

Minor

Judiciary

Education

Board

2000 Membership:

Terry R. Marolt, *Chairman*
Honorable James J. Dwyer, III, *Vice Chairman*
Honorable Daniel B. Garber, *Secretary*
Honorable Catherine M. Hummel, *Treasurer*
Gregory E. Dunlap, Esq.
Jerry J. Russo, Esq.
Honorable Robert E. Simpson

Staff:

Robert E. Hessler, *Executive Director*

Legal Authorization:

Pa. Constitution, Article V, § 12
42 Pa. C.S., § 31
42 Pa. C.S., § 2131
42 Pa. C.S., § 3118

3301 Black Gap Road,
Suite 108
Chambersburg, PA 17201
(717) 263-0691
fax (717) 263-4068

History/Background

Article V, §12 of the Pennsylvania Constitution requires that district justices and judges of the Philadelphia Traffic Court either be members of the bar of the Supreme Court or, before taking office, complete a course and pass an examination in the duties of their respective offices.

It is the responsibility of the Minor Judiciary Education Board (MJEB) to instruct and certify individuals wishing to become district justices, Philadelphia Traffic Court judges or Philadelphia Bail Commissioners. The board approves the curriculum, appoints and evaluates instructors, establishes course content, reviews all tests, and issues certificates to successful program participants.

In addition, the board conducts continuing education for district justices, senior district justices, Philadelphia Traffic Court judges, senior Philadelphia Traffic Court judges, Philadelphia Bail Commissioners and for those individuals who wish to maintain a current certification in one or more of these areas. It also conducts a one-week practicum, or orientation course, for newly elected or appointed district justices.

The board has seven members, who are appointed by the governor with a two-thirds approval by the Senate.

2000 Curriculum

During this past year approved subjects for the four-week certifying course included:

- Criminal Law and Procedure
- Civil Law and Procedure
- Rules of Evidence
- judicial ethics
- Motor Vehicle Law
- arrest/search and seizure
- Pennsylvania Drug/Device and Cosmetics Act
- Pennsylvania Crimes Code

Continuing education for the Commonwealth's district justices and Philadelphia Bail Commissioners is mandated by the Judicial Code (42 Pa. C.S., § 3118). This year during the 14 scheduled weeks the following courses made up the 32 required course hours for district justices:

- review and update of civil and criminal procedure
- Motor Vehicle Code
- protection from abuse
- environmental law
- computer crimes

The one-week mandatory continuing education course for Philadelphia Bail Commissioners included:

- criminal law review
- arrest/search and seizure
- National Alliance for the Mentally Ill
- ethics

The orientation course for new district justices included:

- district justice administration applications
- district justice practice
- Pennsylvania Coalition against Domestic Violence
- Alliance for the Mentally Ill
- human behavior (two days)

The Minor Judiciary Education Board approved a continuing education program for Philadelphia Traffic Court judges in compliance with Rule 22. That program included:

- National Alliance for the Mentally Ill
- ethics
- criminal rules and procedures review
- Pennsylvania Motor Vehicle Code review

The Minor Judiciary Education Board provided continuing education to 649 district justices and senior district justices, continuing legal education credits to 111 attorney district justices; and certification classes to 60 prospective district justices, 49 of whom passed.

The board also certified one prospective Philadelphia Bail Commissioner.

the board, the minor courts system and the board's courses of instruction.

Other Activities

In addition to conducting educational courses at its facility in Chambersburg, the Minor Judiciary Education Board provided staff assistance to the minor judiciary, court administrators, president judges and related court agencies in answering questions pertaining to

Contact Person

Robert E. Hessler serves as Executive Director of the MJEB and may be contacted at (717) 263-0691 or by writing to 3301 Black Gap Road, Suite 108; Chambersburg, PA 17201. 