



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 was 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 conducted a noncriminal investigation that included testimony from more than 60 witnesses during 11 days of public hearings. In its final report to the Supreme Court, the Governor and the General Assembly on May 27, 2010, the 11-member commission made extensive recommendations for improvements to the juvenile justice system statewide.

The report of the commission, its recommendations, transcripts of proceedings and other information are available on the Web site of the Unified Judicial System at: <http://www.pacourts.us> (See "For the Public" or "For the Media" pages)