



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE of PENNSYLVANIA COURTS

Public Information Office

Interbranch Commission on Juvenile Justice

What Is This Commission?

The Interbranch Commission on Juvenile Justice was created in August 2009 by an act of the General Assembly with the support of the Governor and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

The purpose of the commission is to investigate circumstances that led to corruption in the juvenile court of Luzerne County resulting in federal criminal charges against two judges; to restore public confidence in the administration of justice, and to prevent similar scandals from occurring in Luzerne County or elsewhere in the Commonwealth.

From 2003 to 2008, many juvenile defendants in Luzerne County were denied counsel during court proceedings or were allegedly placed in detention in violation of their civil rights. Two judges were charged with racketeering and receiving payoffs from developers of two detention centers where county juveniles were confined.

The Interbranch Commission on Juvenile Justice is authorized to conduct a noncriminal investigation, to hold public hearings and, if necessary, to subpoena witnesses to testify. It is required to file a final report to the Supreme Court, the Governor and the General Assembly by May 31, 2010.

The commission has 11 members. Four, including the chair, were appointed by Chief Justice Ronald D. Castille. Three were appointed by the Governor, and four were appointed by leaders of the House and Senate.