

# Magisterial District Reestablishment 2012

## Judicial District Summary Sheet

County Name: **Pike**

Judicial District #: **60**

### Caseload and Magisterial District Elimination Analysis

The difference between the average annual caseload of Judicial District # 60 and its class of county: **-12 %**

#### Summary of Proposed Actions

60-3-01 Realign

60-3-02 **Eliminate**

60-3-03 Realign

60-3-04 Realign

### Night/Central/Alternate Court Operations

This judicial district utilizes the following diversionary courts to assist in balancing workload:

Central Court: **No** Night Court: **Yes**

### Public Comment

Proposal Posted for Public Comment: **Yes** Comments Received: **Yes**

1. Paul Menditto, Sr.: agrees with proposal.
2. MDJ Rose, 60-3-02: Supports maintaining four magisterial districts and thinks the proposal to eliminate one district is short-sighted.
3. MDJ Cooper, 60-3-03: Thinks that smaller, rural counties are at a disadvantage for any reductions and will affect access to justice; proposes combining counties into a unit so the reductions at the county level are not as blatant.
4. MDJ McBride. 60-3-04: Opposes elimination of district because county population continues to grow, night duty requirements will pose a greater burden on the remaining three district judges; citizens will not have convenient access to justice, and the increase in civil jurisdiction.

## Magisterial District Reestablishment 2012

County Name: Pike

Judicial District #: 60

### Existing and Proposed Magisterial Districts

**Magisterial District #:** 60-3-01

**Proposed Action:** Realign

Average Annual Caseload:	3,354	Average Annual Workload:	20,551
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/judicial district):	17.00	% Difference in Workload (magisterial district/judicial district):	7.56
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/class of county):	2.78	<i>Workload outside of a +/- 15% range requires realignment or support to maintain current configuration.</i>	

#### Magisterial District Judge & Office Information:

Deborah Fischer

103 West High Street P.O. Box 632

Milford, PA 18337

Birthdate: 2-27-50

Mandatory Retirement: 2020

Term Expires: 12-31-17

#### Existing Geography:

MATAMORAS VTD 01; MATAMORAS VTD 02; MILFORD TWP Voting District; MILFORD Voting District; WESTFALL TWP Voting District

#### Proposed Geography:

DINGMAN TWP DIST 01; MATAMORAS VTD 01; MATAMORAS VTD 02; MILFORD TWP Voting District; MILFORD Voting District; SHOHOLA TWP Voting District; WESTFALL TWP Voting District

They said 1/2 of Dingman Township. I listed Dist. 01?????

**Office within district:** Yes

**Residence within district:** Yes

**Police Departments:** Eastern Pike Regional Police, Milford Borough Police, Shohola Township Police

**Major Highways:**

## Existing and Proposed Magisterial Districts

**Magisterial District #: 60-3-02**

**Proposed Action: Eliminate**

Average Annual Caseload:	3,728	Average Annual Workload:	21,744
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/judicial district):	30.00	% Difference in Workload (magisterial district/judicial district):	13.80
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/class of county):	14.00		

*Workload outside of a +/- 15% range requires realignment or support to maintain current configuration.*

This district will be eliminated at the end of 2013.

### **Magisterial District Judge & Office Information:**

Jay R. Rose	Birthdate:	7-8-43
Star Route 2 (RT6) PO Box 526	Mandatory Retirement:	2013
Hawley, PA 18428	Term Expires:	1-3-16

### **Existing Geography:**

BLOOMING GROVE TWP Voting District; GREENE TWP Voting District; PALMYRA TWP Voting District

### **Proposed Geography:**

**Office within district:** Yes

**Residence within district:** Yes

**Police Departments:** PA State Police

**Major Highways:** Route 6, Route 84

## Existing and Proposed Magisterial Districts

**Magisterial District #: 60-3-03**

**Proposed Action: Realign**

Average Annual Caseload:	2,078	Average Annual Workload:	17,681
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/judicial district):	-27.50	% Difference in Workload (magisterial district/judicial district):	-7.45
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/class of county):	-36.00	<i>Workload outside of a +/- 15% range requires realignment or support to maintain current configuration.</i>	

This district will be realigned and will include the municipalities formerly included in district 60-3-02.

### Magisterial District Judge & Office Information:

Alan B. Cooper	Birthdate:	5-30-57
502 Little Walker Road	Mandatory Retirement:	2027
Shohola, PA 18458	Term Expires:	12-31-17

### Existing Geography:

DINGMAN TWP DIST 01; DINGMAN TWP DIST 02;  
LACKAWAXEN TWP PCT NORTH; LACKAWAXEN TWP  
PCT SOUTH; SHOHOLA TWP Voting District

### Proposed Geography:

BLOOMING GROVE TWP Voting District; GREENE TWP  
Voting District; LACKAWAXEN TWP PCT NORTH;  
LACKAWAXEN TWP PCT SOUTH; PALMYRA TWP Voting  
District

**Office within district:** Yes

**Residence within district:** Yes

**Police Departments:** PA State Police

**Major Highways:** Route 6, Route 84

## Existing and Proposed Magisterial Districts

**Magisterial District #: 60-3-04**

**Proposed Action: Realign**

Average Annual Caseload:	1,931	Average Annual Workload:	18,411
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/judicial district):	-32.60	% Difference in Workload (magisterial district/judicial district):	-3.64
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/class of county):	-40.80		

*Workload outside of a +/- 15% range requires realignment or support to maintain current configuration.*

### Magisterial District Judge & Office Information:

Stephen A. McBride

213 Silver Lake Road

Dingmans Ferry, PA 18328

Birthdate: 1-17-44

Mandatory Retirement: 2014

Term Expires: 1-5-14

### Existing Geography:

DELAWARE TWP PCT NORTH; DELAWARE TWP PCT SOUTH; LEHMAN TWP DIST 01; LEHMAN TWP DIST 02; PORTER TWP Voting District

### Proposed Geography:

DELAWARE TWP PCT NORTH; DELAWARE TWP PCT SOUTH; DINGMAN TWP DIST 02; LEHMAN TWP DIST 01; LEHMAN TWP DIST 02; PORTER TWP Voting District

They said 1/2 of Dingman Township. I listed Dist. 02?????

**Office within district:** Yes

**Residence within district:** Yes

**Police Departments:**

**Major Highways:** Route 209, Route 402

# Magisterial District Reestablishment 2012

## Magisterial District Caseload/Workload Analysis

### Judicial District and Class of County Comparison Statistics

*Pike / 60*

Judicial District Average Caseload			
2011 Class	2011 Filings	2012 Class	2012 Filings
6	2,866	6	2,866

2011 Class of County Caseload Averages								
2011 Class	CR	PC	TR	NT	CV	LT	MD	Total
6	251	126	2,087	485	231	43	41	3,263

2012 Class of County Caseload Averages								
2012 Class	CR	PC	TR	NT	CV	LT	MD	Total
6	244	155	2,019	477	228	42	39	3,204

#### Notes on Analysis:

**CASELOAD:** The statistics provided are used to compare the average annual caseload of each magisterial district to the class of county average as one measure to assess whether any changes should be proposed. Reported values are provided by the judicial district; the comparison values are provided by the MDJS.

**WORKLOAD:** Where the average annual workload of a magisterial district is greater/less than 15% of the judicial district's workload average, the judicial district should realign - OR - explain why this difference does not impact workload equity within the judicial district. A value that is green indicates it is within range; red requires justification if realignment or elimination are not proposed.

Judicial District Caseload Averages		
Pike	2011	2012
Class	6	6
CR	140	140
NT	395	395
PC	38	38
TR	1,894	1,894
CV	350	350
LT	31	31
MD	18	18
AVG	2,866	2,866

Judicial District Workload Averages		
Pike	2011	2012
Class	6	6
CR	5,144	5,144
NT	4,246	4,246
PC	411	411
TR	4,319	4,319
CV	3,948	3,948
LT	442	442
MD	597	586
-15 % Workload	16,240	16,231
Average Workload	19,106	19,095
+ 15% Workload	21,972	21,960

## Magisterial District Caseload/Workload Analysis

**60-3-01**

**Realign**

### **CASELOAD**

Average Total Annual Caseload:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
3,354		

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

17	17.02%	17.02%
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Magisterial District Average: Class of County Average:

2.78	2.77%	4.67%
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### **WORKLOAD**

Average Total Annual Workload:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
20,551		

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

7.56	7.56%	7.62%
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**60-3-02**

**Eliminate**

### **CASELOAD**

Average Total Annual Caseload:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
3,728		

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

30	30.06%	30.06%
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Magisterial District Average: Class of County Average:

14	14.23%	16.35%
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### **WORKLOAD**

Average Total Annual Workload:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
21,744		

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

13.8	13.81%	13.87%
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## Magisterial District Caseload/Workload Analysis

### 60-3-03 Realign

#### CASELOAD

Average Total Annual Caseload:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
2,078		

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

-27.5	-27.50%	-27.50%
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Magisterial District Average: Class of County Average:

-36	-36.33%	-35.15%
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#### WORKLOAD

Average Total Annual Workload:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
17,681		

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

-7.45	-7.46%	-7.41%
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### 60-3-04 Realign

#### CASELOAD

Average Total Annual Caseload:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
1,931		

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

-32.6	-32.63%	-32.63%
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Magisterial District Average: Class of County Average:

-40.8	-40.83%	-39.74%
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#### WORKLOAD

Average Total Annual Workload:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
18,411		

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

-3.64	-3.64%	-3.58%
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# AOPC

## JUDICIAL DISTRICT SUMMARY WORKSHEET

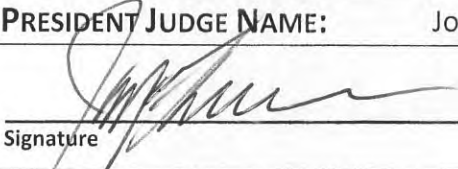
PLEASE SUBMIT ONE COPY OF THE JUDICIAL DISTRICT SUMMARY WORKSHEET.

To enter data, press TAB to move between fields.

<b>I. JUDICIAL DISTRICT NUMBER:</b>	60
<b>A. What is the class of county?</b>	6
<b>B. What is the percentage difference in the average annual caseload between this judicial district and the applicable class of county?</b>	-12%
<b>II. PROPOSED ACTIONS:</b>	
<b>A. List existing magisterial districts:</b> 60-3-01; 60-3-02; 60-3-03; 60-3-04	
<b>B. Does this judicial district have an annual average caseload that is ten percent above the average caseload for the applicable class of county?</b>	NO
1. If the answer to <b>II. B.</b> above is <i>NO</i> , are eliminations proposed?	YES
a) List magisterial districts proposed for elimination. 60-3-03	
b) If no eliminations are proposed based on <b>II. B.</b> above, what are the factors for this decision?	
2. If the answer to <b>II. B.</b> above is <i>YES</i> , are eliminations proposed?	Choose Yes or No
a) List magisterial districts proposed for elimination.	
<b>C. Are any magisterial districts proposed for reestablishment?</b>	NO
1. List magisterial districts proposed for reestablishment.	
<b>D. Are any magisterial districts proposed for realignment?</b>	YES
1. List magisterial districts proposed for realignment. 60-3-01; 60-3-02; 60-3-04	

# AOPC

## JUDICIAL DISTRICT SUMMARY WORKSHEET

<b>III. NIGHT AND CENTRAL COURT OPERATIONS</b>	
A. Is there a night court operating within the judicial district?	YES
B. Is there a central court operating within the judicial district?	NO
C. Note comments regarding how night, central or other similar court programs impact operations within the judicial district. No significant impact	
<b>IV. PUBLIC COMMENT</b>	
A. A request for public comment was posted:	YES
B. Comments were received:	YES
C. Comments are attached:	YES
<b>V. ADDITIONAL REMARKS CONCERNING PROPOSAL:</b>	
MDJ Jay Rose and MDJ Stephen McBride are Retiring at the end of 2013; MDJ Alan Cooper by virtue of Realignment will take over newly created District 60-3-03.	
<b>VI. DATE SUBMITTED TO AOPC:</b>	MARCH 14, 2012
<b>VII. PRESIDENT JUDGE NAME:</b>	Joseph F. Kameen
Signature 	

# AOPC

## MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

PLEASE SUBMIT ONE COPY OF THIS WORKSHEET FOR EACH MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT.

To enter data, press TAB to move between fields.

<b>I.</b>	<b>MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT NUMBER (#####):</b>	60-3-01
<b>II.</b>	<b>BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - CASELOAD</b>	
<b>A.</b>	Average Total Caseload:	3,354
<b>B.</b>	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and your judicial district's average total caseload:	20%
<b>C.</b>	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and applicable class of county's average total caseload:	2%
<b>III.</b>	<b>BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - WORKLOAD</b>	
<b>A.</b>	Average Total Workload:	20,551
<b>B.</b>	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total workload and the judicial district's average total workload:	4%
<b>C.</b>	Does this magisterial district have an average total workload that is fifteen percent <i>greater than or less than</i> any other magisterial district within your judicial district:	NO
<b>D.</b>	If YES, how does this difference impact workload equity within your judicial district?	
<b>IV.</b>	<b>PROPOSED CHANGE:</b>	
<b>A.</b>	Please indicate any proposed change in this magisterial district. Check all that apply.	<input type="checkbox"/> Reestablish <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Realign <input type="checkbox"/> Eliminate
<b>B.</b>	What is the proposed effective date (m/d/yyyy):	1/5/2014
<b>V.</b>	<b>MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT INFORMATION:</b>	
<b>A.</b>	Magisterial District Judge Name: Deborah Fischer	
<b>B.</b>	Term Expiration (m/d/yyyy):	1/1/2018

# AOPC

## MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

<b>C.</b> Mandatory Retirement Date ( <i>m/d/yyyy</i> ):	12/31/2020
<b>D.</b> Office Location (Street, City and Zip code):	103 W. High St, Box 632 Milford 18337
<b>E.</b> Is the office within the boundaries of the magisterial district:	YES
<b>F.</b> Is the residence of the magisterial district judge within the boundaries of the magisterial district:	YES
<b>G.</b> List any police departments located within this magisterial district:	Eastern Pike Regional Police; Milford Borough Police; Shohola Twp Police
<b>H.</b> List any major highways within this magisterial district:	Rt 6; Rt 209; Rt 84
<b>VI. LIST EXISTING MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:</b>	Westfall Township; Matamoras Borough; Milford Borough; Milford Township
<b>VII. LIST PROPOSED MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:</b>	Westfall Township; Matamoras Borough; Milford Borough; Milford Township; Shohola Township; 1/2 Dingman Township
<b>VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:</b>	
PLEASE SAVE A COPY OF THIS WORKSHEET PRIOR TO ENTERING DATA FOR THE NEXT MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT.	

# AOPC

## MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

PLEASE SUBMIT ONE COPY OF THIS WORKSHEET FOR EACH MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT.

To enter data, press TAB to move between fields.

<b>I.</b>	<b>MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT NUMBER (#####):</b>	60-3-02
<b>II.</b>	<b>BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - CASELOAD</b>	
<b>A.</b>	Average Total Caseload:	3,728
<b>B.</b>	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and your judicial district's average total caseload:	34%
<b>C.</b>	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and applicable class of county's average total caseload:	14%
<b>III.</b>	<b>BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - WORKLOAD</b>	
<b>A.</b>	Average Total Workload:	21,744
<b>B.</b>	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total workload and the judicial district's average total workload:	9%
<b>C.</b>	Does this magisterial district have an average total workload that is fifteen percent <i>greater than or less than</i> any other magisterial district within your judicial district:	NO
<b>D.</b>	If YES, how does this difference impact workload equity within your judicial district?	
<b>IV.</b>	<b>PROPOSED CHANGE:</b>	
<b>A.</b>	Please indicate any proposed change in this magisterial district. Check all that apply.	<input type="checkbox"/> Reestablish <input type="checkbox"/> Realign <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eliminate
<b>B.</b>	What is the proposed effective date (m/d/yyyy):	1/5/2014
<b>V.</b>	<b>MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT INFORMATION:</b>	
<b>A.</b>	Magisterial District Judge Name: Jay Rose	
<b>B.</b>	Term Expiration (m/d/yyyy):	1/3/2016

# AOPC

## MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

<b>C.</b> Mandatory Retirement Date (m/d/yyyy):	12/31/2013
<b>D.</b> Office Location (Street, City and Zip code):	P.O. Box 526, Rt 6 Hawley 18428
<b>E.</b> Is the office within the boundaries of the magisterial district:	YES
<b>F.</b> Is the residence of the magisterial district judge within the boundaries of the magisterial district:	YES
<b>G.</b> List any police departments located within this magisterial district:	Pennsylvania State Police
<b>H.</b> List any major highways within this magisterial district:	Rt 6; Rt 84
<b>VI. LIST EXISTING MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:</b>	Greene Township; Palmyra Township; Blooming Grove Township ✓
<b>VII. LIST PROPOSED MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:</b>	
<b>VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:</b>	
PLEASE SAVE A COPY OF THIS WORKSHEET PRIOR TO ENTERING DATA FOR THE NEXT MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT.	

# AOPC

## MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

PLEASE SUBMIT ONE COPY OF THIS WORKSHEET FOR EACH MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT.

To enter data, press TAB to move between fields.

<b>I.</b>	<b>MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT NUMBER (#####):</b>	60-3-03
<b>II.</b>	<b>BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - CASELOAD</b>	
<b>A.</b>	Average Total Caseload:	2,078
<b>B.</b>	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and your judicial district's average total caseload:	-25%
<b>C.</b>	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and applicable class of county's average total caseload:	-36%
<b>III.</b>	<b>BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - WORKLOAD</b>	
<b>A.</b>	Average Total Workload:	17,681
<b>B.</b>	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total workload and the judicial district's average total workload:	-11%
<b>C.</b>	Does this magisterial district have an average total workload that is fifteen percent <i>greater than or less than</i> any other magisterial district within your judicial district:	NO
<b>D.</b>	If YES, how does this difference impact workload equity within your judicial district?	
<b>IV.</b>	<b>PROPOSED CHANGE:</b>	
<b>A.</b>	Please indicate any proposed change in this magisterial district. Check all that apply.	<input type="checkbox"/> Reestablish <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Realign <input type="checkbox"/> Eliminate
<b>B.</b>	What is the proposed effective date (m/d/yyyy):	1/5/2014
<b>V.</b>	<b>MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT INFORMATION:</b>	
<b>A.</b>	Magisterial District Judge Name: Alan Cooper	
<b>B.</b>	Term Expiration (m/d/yyyy):	1/1/2018

# AOPC

## MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

<b>C.</b> Mandatory Retirement Date ( <i>m/d/yyyy</i> ):	12/31/2027
<b>D.</b> Office Location (Street, City and Zip code):	502 Little Walker Rd Shohola 18458
<b>E.</b> Is the office within the boundaries of the magisterial district:	YES
<b>F.</b> Is the residence of the magisterial district judge within the boundaries of the magisterial district:	YES
<b>G.</b> List any police departments located within this magisterial district:	Pennsylvania State Police
<b>H.</b> List any major highways within this magisterial district:	Rt 6; Rt 84
<b>VI. LIST EXISTING MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:</b>	Lackawaxen Township; Shohola Township; Dingman Township ✓
<b>VII. LIST PROPOSED MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:</b>	Lackawaxen Township; Greene Township; Blooming Grove Township; Palmyra Township ✓
<b>VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:</b>	Magisterial District Judge Alan Cooper, because of Realignment, shall continue as MDJ in Newly Configured 60-3-03.
PLEASE SAVE A COPY OF THIS WORKSHEET PRIOR TO ENTERING DATA FOR THE NEXT MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT.	



# AOPC

## MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

PLEASE SUBMIT ONE COPY OF THIS WORKSHEET FOR EACH MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT.

To enter data, press TAB to move between fields.

<b>I.</b>	<b>MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT NUMBER (#####):</b>	60-3-04
<b>II.</b>	<b>BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - CASELOAD</b>	
	<b>A. Average Total Caseload:</b>	1,931
	<b>B. Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and your judicial district's average total caseload:</b>	-30%
	<b>C. Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and applicable class of county's average total caseload:</b>	-40%
<b>III.</b>	<b>BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - WORKLOAD</b>	
	<b>A. Average Total Workload:</b>	18,411
	<b>B. Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total workload and the judicial district's average total workload:</b>	-6%
	<b>C. Does this magisterial district have an average total workload that is fifteen percent <i>greater than or less than</i> any other magisterial district within your judicial district:</b>	NO
	<b>D. If YES, how does this difference impact workload equity within your judicial district?</b>	
<b>IV.</b>	<b>PROPOSED CHANGE:</b>	
	<b>A. Please indicate any proposed change in this magisterial district. Check all that apply.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Reestablish <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Realign <input type="checkbox"/> Eliminate
	<b>B. What is the proposed effective date (m/d/yyyy):</b>	1/5/2014
<b>V.</b>	<b>MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT INFORMATION:</b>	
	<b>A. Magisterial District Judge Name:</b> Stephen McBride	
	<b>B. Term Expiration (m/d/yyyy):</b>	1/5/2014

# AOPC

## MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

<b>C.</b> Mandatory Retirement Date (m/d/yyyy):	12/31/2014
<b>D.</b> Office Location (Street, City and Zip code):	213 Silver Lake Rd Dingmans Ferry 18328
<b>E.</b> Is the office within the boundaries of the magisterial district:	YES
<b>F.</b> Is the residence of the magisterial district judge within the boundaries of the magisterial district:	YES
<b>G.</b> List any police departments located within this magisterial district:	None
<b>H.</b> List any major highways within this magisterial district:	Rt 209; Rt 402
<b>VI. LIST EXISTING MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:</b>	
Lehman Township; Porter Township; Delaware Township	✓
<b>VII. LIST PROPOSED MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:</b>	
Lehman Township; Porter Township; Delaware Township; 1/2 Dingman Township	✓
<b>VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:</b>	
PLEASE SAVE A COPY OF THIS WORKSHEET PRIOR TO ENTERING DATA FOR THE NEXT MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT.	



COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
SIXTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
PIKE COUNTY  
410 BROAD STREET  
MILFORD, PENNSYLVANIA 18337  
570-296-3556  
FAX 570-296-6054

JOSEPH F. KAMEEN  
PRESIDENT JUDGE

GREGORY H. CHELAK  
JUDGE

# MEMO

**DATE: JANUARY 16, 2012**

**RE: RE-ALIGNMENT OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUSTICE OFFICES FOR PIKE COUNTY**

**BY: JOSEPH F. KAMEEN, PRESIDENT JUDGE**

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## PUBLIC NOTIFICATION AND INVITATION OF PUBLIC COMMENT

Enclosed is a report on the Re-Alignment of the Magisterial District Courts of Pike County as prepared in accordance with the directions from the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. The report includes an analysis of each of the four Magisterial District Justice Offices of Pike County, a comparison between such offices as well as a comparison to the average 6<sup>th</sup> Class County Magisterial District Justice Office.

This report is being issued to notify residents of the County of the proposed elimination of one Magisterial District Court and re-alignment of the remaining Courts.

Anyone who wishes to submit a public comment regarding the proposed changes should submit such comment in writing addressed to the Court Administration Office, 410 Broad Street, Milford, PA 18337. Comments received shall be included in the final report submitted to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court regarding the proposed changes. Comments will be accepted through February 17, 2012.

**RE-ALIGNMENT OF**  
**MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURTS**  
**OF PIKE COUNTY**

**BY JOSEPH F. KAMEEN, PRESIDENT JUDGE**  
**COURT OF COMMON PLEAS**  
**PIKE COUNTY**

**A. INTRODUCTION:**

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court has directed all President Judges of the State's County Courts to evaluate and determine whether all of the Magisterial District Justice (MDJ) Offices of the county are necessary based upon statewide average workloads of Magisterial District Justice Offices of similarly classified counties. This request was triggered by significant budget shortfalls for the judiciary over the last several years resulting in tens of millions of dollars in budget cutbacks. The Supreme Court has set a goal of reducing the number of MDJ courts across the State by 10% over the next several years. A copy of the directions from the Supreme Court is attached to this report for review by interested parties.

## **B. EVALUATION PROCESS:**

The Supreme Court has provided each county with a detailed work history of the county MDJ system and specific data on each MDJ court in the county for the last five years. The data included in this history includes all case filings for each MDJ office, the estimated workload accompanying those filings, miscellaneous docket entries per office, as well as countywide and statewide averages for each category of data. Also included were the 2000 and 2010 census figures per each county. This detailed history is available for review at the Prothonotary's Office in the Courthouse in Milford, PA.

The "case filing" data is an unrefined statistic which simply identifies the total number of cases filed with that MDJ office without regard to the type of case involved, the effort needed to resolve the case or the seriousness of the case. Included in these case filing figures are all felony, misdemeanor and summary criminal cases, non-traffic cases, traffic cases, private criminal complaints together with all civil filings and landlord-tenant complaints. Also included are miscellaneous matters such as arraignments for other courts, contempts, out of district executions, marriages and search warrant reviews.

The "workload data" is a more sophisticated and accurate statistic because it evaluates each of the case filings or other matters according to the actual amount of work involved in resolving a typical case of that nature. This workload formula has been created by the State MDJ Court System based upon the experience of many MDJ's handling of those matters over years. As a result, this workload figure presents a more accurate basis for comparison of the amount of work each office performs.

### **C. PIKE COUNTY STATISTICS:**

Pike County is registered as a 6<sup>th</sup> Class County based upon population growth. Sixth Class Counties are the most common type of county in the state comprising 24 of the 65 counties in PA.

Exhibit A to this report contains a summary of the 2005-2010 caseload and workload statistics for each MDJ office in the county. Exhibit B contains a summary of the 2010 comparison of the Pike County MDJ offices to the 6<sup>th</sup> Class County averages for caseload and workload.

In summary, Pike County MDJ Office 60-3-01 (Office 1) handled 27% of the case filings and 26% of the workload for Pike County in 2010. Pike County MDJ Office 60-3-02 (Office 2) handled 41% of the case filings and 31% of the workload. Pike County MDJ Office 60-3-03 (Office 3) handled 15% of the caseload and 19% of the workload. Pike County MDJ Office 60-3-04 (Office 4) handled 16% of the caseload and 24% of the workload. While these numbers initially would seem to indicate a relatively balanced county system, when compared to the statewide averages, Pike County is significantly behind state averages for 6th class counties. MDJ Office 1 has a workload currently 18% lower than the state average. Office 2 is 13% below state average. Office 3 is 29% below the state average and office 4 is 26% below state average.

## **D. RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUSTICES:**

Following a review of all documents and information provided by the Administrative Office of the Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) related to the caseload and workload of the Magisterial District Offices in Pike County and following the directions of the Supreme Court regarding evaluation of Magisterial District Justice workloads, it is the recommendation of this Court that Magisterial District Court 60-03-3 be eliminated and the remaining District Courts be re-aligned in order to absorb the additional workload and to balance the workload evenly between the remaining Districts.

Based upon this recommendation, Pike County would have three Magisterial District Courts. Those Courts would be comprised of the following:

1. Magisterial District Court 60-03-1 (Eastern Pike County) : comprised of the Boroughs of Matamoras and Milford, Westfall Township, Milford Township, Shohola Township and the Northeastern half of Dingman Township (comprised of Voting District #1 of Dingman Township).
2. Magisterial District Court 60-03-2 (Western Pike County): comprised of Lackawaxen Township, Palmyra Township, Greene Township, and Blooming Grove Township;
3. Magisterial District Court 60-03-3 (Southern Pike County) : comprised of Lehman Township, Delaware Township, Porter Township and Southwestern half of Dingman Township (comprised of Dingman Township Voting District #2).

The Magisterial District Offices would be located in the following existing MDJ Court Facilities:

Magisterial District Office 1 would have offices located at 502 Little Walker Road, Shohola Township.

Magisterial District Court 2 would retain its existing MDJ Office located in Palmyra Township.

Magisterial District Court 3 would retain the existing MDJ Office located on Silver Lake Road, Dingmans Ferry, in Delaware Township.

The effective date of this change would be January 6, 2014. The effective date will occur after the November 2013 elections in which the Magisterial District Justices in our current District 2 and 4 will each be retiring. The currently elected Magisterial District Justices in existing District 1 and 3 will continue in their presently elected position with modified MDJ District lines. Magisterial District Justice Deborah Fischer would continue in her position for District 1 (Eastern Pike County) with the modification being the addition of Shohola Township and one-half of Dingman Township to her jurisdictional area. Magisterial District Justice Alan Cooper would continue as Judge of newly designated District 2 (Western Pike County) realigned to include Lackawaxen Township. Both retained Magisterial District Justices will reside in their Districts. Magisterial District Court 3 (Southern Pike County) as realigned to include one-half of Dingman Township will be subject to an election in 2013 to fill that post effective as of January, 2014.

The above recommendation is made based upon the guidelines submitted by the Supreme Court to the Pike County Court. A revised map identifying the Realigned Magisterial District Courts proposed by this recommendation is attached hereto as Exhibit C. A map identifying the dividing line between District 1 and District 2 in Dingman Township is attached as Exhibit D.

In making this recommendation, the Court has taken into consideration the following factors:

- 1) Pike County has been the fastest growing County in Pennsylvania for approximately two decades and continues with that growth though at a slower rate today due to economic conditions;
- 2) Increase in population has led to an increase in caseload for all of the Magisterial District Justice Offices;
- 3) There are significant fluctuations in caseload over the years in all MDJ Offices tied to various factors including commercial development, community association activity, creation or expansion of local police, etc., all of which are difficult to accurately anticipate and predict;



- 4) While a Magisterial District Judge may be eliminated, the actual office workload shall continue and existing staff shall be reassigned. Therefore, a reduction in office staff is not contemplated;
- 5) Continued improvements in modern technology will enable more efficient operation of the offices and applicable staff;
- 6) Magisterial District Justices are elected officials and therefore any change in a District is designed to coincide with the anticipated retirement of the elected official.

\* \* \* \* \*

**E. CONCLUSION:**

Following the elimination of current MDJ Office 3 and realignment of all Pike County Municipalities into 3 new MDJ Districts occurs according to this plan, the new figures would show an estimated workload as follows: MDJ Office 1 (East) at 22,973; MDJ Office 2 (West) at 24,701; MDJ Office 3 (Southern) at 23,540. This plan of realignment would comply with all requirements of the Supreme Court which provide:

- 1) All municipalities within the MDJ District must be contiguous.
- 2) Each physical MDJ Office must be located in the MDJ District.
- 3) The Magisterial District Justice must sit in the district in which the Justice resides.
- 4) While municipalities may be split along lines of Voting Districts, smaller divisions of the municipality are not allowed.
- 5) No County MDJ Districts should deviate more than 15% of the County average workload. Based upon the above estimates the Pike County average workload would be 23,736. All offices would deviate less than 4 %.

Equally important, the workload of Pike County MDJ Offices on an average would be very close to the average workload of statewide MDJ Offices in 6<sup>th</sup> Class Counties. All offices would be well within the 10% deviation set by the Supreme Court as the guideline for each MDJ Office. Also, the County average workload would be within 5% of the 6<sup>th</sup> Class County average.

The above plan is being submitted for public comment effective as of January 16, 2012. Public comment shall be accepted through February 17, 2012 and such comments shall be included in the final report to be submitted to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. All public comments should be in written form and should contain the name and address of the party making such comment. Comments should be forwarded to the Court Administration Office, 410 Broad Street, Milford, Pennsylvania 18337.

# COUNTY COMPARISONS 2005 - 2010 AVERAGE

## CASELOAD | WORKLOAD

MDJ OFFICE	CASELOAD	COUNTY AVERAGE	DEVIATION	WORKLOAD	COUNTY AVERAGE	DEVIATION
60-3-01	3,058	2,866	+ 6 %	19,364	19,106	+ 0 %
60-3-02	4,732	2,866	+ 65 %	23,792	19,106	+ 19 %
60-3-03	1,829	2,866	- 36 %	14,794	19,106	- 22 %
60-3-04	1,865	2,866	- 34 %	18,476	19,106	- 3 %

**EXHIBIT A**

# COUNTY/STATE COMPARISON 2010

MDJ OFFICE	CASELOAD				WORKLOAD			
	CASELOAD	AVERAGE	DEVIATION COUNTY/STATE	WORKLOAD	AVERAGE	DEVIATION COUNTY/STATE		
60-3-01	3,354	2,773 County 3,263 State	+ 20 % / + 2 %	20,551	19,106 County 25,084 State	+ 4 % / - 18 %		
60-3-02	3,728	2,773 County 3,263 State	+ 34 % / + 14 %	21,744	19,106 County 25,084 State	+ 9 % / - 13 %		
60-3-03	2,078	2,773 County 3,263 State	- 25 % / - 36 %	17,681	19,106 County 25,084 State	- 10.8 % / - 29 %		
60-3-04	1,931	2,773 County 3,263 State	- 30 % / - 40 %	18,411	19,106 County 25,084 State	- 6.4% / - 26 %		

**EXHIBIT B**

WEST

Criminal: 1,820 Lackawaxen  
 7,200 Palmyra  
 3,800 Blooming Grove  
 3,500 Greene

Civil: 6,631 Current  
 1,750 Lackawaxen

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24,701

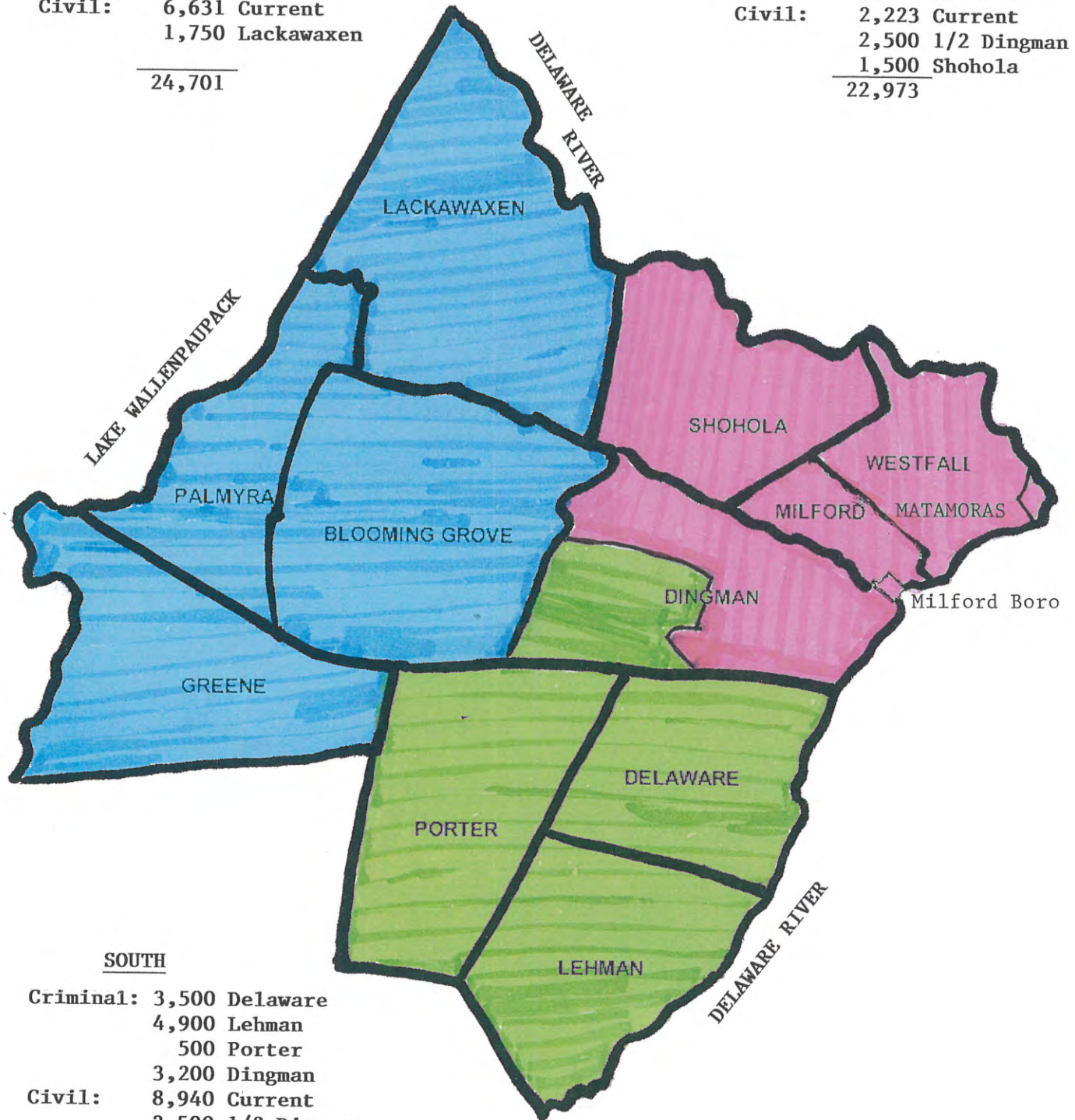
EAST

Criminal: 4,000 Matamoras  
 9,500 Westfall  
 1,350 Milford  
 800 Milford Twp

Civil: 1,100 Shohola  
 2,223 Current  
 2,500 1/2 Dingman  
 1,500 Shohola

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22,973



SOUTH

Criminal: 3,500 Delaware  
 4,900 Lehman  
 500 Porter

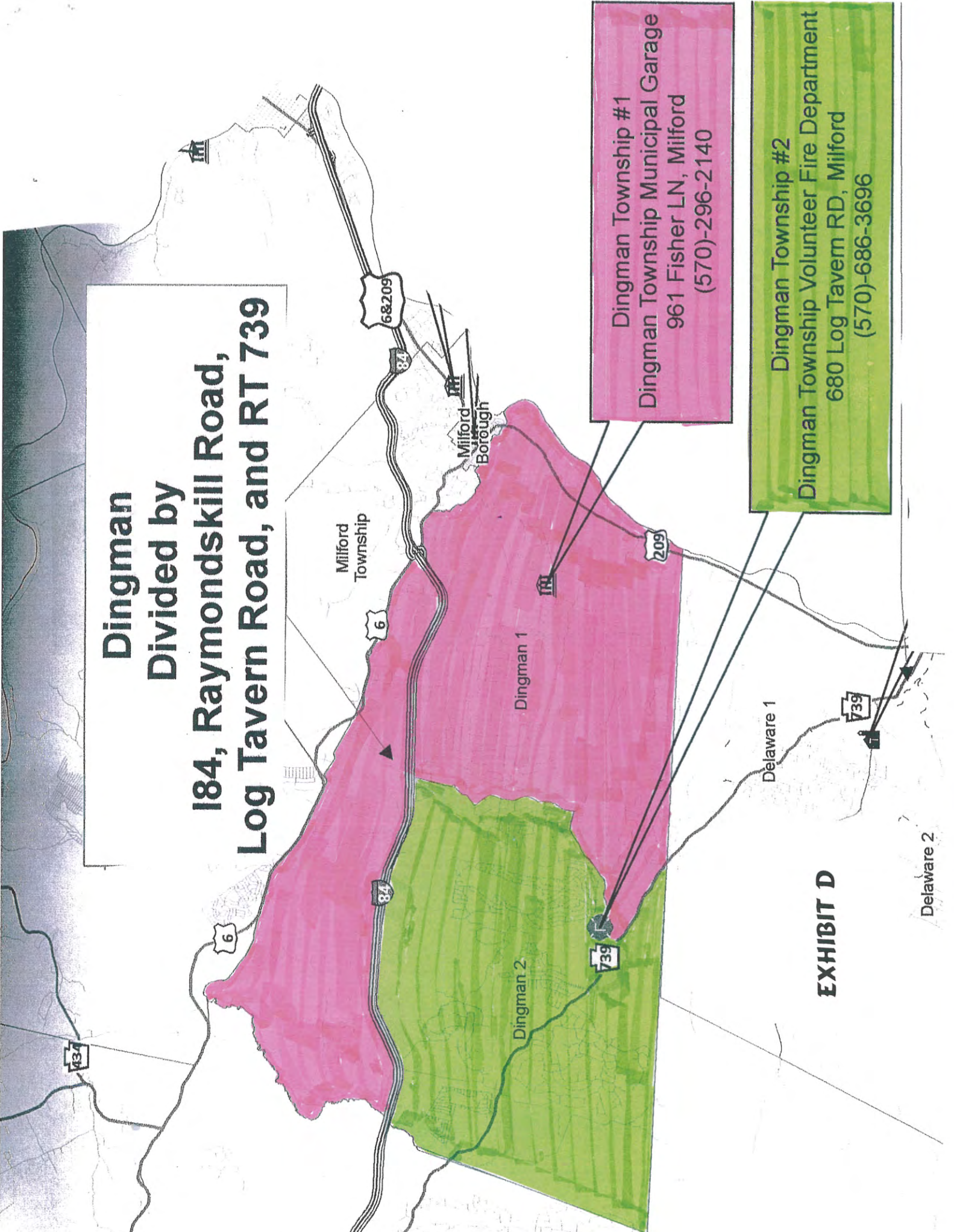
Civil: 3,200 Dingman  
 8,940 Current  
 2,500 1/2 Dingman

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23,540

**EXHIBIT C**

# Dingman Divided by 184, Raymondskill Road, Log Tavern Road, and RT 739



**EXHIBIT D**

Delaware 2

Delaware 1



## MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT GUIDELINES

OCTOBER 2011

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### WHAT YOUR PACKET OF INFORMATION CONTAINS

1. Case filings statistics by case type for the last six years (2005-2010) for each magisterial district within your judicial district. While we can provide a breakdown of filings by municipality for criminal, traffic, non-traffic and private complaints, we are not able to provide a breakdown by ward within a municipality. Civil, landlord-tenant and miscellaneous docket statistics are available by magisterial district.
2. For comparison purposes, average filings are provided by case type for each county and class of county statewide.
3. In addition to case filing statistics, a new measure was developed earlier this year to differentiate among case types and the resulting judicial workload that arises from those filings. This measure was developed by a committee of approximately twenty magisterial district judges (MDJs) from districts of varying size and demographics, representative of the Commonwealth; and is based upon empirical studies of the amount of judge time required to process each case type. Actual case filings are then adjusted by the relative case type weights derived from the study. We call this measurement workload since it measures not just the volume of filings within a magisterial district, but the relative amount of work required by the judge.
4. 2000 and 2010 United States Census Bureau population statistics and population density calculations for each county.
5. Magisterial district judge term expiration and birthdate data for each judge within your judicial district.

### ANALYSIS OF POSSIBLE ELIMINATION OF DISTRICTS

The Chief Justice established a goal of reducing the number of magisterial districts statewide by 10%. This does not mean that each judicial district must reduce the number of MDJs by 10%; or that any elimination must occur immediately. The goal of the Supreme Court is that by the end of the process there will be 10% fewer magisterial districts statewide. Each president judge, therefore, is being asked to assess whether it is feasible to eliminate any of the magisterial districts in your county. Elimination of magisterial districts should include both an analysis of the data and consideration of additional relevant circumstances; and should ensure any modifications do not compromise the effective and efficient administration of justice.

1. The strong preference is to eliminate magisterial districts through attrition. Whenever practicable, reductions should occur by eliminating a district which is vacant or in which the incumbent is retiring or not planning to seek reelection. As a result, elimination of districts may occur anywhere from two to six years in the future, depending upon retirement dates. There might be circumstances, however, where elimination of a district needs to occur but no vacancies are in the offing. In that instance, care should be taken to ensure that the elimination of the district occurs at the conclusion of the incumbent judge's term.
2. When it is not feasible to eliminate a magisterial district based on attrition, average caseload should be used to evaluate whether to eliminate one or more magisterial districts.



## MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT GUIDELINES

OCTOBER 2011

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Using the data provided, begin by reviewing the average caseloads of the offices within your judicial district; and further compare your judicial district's average caseload with the average caseload for your class of county and judicial districts within your class of county. When a magisterial district falls at the lower end of this range, and absent a projected significant increase in filings, or other factors not reflected in the caseload statistics that may justify the continued existence of the smaller offices, serious consideration should be given to their elimination.

3. If the average caseload of the magisterial districts is not more than 10% above the average caseload for your class of county and you are not recommending the elimination of any districts, you must provide an explanation why no districts are being proposed for elimination.
4. Average caseload comparisons will guide the process in one of the following directions: eliminate one or more magisterial districts and realign the affected magisterial districts; or reestablish the magisterial district(s) and provide a rationale, if required.
5. To ensure effective court operations when confronted with eliminating one or more district courts, evaluate the workload within your judicial district. The workload calculation differentiates between treating all case types the same and acknowledging that a different level of effort is required for different types of cases. It is an impartial method to determine if the existing mix of case types and filings and the resulting workload is effective, or if there are areas within your judicial district where workload is concentrated. Realignment is helpful in alleviating imbalances.
6. No magisterial district should have a total workload which is 15% higher or lower than the workload of any other district in the judicial district. If a departure of that degree exists, an explanation must be provided that describes why this does not result in an inequity among the judges in the judicial district. Such explanation could include factors such as projected caseload growth, reduction in the effected districts, or the use of a central court or other mechanism that would redirect caseload.
7. In addition to assessing caseload and workload, the following factors should also be considered:
  - a. Every magisterial district court must be located within the magisterial district boundaries.
  - b. All portions of the magisterial district must be contiguous.
  - c. No district can be eliminated during the term of an incumbent MDJ.
  - d. District boundaries cannot be redrawn in such a way that would move an incumbent district judge's residence into another magisterial district.
  - e. Voting districts cannot be split.
  - f. Any planned development in the county such as a mall, highway expansion or gas drilling that will likely cause an increase in the case filings of the effected district should be discussed.



# AOPC

## MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT GUIDELINES

OCTOBER 2011

- g. Note any special programs in your county that will entail effort by MDJs, such as truancy programs or drug, veteran, or mental health diversion programs.
- h. Unlike the previous reestablishment guidelines, there is no hard and fast rule that no one within a district should have to travel more than one half hour to reach the MDJ office. Instead, public convenience and safety is a factor that should be considered and weighed along with all others.

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. In preparing your reestablishment plan, it is recommended that you begin by conferring with the MDJs in your county. While you obviously have the final say in making a recommendation to the Supreme Court, the input of the MDJs can provide invaluable information, such as retirement plans of judges and trends they have seen in their districts.
2. Proposed reestablishment plans must be posted for public comment before submission to AOPC. Interested parties should have at least thirty days from the publishing date to submit comments. Posting can be done by electronic posting of the proposal on the court or county website and/or by placing a physical copy at various public locations such as public libraries and court offices. Media outlets in your county should be alerted to the posting of the proposal. A copy of the posting and any public comments received should be submitted along with your final proposal.
3. Complete a worksheet detailing the specific proposal for your judicial district and each magisterial district (sample attached).
4. Certify that the office and residence of the MDJ are within the district boundaries.
5. All complete plans must be submitted to the AOPC by February 15, 2012.
  - a. An original copy of the plan should be mailed to:  
Joseph Mittleman  
Director, Judicial Programs  
Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts  
1515 Market Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19101
  - b. An electronic copy should be submitted via email to Amy Kehner at [amy.kehner@pacourts.us](mailto:amy.kehner@pacourts.us).

Plans will be reviewed for accuracy and completeness and forwarded to the Supreme Court for consideration.

6. If you have any questions about process or policy, please contact Joe Mittleman at 215-560-6300 or at [joe.mittleman@pacourts.us](mailto:joe.mittleman@pacourts.us). If you have technical questions or need assistance with statistics, please contact Amy Kehner at 717-231-3300 X4014 or at [amy.kehner@pacourts.us](mailto:amy.kehner@pacourts.us).

# **IDENTIFICATION OF DINGMAN TWP 1**

**Dingman Township Voting District 1** is comprised of the Eastern and Northern sections of Dingman Township as identified on the attached map.

Dingman Township Voting District 1 has as its voting center the Dingman Township Municipal Garage located at 961 Fisher Lane, Milford, PA. Included in Dingman Township 1 are the following: all areas located in Dingman Township North of Interstate 84; areas located to the South and East of Log Tavern Road from its Intersection with State Route 739 to Raymondskill Road and thereafter the areas to the East of Raymondskill Road. Dingman Township Voting District 1 is bound and described as follows: beginning at a point at the Intersection of I84 and the Dingman-Blooming Grove Township line, thence along the Blooming Grove Township line North to Shohola Township; then East following the Dingman - Shohola Township line East to Milford Township; thence continuing East following the Dingman-Milford Township line to Milford Borough; thence along the Dingman - Milford Borough line East to the Delaware River; thence South along the Delaware River to the Delaware Township line; at Delaware Township turn West following the Dingman-Delaware Township line to SR 739; then following the Centerline SR 739 Northwest to the Intersection with Log Tavern Road; thence Northeast along the Centerline of Log Tavern Road to the Intersection with Aspen Drive; thence along the Centerline of Aspen Drive North to Nelson Road; then North along the Centerline of Nelson Road to Raymondskill Road; then along Raymondskill Road to the Underpass with I84; then West along the Centerline of I84 to the point of the beginning.

Dingman Township Voting District 1 includes the developments which access off of Springbrook Road, Niche Pond, Old Mill Estates, Pederson's Pond, Milford Arcadia, Country Club Woods, Oak Ridge, Crescent Lake, Pocono Mountain Water Forest, The Preserve at Milford Hills, and Pocono Mountain Woodland Lakes east of Nelson Road and Aspen Drive.

## **IDENTIFICATION OF DINGMAN TWP 2**

**Dingman Township Voting District 2** is comprised of the area located to the Western portion of Dingman Township below Interstate 84 and has as its main voting office the Dingman Township Volunteer Fire Department located at 680 Log Tavern Road, Milford, PA.

Dingman Township Voting District 2 is bound and described as follows: beginning at a point at the Intersection of Interstate 84 and the Dingman – Blooming Grove Township line, thence along the Centerline of I84 East to the Raymondskill Road Overpass; thence South along the Centerline of Raymondskill Road to the Intersection with Nelson Road; thence following the Centerline of Nelson Road Southwest to the Intersection with Aspen Drive. Thence South along the Centerline of Aspen Drive to the Intersection with Log Tavern Road, then West along the center of Log Tavern Road to State Route 739; then along the Centerline of SR 739 Southeast to the Delaware township line; then West along the Dingman – Delaware Township line to the Blooming Grove Township line boundary; thence North along the Blooming Grove – Dingman Township line to the point of the beginning.

Dingman Township Voting District 2 includes the developments of Gold Key Estates, Sunnylands (a.k.a. Sunrise Lakes), Log Tavern, Conashaugh Farms (a.k.a Conashaugh Lakes), Cranberry Ridge, Lake Adventure, and the sections of Pocono Mountain Woodland Lakes West of Nelson Road and Aspen Drive.

**Paul D. Menditto, Sr.**  
**2230 Cardinal Drive**  
**Bushkill, PA 18324**  
**(570) 588-2356**  
[paul.menditto@gmail.com](mailto:paul.menditto@gmail.com)

January 27, 2012

Court Administrative Office  
410 Broad Street  
Milford, PA 18335

The Honorable Joseph Kameen:

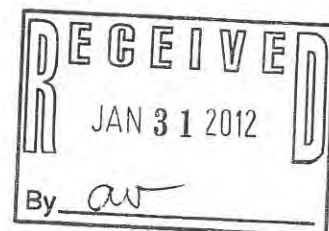
After reviewing the changes to the Magisterial Districts in Pike County that you have proposed, I am submitting my comment in favor of those changes.

Based on what I have read, the new districts appear to be fair and equitable to all concerned.

Respectfully,



Paul Menditto



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA



COUNTY OF PIKE

BLOOMING GROVE TOWNSHIP  
PALMYRA TOWNSHIP  
GREENE TOWNSHIP

**JAY R. ROSE**  
**MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE**

Magisterial District 60-3-02  
PO BOX 526  
HAWLEY, PA 18428

MONDAY THRU FRIDAY  
9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM  
TEL 570-226-9650  
FAX 570-226-6354

January 6, 2012

Hon. Joseph Kameen, PJ  
Judge's Chambers  
410 Broad Street  
Milford, Pa 18337

Re: Redistricting

Dear Judge Kameen,

I have received copies of the letters that Judge Cooper and Judge McBride sent to you.

I will not rehash the points made in those letters but simply state that I am in support of the positions expressed and find them persuasive.

I do think that the most important arguments to be made in support of four MDJ courts in Pike County are two-fold.

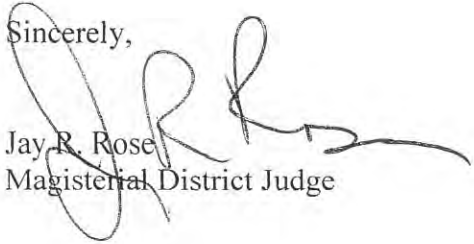
It is well known that Pike County has been and continues to be one of the fastest growing counties in Pennsylvania. This is true even as other counties are actually losing population. It seems shortsighted to dismantle a structure that is able to handle this growth now and into the foreseeable future.



Furthermore the geographical area served by each court is extensive in Pike County and the distances involved argue that public convenience will not be served by a reduction. Our rural setting already makes it difficult for many member of the public due to large distances involved. A reduction in courts will only make this situation worse.

Thank you for considering these views as you develop your recommendation.

Sincerely,



Jay R. Rose  
Magisterial District Judge

Cc: Hon. Deborah Fischer  
Hon. Alan Cooper  
Hon. Stephen McBride

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA



COUNTY OF PIKE

**ALAN B. COOPER**

**MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE**

**Magisterial District 60-3-03  
502 Little Walker Road  
Shohola PA 18458**

(570) 296-7726  
FAX: (570) 296-3558

DINGMAN TOWNSHIP  
LACKAWAXEN TOWNSHIP  
SHOHOLA TOWNSHIP

December 28, 2011

Hon. Joseph Kameen, PJ  
Judge's Chambers  
410 Broad Street  
Milford PA 18337

Re: Redistricting

Dear Judge Kameen:

In reviewing the statewide and regional data regarding the redistricting and elimination of ten percent of MDJ offices, what comes to mind is that smaller, rural counties will suffer disproportionately from any such across the board reduction. In counties with five or fewer offices such as Pike or Wayne, ANY reduction will in effect mean a 20, 25 or perhaps 33% reduction in the number of courts. Coupled with the remoteness of many offices, the effect of eliminating a single office in such counties will have a significant and similarly disproportionate effect on the fair administration of justice.

Perhaps a better strategy would be to "combine" certain counties into a single unit for purposes of reduction, thereby allowing the Supreme Court to achieve the required ten percent reduction to such units. For example, Pike and Wayne Counties each have 4 MDJs. If they were combined into a "unit" and a single office eliminated, it would achieve a 12.5% reduction, still above the desired ten percent but much closer than a draconian 25% reduction in each county. Other contiguous rural counties with similar numbers could also be combined.

December 28, 2011  
Re: Redistricting  
Page 2

In our case, while I believe that Pike County's higher caseload and significantly higher past and likely future population increases would indicate that any elimination be in Wayne County, that is of course a matter to be resolved between President Judges and Supreme Court Justices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Cooper', written in a cursive style.

Alan B. Cooper, MDJ

CC: Hon. Deborah Fischer  
Hon. Stephen McBride  
Hon. Jay Rose



Rec'd  
1-6-12

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA



COUNTY OF PIKE

OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAY 1:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.  
TUES.-FRI. 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

STEPHEN A. MC BRIDE, ESQ.

DISTRICT JUSTICE  
Magisterial District 60-3-04  
213 Silver Lake Road  
Dingmans Ferry, PA 18328

OFFICE:  
TEL 570-828-2880  
FAX 570-828-2942

January 4, 2012

Hon. Joseph Kameen, PJ  
Judge's Chambers  
410 Broad Street  
Milford, PA 18337

RE: **Re-districting**

Dear Judge Kameen,

The idea of closing one of the MDJ offices in Pike County is unrealistic for the following reasons:

1. The fourth office was only recently formed (1996);
2. One of the main reasons for its formation was the population explosion, which continues (unfortunately) to this day;
3. Most, if not all, of the large counties have a dozen or more MDJs, many of whom operate at the **same** court house;
4. The judges in the larger counties serve very little night duty because of their sheer numbers;
5. Night duty in Pike County has changed dramatically over the years. When I started in 1996, calls after 10 pm were not routine. Today, having a bad week or "a week from hell" is common. The domestic cases represent **at least 70%** of my late night/early morning calls. To reorganize 3 MDJs to serve every third week drastically changes the equation. For me, it would be totally unacceptable. It is the worst part of the job. If one of the other judges was eliminated, I would retire before I would serve night duty every third week.
6. Vast numbers of "customers" from Bushkill have no idea where Milford or Route 209 are, let alone my office on Silver Lake Road. My secretaries are on the phone daily giving directions, usually speaking to the same person on multiple occasions before

they arrive at my office. If my office is eliminated, you will have to establish another government entitlement program and equip all of these troubled souls with GPS.

7. The legislature has raised our case loads by raising our jurisdiction level in civil cases and the Supreme Court may want to raise it again by eliminating a MDJ office. There has not been a concomitant increase in pay.
  - a. The Court also forgets it has issued **TWO** orders mandating a unified judicial system. The legislators, the Court and everybody else has ignored the orders. Also, the Court had a major study performed years ago which resulted in a printed report. The report recommended that the MDJ position be full time and that the full time status plus night duty would require the legislature to look into a pay raise. The Court has ignored those recommendations. It's starting to sound like Washington, D.C., and deficit reduction committees which are ignored. The ill-kept secret is that if the job was full time, a pay increase was enacted and night duty allowed for late night incarceration, some positions could be eliminated, especially in larger districts, and the savings sought could be accomplished.
8. I understand, from speaking with judges in places like York County, that senior judges operate night court. Of course, if true, this releases the MDJs from the burden of night duty. It would be extremely unfair for any MDJ in Pike County to have his/her night duty requirements increased by 8 1/3%. One third of the MDJ's year would automatically be restricted. Holiday service would increase. When you compare the service required by Pike MDJs versus the large counties, they do not compare. I would happily accept a larger case load for night duty every 20<sup>th</sup> week. The answer to the problem is easy – look to Allegheny, York, Delaware, Bucks, Chester counties, i.e. Class 2 through 4 and then start looking beyond. If politics is left out of the equation, what is actually fair and makes economic sense becomes obvious.

Very truly yours,



Stephen A. McBride, Esq.  
Magisterial District Justice

SAM:lod

CC: Hon. A. Cooper  
Hon. D. Fischer  
Hon. J. Rose