



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE of PENNSYLVANIA COURTS

News for Immediate Release

May 1, 2013

Courts, Libraries Join to Promote Greater Understanding of Judicial System

HARRISBURG — As part of the celebration of Law Week, April 29 – May 3, the Supreme Court has partnered with the Pennsylvania Library Association to help citizens better understand the Commonwealth’s judicial system, Chief Justice Ronald D. Castille announced today.

The partnership is made possible through PA Forward, a program sponsored by the association to promote the importance of Pennsylvania’s libraries in the 21st century, and the court’s Commission on Judicial Independence (CJI.)

As part of the program, the Chief Justice recently wrote to Pennsylvania’s librarians, acquainting them with court-developed, educational materials that explain the state judicial system. Copies of the court’s brochure, “A Citizen’s Guide,” were included with the suggestion that libraries display them during Law Week. Chief Justice Castille also encouraged libraries to play the “Citizen’s Guide” informational video for library patrons and noted the wealth of information about the judiciary to be found on the Pennsylvania judiciary’s new website.

“Working with the PA Forward program will help libraries provide timely and valuable information on the judiciary to Pennsylvania residents,” Chief Justice Castille said. “The library association and PA Forward deserve congratulation for their efforts to enhance various types of literacy, including civil literacy in this instance, across the Commonwealth.”

Law Week is celebrated annually in the United States to recognize the importance of the role law plays in society and the heritage of the U.S. The Pennsylvania Bar Association, a long-standing CJI partner, provides extensive Law Week resources on its website.

The Commission on Judicial Independence promotes understanding of the judicial system, including greater civic education in schools, especially regarding the rule of law, and has co-sponsored with the PBA court-media workshops, panel discussions and a presentation by retired United States Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor regarding judicial independence.

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Judiciary website: www.pacourts.us; for [video](#) scroll to the bottom of the media resources page. PA Forward website: www.paforward.org.

Pennsylvania Bar Association website: www.pba.org

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