Code or Rules but the conduct may lead to judicial misconduct if not corrected or constituted only a minor violation that was recognized and rectified by the judge; or
- Issue a Letter of Counsel to the judge under investigation where the evidence suggests a violation of the Code or Rules, but was an isolated incident or the result of inadvertence; or
- File formal charges against the judge in the Court of Judicial Discipline following a determination by a majority of the Board that there is probable cause to believe that the judge engaged in misconduct.

The types of actions that could be taken by the Court of Judicial Discipline include dismissal of the complaint, public or private reprimand, public censure, fine, probation, suspension with or without pay, removal from the bench which carries with it forfeiture of judicial office, prohibition from future judicial service, or other discipline as authorized by the Constitution and warranted by the record. A detailed discussion of the Board's procedures for analyzing complaints and allegations and an overview of the complaint process is further discussed in the following table "Judicial Conduct Board of Pennsylvania – Complaint Resolution Process." The number and types of action taken by the Board in calendar year 2024 are presented in the "Case Statistics" section of this report.



OVERVIEW OF THE BOARD

Judicial Conduct Board of Pennsylvania – Complaint Resolution Process

INITIAL SCREENING	PRELIMINARY INQUIRY	FULL	FORMAL PROCEEDINGS	SUPREME COURT
<p>Chief Counsel reviews each Confidential Request for Investigation or “complaint” to determine whether it is within the jurisdiction of the Judicial Conduct Board (JCB).</p> <p>If matter is not within jurisdiction of JCB (e.g. complaint against attorney or federal judge), complainant is referred to appropriate agency.</p> <p>Staff prepares electronic and paper-copy file, sends acknowledgment letters to complainants, and returns paper-copy file to Chief Counsel.</p> <p>Chief Counsel assigns complaints to staff attorneys.</p>	<p>JCB attorney and/or investigator conducts preliminary inquiry, writes preliminary investigation report, and recommends whether to dismiss or to proceed to full investigation as to some or all allegations.</p> <p>Staff distributes preliminary inquiry report and recommendation, along with pertinent materials, to JCB members.</p> <p>JCB members review preliminary investigation report and recommendation, and vote to dismiss, to have staff conduct additional preliminary inquiry, or to proceed to full investigation as to some or all allegations.</p> <p>If matter is dismissed, complainant and judge are so notified.</p>	<p>Staff provides judge with nature and content of complaint and asks judge to respond in writing to identified allegations.</p> <p>Attorney and/or investigator conduct additional investigation, if necessary, as to issues raised in judge’s response.</p> <p>Staff distributes judge’s response and any supplemental investigation report and recommendation, along with pertinent materials, to JCB members.</p> <p>JCB members review judge’s response, and any supplemental investigation report and recommendation, and vote to dismiss, to have staff conduct additional investigation, to issue Letter of Caution or Letter of Counsel, or to file formal charges before the Court of Judicial Discipline. Board actions require majority vote of eligible Board members.</p>	<p>Staff prepares formal complaint, files complaint with the Court of Judicial Discipline, and serves same upon judge. Matter becomes public upon filing.</p> <p>Judge may file written answer.</p> <p>Matter may be presented on stipulated facts or at adversarial hearing before Court of Judicial Discipline.</p> <p>After a public hearing, the Court of Judicial Discipline issues Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and will either dismiss or sustain the charges. If they are sustained, the Court of Judicial Discipline will schedule a hearing on sanctions which may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reprimand; - Censure; - Fine; - Suspension (with or without pay); - Probation - Removal from office with permanent bar from judicial office. 	<p>If the Court of Judicial Discipline dismisses the complaint against the judge, the JCB may appeal to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.</p> <p>If the Court of Judicial Discipline imposes discipline on the judge on any of the charges, the judge may appeal to the Supreme Court.</p> <p>If the accused judge is a justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, the appeal is heard by a Special Tribunal made up of judges randomly chosen from the Superior and Commonwealth Courts as provided in Article V, §18(c)(1) of the Pennsylvania Constitution and sections 726 and 727 of Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure).</p>

OVERVIEW OF THE BOARD

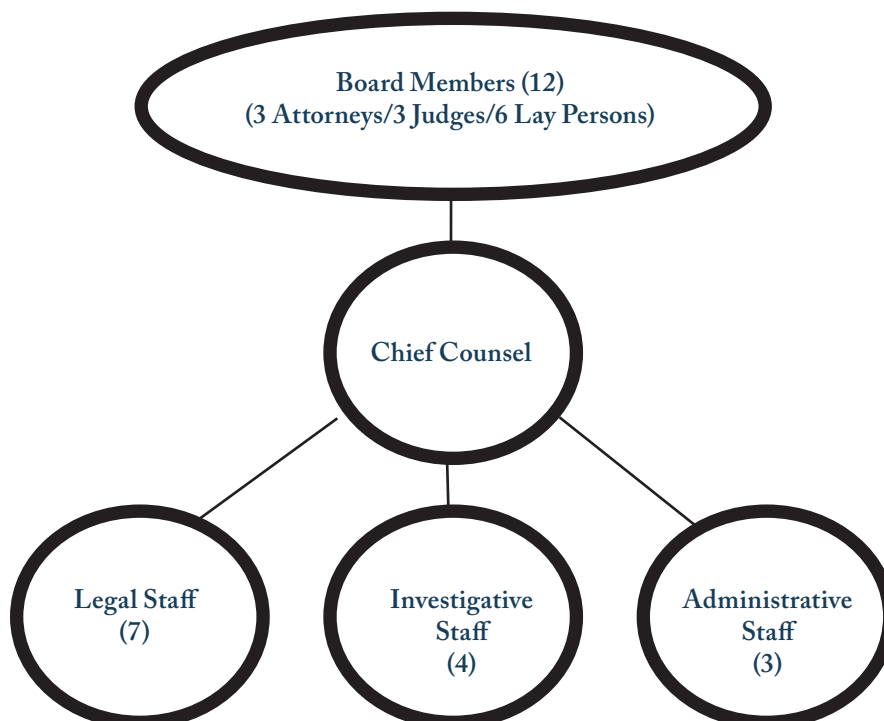
BOARD ORGANIZATION AND STAFF

In 2024, the Board had 15 staff positions, including the Chief Counsel, Deputy Chief Counsel, three Deputy Counsel, one Assistant Counsel, four investigators, and five support staff. All staff members are full-time employees of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Under the Constitution, the Board appoints a Chief Counsel who acts as Board executive director and whose general duties include managing and supervising the administrative activities of the Board's office, its attorneys, investigators, and support staff. The Chief Counsel's specific responsibilities include the following: providing legal advice to the Board; reviewing and processing complaints; developing statistics concerning Board activities; preparing the Board's annual budget; administering the funds of the Board; and keeping the Board informed of all developments potentially affecting the work of the Board.

The Board's legal staff, which consists of Chief Counsel, Deputy Chief Counsel, three Deputy Counsel, one Assistant Counsel, two legal assistants and four investigators, is responsible for the evaluation and investigation of complaints. The attorneys are primarily responsible for reviewing and evaluating complaints alleging judicial misconduct. The investigators conduct investigations in consultation with the assigned attorneys. The legal assistants perform various support services for staff counsel and investigators.

The Chief Counsel and the other attorneys serve as trial counsel during proceedings before the Court of Judicial Discipline and are responsible for preparing cases and presenting the evidence that supports the charges before the Court of Judicial Discipline as specified in the Constitution. When necessary, these attorneys also brief and argue appeals to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania (or the constitutional Special Tribunal if the matter on appeal involves a Supreme Court justice) from rulings of the Court of Judicial Discipline. The staff attorneys also respond to requests for information under the Right-to-Know Law and handle appeals arising from those requests.



OVERVIEW OF THE BOARD

BUDGET

The Judicial Conduct Board's budget is included in the appropriation allotted to the Judicial Branch of the Commonwealth's government. It is formulated and administered independently by the Board. For the 2024-2025 fiscal year (July 1, 2024 — June 30, 2025), the Board's appropriation is \$2,555,000. This appropriation provides funding for salaries and benefits for the staff of the Judicial Conduct Board, as well as annuitant benefits, operational expenses and fixed assets.

2018-2022 BUDGETS (In Thousands)

<i>Fiscal Year*</i>	<i>Amount Appropriated</i>
2020-2021	\$2,468
2021-2022	\$2,505
2022-2023	\$2,555
2023-2024	\$2,555
2024-2025	\$2,555

The Judicial Conduct Board's budget is approximately .5% (five tenths of one percent) of the overall budget of the Judicial Branch of the Commonwealth and .05 % (five one hundredths of one percent) of the budget of the Commonwealth.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

In 2024, the Board issued a number of press releases regarding cases pending in the Court of Judicial Discipline and noting important Board activities. Board members and staff regularly participate in educational seminars for a variety of groups.

BOARD WEBSITE

The Board's website can be accessed at <https://www.jcbpa.org>. The website provides downloadable complaint forms. The website also offers answers to frequently asked questions regarding the Board, such as its composition, structure, and jurisdiction; the judicial misconduct complaint process; a description of the range of actions available to the Court of Judicial Discipline from dismissal to sanction; and links of interest to other websites dealing with judicial ethics.

Also included on the website are the Board's governing authorities: Article V, Section 18 of the Pennsylvania Constitution; selected provisions from Title 42 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, Judiciary and Judicial Procedure, and the Board's Rules of Procedure.

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND CONFIDENTIALITY OF BOARD PROCEEDINGS

The availability of information and records maintained by the Board is governed by Article V, Section 18(a)(8) of the Pennsylvania Constitution which states: "[c]omplaints filed with the board or initiated by the board shall not be public information." This section also provides that "statements, testimony, documents, records or other information or evidence acquired by the board in the conduct of an investigation" are not public information. Additionally, this constitutional mandate requires that "[a]ll proceedings of the board shall be confidential." Rule 17 of the Board's Rules of Procedure, adopted pursuant to the Board's constitutional rule making authority, provides that "all information and proceedings relating to a complaint and records of the Board's deliberations shall be confidential." This constitutional provision and the Board's Rules mandate the confidentiality of the fact that a complaint has been filed and is pending before the Board.

OVERVIEW OF THE BOARD

Pursuant to these provisions, Board meetings and proceedings are confidential and not open to the public. The confidentiality of the Board's proceedings and the non-public nature of documents or information submitted to or gathered by the Board are designed to protect complainants from retaliation by judges under investigation and to protect judges from the embarrassment resulting from the public release of unfounded allegations. These confidentiality requirements are subject to limited exceptions set forth in Article V, Section 18(a)(8) of the Constitution and Rules 14 and 18 of the Board's Rules of Procedure. They generally involve disclosure of the fact of an investigation if the investigation has become public knowledge by means independent of any action by the Board. They also allow certain disclosures to criminal law enforcement and professional disciplinary agencies if the information submitted to or obtained by the Board relates to violations of the criminal laws or rules of professional conduct. Disclosures are also allowed if the information would call for the exercise of the supervisory authority of the Supreme Court or a president judge.

Formal charges filed by the Board with the Court of Judicial Discipline are matters of public record. Hearings in the Court are public proceedings.



2024 STATISTICS

2024 STATISTICS

During 2024, the Board opened 843 confidential requests for investigation. The Board filed formal charges in the Court of Judicial Discipline against two judges and filed one Petition for Interim Suspension Without Pay.

The Board closed 1008 pending matters in 2024. Not all cases are dismissed or otherwise acted upon in the year in which they are received by the Board. Of those, 359 were determined to be unfounded after preliminary inquiry and 567 presented claims of legal error and not misconduct. Another 44 were dismissed because the Board lacked jurisdiction over the official against whom the complaint was filed. The Board authorized the issuance of notices of full investigation in 27 matters. The Board dismissed 27 cases with Letters of Caution and dismissed 10 cases with Letters of Counsel. Charges were filed against 2 judges in the Court of Judicial Discipline and the Board also filed a Petition for Interim Suspension Without Pay in the Court of Judicial Discipline concerning 1 judge.

¹ A Letter of Caution is explained below under “Complaint Dispositions.”

² A Letter of Counsel is explained below under “Complaint Dispositions.”

INVESTIGATIVE INQUIRIES

LETTERS OF INQUIRY

The Board typically considers a Letter of Inquiry to be a less serious mode of inquiry to a judicial officer than a Notice of Full Investigation (described below). Letters of Inquiry are issued generally when the matter under investigation may constitute misconduct by the judge, but the conduct would not likely form the basis of a public Court of Judicial Discipline complaint. The scope of Letters of Inquiry may be broad, although their most common use concerns allegations of judicial delay. It is a less formal means of seeking information from a judicial officer concerning the alleged events or circumstances than a deposition or Notice of Full Investigation. Letters of Inquiry may be sent either formally pursuant to a Board directive or informally from staff counsel. During 2024, the Board and staff counsel issued 97 Letters of Inquiry to judicial officers.

After a Letter of Inquiry is issued, staff counsel may determine that subsequent interviews are required either to corroborate or refute the judicial officer’s written response. Information obtained through a Letter of Inquiry could lead to the issuance of a Notice of Full Investigation or a Board dismissal.

NOTICE OF FULL INVESTIGATION

If, after appropriate preliminary inquiry into a case, the Board determines that sufficient evidence of judicial misconduct exists such that the case may result in the filing of formal charges in the Court of Judicial Discipline, it will issue a Notice of Full Investigation to the judicial officer. This is required by the Constitution. Before the Board determines there is probable cause of misconduct, the judicial officer must be apprised of the nature and content of the complaint and given an opportunity to respond. After the Board issues the Notice of Full Investigation, the judicial officer has an opportunity to respond to the allegations in writing. A Notice of Full Investigation may address several matters under investigation involving the same judge. In 2024, the Board authorized 27 Notices of Full Investigation.

2024 STATISTICS

COMPLAINT DISPOSITIONS

DISMISSAL AFTER PRELIMINARY INQUIRY:

In 2024, 359 cases were dismissed after preliminary inquiry. These complaints involved facts that, even if true, would not constitute judicial misconduct. Investigation showed that either the allegations were unfounded or were not supported by sufficient facts or were not provable, or, when questioned, the judge gave an adequate explanation of the situation.

DISMISSAL AS STRICTLY LEGAL ERROR:

In 2024, 567 cases were dismissed as strictly legal error. These complaints generally deal with allegations of legal error and disagreements with judicial rulings. Also included in this category are complaints that are outside the Board's four-year limitation period.

DISMISSAL WITH A LETTER OF CAUTION:

The Board dismissed 27 cases with Letters of Caution in 2024. The Board issues Letters of Caution when the judicial officer's conduct constitutes an aberration or an oversight or other minor error in judicial comportment. The purpose of a Letter of Caution is to constitute a "wake-up call" or private warning about conduct that could lead to a finding of judicial misconduct if not corrected promptly by the judicial officer. The judicial officer is not required to sign or accept a Letter of Caution.

DISMISSAL WITH A LETTER OF COUNSEL:

The Board dismissed 10 cases with Letters of Counsel in 2024. Generally, the Board issues Letters of Counsel in cases where there is sufficient evidence of judicial misconduct to warrant the filing of formal charges in the Court of Judicial Discipline, but the evidence suggests that it was an isolated incident or first-time infraction by a judicial officer. The Letter of Counsel is a private reprimand and is subject to the judicial officer's acceptance. Evidence of genuine remorse on the part of a judicial officer is weighed heavily by the Board in its decision whether to issue a Letter of Counsel or to file formal charges. The conduct at issue in a Letter of Counsel (and the Letter of Counsel, itself) may be used as evidence against the judicial officer in a complaint before the Court of Judicial Discipline if the judicial officer is charged with a new violation.

DISMISSAL BASED ON LACK OF JURISDICTION:

Among the complaints filed with the Board, 44 complaints concerned individuals who did not fall within the Board's jurisdiction such as attorneys, federal judges, workers' compensation judges, other government officials and miscellaneous individuals. The Judicial Conduct Board staff responded to each of these complaints and, where appropriate, referred complainants to the disciplinary or other authority having jurisdiction or authority over the person who was the subject of the request for investigation.

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

PETITIONS FOR INTERIM SUSPENSION:

The Board may file petitions for interim suspension with the Court of Judicial Discipline. Such petitions are appropriate when the Board has filed formal charges against a judge in the Court of Judicial Discipline or when a judge has been charged with a felony. The Court may issue orders for interim suspension prior to a hearing and may do so with or without pay. These interim orders are not appealable as final orders. The Board filed 1 Petition for Interim Suspension Without Pay in 2024.

2024 STATISTICS

SUMMARY OF COURT OF JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE SANCTIONS IMPOSED DURING 2024

<u>JUDICIAL OFFICER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION OF MISCONDUCT</u>	<u>DATE AND SANCTION IMPOSED</u>
Municipal Court Judge Marissa J. Brumbach 2 JD 2022	Board Complaint Violations of Code of Judicial Conduct Canon 1, Rule 1.1 Compliance with the Law, Rule 1.2 Promoting Confidence in the Judiciary, Canon 2, Rules 2.5(A) and Rule 2.5(B) Competence, Diligence and Cooperation, Rule 2.6(A) Right to be Heard; Article V, § 17(b) of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, Article § 18(d)(1) of the Constitution of Pennsylvania	10/16/2024 Order and Opinion – Court issued reprimand and six months of probation.
Judge Mark B. Cohen 1 JD 2023	Board Complaint Violations of Code of Judicial Conduct Canon 1, Rule 1.1 Compliance with the law, Rule 1.2 Promoting Confidence in the Judiciary, Rule 1.3 Avoiding Abuse of Prestige of Judicial Office, Canon 3, Rule 3.1(C) Extrajudicial Activities in General, Rule 3.7(A) Participation in Educational, Religious, Charitable, Fraternal or Civic Organizations or Activities, Canon 4, Rule 4.1(A)(3) Political Campaign Activities of Judges and Judicial Candidates in General, Rule 4.1(A)(11) Political and Campaign Activities of Judges; Article V, § 17(b) of the Constitution of Pennsylvania	10/7/2024 Order and Opinion – Suspension without pay for the remainder of the judge’s term of service ending 12/31/2024 with his mandatory end of judicial service on that day.
MDJ Sonya McKnight 2 JD 2023	Board Complaint Violations of Rules Governing Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges Canon 1, Rule 1.1 Compliance with the Law; Canon 1, Rule 1.2 Promoting Confidence in the Judiciary; Article V, § 17(b) of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, Article § 18(d) (1) of the Constitution of Pennsylvania Petition for Special Relief	4/11/2024 Order – Stay of Proceedings Granted. Suspension without Pay Continues in Effect

2024 STATISTICS

MDJ Anthony Saveikis 1 JD 2024	Board Complaint Violations of Rules Governing Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges Canon 1, Rule 1.2 Promoting Confidence in the Judiciary	11/07/2024 Order – Court issued a severe censure and judge’s resignation and pledge not to serve as a judge again are binding and irrevocable.
Judge Steven D. Stambaugh 3 JD 2024	Petition for Interim Suspension Without Pay	10/9/2024 Order – Suspended Without Pay

JUDICIAL COMPLEMENT

In 2024, there were 1,160 jurists within the Board’s jurisdiction.

	Jurists	Senior Jurists
Supreme Court	7	0
Superior Court	14	3
Commonwealth	9	2
Common Pleas	429	93
Magisterial District Judges	491	87
Philadelphia Municipal Court	24	1
TOTAL	974	186

2024 STATISTICS

NON-PUBLIC PROCEEDINGS PRIVATE SANCTION SUMMARIES

As stated previously, upon conclusion of its investigation of a complaint, the Board may dismiss the matter with a letter to the judicial officer communicating the Board's concern or a warning to the judge not to engage in specified behavior. In 2024, the Board expressed concern or warning to judges about the following types of conduct:

1. LETTERS OF COUNSEL are issued by the Board as a private admonitions in cases where there is sufficient evidence of judicial misconduct to file formal charges with the Court of Judicial Discipline, but mitigating or extenuating circumstances exist that weigh against the filing of formal charges. The Board's issuance of a Letter of Counsel is subject to a judge's acceptance and appearance before Chief Counsel of the Judicial Conduct Board. Examples of the type of conduct addressed by Letters of Counsel include the following:

- Canon 1, Rule 1.2, Canon 2, Rules 2.2, 2.6 and 2.8 – Code of Judicial Conduct
 - A judge exhibited improper demeanor on multiple occasions toward court staff, litigants and attorneys appearing before the judge. Further, the judge failed to conduct proceedings in a fair and impartial manner, declined to hear relevant evidence and attempted to coerce parties to reach settlement agreements.
- Canon 1, Rule 1.2, Canon 2, Rules 2.2, 2.6(A), 2.8(A) and 2.9(A) - Rules Governing Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges
 - A judge dismissed multiple traffic citations based on an incorrect reading of the traffic code, often without the presence of the Commonwealth, infringing upon its right to be heard and engaging in *ex parte* communications with defendants who appeared before the judge in that capacity. Additionally, when confronted about this issue, the judge exhibited poor demeanor.
- Canon 1, Rules 1.1 and 1.2, Canon 2, Rules 2.2 and 2.11 – Code of Judicial Conduct
 - A judge was found not to have been impartial toward and in dealings with the elected District Attorney and, in one instance, failed to recuse from a matter prosecuted by that individual despite an admission of partiality.
- Canon 1, Rules 1.2, Canon 2, Rules 2.5, 2.6(A), 2.7 and 2.9 (A) – Code of Judicial Conduct
 - A judge delayed in resolving multiple post-trial matters and did not report those matters on the judge's Rule of Judicial Administration 703 Reports. Additionally, on one occasion the judge engaged in *ex parte* communication that imposed additional conditions of supervision upon a defendant without the required hearing.

2024 STATISTICS

2. **LETTERS OF CAUTION** are issued as private warnings of potential judicial misconduct. Examples of the type of conduct addressed by Letters of Caution include the following:

- Canon 1, Rules 1.1 and Rule 1.2 – Rules Governing Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges
 - A judge violated the Case Records Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System by identifying the full name of a victim in a text message conversation with a friend. The judge also created the appearance of impropriety by sending other text messages to a friend that created the following perceptions: (1) that the judge believed that the friend, then on probation in a neighboring county, was being treated inappropriately by the probation department; (2) that the judge's friend would have been better off being prosecuted in the judge's home jurisdiction; and (3) that the judge was coaching the friend on how to avoid taking or how to defeat an impending polygraph examination.



- Canon 1, Rule 1.1, Canon 2, Rule 2.8 – Rules Governing Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges
 - A judge revoked the bail of at least three individuals, *sua sponte*, resulting in their unlawful detention. Additionally, the judge displayed poor demeanor when police requested that the judge arraign a juvenile offender.
- Canon 1, Rule 1.2 – Rules Governing Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges
 - During a conversation with an employee, a judge made inappropriate remarks about her personal life.
- Canon 1, Rule 1.2 – Code of Judicial Conduct
 - When a defendant in a criminal case could not produce a urine sample for a drug test, a judge detained the defendant for several hours, until he produced a urine sample. The judge did not hold a hearing prior

2024 STATISTICS

to ordering the drug test or the defendant's detention.

- Canon 1, Rule 1.2 – Code of Judicial Conduct
 - After the grandparents in a custody matter appealed their case to the Superior Court, a judge wrote an impermissible advisory opinion criticizing the grandparents and their counsel.
- Canon 1, Rule 1.2 – Code of Judicial Conduct
 - A judge failed to give a litigant notice and an opportunity to be heard on a “stay-away order” in a family law matter. This was the same legal error that the judge made in a previous phase of the same case and that was later rectified on appeal. This sequence of events gave rise to the perception that the error was the product of more than a simple legal mistake, i.e., that the error stemmed from bias, ill-will, or other impropriety.
- Canon 1, Rule 1.2, Canon 2, Rule 2.2 – Code of Judicial Conduct
 - On remand, a judge did not follow the directive of an appellate court regarding the judge's evaluation of a prosecutor's petition for *nolle prosequi* and thereby failed to uphold and apply the law.
- Canon 1, Rule 1.2, Canon 2, Rules 2.3 and 2.8 – Code of Judicial Conduct
 - During a civil hearing, a judge made extraneous rude remarks criticizing a litigant and her attorney. At the conclusion of the hearing, the judge ordered the litigant out of the courtroom under threat of incarceration, telling her not to say another word. Thereafter, the judge apologized to members of the public in the courtroom telling them that the judge was trying to educate people who “feel like they have certain privileges.”
- Canon 1, Rule 1.2, Canon 2, Rules 2.5 and 2.8 – Rules Governing Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges
 - During a civil hearing, a judge made comments referencing the judge's prior knowledge of a plaintiff witness, indicating that the judge was aware of past criminal acts. Additionally, the judge abruptly ended the hearing before both sides had an opportunity to fully present their cases. Finally, rather than entering a decision within 3 days as required, the judge continued the matter without the input of counsel.
- Canon 1, Rule 1.2, Canon 2, Rules 2.6 and 2.8 – Code of Judicial Conduct
 - While presiding over a criminal matter, a judge exhibited poor demeanor, both in person and via the written word, to attorneys representing both the defense and the Commonwealth, giving rise to an appearance of partiality and ill will. Additionally, the judge's comments to the defendant during a hearing were found to be coercive.

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- Canon 1, Rule 1.2, Canon 2, Rule 2.8 – Rules Governing Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges
 - During a summary hearing a judge made condescending comments referencing the judge’s prior knowledge of a victim’s financial position, implying that the victim did not require the court’s assistance.
- Canon 1, Rule 1.3 – Rules Governing Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges
 - A judge used social media to promote local businesses and bolster public opinion of the judge. Additionally, the judge shared information on social media regarding an event hosted by law enforcement.
- Canon 1, Rule 1.3; Canon 2, Rule 2.11 – Code of Judicial Conduct
 - A judge abused the prestige of the judicial office to promote a book the judge authored. Additionally, the judge did not consider the disqualification analysis set forth in Rule 2.11 when presiding over cases involving Facebook friends.
- Canon 1, Rule 1.3, Canon 4, Rule 4.1 – Rules Governing Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges
 - A judge abused the prestige of the judicial office by displaying a license plate on the judge’s vehicle indicating the judge was an “MDJ.” Additionally, while a candidate for magisterial district judge, the judge was a member of the county’s Democratic Committee and Chairman of its Campaign Committee.
- Canon 2, Rule 2.5 – Code of Judicial Conduct
 - A judge was unduly delayed in issuing final decisions on ten separate cases and failed to adequately report those delays as required by Rule of Judicial Administration 703.
- Canon 2, Rule 2.5 – Code of Judicial Conduct
 - A judge failed to timely issue an opinion following a custody hearing, issuing the decision approximately 4 months later rather than within 15 days as required.
- Canon 2, Rules 2.5 and 2.9 – Code of Judicial Conduct
 - A supervising judge failed to reassign a case when a magisterial district judge sought to recuse from the matter. Additionally, the judge engaged in an improper *ex parte* communication with a party while the matter was on appeal with the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.
- Canon 2, Rules 2.6 and 2.8 – Code of Judicial Conduct
 - A judge exhibited poor demeanor and made disparaging comments to and about the litigants in two family law matters. The conduct was believed to have a chilling effect on the litigants, thus impacting their right to be heard.

- Canon 4, Rule 4.1(A)(9) - Rules Governing Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges
 - During a judge's campaign for magisterial district judge, a candidate authored a campaign mailer that contained false and misleading information about a rival candidate.
- Canon 4, Rule 4.1(A)(9) and 4.2(C)(3) - Rules Governing Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges
 - During a judge's campaign for magisterial district judge, a candidate created and distributed a campaign mailer with quotes taken from another magisterial district judge, falsely giving the impression that said magisterial district judge had endorsed the judge.

The Canons of the Code of Judicial Conduct and the Rules Governing Standards of Conduct for Magisterial District Judges and the concomitant Rules and Comments related thereto, may be found on the Board's website, www.jcbpa.org "Governing Law" tab.



NATIONWIDE



The nationwide statistics of judicial discipline are outlined below.*

In 2024, there were approximately 131 public dispositions in state judicial disciplinary proceedings

In 2024:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10 judges were removed from office.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 27 judges agreed to resign or retire and never serve in judicial office again. 3 of these judges also agreed to a public censure.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12 judges were suspended without pay from 14 days to 18 months.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 73 judges or former judges received public reproofs. There were 11 censures, 28 reprimands, 30 admonishments and 4 warnings. In 6 of these reproofs, the judges were also ordered to have training, counseling or mentoring.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5 judges were ordered to cease and desist certain conduct.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 former judges were sanctioned in attorney discipline proceedings for conduct while they were judge; 1 was disbarred and the other was indefinitely suspended from the practice of law.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 judge was suspended with pay for 30 days.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 judge was found to have violated the code of judicial conduct but no sanction was imposed.

*Statistics from the National Center for State Courts, Judicial Conduct Reporter, Winter 2025.

JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD MEMBERS' BIOGRAPHIES



JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

MEMBERS' BIOGRAPHIES

SCOTT B. COOPER, ESQUIRE, Chair (June 12, 2023 – December 31, 2024); **Secretary** (December 5, 2022 – June 11, 2023); University of Albany (B.A.), Widener University School of Law (J.D.); Partner at Schmidt Kramer P.C., specializes in personal injury law with an emphasis on motor vehicle accident and insurance cases; member and past-president of the Pennsylvania Association for Justice (PAJ); member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association and member of the Dauphin County Bar Association; serves on the Board of Directors of the Joe Allegrini Children's Hero Fund; served on the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania's Civil Procedure Rules Committee and the Supreme Court's Appellate Rules Committee; he served as co-chair for then Governor-Elect Tom Wolf's transition team committee for the Department of the Commonwealth/State and has been appointed as a Hearing Officer with the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania; is a frequent lecturer and author; active in the community through his involvement with the Harrisburg Jewish Community Center and as an Adjunct Professor at Widener University Commonwealth Law School, Harrisburg; appointed by the Governor of Pennsylvania as an attorney member on July 30, 2021.

SUDHIR R. PATEL, ESQUIRE, Vice Chair (March 14, 2024 – December 31, 2024) **Chair of Personnel Committee** (February 14, 2023 – March 13, 2024); Lehigh University (B.A.), Villanova University School of Law (J.D.); Partner at Fanelli, Evans & Patel, P.C.; areas of practice include personal injury, medical malpractice, construction litigation and criminal defense; member of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum; served as President of the Pennsylvania Association for Justice (PAJ), long-standing member of the PAJ's Board of Governors as well as its Executive Committee; member of the American Association for Justice (AAJ), active member and past President of the Schuylkill County Bar Association; speaker at numerous continuous legal education seminars, frequent lecturer on issues ranging from social media to personal injury/medical

malpractice damages and developing a profitable law practice; serves as a Mediator, both privately and through the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania's Mediation Program; active in his community; appointed by the Governor of Pennsylvania as an attorney member on February 8, 2022.

HONORABLE RISA VETRI FERMAN, Secretary (June 12, 2023 – December, 31 2024); University of Pennsylvania (B.A., 1987); Widener University School of Law (J.D., 1992); worked in the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office as a courtroom prosecutor, specializing in homicide, child abuse, sexual assault, and domestic violence cases; appointed as First Assistant District Attorney before being elected as the District Attorney in Montgomery County; served two terms as the Montgomery County District Attorney; elected Judge Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas, 2015; served as Administrative Judge of the Juvenile Division; currently serves in the Criminal Division; as an attorney, she co-founded two nonprofit charities to protect and support abused children, Mission Kids Child Advocacy Center and the Montgomery Child Advocacy Project; authored two children's books; received the following awards: 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; appointed on March 20, 2023 as a judge member by the Governor of Pennsylvania to fill an unexpired term on the Board.

JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD MEMBERS' BIOGRAPHIES

HONORABLE SUSAN PEIKES GANTMAN, PRESIDENT JUDGE EMERITUS, Chair of Budget Committee (February 14, 2023 – December 31, 2024); University of Pennsylvania (B.A. cum laude, M.A., 1974); Villanova University School of Law (J.D., 1977); former senior member and Co-Chair of the Family Law Section at Cozen O'Connor in West Conshohocken, PA from 1998 – 2003; former partner and Chair of the Domestic Relations Section at the West Conshohocken, PA law firm of Sherr Joeffe & Zuckerman, P.C; served as the solicitor for the Montgomery County Office of Children and Youth and Montgomery County Housing and Community Development; former Assistant District Attorney for Montgomery County; former Law Clerk for the Honorable Richard S. Lowe of the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas; her election to a ten-year term on the Superior Court was confirmed in January 2004, and she won retention in 2013; elected by her peers as President Judge of the Superior Court from January 7, 2014 to January 6, 2019. On April 1, 2020 Judge Gantman took senior status on the Court; retired December 2021; member of the Pennsylvania and Montgomery County Bar Associations; former Chair of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania's Records Management Committee; received numerous recognitions, is a frequent lecturer and is involved in community service; appointed by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania as an attorney member on August 16, 2022.

MARIE CONLEY, Chair of Personnel Committee (March 14, 2024 – December 31, 2024); Bloomsburg University (B.A.), Certificate in Organizational Leadership from Villanova University and a Gallup-Certified CliftonStrengths® Coach; Consultant focusing on stakeholder and team development, event and project orchestration, and engagement and strategic communications for a variety of clients through her company, Conley Consulting, LLC; granted Governor Emerita status by the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education; guest speaker and panelist on leadership development, stakeholder engagement and patient

advocacy; founded The Conley Cushing's Disease Fund which raises money to educate medical professionals on early diagnosis of Cushing's and to support and coordinate a community of Cushing's patients and their families; instrumental in the passage of legislation creating the PA Rare Disease Advisory Council in 2017 and was appointed by the Governor and legislature to serve on its board; In October 2019, she was nominated and elected as Chair; sits on the Board of the Cushing's Support and Research Foundation, the national organization for advocacy for Cushing's disease; in 2023, she was recognized for her years of work on behalf of her clients and advocacy for rare disease patients as a Women of Excellence by the YWCA Greater Harrisburg; reappointed as a lay member by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania for the balance of a four-year term that expires on June 13, 2027.

DET. JOSEPH M. BROWN; Alvernia University (B.A., Criminal Justice, 2020); Masters in Public Administration, summa cum laude, from West Chester University (2022); currently pursuing his Masters in Business Administration at Rosemont College; Detective, Berks County Office of the District Attorney; retired as Sergeant with West Reading Police Department (1991-2019); while at West Reading, served as patrol officer, criminal investigator and ultimately, patrol sergeant; experienced polygraph examiner; serves as President Berks Lodge #71, Fraternal Order of Police; serves as President Berks County Police Heroes Fund (founder); serves as Treasurer of Pennsylvania State Order of Police, which represents over 40,000 active and retired members of law enforcement across the Commonwealth; Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command (2018); Reading Area Community College, Associates Degree in Public Administration (2016), Associates Degree in Law Enforcement Administration (1999); Reading Police Academy (1986); Awards and Commendations: Police Officer of the Year (1998), Medal of Honor, Combat Cross (2), Wound Award, Gallantry Star (3), Exceptional Duty Award, Federal Bureau of Investigation-Letter of Commendation, Reading Bureau of Police-Letter of Commendation,

JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD MEMBERS' BIOGRAPHIES

and West Reading Police Department- Letter of Commendation; Member of the American Association Police Polygraphists; appointed by the Governor of Pennsylvania as a lay member on June 3, 2024.

HONORABLE ALICE BECK DUBOW; University of Pennsylvania (B.A. cum laude, 1981); University of Pennsylvania School of Law (J.D., 1984); former judicial law clerk for the Honorable Edward G. Biester; practiced law for 23 years in a variety of areas; former associate at Duane, Morris & Heckscher and Fineman & Bach, P.C.; former Of Counsel at Wolf, Block, Schorr & Solis Cohen; former Deputy General Counsel of Drexel University; former Divisional Deputy City Solicitor for the City of Philadelphia; Judge, Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County, 2007-2015; elected Judge, Superior Court, 2015; award the "Justice, Justice, You Shall Pursue Award," by the Brandeis Society; awarded the Howard Lesnick Pro Bono Award by the University of Pennsylvania Law School; recognized for her dedicated services by the Lawyers' Club of Philadelphia; serves or has served on numerous non-profit Board of Trustees, including the Stoneleigh Foundation, Carson Valley Children's Aid, the Beck Institute, the Opera Company of Philadelphia and Congregation Or Ami; member of Pennsylvania and Philadelphia Bar Associations, American Law Institute, Juvenile Court Rules and Procedural Committee, and Mental Health and Justice Advisory Committee to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency; appointed by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania as a judge member on August 31, 2023.

WILLIAM J. JOYCE, SR.; Culinary Institute of America, NY (A.A.S., Hotel and Restaurant Management); Vice President of Joyce Insurance Group; serves on the boards of the Fidelity Bank in Dunmore, Avoca Basketball League in Avoca, Broadway Theatre League of NEPA in Scranton, Catholic Social Services in Wilkes-Barre, Miles for Michael Foundation in Pittston, St. John's Care and Concern Clinic in Pittston, and Pennsylvania Lawyer's Fund for Client Security in Harrisburg;

appointed by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania as a lay member on June 20, 2024.

HONORABLE WILLIAM J. KISSNER; Lehigh Carbon Community College (A.A., Criminal Justice); Kutztown University (B.S., Criminal Justice); elected as a magisterial district judge for magisterial district 56-3-02 in Carbon County in 2011 and re-elected in 2017 and 2023; served as a police officer for the City of Bethlehem, 1991-2011; member and past-president of the special Court Judges Association of Pennsylvania; serves on multiple Carbon County committees, including the Criminal Justice Advisory Board, Court Processing, Law Enforcement Treatment Initiative and Re-Entry Coalition; member of Lehigh Lodge No. 621 F&AM of PA and holds his 32nd Degree from the Valley of Allentown A.A.S.R.M; member of the Franklin Township Fire Company and Palmerton Historical Society, Kibler School and Lehigh River Stocking Association; board member for the Bo Tkach Foundation which creates awareness for mental health issues among our youth; appointed by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania as the magisterial district judge member on March 14, 2024.

JANINE F. MACKLIN; Geneva College (B.S., Human Resource Management and M.S., Organizational Leadership); Associate Director of Government Affairs for Duquesne University's Office of Civic Engagement and External Relations; served as the Director of Federal Programs and Partnerships for an established charter school; Chief Operating Officer for a mid-sized youth workforce development agency; Faculty Clinical Instructor for the University of Pittsburgh's partnership with the State System of Higher Education (SSHE) and Pittsburgh Public Schools pertaining to the coordination of the Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant; served on two gubernatorial transition teams: Governor-elect Shapiro's Transition Team for Higher Education and Governor-elect Wolf's Education Transition Team; appointed by the

JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD MEMBERS' BIOGRAPHIES

Governor of Pennsylvania as a lay member on June 4, 2024.

TARA MOBLEY; St. Petersburg College (B.S., Business Management); Capella University (M.B.A., Operations and Human Resource Management); Wharton Executive Education (Competitive and Corporate Strategy) ; serves as Chief Executive Officer of Knox Law; former Chief Operating Officer of Knox Law; has extensive experience in financial, human resources, and operations management in banking, manufacturing, technology, and public accounting firms; served as the Vice President of Operations at Crosstree Capital, a global leader in health science M&A; served on the Product and Service Review Committee for the Association of Legal Administrators, a non-profit 501(c) (6) organization; currently sits on the Executive Committee and Prevention Committee for The Bradley H. Foulk Children's Advocacy Center of Erie County and also serves as its Treasurer; speaker at Women in Business and EmpowerHer Summit in March 2024; appointed by the Governor of Pennsylvania as a lay member on November 14, 2022.

REVEREND DR. ALYN E. WALLER; Ohio University (B.M., Music Business); Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (M.Div.); Palmer Theological Seminary (D.Min., Ministry to Marriage and Family); Senior Pastor of Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church in Northwest Philadelphia; revivalist, vocalist, lecturer and social activist; created the Young Abrahams, a ministry that pairs young boys, ages 7-12, with men who provide assistance with academics, social skills and guidance that will help them to build a firm foundation for the future; appointed by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania as a lay member on November 7, 2024.

MICHAEL BRUNELLE; University of New Hampshire (B.A.), Managing Director of GSL Public Strategies Group as well as GSL Consulting's state and local government consulting practice; served as Chief of Staff to the Office of Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf; served two full terms as a State Representative in the New Hampshire House of Representatives as well as Executive Director of the New Hampshire Democratic Party; Former Executive Director of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Pennsylvania State Council, National Campaign Director of SEIU, and a national political affairs manager for a "Big Five" technology company; Judicial Conduct Board Member September 2022 – February 2024.

ANDREW E. MASICH, Ph.D.; University of Arizona, Tucson (B.A., History and Anthropology (double major)); University of Arizona, Tucson (M.A., History); Carnegie Mellon University (Ph.D., Philosophy); serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Senator John Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh; serves as a commissioner (past chairman) of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission-the History Center, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is the largest history museum in Pennsylvania; The Historical and Museum Commission is the Commonwealth's official history agency; serves as an Adjunct Professor of History at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh; the steering committee of Made By Us, a national history education coalition; member of America250PA (the Pennsylvania Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial) and as a board member of the Duquesne Club; authored or co-authored numerous books on a wide-range of American history-related topics; Judicial Conduct Board Member November 2020 – November 2024.

JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD MEMBERS' BIOGRAPHIES

REVEREND JAMES P. MCCLOSKEY, C.S.Sp. Ph.D.; Duquesne University, (B.A., Philosophy); Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, IL (M.Div.); Weston School of Theology, Cambridge, MA (M.Th.); Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA (M.Ed.); Fordham University, New York, NY (Ph.D.); serves as Senior Advisor to the President for Strategic Initiatives, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh; served in variety of leadership and teaching positions with Holy Ghost Preparatory School, Bensalem; Congregation of the Holy Spirit, in Pittsburgh and in Rome, Italy; and Duquesne University; served in pastoral roles with St. Mark the Evangelist Church, New York City, NY; Duquesne University; and the Diocese of San Pedro, Paraguay; serves on the board of directors of the Thea Bowman Foundation and is a member of the International Commission for Safeguarding, Congregation of the Holy Spirit, Rome, Italy; previously affiliated with numerous boards and commissions in Rome, Pittsburgh, Chicago and greater Philadelphia; Judicial Conduct Board Member June 2020 – June 2024.

HONORABLE WILLIAM C. WENNER, Vice Chair (February 14, 2023 – March 13, 2024); Harrisburg Area Community College, (A.A.S., Police Science); Advanced undergraduate work, University of Virginia; 34th Municipal Police Officers Academy of the Pennsylvania State Police (1979); Magisterial District Judge, District Court 12-3-03, Dauphin County (2003-present); 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; joined the CID staff as a county detective in 1988 and was promoted to Detective Sergeant in 1992; while Chief of CID served as Coordinator for the Dauphin County Crisis Response Team; graduate of prestigious FBI National Academy at Harrisburg Area Community

College as well as the State Constables Training Program; prior to joining CID, he 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; 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; served as lead firearms instructor for the police academy of Harrisburg Area Community College; served as a regular guest lecturer for both the Pennsylvania State Police Academy and the Pennsylvania Game Commission; Judicial Conduct Board Member March 2020 – March 2024



CONFIDENTIAL REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION

INSTRUCTIONS: Please type or print. If you wish to provide documents to support your allegations, please attach copies of those documents. We cannot return documents. The Board's jurisdiction extends only to Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justices, Superior and Commonwealth Court Judges, Common Pleas Court Judges, Philadelphia Municipal and Magisterial District Judges. Once completed, you must sign and return this form to the address above.

NOTICE: The Judicial Conduct Board has no authority to change a Judge's decisions or rulings. Our jurisdiction extends only to conduct that violates the Code of Judicial Conduct or the Rules Governing Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges, which may be found at our website at www.jcbpa.org.

Your Information:

Name:

Email Address:

Address:

Telephone:

()

()

City:

State:

Zip:

Judicial Officer's Information:

Name:

Type of Judicial Officer:

☐ Magisterial District Judge

☐ Judge

County:

Case Information: (If misconduct allegations relate to Court Proceedings.)

☐ Case Has Been Appealed

Case Name:

Case Docket Number:

Your Attorney:

Opposing Attorney:

Witness:

Name:

Name:

Name:

Address:

Address:

Address:

Phone:

Phone:

Phone:

I certify that I have read the information concerning the Judicial Conduct Board's function, jurisdiction, and procedures included in the accompanying brochure. I further swear (or affirm) that the above information is true and accurate. The statements in this complaint are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. C.S. § 4904 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.)

Date: _____

Your Signature _____

**Please use this page to explain your complaint, providing as much detail as possible.
Attach additional pages if needed.**

Please note, it is not required that you present your grievance to the Board in person. Personal interviews are not required and are not usually necessary for our preliminary review, investigation, and understanding of grievances. If we need further information relative to your grievances, you will be contacted by phone, letter or email.

(BACK SIDE OF REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL INVESTIGATION)



JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

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