



RoboLaw

Artificial intelligence is rapidly disrupting every industry in America and every sector of society – and the courts are not exempt.



RoboLaw: Coming soon to your courtroom

By **Gary E. Marchant**

Regents Professor and Faculty Director, Center for Law, Science & Innovation,
Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Arizona State University

Artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly disrupting every industry in America and every sector of society – and the legal system and the courts are not exempt. Indeed, there are already a number of court functions and elements of legal practice that are being transformed by AI, with much more to come over the next decade.

Even though AI has been around since the late 1950s, its recent emergence and prevalence is the result of some

important leaps forward in how AI operates. Until recently, AI was rule-based, in that machines implemented instructions coded by a human programmer.

Today, most AI is data-based, in which the machine is not instructed what to do by any human, but rather learns itself how to solve problems or accomplish tasks by processing data and experience. This new approach known as machine learning is radically

expanding the utility and capabilities of AI.

Machine-learning AI already permeates our daily lives. Examples of this include internet search engines, voice capabilities on our smart phones and home speakers, Google Maps, ride-sharing apps like Uber and Lyft, online shopping and music sites that predict our preferences, etc.

But machine-learning AI also has application to the courts.

Recently, U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts was asked “Can you foresee a day when smart machines, driven with artificial intelligences, will assist with courtroom fact-finding or, more controversially even, judicial decision-making?”

The Chief Justice replied: “It’s a day that’s here and it’s putting a significant strain on how the judiciary goes about doing things.”

There are three primary domains in which AI interacts with the judiciary and court system: AI in legal practice and court operations, AI as evidence and legal claims against AI applications.

AI in Legal Practice and Court Operations

Although still in its early days AI is already being implemented in legal practice and judicial operations.

Technology-assisted review (TAR) for electronic discovery was one of the first legal applications, and is now quite advanced and common. Courts are often asked to weigh in on the appropriateness and conduct of TAR in specific cases.

Other AI-enabled tools are also being used for legal research, either from stand-alone vendors, or established legal research databases like Westlaw and Lexis.

problem that the United States and other jurisdictions face.

An even more fundamental change is the use of AI to help make judicial decisions, not just advocate for and inform such decisions. A handful of judges have started using AI systems such as IBM's Watson to sift through the large records in many cases and recommend decisions on specific issues or even the entire case.

The cohort of judges using AI on the bench is expected to grow rapidly.

AI as Evidence

The second major category of AI application for the courts is the use

by governments for various functions. AI algorithms will increasingly be used as evidence in toxic tort causation inquiries, antitrust analyses, discrimination cases and many other types of cases.

Legal Claims Against AI Applications

The last category of AI interactions applicable to the courts is when legal claims are made against AI applications. These can be safety claims in tort or product liability, which we are already starting to see with autonomous vehicles and AI medical devices. There may also be legal claims of bias or discrimination against AI applications.

Recently U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts was asked “Can you foresee a day when smart machines, driven with artificial intelligences, will assist with courtroom fact-finding or, more controversially even, judicial decision-making?” The Chief Justice replied: “It’s a day that’s here and it’s putting a significant strain on how the judiciary goes about doing things.”

These AI research programs were initially used by private law firms, but now are being marketed to and used by judicial staff as well.

Perhaps most provocatively, several vendors now market AI brief-writing systems that are targeted to specific judges, which integrate data on previous decisions, favorable and unfavorable arguments, and other available data about specific judges, to customize and target a brief to make it most appealing to an individual judge.

Online dispute resolution (ODR) systems are a subject of active investigation by both private companies and courts in the United States and elsewhere. These systems will employ AI to provide quick and inexpensive preliminary decisions, especially in simpler cases, without any initial involvement by human lawyers or judges. Such ODR systems could help address the major access to justice

of AI algorithms as evidence. The first major use has been algorithms to assist judges in sentencing, recidivism risk assessment and pre-trial detentions.

The use of such AI algorithms raise issues about whether they should be used, how and when they should be used, and who gets access to the underlying algorithm code and data, which often are proprietary.

The Wisconsin Supreme Court recently decided such issues in its *Loomis v. Wisconsin* decision holding that algorithms can be used in sentencing but cannot be the exclusive factor, and that criminal defendants are not entitled under due process to obtain access to the underlying algorithm and data.

Other state courts have held that it may be a due process violation not to disclose the underlying algorithm used

Other AI uses may raise privacy legal claims. Intellectual property will become a big issue for the courts – for example, how does copyright and patent law apply to inventions or creations in which AI was all or part of the design function?

In all of these types of cases, as in the other domains of AI and the courts described above, judges and court staff will soon start seeing more and more applications of AI in the process and substance of their work, and will need to become sophisticated consumers of this soon-to-be ubiquitous technology in order to promote and protect the justice function of our court systems. **AOPC**

(Gary Marchant is a past speaker at the Pennsylvania State Trial Judges Conference where he spoke about how AI is being used in the legal industry.)

Staying secure - cybersecurity defenses

With access to sensitive data on individuals and organizations, government entities are increasingly becoming a desirable target for cybercriminals.

While the AOPC has many lines of technological defense in place to protect us from possible cyberattacks, unfortunately there is no way to guarantee complete prevention of a successful breach.

“These cyberattacks can come in many forms, but the most challenging to defend against originate through phishing emails, and our end users serve as one of the most important security layers,” said **Betty Torrey**, AOPC/IT user security specialist.

Phishing attacks use social engineering to try to gain

confidential information, including usernames, passwords and network credentials, or to trick the user into installing a malicious computer program. By posing as a known and trusted source, cybercriminals attempt to manipulate the user into entering personal information into a phony website or installing a fake version of a legitimate application.

All court personnel should be highly suspicious of all links and attachments included in emails, even if the sender is well known. If there is any doubt as to their authenticity, it is best to have the email checked before opening anything.

Employees should contact AOPC/IT Security (ITSecurity@pacourts.us) with any cybersecurity questions, or to have an email checked. **AOPC**

Cybersecurity tips:

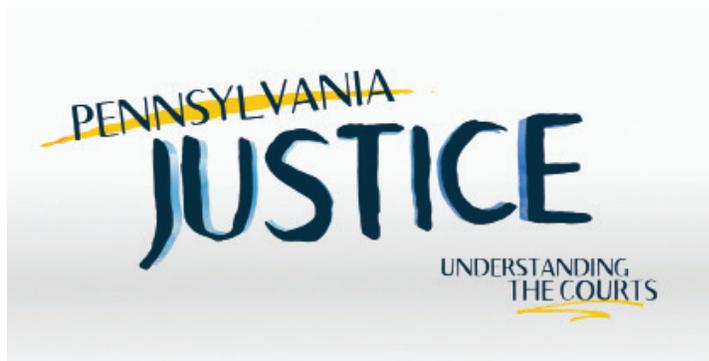
- 1. Use passphrases to increase password length and strength while still making them memorable**
- 2. Remove any unnecessary software on your computer**
- 3. Avoid entering personal information when using public Wi-Fi**

New video provides civics refresher on the courts

Facilitating access to justice is the highest priority of Pennsylvania’s courts. But if people don’t understand government, they might not appreciate the role the courts play in protecting their rights and freedoms. If people are unaware of the role of the courts, they may see no harm in political attacks on judges and attempts to weaken or strip courts of their powers.

The AOPC recently released a new “Learn about the Courts” education video that describes in basic terms the role of the courts in a democracy, how the Pennsylvania court system is structured and how various types of cases advance through the system.

Developed and produced by AOPC/Communications, the video debuted at a Judicial Independence Commission



event entitled “Inside the Pennsylvania Courts: A live-stream Panel Discussion” in September.

The 3-minute video is a modern concept aimed at a broad audience, including high-school students. The new video replaces a longer-form video used for the past 15 years. Hopefully the video will catch attention both on social media as well as in classrooms and courthouses.

With more than 200,000 people summoned to jury duty each year in Pennsylvania, the video can serve as an educational resource. Members of the judiciary are encouraged to use the video when making presentations at schools, community meetings or giving speeches to fraternal organizations or other groups.

Watch the new video at www.pacourts.us. **AOPC**

Pennsylvania's court technology receives national recognition

A reaffirmation of Pennsylvania's leadership status in court technology, the National Association for Court Management (NACM) and Court Information Technology Officers Consortium (CITOC) selected Pennsylvania as a two-time winner of their 2019 Technology Awards.

Two AOPC/IT projects garnered the national recognition – the recently implemented Guardianship Tracking System (GTS) and the PDF/A electronic document archival solution.

“For more than 30 years, Pennsylvania has been a technology leader among other state court systems. While this is not the first time our talented staff has been honored by peers nationally, it is the first time two such honors have occurred in the same year,” said Court Administrator of Pennsylvania, **Tom Darr**.

Coming on the heels of implementation of Pennsylvania's landmark Clean Slate program, which depends on Pennsylvania's Judicial Computer System for data, this is a year of significant technological achievement for Pennsylvania's Judiciary.”

Guardianship Tracking System

The GTS won the Court Process Innovations Award in the Court Management category for its “optimization of the way people, processes and technology work together to transform courts.”

GTS provides a tool for court offices to better manage guardianship cases, and it allows for the e-filing of required annual reports and inventories by guardians.

The system includes functionalities such as electronic notifications to guardians for upcoming and overdue reports, compliance tracking, the insertion of flags for potential areas of loss and neglect, statewide alerts placed on guardians and the delivery of detailed statistics for reporting and policy making.

PDF/A electronic document archival solution

Simultaneously, the AOPC's PDF/A electronic document archival solution received the Emerging Technologies Award in the Court Technology category.

This project developed a way for courts to permanently store court documents electronically, and was recognized for its



L to R: AOPC/IT Director **Amy Ceraso, Esq.**, and NACM President **Paul DeLosh** from VA.



L to R: AOPC/IT Assistant Director **Russel Montchal**, and Enterprise IT Applications Architect **Judy Tosten**

utilization of cutting-edge technologies that solve the increasing retention problems county courts are facing in attempts to store all their paper records.

This new innovative format ensures the long-term preservation, as well as the accurate display of all electronic documents – even in the distant future after computer standards and formats have evolved.

The Pennsylvania courts were recognized at both the 2019 NACM Annual Conference on July 25 in Las Vegas, Nevada, and at the 2019 Annual CITOC meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, on Sept. 9. [AOPC](#)

Security: past, present and future

By Rob Granzow
judicial district security administrator

Kyle Ramberger
assistant director of judicial district security



Security is both a personal and a collective responsibility. While AOPC/Judicial District Security strives to provide the technical expertise and resources necessary to drive an environment of safety and security in the Pennsylvania court system, they also heavily rely on the vigilant participation of all those working and having business in the courts.

In response to several security incidents which occurred in the magisterial district courts, a Magisterial District Court Security Task Force was formed in 2018.

This Task Force, chaired by Magisterial District Judge **John Fishel**, has a diverse complement of stakeholders and is charged with the responsibility of providing front-line observations and recommendations for potential procedural and technological security enhancements within the magisterial district courts.

Further championing the importance of judicial district security, Justin Mammen, Emergency Services and Security Manager for the Superior Court of California, Orange County, delivered a compelling presentation to attendees at the June 2019 PJ/PACM Conference in State College.

Mammen's presentation focused on current trends in court security including the expanded use of cameras, panic/duress alarms systems, weapon-screening and mass notification systems.

He reinforced the fact that while technological enhancements are generally beneficial, they remain dependent upon the human element to maximize their effectiveness, as no technology unto itself will stop an incident from occurring.

Local court security committees

The importance and value of Pennsylvania's local court security committees, comprised of president judges, county executives, sheriffs, district court administrators and magisterial district judges, convening regularly to review security matters in their districts cannot be underestimated.

Local court security committees are also responsible for developing policies and procedures that are clear, concise, cohesive and comprehensive.

These policies and procedures bring optimal value when they are applied consistently throughout the various magisterial and common pleas courts and modified as necessary when a vulnerability in a local policy or procedure is identified.

Utilizing PAJIRS

All of Pennsylvania's courts have the capacity to accurately document security incidents and events through the Pennsylvania Judicial Incident Reporting System (PAJIRS).

It is important to remember that a security incident in Pennsylvania is defined as "an event that has the potential to cause, or has in fact caused personal injury or property loss."

Reporting a security threat or incident via PAJIRS is vital for the safety of judges, court employees and the public who utilize the court system. It not only allows for the accurate documentation of the incident, but for a timely review by AOPC/Judicial District Security staff where security guidance and direction is routinely provided.

Effective training

While there is not a single piece of equipment, nor policy or procedure that can prevent all emergent situations from ever occurring, effective training of personnel can and will enhance the safety and security of our courts.

While judicial district security staff welcomes suggestions for future training and education programs, topics currently under development include, Situational Awareness and Violence Avoidance, Emergency Preparedness for Courthouse Emergencies, Hostile Intruder and Active Shooter Response for Judicial Environments and Managing Aggressive Persons (MAP).

With 2020 on the horizon, AOPC/Judicial District Security is well-energized to continue its mission of providing technical expertise and resources necessary to drive an environment of safety and security within the Pennsylvania Court system. However, for this vision to be fully realized, it will require everyone's active participation. [AOPC](#)



L to R: Commonwealth Court's **Gretchen Hanrahan**, chief legal counsel and **Michael Krimmel**, prothonotary

Leadership changes to Commonwealth Court

Commonwealth Court recently announced a series of leadership changes that took effect on July 22.

The Court's newly-appointed Chief Legal Counsel **Gretchen Hanrahan**, Esq., has assumed the duties of former Prothonotary **Kristen Brown**, Esq. following her recent retirement after 37 years with the Court.

Hanrahan has worked for the Court for 23 years in various capacities,

most recently as a staff attorney in the Office of the Prothonotary – which is now the Office of Legal Counsel.

"I am grateful to the President Judge and the Board of Judges for their confidence," said Hanrahan.

I have been with the Court for most of my professional career, and I look forward to working with the judges and our talented court staff in this new role."

Meanwhile, Commonwealth Court's former Chief Clerk, **Michael Krimmel**, Esq. has assumed the title of prothonotary, and is now responsible for managing the Office of the Prothonotary—formerly known as the Office of the Chief Clerk.

Krimmel served as staff counsel to the Minor Court Rules Committee before being appointed chief clerk of the Commonwealth

Court in 2006. Prior to that, he worked in county court administration for 14 years.

"This is a change in titles, not a change in functions," explained President Judge **Mary Hannah Leavitt**.

These new titles will better reflect the functions, duties, and responsibilities of each position and each office within the Court." **AOPC**



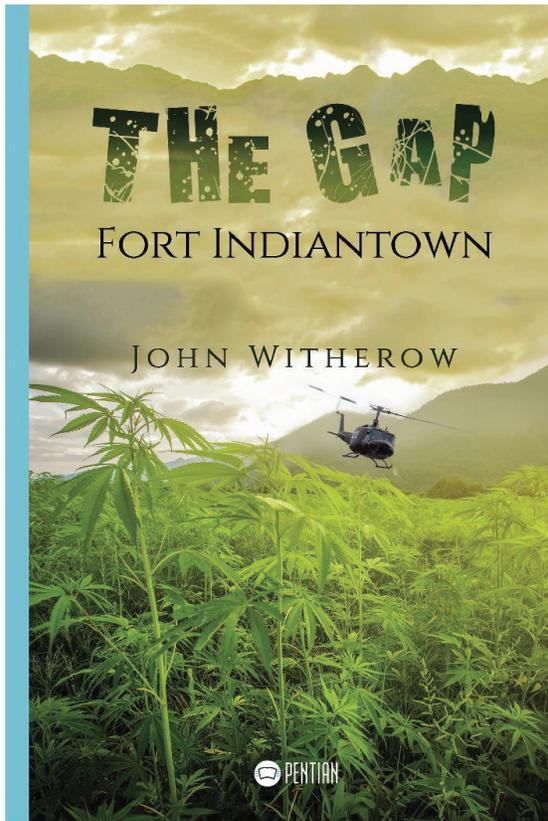
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Attorney by day, author by night

Supreme Court Chief Law Clerk **John Witherow** recently published a military fiction novel – “THE GAP: Fort Indiantown.”

The story follows a young helicopter pilot, Mark Ashford, through the many challenges he faces at the Army National Guard flight facility at Fort Indiantown, Pennsylvania. Upon his arrival for his first duty assignment, Mark suffers a cold welcome, finding little empathy from the older and more experienced pilots under his command.

On a drug interdiction assignment, Mark befriends a boy who is being manipulated by drug dealers. As he tries to help the boy, Mark must also confront a subordinate’s secret traumatic past and make irreversible decisions putting his lifelong dream of flying at risk.

“The Gap is a coming-of-age story that poses questions about the wisdom of the current drug war while employing themes from another lost war,” said Witherow.

He wrote this novel as a tribute to the veteran pilots at Fort Indiantown Gap. His first-hand experience as a former helicopter pilot in the Pennsylvania National Guard, coupled with his sensitivity to the challenges facing the American criminal justice system, offers an incredibly unique perspective.

All are welcome to join him in celebrating the book’s launch at his book-signing on Thurs., Oct. 24 at 7 p.m. at the Midtown Scholar Bookstore in Harrisburg. [AOPC](#)

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Max Baer
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Marisol Barrios, AOPC/IT technical writer



Raising butterflies and awareness is an AOPC employee's passion

"My love and fascination for butterflies started before I can even remember," AOPC/IT's **Marisol Barrios** explained.

When she was five years old, Marisol loved butterflies so much that her parents opened a clothing store and named it "The Butterfly Boutique." Her love for the creatures has only continued to grow.

When asked how she got into raising butterflies, Marisol said that it started with just one butterfly she found nearly 20 years ago.

"I knew from doing some research in the early 2000's that monarchs love a plant called milkweed – but I wasn't sure what milkweed looked like. A co-worker of mine who was a master gardener took me to a patch of milkweed behind our office building where I actually found my first caterpillar."

Marisol explained that she now continues to raise Monarchs because of their endangered status.

"It's actually quite easy to raise them," Marisol said. "I'll collect the eggs and raise 20 to 30 at a time in my kitchen with rubber bands, coffee filters and plastic cups."

Marisol researches and visits locations near her in Pennsylvania that are dense with milkweed, the Monarchs' host plant, where she finds and collects eggs.

"Monarchs actually have a very unique life cycle," Marisol said. "They stay in Mexico all winter and then start flying north to Canada around March, so their migration season in Pennsylvania doesn't begin until late June or July."

She can raise around 100 butterflies every season with a 90 percent success rate. In comparison, only about 10 percent of Monarchs in the wild survive on their own.

"The biggest threats to Monarchs are pesticides in the U.S. and illegal logging in Mexico, and I want people to be aware of the devastating effects that our systemic agricultural practices are having – they are putting all of our insects at risk," she said.

I was initially drawn to them because of their beauty, but it's become more about helping them once I found out how much trouble they're in."

"You don't have to raise them like I do, but there are a lot of little things that people can do to help Monarchs – use fewer pesticides, buy more organic, tag Monarchs and report sightings on the Journey North app to help with research," Marisol elaborated.

The good news is that Monarchs are set to make a comeback this year thanks to the efforts of dedicated people like Marisol who use their passion to make a difference! **AOPC**



Berks County implements new notification system

This summer, Berks County became the second county in the state to implement a new electronic notification system that sends automatic text and/or email messages to defendants reminding them about upcoming criminal court dates.

The alerts are sent out three days before preliminary hearings at magisterial district courts, and two days prior to all Common Pleas Court appearances.

Participation in this program is mandatory and defendants are required to provide their mobile phone number and email on an intake form located on the county's website.

"We hope this program increases efficiency, decreases warrants for defendants who may have simply forgotten, and decreases costs for both defendants and for the county," said President Judge **Thomas G. Parisi**.

The program is administered by the County Commissioners Association of

Pennsylvania (CCAP) and launched on July 1.

The county will evaluate its results after about six months, when they hope to see a significant decline in the number of defendants who do not appear in court. [AOPC](#)

moreINFORMATION

CCAP's Unified Case Management (UCM)
Program Manager Heather Hiester at
hhiester@pacounties.org

How the PA relay service works



You're manning the front desk. A call comes in. You answer, but there's a long delay between what you say and any response from the caller. You hear something about a relay service. What's happening?

Chances are you're taking a call from a person using the Pennsylvania Relay Service – a service that makes telephone conversations possible for those who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Here's how it works – the deaf or hard of hearing person dials 711 and asks a Communications Assistant (CA) to connect them

to a particular phone number and person using a special device called a TTY.

When you answer a relay call, the CA will say "Hello, a person is calling you through Pennsylvania Relay. This is CA number XXXX. Have you received a relay call before?"

If you are not familiar with relay, say "NO" and the CA will explain how it works in more detail. [AOPC](#)

moreINFORMATION

Go to www.parelay.net.

Tips for successful relay calls:

- Don't hang up.
- Say "Go Ahead" or "GA" each time you have finished speaking.
- Speak directly to the person calling, not to the CA.
- Ask questions one at a time.
- Be patient and speak slowly.
- Know that the CA will type everything he or she hears.

Back to school: Traffic citations in school zones



Overtaking or passing a school bus

(Title 75 section 3345):

Drivers of a vehicle shall stop at least 10 feet before reaching the school bus when the red signal lights are flashing and the side stop signal arms are activated.

Speeding in a school zone

(Title 75 section 3365):

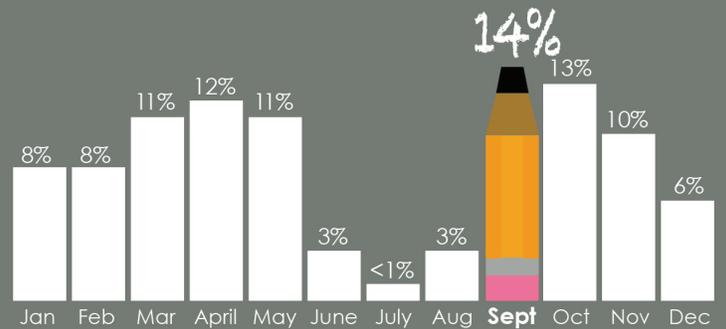
When passing through a school zone, no person shall drive a vehicle at a greater speed than 15 miles per hour.

PA driver citations (2014-2018):

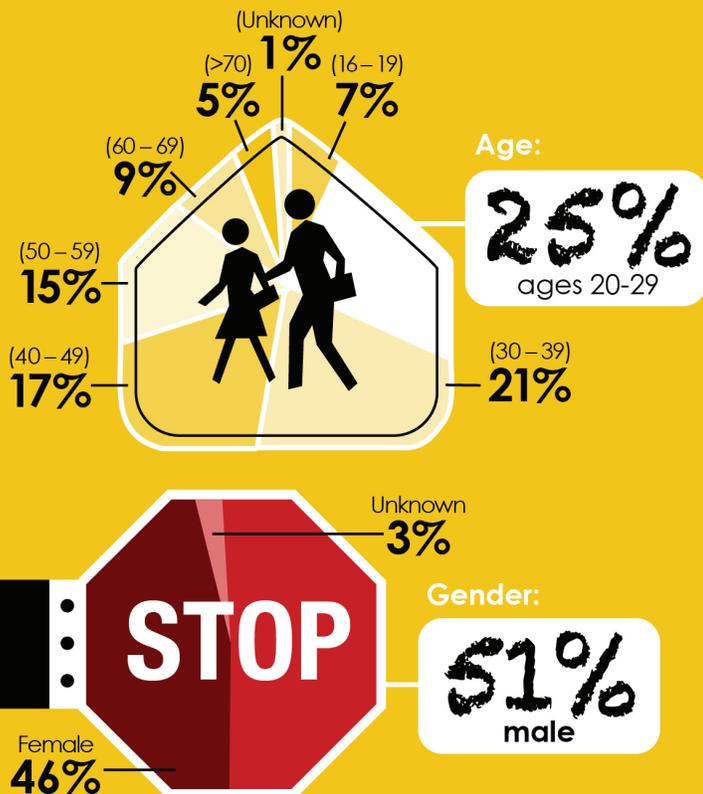
20,045 speeding in a school zone
+10,817 overtaking or illegally passing a school bus

30,862 drivers in PA were cited for school zone violations

School zone and bus citations by month:

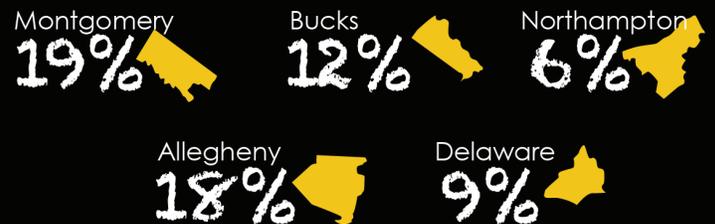


Demographics of those cited for both violations:



Counties with the highest driver citations:

Speeding in school zone:



Passing school bus:



*Data as recorded in the Magisterial District Judge System and Philadelphia Municipal Court Traffic Division eTMS System between 1/1/2014 - 12/31/2018 under Title 75 sections 3345 and 3365



Legislative roundup

by Damian J. Wachter, Esq.

The House and Senate are recessed for the summer and return on Sept. 17 and 23, respectively. Prior to recess, a flurry of legislative activity took place.

2019-20 General Appropriations Act:

This year's general fund budget level-funded the judiciary's government operations at \$355.789 million. An increase of \$286,000 was included for the Judicial Conduct Board.

Changes to the composition of the Commission on Sentencing:

Pursuant to changes made in the Administrative Code and becoming effective Oct. 1, the chief justice will now appoint two judges of courts of record and a law professor knowledgeable in criminal sentencing.

The president judges of the Superior and Commonwealth Courts will now each appoint one judge of a court of record. The amendment removes all executive appointments and eliminates the victim advocate as an ex officio nonvoting member.

Finally, the amendment increases the number of legislative appointments to the Commission.

Victim/witness legislation:

Marsy's Law – a victim rights constitutional amendment – passed for the required second time, and a question seeking voter approval will appear on the November ballot. The amendment passed in tandem with statutory amendments to protect victims/witnesses, and became effective on Aug. 27:

- Act 23 – adds a new right in the Crime Victims Act prohibiting the exclusion of victims from any criminal proceedings, absent court finding that the victim's testimony would be materially altered if he/she heard other testimony at the proceeding;
- Act 24 – amends the Rape Shield Law to exclude in certain circumstances evidence of past sexual victimization or allegations thereof;
- Act 30 – grants protections similar to those afforded to children under the tender years exception to individuals with intellectual disabilities and autism.

School police officers:

Previously under the Public School Code, school entities could apply to Courts of Common Pleas for the appointment of school police officers. Upon appointment, judges could grant the school police officers the power to arrest, issue citations for summary offenses and/or detain students until the arrival of local law enforcement.

Act 67 removes school police officer arrest power. Additionally, the act requires judges, at the request of a school entity, to grant school police officers the authority to carry firearms if the officer:

- has successfully completed basic training as required by the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission, OR is a graduate of the PA State Police Academy, was employed as a trooper and has separated from service in good standing, AND
- has successfully completed the Basic School Resource Officer Course of Instruction or an equivalent course of instruction approved by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

Act 67 became effective Aug. 27, and contains numerous other amendments pertaining to school resource officers and security guards – the changes discussed above are only those involving Courts of Common Pleas.

Coming up:

The House and Senate are scheduled for 24 and 15 voting days, respectively, this fall. Among other issues, it is expected the legislature will:

1. Continue to debate reforms to statutory probation provisions, building upon a two-day Senate hearing held in June in which a panel of Common Pleas judges participated; and
2. Continue debate on a second justice reinvestment initiative. [AOPC](#)



{Damian Wachter, Esq. is the assistant director of Legislative Affairs.}



Commonwealth Court hosts mock trial

By Amy Kehner

AOPC/Judicial Programs administrator

On May 23, with two weeks of middle school remaining before summer break, a group of 135 soon-to-be high school freshmen from Cumberland Valley's Good Hope Middle School visited the Pennsylvania Judicial Center.

As the final project in their U.S. History class, students conducted a mock trial to decide how much responsibility Germany should be assessed for World War I.

Commonwealth Court Judge **Ellen Ceisler** and state Rep. Greg Rothman, 87th Legislative District, Cumberland County, welcomed students to the James S. Bowman En Banc Courtroom.

Judge Ceisler reminded students how the three different branches of government function and summarized the significance of an independent judiciary. She impressed upon the class the importance of the American jury system and the civic duty to serve as a juror.

While Judge Ceisler presided over the courtroom, the students were solely responsible for assuming all roles involved - including judges, jurors, prosecuting lawyers, defense counsel, witnesses, bailiffs and sketch artists. The proceedings were even recorded by the Court's own court reporter.

Judge Ceisler asked questions to engage the students and explained why certain court procedures are critical to the fair and impartial administration of justice.

Now in its fifth year, this program offers students a hands-on experience that helps enhance their listening skills, gain confidence in public speaking, and practice the art of advocacy, all while learning about possible careers. [AOPC](#)

Around the Judiciary



On June 18, Supreme Court Justice **David Wecht** participated in the Philadelphia Bar Association's Chancellor's Forum on "When the Rule of Law Fails: Lessons of the Holocaust."

(l to r) sitting: Don Greenbaum- Liberator of Dachau, Ernest Gross- Holocaust Survivor, **Justice David Wecht** (l to r) standing: Rochelle Fedullo, Esq. – Chancellor, Philadelphia Bar Association, Felix Yellin – Vice Chancellor, Louis D. Brandeis Law Society, Jennifer Coatsworth – Chancellor, Louis D. Brandeis Law Society.



Justice **Debra Todd** spoke on June 6 at the Sr. Law Center event on elder justice.



The Veterans Treatment Court Strategic Planning Committee met in Harrisburg in late June to develop a statewide strategic plan for Veterans Treatment Courts. The session was facilitated by the Center for Court Innovation and was hosted by the AOPC.



Team Scott Inspire is a project of the Foundation for Enhancing Communities. Their "Students Achieving Success" (SAS) program provides support and encouragement to students in Dauphin County facing adversity, homelessness or other challenges. Superior Court Judge **Carolyn Nichols** was a keynote speaker at their graduation celebration in May.



(l to r): President Judge **Michael Barrassé** (Lackawanna), Judge **Charles Ehrlich** (Philadelphia), Judge **Wage Kagarise** (Blair) and President Judge **Janine Edwards** (Wayne) participated in a hearing on probation reform legislation before the Senate Judiciary Committee on June 25.



Superior Court Judges **Anne Lazarus** and **Carolyn Nichols** and Supreme Court Justice **Debra Todd** (l to r) participated in a June panel discussion in Harrisburg for Chatham University's Pennsylvania Center for Women in Politics.



Franklin County Court of Common Pleas celebrated Juror Appreciation Day with festivities sponsored by the Franklin County Bar Association.



On June 28, one year after Clean Slate legislation was signed into law, Court Administrator of Pennsylvania, **Tom Darr** spoke at a press conference in front of the PJC about the courts' role with clean slate.



AOPC wished **Ken Crump**, assistant director of Finance, a very happy retirement in early July. Ken worked for AOPC for more than 27 years. With absolute dedication and good humor, he was instrumental for many years in crafting the judiciary's annual state budget.



The PCSTJ officers (l to r): Treasurer - President Judge **Dennis Reinaker** (Lancaster); first vice president - Judge **Carolyn Tornetta Carluccio** (Montgomery); president elect - Judge **George W. Overton** (Philadelphia); President Judge **Terrence R. Nealon** (Lackawanna); second vice president - Judge **Christine A. Ward**, administrative judge – Civil Division (Allegheny); immediate past president - President Judge **Charles H. Saylor** (Northumberland); past president - Judge **George A. Pagano** (Delaware).
Not pictured: secretary - Judge **Marc F. Lovechio** (Lycoming).



Superior Court hosted Chinese law students from Temple University's LLM in Trial Advocacy program, in addition to interns and law students from local courts and the Montgomery County Bar Association's Diversity Committee. (l to r): PJE **Susan Gantman**, PJE **John Bender**, Senior Judge **James Colins** and Judge **Carolyn Nichols** along with the students and interns.



Kristen W. Brown, Esq., who recently retired as the prothonotary of Commonwealth Court, received the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Administrative Law Section's James S. Bowman Award for making a significant impact on the practice of administrative law and demonstrating leadership in mentoring administrative law practitioners.



Pictured with Court Administrator of Pennsylvania **Tom Darr** is Dr. Hannah Bows, an assistant professor in Criminal Law at Durham Law School in the United Kingdom, deputy director of the Centre for Research into Violence and Abuse, and co-director of the Centre for Criminal Law and Criminal Justice. Outside of academia, Prof. Bows sits as a magistrate on the County Durham and Darlington bench. Prof. Bows, who researches violence and abuse against elders, visited Pennsylvania (and other states) to understand how the U.S. responds to abuse and crimes against elders.



Allegheny County's former Chief Public Defender and newly appointed Common Pleas Judge **Elliot Howsie** during his swearing-in ceremony in June.



Assistant Court Administrator of Pennsylvania **Andrea Tuominen, Esq.**, after successfully completing a two-year term as the co-chair of the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Women in the Profession Committee. (l to r): Andrea Tuominen and co-chair Renee Mattei Myers.



PJ/PACM Board members at the June conference held in State College. (l to r): **Mark Singer** – vice president/Franklin district court administrator (DCA); **Amy DeMatt** – western director/Westmoreland DCA; **Deborah Rivera** – immediate past president/ Monroeville deputy court administrator; **Kevin Cross** – president-elect/Philadelphia deputy court administrator; **Lisa Hazen** – treasurer/Lawrence assistant court administrator; **Carol Dillon** – president/Montgomery deputy court administrator; **Kendra Miknis** – central director/Centre DCA; **Charles Mapp, Sr.** – eastern director/Philadelphia chief deputy court administrator; **Don Powers** – central director/Clinton DCA; **Heidi Shiderly, Esq.** – western director/Crawford DCA; **Kerry Turtzo** – eastern director/Lehigh DCA.



Court Interpreters Workshop attendees participated in exercises and listened to speakers providing valuable information at the July workshop in Harrisburg.

Transitions

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HARDWARE/SOTWARE TECH
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ERICA J. CIHONSKI – BUTLER – DEPUTY
COURT ADMIN
BELINDA A. EIGEN – OCFC – JUDICIAL
PROGRAMS ANALYST
ROBERT F. GRANZOW – JUDICIAL
DISTRICT SECURITY – ADMINISTRATOR
DANIEL S. HALL – IT – END USER
HARDWARE/SOFTWARE TECH
ELLIOT C. HOWSIE – ALLEGHENY –
JUDGE
ANNA-KRISTIE M. MARKS – LEHIGH –
JUDGE
MARY C. MCGINLEY – ALLEGHENY –
JUDGE
JACALYN S. MORAN – CAMBRIA – ASST
COURT ADMIN
CAROLYN M. MURPHY-PERRY – LEHIGH –
MDJ ADMIN
AMANDA D. PEREIRA – RESEARCH AND
STATS – RESEARCH ASSISTANT
MARSHALL J. PICCININI – ERIE – JUDGE
JORDAN S. RUDACILLE – IT – NOC
TECHNICIAN
CASEY M. SCHEFFLER –
COMMUNICATIONS – COMMUNICATIONS
COORDINATOR

CHRISTOPHER W. SPOHN – IT – END
USER HARDWARE/SOTWARE TECH
BRANDI C. TOY – ARMSTRONG –
DISTRICT COURT ADMIN
GEOFFREY E. WEYL – LEGAL – COUNSEL
BRANDON L. WHITESEL – IT – SENIOR
WEB DEVELOPER

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COURT ADMIN
STACEY J. BASSETT – CAMBRIA – ASST
COURT ADMIN
SHERRY A. BROWN – IT – NOC MANAGER
RONIT R. CHAUDHURI – IT – IT
SPECIALIST
KERI L. COHEN – LEGAL – LEGAL INTERN
AMANDA COOPERMAN – PHILADELPHIA
– JUDGE
KENNETH R. CRUMP – FINANCE –
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
LYNN M. CUMMINGS-WILSON – VENANGO
– DISTRICT COURT ADMIN
ROSE MARY FIGAZZOTTO – RESEARCH
AND STATS – RESEARCH ASSISTANT
JANINE M. HAUGHTON – LEGAL – LEGAL
INTERN
TOM M. HOLMAN – BUTLER – DEPUTY
DISTRICT COURT ADMIN
MARY BETH MARSCHIK – JUDICIAL
DISTRICT SECURITY – ADMINISTRATOR/
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO COURT ADMIN
KENDRA L. RILEY – FINANCE – ADMIN
ASSISTANT

H. GORDON ROBERTS – LEHIGH – MDJ
ADMIN
ROSALYN K. ROBINSON – PHILADELPHIA
– JUDGE
M. TERESA SARMINA – PHILADELPHIA –
JUDGE
J. KAY SHAFFER – IT – IT ASSET
COORDINATOR

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