

Numbers and charts don't tell the story of the Judiciary: Real people do

Somewhere in Pennsylvania right now, a police officer likely is tapping into a judicial computer network to write a traffic ticket or get information about a suspect that might save lives.

A single mom struggling with alcohol or drug abuse is doing her part to graduate from a Pennsylvania problem-solving court that the Judiciary increasingly is using to curb repeat offenses and save money.

An abused or neglected child is more likely to be placed with a caring family member than a foster home thanks to enhancements in the way Pennsylvania courts deal with child dependency.

These are the results of the efforts of those working in the state court system, and how they positively impact Pennsylvanians lives every day.

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Transitions

NEW TO THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

[Julia E. Bagnoni](#) - Erie - assistant court administrator
[David W. Barron](#) - Mifflin - Common Pleas Court President judge
[Meagan A. Bilik-DeFazio](#) - Westmoreland - Common Pleas Court judge
[Eleanor L. Bush](#) - Allegheny - Common Pleas Court judge
[Giovanni O. Campbell](#) - Philadelphia - Common Pleas Court judge
[Patrick C. Carmody](#) - Chester - Common Pleas Court judge
[Martin S. Coleman](#) - Philadelphia Municipal Court judge
[Linda R. Cordaro](#) - Fayette - Common Pleas Court judge
[Joseph M. Cosgrove](#) - Legal - chief legal counsel
[Anne Marie B. Coyle](#) - Philadelphia - Common Pleas Court judge
[Keith L. Culhane](#) - Administrative Services - support assistant
[Joseph P. Davolos](#) - Judicial Automation - security infrastructure specialist
[Michael I. Diehl](#) - Northumberland - magisterial district judge
[Robert A. Eckenrode](#) - York - magisterial district judge
[Brian A. Ficner](#) - Judicial Automation - network infrastructure specialist
[Joseph L. Fernandes](#) - Philadelphia - Common Pleas Court judge
[Madelyn S. Fudeman](#) - Berks - Common Pleas Court judge
[Tammy L. Funk](#) - Berks - deputy court administrator
[Kelley S. Gillette-Walker](#) - Centre - magisterial district judge
[Antonia Grifo](#) - Northampton - magisterial district judge
[Summer R. Hakkinen](#) - Finance - accountant

[Matthew R. Harvey](#) - Adams - magisterial district judge
[Amy Hyde](#) - Judicial Automation - systems analyst
[M. Theresa Johnson](#) - Berks - Common Pleas Court judge
[David R. Jones](#) - Judicial Automation - data center facilities specialist
[Wade A. Kagarise](#) - Blair - Common Pleas Court judge
[Richard A. Kasunic II](#) - Fayette - magisterial district judge
[Alexandra C. Kokura Kravitz](#) - Luzerne - magisterial district judge
[Deborah A. Krull](#) - Delaware - magisterial district judge
[Steven F. Lachman](#) - Centre - magisterial district judge
[Timika R. Lane](#) - Philadelphia - Common Pleas Court judge
[Henry Lewandowski](#) - Philadelphia Municipal Court judge
[Gregory J. Loftus](#) - Delaware - magisterial district judge
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[William C. Mackrides](#) - Delaware - Common Pleas Court judge
[Daniel D. McCaffery](#) - Philadelphia - Common Pleas Court judge
[Alexa J. McGraw](#) - Huntingdon - district court administrator
[Paul D. Menditto](#) - Pike - magisterial district judge
[Daniel L. Miller](#) - Forest - magisterial district judge
[Shannon L. Muir](#) - Pike - magisterial district judge
[Jeffrey L. Oberdorf](#) - York - magisterial district judge
[Todd R. Platts](#) - York - Common Pleas Court judge

[Guy L. Reschenthaler](#) - Allegheny - magisterial district judge
[Phillip R. Riley](#) - Monroe - magisterial district judge
[James J. Ross](#) - Beaver - Common Pleas Court judge
[David J. Rossi](#) - Schuylkill - magisterial district judge
[Michael F. Salisbury](#) - Clinton - Common Pleas Court judge
[Robert A. Sambroak Jr.](#) - Erie - Common Pleas Court judge
[Rashid O. Santiago](#) - Lehigh - magisterial district judge
[Jennifer A. Satler](#) - Allegheny - Common Pleas Court judge
[Melissa Schatzel](#) - Luzerne - deputy court administrator - human resources
[William E. Seger](#) - Somerset - magisterial district judge
[Teresa M. Shapiro](#) - Judicial Automation - clerical assistant
[Donald G. Shatzer](#) - Administrative Services - facilities maintenance assistant
[Thomas F. Shields](#) - Philadelphia Municipal Court judge
[Kathryn H. Silcox](#) - Cumberland - magisterial district judge
[Jennifer R. Sletvold](#) - Northampton - Common Pleas Court judge
[Jeffrey R. Sommer](#) - Chester - Common Pleas Court judge
[Merrill M. Spahn Jr.](#) - Lancaster - Common Pleas Court judge
[Victor P. Stabile](#) - elected to Superior Court
[Lauren A. Swartz](#) - Judicial Automation - student intern
[Sierra L. Thomas-Street](#) - Philadelphia - Common Pleas Court judge
[Steven C. Tolliver](#) - Montgomery - Common Pleas Court judge
[Joel N. Toluba](#) - York - magisterial district judge

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Correction



Superior Court Judge
Cheryl Lynn Allen

An item in the last issue of AOPConnected about Superior Court Judge **Cheryl Lynn Allen** contained the photo of another jurist. Here is the item with a photo of Judge Allen:

Superior Court Judge Cheryl Lynn Allen was among 22 Penn State alumni honored for their professional accomplishments and given the lifelong title of Alumni Fellow, the highest award given by the Penn State Alumni Association.

Judge Allen has served on the Superior Court bench for six years and has more than 30 years of experience in the judicial system. She practiced law for 15 years with Neighborhood Legal Services, the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission and the Allegheny County solicitor's office

prior to serving as a judge.

She served 17 years as a trial judge in Allegheny County prior to her election to Superior Court in 2007. In 2002 Gov. Mark Schweiker appointed her to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's Juvenile Court Judges Commission.

Judge Allen has received numerous awards for her efforts on behalf of children and families, including the Juvenile Court Judge's Commission Award, the Pennsylvania Commission for Women's History Month Award, and the Allegheny County Bar Association's Juvenile Justice Award. She was the keynote speaker for Penn State's 2013 Law and Education Day, hosted by the Dickinson School of Law and the College of Education.

Malice through the looking glass ... 50 years ago

by Zig Pines

The winter of 2014 will probably be noted for an extraordinary meteorological phenomenon, the polar vortex. A planetary clash of extremely cold air and mild temperatures occurred across the Northern hemisphere, creating extreme weather events of great instability. Sometimes in the course of human affairs, we experience a similar phenomenon. Fifty years ago, we had two such momentous events that dramatically changed the society we live in.

The face of hatred is a frightening one. Americans saw many such faces in the 1960s. The faces were white, and the objects of malice were black. The country was engulfed in a brutal conflagration of hate, primarily in the South.

Against the backdrop of bombings, lynchings, police attack dogs and unsolved murders of innocent people, segregationists fought nonviolent protestors who were struggling for basic freedoms (to vote, attend schools, use public accommodations or simply to get a cup of coffee at a lunch counter).

In the vortex of such degradation and hatred, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote a poignant letter from his Birmingham, Ala., jail cell. The epistle-like letter sought to explain his program of “nonviolent direct action.” In the lengthy letter, Dr. King lamented “the appalling silence of the good people.” Recognizing the “interrelatedness of all communities and states,” he said that “injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

Before his assassination in 1963, President John F. Kennedy made a televised address to the nation stating that it was time for the country to face its moral crisis and act. Thereafter, President Lyndon B. Johnson — at tremendous political risk — actively challenged Congress and the country to overcome “the crippling legacy of bigotry and injustice.” LBJ’s maneuvering was a political tour de force. After an unprecedented 57 days of filibuster (by the Southern bloc), the U.S. Senate passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by a vote of 73 to 27.

Justice had eventually prevailed over predatory hatred. The landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964 outlawed discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin. American society was profoundly altered as a result of this struggle for racial equality.

In 1964 the face of hatred made another, rather surprising, appearance. Again, the clash of forces in the struggle for racial equality spawned an extreme disturbance. It would travel up the steps and into the courtroom of the U.S. Supreme Court. At stake was another important principle —

freedom of speech.

The words of the First Amendment are starkly simple — Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech or of the press. (It was not until 1925 that the Supreme Court held that the amendment also applied to the states.)

Yet for most of our constitutional history, the Supreme Court did not address the scope of the First Amendment. For many years it was assumed that libel (that is, a defamatory false statement) was beyond the protection of the Constitution. Or so Montgomery, Ala., Commissioner L. B. Sullivan thought when he sued the New York Times and five Alabama clergymen for defamation in connection with a full-page ad. Money damages were sought, but the real purpose of the litigation was to intimidate and silence critics.

Interestingly, the ad (“Heed Their Rising Voices”) never named Commissioner Sullivan. It was generally critical of

Alabama’s law enforcement and its entrenched system of racial injustice. Seeking financial support for Dr. King and his nonviolent civil rights cause, the ad was later found to contain some minor inaccuracies. Because of those false statements, under Alabama law the newspaper and clergymen lost the defense of truth, effectively foreclosing any hope that the defendants would prevail. An all-white jury returned a judgment of \$500,000, the full amount that the commissioner

requested. An appeal followed. (The New York Times and other news organizations were facing other similar lawsuits for their reporting of the civil rights movement. Such multi-million dollar judgments would have bankrupted newspapers.)

In a stunning 9-0 decision, which went through eight prior drafts, the Supreme Court held for the first time that where an elected public official sues a “citizen critic” for defamation, the First Amendment requires proof of “actual malice,” that is, the statement was made with actual knowledge or reckless disregard of the truth. Thus, the right to criticize public officials — applicable to the press and ordinary citizens — was recognized as a core value of our constitution, even if such statements were unintentionally false. Justice William Brennan, the author of the opinion, looked at the First Amendment’s stark wording and decided to draw the constitutional line at the point of “malice.”

In retrospect 1964 was a momentous and astonishing year. The Civil Rights Act and the Sullivan case were hard-won victories for freedom and equality. Fifty years later, they remain a forceful reminder of a plausible verity that “the arc of the moral universe is long but it bends toward justice.” That was Martin Luther King Jr.’s vision.

AOPC

(Zygmunt Pines is the Court Administrator of Pennsylvania.)



Photo by Warren K. Leffler, 1963, Library of Congress





How the Judiciary impacts Pennsylvanians

Most people are unaware that Pennsylvania's state court system helps make police officers safer.

But Trooper Adam Reed knows firsthand the value of the data that is at an officer's fingertips through the laptop computer found in all state police vehicles — data that comes from the AOPC's Judicial Computer System.

"The computer system is our lifeline of information," he said. "It could be a traffic stop or responding to a domestic violence incident — we use the computer to get information about the people we're dealing with."

"The information we get off the computer can literally be a lifesaver for police officers performing their duties."
Trooper Adam Reed

"On numerous occasions — more than I can count — I would stop a vehicle for something seemingly innocent only to find that the vehicle was stolen or the person had an active arrest warrant out of another county or even another state.

"The information we get off the computer can literally be a lifesaver for police officers performing their duties. If we stop somebody for speeding, for example, we would like to know if that person has some sort of a warrant, perhaps even for homicide, before we approach the vehicle. That

information will completely change how we go about performing that stop. We know information that will change the way the suspect will approach their interaction with us."

Reed, a western Pennsylvania native, is a University of Pittsburgh graduate who was assigned to the Carlisle barracks after training at the state police academy. He now serves as a public information officer.

In addition to being a lifesaver, the Judicial Computer System offers efficiencies that save time and money, Reed noted.

"Prior to the new technology, we would hand write all our traffic citations, they would be collected and a trooper would hand deliver them to the magisterial district judges' offices," he explained. "Now with everything being electronic, it saves us some time. Roadside, we can compose a traffic citation, issue it to the motorist and electronically transmit it to the judges' offices. Saving time and saving money gives us more time to do our job — to get out and get the bad guys and make arrests.

"Information provided by the courts is crucial for performance of our duties as police officers. The timeliness and the availability of that information certainly saves lives. And is certainly important to what we do everyday."

Saving the Defendant

Mindy Arnold holds a degree in microbiology from Penn State, is a certified medical technologist, currently works two jobs and is the mother of two children. She is also a recovering alcoholic and says that those who oversee Union County's drug court, "saved my life."

"I guarantee you, I wouldn't be sitting here today, with a full-time job, a part-time job, visitation with my kids, clean, sober, a member of society." **Mindy Arnold**

Arnold is a proud graduate of drug treatment court. She is so passionate about the work of drug courts that she regularly speaks at program graduations, with county officials and with the general public about the importance and difference drug court can make in a person's life. And she knows.

"I had two DUIs, was a very heavy alcoholic, really couldn't get clean on my own," she said. "I was looking at two-and-a-half to five in state prison, plus I had other charges.

"I was offered the option of drug court. With children and a family, I opted for the program. It didn't start out very easy. It is very strict, very strenuous, a very structured program.

"When you're just getting clean, your mind isn't working the right way yet. I bucked the system as much as I could. At one point I relapsed on another substance."

(continued on page 5)

At that point those involved sent her to an inpatient rehabilitation facility. She completed the program and has been clean ever since.

“I was committed; I had to be. I knew I was dying, and it was either keep going the way I was or change. I opted for change.”

Arnold was required to go before the drug court judge in four phases: weekly in phase one, bi-weekly in phase two, and monthly in phase three. In phase two she was taken off of house arrest while continuing the other requirements of the program. In phase three the drug monitor was removed and her counseling and probation contacts were decreased.

Finally, with a clean record, she graduated.

“It was tough, but it was worth it. I’m not there yet. Progress, not perfection.”

Where would she be today without drug court?

“I would have gone away to prison. I’m not sure how much time I would have done. I guarantee you, I wouldn’t be sitting here today, with a full-time job, a part-time job, visitation with my kids, clean, sober, a member of society. I can guarantee it.”

Protecting the Child

The Supreme Court created the Office of Children and Families in the Courts (OCFC) in 2006 to achieve better outcomes for foster children.

The OCFC’s goal — working within the AOPC and partners in local courts and the Department of Public Welfare — is to minimize the time abused or neglected children spend in temporary living situations and maximize their opportunity to be in permanent, loving homes.

“We bring the family together to ferret out their issues and come up with a plan to meet the concerns. And that’s what it’s all about.” Bill Cisek

The results tell the story:

In 2007 more than 21,000 abused and neglected children were living temporarily in foster care homes. By 2013 the OCFC and its partners had reduced that number to 14,000 — a 34 percent reduction, saving an estimated \$117 million tax dollars each year.

Better yet is that the lives of children are improved by being reunited with family wherever possible.

Bill Cisek knows the value of the work of the OCFC and its partners. He has lived in Venango County most of his life and as solicitor to the county’s Children and Youth Services Agency, has seen the value of changes in the way Pennsylvania approaches issues of child dependency.

“They’ve made a huge impact,” he said. “Prior to OCFC, on a scale of one to 10, we were probably operating at a one. Now, children and youth agencies are operating between eight and 10 — it’s that much of a difference. And if you’re a child that has been positively impacted by this, it means the world.

“Who better than family to raise a child? A child should be where their roots come from, not with someone else, unless warranted.

“Prior to the work of OCFC, the agency in our county was known as the ‘Evil Empire’ — the agency that went and snatched babies and didn’t work with people. It was the dark agency that did what they thought was right and didn’t seek input from anyone else.

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Justice

“Today, there’s a night-and-day difference. We bring the family together to ferret out their issues and come up with a plan to meet the concerns. And that’s what it’s all about. A family who comes up with their own plan is more likely to follow that plan, to become successful and to do it on their own with the handholding of the agency.”

Being a Judge

Why does a person want to become a judge? What it is like to be one, and how do judges view their role and the role of the judiciary in our society?

Philadelphia Common Pleas Court President Judge **Shelia A. Woods-Skipper** said being a judge “is the best job I’ve ever had, a wonderful experience, and I would not trade it for the world.”

She was first appointed to the bench in 1998, then elected the following year to a full 10-year term. She was retained by voters for another term in 2009.

“We pride ourselves on knowing the law, applying the law equally and providing access to justice.” **President Judge Shelia A. Woods-Skipper**

“As a judge, I have the ability to make a difference,” she explained. “To show that everyone has the right to have access to justice, to know that there is an even playing field and that you will have the opportunity to have someone listen and give you your day in court. It doesn’t matter whether it is civil, criminal or family court; everyone has the right to be heard.”

President Judge Woods-Skipper says that one challenge of being a jurist is the isolation that comes as one takes

on an entirely different role among colleagues. Sometimes even friends look at you a little differently.

“I remember being in the deli line in the supermarket and someone turned around and said, ‘Judge, what are you doing here?’ And I laughed and I said, ‘I have to eat, just like you do.’”

She said that people often think judges only sit and hear cases and render decisions, but in actuality they do so much more in the way of programs to help people who come before the courts.

President Judge Woods-Skipper talks with pride and passion about presiding over Philadelphia’s mental health court – one of the judiciary’s many problem-solving courts operating across the state with the assistance of the AOPC’s Judicial Programs Department. She said there is great satisfaction in providing support that allows participants to achieve goals ranging from reconnecting with family to learning how to take medications, to finding jobs or volunteer opportunities.

“We need resources to be current and relevant. For example, on the criminal side, most of the individuals we sentence are not spending a lifetime in prison. If we want them to be successful and not repeat offenders, there need to be resources available to make sure they are getting things they need — education, training, housing — so as judges we need to be sure there is re-entry planning. You need funding to do that.

“I would like the public to recognize the importance that judges place on the administration of justice and that they are really committed and dedicated to doing that. We pride ourselves on knowing the law, applying the law equally and providing access to justice. We just need to make sure we have the appropriate resources to do that.” **AOPC**

more INFORMATION

on how the judiciary impacts Pennsylvanians

<http://www.pacourts.us/judicial-administration/budget>



Newly elected judges: Class of 2014

New Pennsylvania judges gathered in January for a week-long orientation session presented by the AOPC’s Judicial Education Department. This year’s New Judges School program drew 39 attendees whose areas of study included criminal and civil process, family law, juvenile law, evidence and orphans’ court law. Programs on professional development explored topics designed to help the new judges make a smooth transition to the bench. **AOPC**

Pennsylvania judges get new code of conduct

Strengthening and clarifying the rules governing the behavior of judges when both on and off the bench was the goal of a new Code of Judicial Conduct approved by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

Notable changes include the adoption of provisions dealing with nepotism and service on commercial boards, including the issues of recusal and disqualification. The new code goes into effect on July 1.

The new code is based on a model code the American Bar Association adopted in 2007. It updates a set of rules judges have been using since their adoption in 1973.

The updated code includes a provision requiring a judge's administrative appointments and hiring decisions must be impartial. The code also directs judges to avoid nepotism, favoritism and unnecessary appointments.

Another major change in the code now prohibits service on commercial boards and all judges who hold such positions have until July 1, 2015 to resign from those seats. Prior limits on personal financial activities remain in force to avoid conflicts of interest and disqualifications from judicial matters, but the new code allows judges to place personal investments into a blind trust rather than relinquishing those investments.

The Supreme Court three years ago established a work group, chaired by Superior Court Judge **Anne E. Lazarus**, to recommend revisions to the Code of Judicial Conduct. The group, which included judges, lawyers and academics, reviewed the 2007 American Bar Association model and codes from other states in making its recommendations.

Others collaborating with the work group on the proposed revisions were the Pennsylvania Bar Association and the Philadelphia Bar Association. **AOPC**



more INFORMATION

to read the new judicial Code of Conduct:

<http://www.pacourts.us/assets/opinions/Supreme/out/419jad-attach.pdf?cb=1>

Judiciary outlines its fiscal needs for making a difference

“Real” people deliver success stories to the state legislature

State lawmakers typically see lots of charts and data during their annual budget-making process.

But this year, for the first time, the Pennsylvania judiciary bolstered its budget proposal to the General Assembly with first-hand accounts of how the state court system impacts individuals, families and communities. The narratives underscore the importance of adequate and stable court funding and how its impact is felt beyond judges and courtrooms.

The stories were part of this year's State of the Commonwealth Courts, which typically has been issued around May 1, Law Day. To help save costs, the publication was issued at budget time so the information could be highlighted for legislators.

Under the headline “How the Judiciary Impacts Pennsylvanians,” a state trooper, drug court graduate, solicitor for Children and Youth Services and a Philadelphia

judge talked about how the judiciary – its resources, projects and mission – affects Pennsylvanians' lives. Two inserts, “How Pennsylvania's Courts are Funded and Judicial Fiscal Fast Facts,” and a formal budget statement request were part of a package of material presented to the Senate and House Appropriations Committees.

Members of the AOPC Communications Office worked with other departments to identify and chronicle stories of Pennsylvanians who come into contact with the state court system. The work culminated in the print material and a video, also available on the website. **Amy Kelchner**, assistant communications manager; **Gretchen Hallman** and **Greg Daurelle**, both graphic designers, and **Leo Perrong**, an audio visual technician, completed the project. **AOPC**



more INFORMATION

see the budget page of the state court website: www.pacourts.us/judicial-administration/budget

Remembering Wendell Freeland

Lawyer, civil rights
activist, Tuskegee
Airman

Wendell Freeland was a respected attorney, pioneering civil rights activist and proud member of the Tuskegee Airmen of World War II fame.

Yet one of his more satisfying moments came in 2010 when he and others helped persuade the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania to posthumously admit George Vashon, a 19th-century African-American lawyer from Pittsburgh, to the Pennsylvania bar.

Freeland, 88, died in January after a battle with pancreatic cancer, leaving behind a long legacy of career and community service.

Freeland and Nolan Atkinson, a Philadelphia lawyer and Vashon's great-grandson, petitioned the Supreme Court on behalf of George Vashon's descendants. Vashon's bar application had been twice turned down by the Allegheny County Bar because of his race.

Chief Justice of Pennsylvania **Ronald D. Castille** presented a Certificate of Admission on behalf of the court to the Vashon family during an unprecedented



Photo by Mike Drazdzinski/University Times

ceremony in Pittsburgh that drew widespread media coverage.

"Wendell was a great attorney with a strong sense of right and wrong as a result of his unique background," the chief justice said. "He was one of Pennsylvania's best lawyers and his counsel will be greatly missed by our court."

A former member of the Supreme Court's Appellate Court Procedural Rules Committee, Freeland also was a chairman of the board of directors of the Urban League of Pittsburgh from 1962 to 1967 and a former senior vice president of the National Urban League board. He was at the forefront of the civil rights movement in Pittsburgh in the 1960s.

Freeland, who was born in Baltimore, flew combat missions in World War II as a member of the legendary Tuskegee Airmen. He was among a group of black officers in the 477th Bombardment Group who tried to enter an all-white officers' club and was arrested — often considered an early step toward integrating the military in 1948.

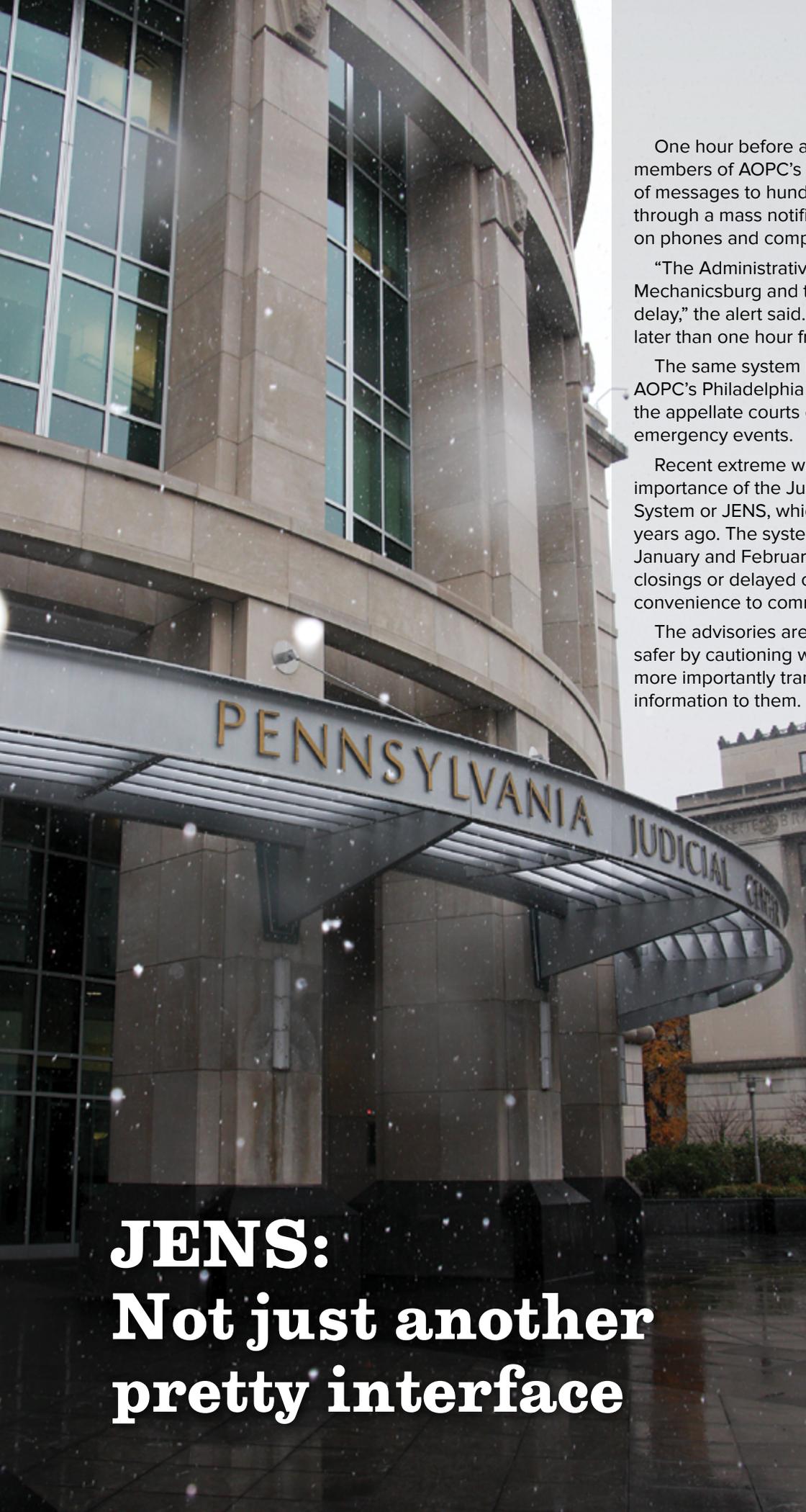
Following the war, Freeland married his wife, Jane, in 1946. He graduated from Howard University and was one of the first black graduates of the University of Maryland School of Law.

He arrived in Pittsburgh in 1950 when he took a job with the Smith Jones law firm. He later worked as an assistant district attorney and then returned to private practice. He continued to practice law into his 80s. [AOPC](#)



Around the Judiciary

Supreme Court Justice **Seamus P. McCaffery** (right) swore into office newly elected Philadelphia Common Pleas Court Judge **Daniel D. McCaffery**, his brother, during a private ceremony following the 2013 general election. Believed to be the first time brothers have served at the same time on the Common Pleas and Supreme Court benches, the McCafferys were joined by their mother, Margaret, for the event in Justice McCaffery's Philadelphia chambers. [AOPC](#)



JENS: Not just another pretty interface

One hour before a cold and snowy sunrise on Jan. 3, members of AOPC's Human Resources fired off a flurry of messages to hundreds of state court employees through a mass notification system that triggered alerts on phones and computers.

"The Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts in Mechanicsburg and the PJC will operate on a one-hour delay," the alert said. "Staff should report to work no later than one hour from their regular start time."

The same system is used to alert employees in AOPC's Philadelphia office — and those working in the appellate courts of weather-related and other emergency events.

Recent extreme winter weather highlighted the importance of the Judiciary Emergency Notification System or JENS, which was established nearly three years ago. The system was deployed six times in January and February to provide information on closings or delayed operating hours, adding speed and convenience to communications with court employees.

The advisories are designed to make travel to work safer by cautioning workers about conditions and, more importantly transmitting important emergency information to them.

Prior to JENS, employees had to contact a call-in message line or rely on TV and radio alerts. The switchover meant a more sophisticated system capable of sending messages to as many employees as desired via most types of communications devices, providing an immediate response to an emergency event or business disruption.

The system alerts also trigger the posting of the same notices on the state court system's website and Twitter feed, providing timely updates to those doing business with court offices and the general public.

Nearly 900 people are signed up to receive alerts through the system, which allows employees to get notices via text, voice, and/or e-mail messages. [AOPC](#)

moreINFORMATION

send an email to

human.resources@pacourts.us

Problem-solving courts reporting tool up and running



(L to R) Andrew Simpson, Nevin Warner, Karen Blackburn

A new statewide automated system is compiling problem-solving court data so Pennsylvania courts can measure the performance of programs aimed at diverting defendants from jails into supervised treatment settings. The Problem-Solving Adult and Juvenile Courts Information System, or PAJCIS, provides more than 1,200 judges, prosecutors, probation officers, court administrators and others with financial data and other information about defendants in a court-approved program. Statistics show problem-solving court programs can save taxpayers money by eliminating jail costs, and can curb recidivism through treatment of drug and alcohol dependency.

Karen Blackburn, AOPC problem-solving courts administrator; **Nevin Warner**, problem-solving courts analyst, and **Andrew Simpson**, judicial programs analyst, provided an overview of the system to representatives of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. [AOPC](#)

Philadelphia judges help foster judicial reform in Morocco



(L to R) Judges Lillian Harris Ransom; Lisette Shirdan-Harris; Genece E. Brinkley; Moroccan Chief Justice Mostafa Faress and Moroccan Justice Bendayjour; Sheila A. Woods-Skipper (President Judge); Karen Shreeves-Johns; Carolyn H. Nichols and John L. Braxton

Seven Philadelphia Common Pleas judges shared their experiences with other jurists and lawyers during an educational conference in Morocco.

Sheila A. Woods-Skipper (president judge), **John L. Braxton** (senior judge), **Genece E. Brinkley**, **Carolyn H. Nichols**, **Lillian Harris Ransom**, **Lisette Shirdan-Harris** and **Karen Shreeves-Johns** attended to share their views on issues involving Moroccan and U.S. laws. They are members of the National Bar Association's Delegation of African-American judges and lawyers, who Moroccan court officials invited to promote the exchange of legal concepts and ideas.

Founded in 1925, the National Bar Association is America's oldest and largest organization of African-American lawyers and judges.

"This incredible experience, involving the exchange of culture, history and the law — funded by the judges themselves — resulted not only in an enjoyable and educational experience for all involved, but also provided an opportunity for American judges to explore and compare the uniqueness of our judicial system and its strengths, against other legal frameworks," President Judge Woods-Skipper said.



A focus group of court administrators was held at the PJC to gather input.

Online forms to serve as court guide

An online self-help project is underway to guide the growing number of Pennsylvanians who are filing their own family law cases.

When completed later this year, divorce and custody forms will be provided on the Unified Judicial System website. Instructions for completing the forms will be included. Links to county judicial districts in which each family court is located will direct self-represented litigants to details on how and where to file the documents.

“Entering a courthouse with a completed custody complaint is of no value if the litigant doesn’t know where to go with it,” said **Vivian Appel**, deputy court administrator for Lehigh County’s family court. “We need to have filing instructions from each judicial district to make the forms useful.”

Although exact numbers are unavailable, court administrators agree family court is where a significant percentage of self-represented — or *pro se* — civil filings take place. Whether driven by economic reasons, proliferation of self-help information on the Internet, or other factors, most agree the trend has fed a need to respond to those who want assistance in completing their forms and a better understanding of court process.

Nearly half of Pennsylvania’s 67 counties currently have some type of family court forms available online for those who want to file their own cases.

The Supreme Court’s Family Forms Project, as the initiative is known, is envisioned to generate greater statewide consistency in providing information about self-representation and the availability of the forms. It is also viewed as a tool to help streamline and expedite cases involving self-represented litigants, ensuring greater accuracy and understanding in the pleadings that are filed.

The effort was launched in September 2013 when Justice **Max Baer** hosted a meeting in Pittsburgh among

judges, court administrators and representatives from the Pennsylvania Bar Association to outline general goals for the initiative. It complements the judiciary’s longstanding efforts to promote public access and transparency to state court system information and proceedings.

Just prior to that session, Superior Court Judge **Jack A. Panella** and Samuel W. Milkes, Esq., of the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network had presented a report at the 2013 PJ/PACM conference on the Commission on Justice Initiatives Task Force on Self-Representation. It included a recommendation for statewide access to family court forms and filing instructions.

“Entering a courthouse with a completed custody complaint is of no value if the litigant doesn’t know where to go with it,” said Vivian Appel, deputy court administrator for Lehigh County’s family court. “We need to have filing instructions from each judicial district to make the forms useful.”

Rick Pierce, an AOPC Judicial Programs administrator, and **Gretchen Hallman**, AOPC graphic designer, are coordinating development of the online package. Appel, who also is on the Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee, and **Mark Dalton**, Lancaster County district court administrator, also are participating in the project.

“I think this is such an important project, and I am proud to be a part of it,” said Appel, who’s also an attorney.

Those involved in the project note cautionary statements from some in the legal community but point to benefits for both the courts and Pennsylvania families. Having consistent and reliable information online that assists self-represented litigants means courts can save time, reduce confusion and mistakes and help families with limited funds have greater access to justice, they note. **AOPC**

Transitions

(continued from page 2)

Christopher S. Tomlinson - Administrative Services - support assistant
Mark V. Tranquilli - Allegheny - Common Pleas Court judge
Daniel C. Trexler - Lehigh - magisterial district judge
William T. Tully - Dauphin - Common Pleas Court judge
Daniel P. Wallace - Mercer - Common Pleas Court judge
Gail A. Weilheimer - Montgomery - Common Pleas Court judge
David L. Yoch - Berks - magisterial district judge
George N. Zanic - Huntingdon - Common Pleas Court judge
Jeremiah D. Zook - Franklin - Common Pleas Court judge
Justin R. Zullinger - Judicial Automation - NOC technician

APPOINTMENTS

David R. Cashman - Allegheny - administrative judge of criminal division
Nancy L. Edie - York - sr. magisterial district judge
Ronald W. Folino - Allegheny - administrative judge of civil division
Lydia Y. Kirkland - Philadelphia Municipal Court sr. judge
Joseph R. Lefaiver - Erie - sr. magisterial district judge
Joan Marinkovits - Northampton - sr. magisterial district judge
Stephen P.B. Minor - Potter - acting president judge of Tioga County
Charles G. Nistico - Delaware - sr. magisterial district judge
Howard F. Riley Jr. - Chester - Common Pleas Court sr. judge

OTHER JOB CHANGES

Penny L. Blackwell - York - Common Pleas Court judge apptd. sr. judge
John E. Blahovec - Westmoreland - Common Pleas Court judge apptd. sr. judge
John N. Bova - Allegheny - magisterial district judge apptd. sr. magisterial district judge
Pat A. Capolupo - Allegheny - magisterial district judge apptd. sr. magisterial district judge
Richard M. Cappelli - Delaware - magisterial district judge elected Common Pleas Court judge
Lawrence F. Clark Jr. - Dauphin - Common Pleas Court judge apptd. sr. judge
Michael F.X. Coll - Delaware - Common Pleas Court judge apptd. sr. judge
Valarie S. Costanzo - Washington - magisterial district judge elected Common Pleas Court judge
Robert E. Dalton - Tioga - Common Pleas Court president judge apptd. sr. judge

Chester F. Darlington - Chester - magisterial district judge apptd. sr. magisterial district judge

John P. Dohanich - Beaver - Common Pleas Court judge apptd. sr. judge

Louis J. Farina - Lancaster - Common Pleas Court judge apptd. sr. judge

Jeffrey L. Finley - Bucks - elected president judge

Susan Peikes Gantman - elected president judge of Superior Court

Joseph M. George Jr. - Fayette - magisterial district judge elected Common Pleas Court judge

James A. Gibbons - Lackawanna - magisterial district judge elected Common Pleas Court judge

Patricia H. Jenkins - Delaware - Common Pleas Court judge apptd. to Superior Court

D. Webster Keogh - Philadelphia - Common Pleas Court judge apptd. sr. judge

Stephanie H. Klein - Delaware - magisterial district judge apptd. sr. magisterial district judge

Stewart L. Kurtz - Huntingdon - Common Pleas Court president judge apptd. sr. judge

Jeffrey A. Manning - Allegheny - elected president judge

Stephen A. McBride - Pike - magisterial district judge apptd. sr. magisterial district judge

Lester G. Nauhaus - Allegheny - Common Pleas Court judge apptd. sr. judge

Charity L. Nileski - Cambria - magisterial district judge apptd. sr. magisterial district judge

Joseph Scott O'Keefe - Philadelphia - Philadelphia Municipal Court judge elected Common Pleas Court judge

Carol A. Pankake - Schuylkill - magisterial district judge apptd. sr. magisterial district judge

Max F. Pavlovich - Cambria - magisterial district judge apptd. sr. magisterial district judge

Jay R. Rose - Pike - magisterial district judge apptd. sr. magisterial district judge

Robert B. Sacavage - Northumberland - Common Pleas Court president judge - apptd. sr. judge

Peter W. Schmehl - Berks - Common Pleas Court judge apptd. sr. judge

Arthur R. Tilson - Montgomery - Common Pleas Court judge apptd. sr. judge

John C. Tuten - Delaware - magisterial district judge apptd. sr. magisterial district judge

William H. Wiest - Northumberland - appointed president judge

John D. Whitesell - Monroe - magisterial district judge apptd. sr. magisterial district judge

Sheila A. Woods-Skipper - Philadelphia - elected president judge

Leonard N. Zito - Northampton - Common Pleas Court judge apptd. sr. judge

DEATHS

Opal F. Bodanza - Berks - former district justice

Esther L. Cordell - Franklin - former district justice of the peace

Anthony J. DeFino - Philadelphia - former (sr.) Common Pleas Court judge

Elizabeth G. Ehrlich - Berks - former (sr.) Common Pleas Court judge

William G. Farrell - Tioga - former district justice

John Gombosi - Northampton - former (sr.) district justice

D. Donald Jamieson - Philadelphia - former Superior Court judge

Paul L. Johnson - Chester - former district justice

John J. McLean Jr. - Allegheny - former Common Pleas Court judge

Joseph F. Orso Jr. - Lycoming - former district justice

Douglas W. Reed - Allegheny - former (sr.) magisterial district judge

Calvin E. Smith - Berks - former (sr.) Common Pleas Court judge

Robert C. Wright - Delaware - former Common Pleas Court judge

RETIREMENTS

Norman Ackerman - Philadelphia - Common Pleas Court sr. judge

Fred P. Anthony - Erie - Common Pleas Court sr. judge

Sharon L. Ciminera - Judicial Automation - administrative assistant

Robert E. Colville - Superior Court sr. judge

Ruth C. Dietrich - Bucks - sr. magisterial district judge

John E. Dugan - Lehigh - sr. magisterial district judge

Thomas J. Eshelman - Berks - Common Pleas Court sr. judge

Ricardo C. Jackson - Philadelphia - Common Pleas Court sr. judge

William J. Manfredi - Philadelphia - Common Pleas Court judge

Michael J. Morris - Montgomery - deputy court administrator

Victor D. Riley - Dauphin - deputy court administrator

Dwight K. Shaner - Fayette - magisterial district judge

Richard H. Simms - Lancaster - sr. magisterial district judge

Felice Rowley Stack - Philadelphia - Common Pleas Court sr. judge

James B. Van Kirk - Finance - budget analyst

RESIGNATIONS

Paul D. Burton - Judicial Automation - PACMS project manager

Gary F. Di Vito - Philadelphia - Common Pleas Court judge

Jane E. Farrell - Wayne - magisterial district judge

Sherri M. Henderson - Judicial Automation - systems analyst

Keith E. Hinkel - Judicial Automation - systems trainer

Frank L. Richter - Judicial Automation - Citrix server technician

(continued on page 13)

Transitions

(continued from page 12)

DID NOT RUN FOR RETENTION/RE-ELECTION

Thomas R. Carr - Adams - magisterial district judge

Roger F. Gordon - Philadelphia - Common Pleas Court judge

SUPREME COURT COMMITTEES

Charles J. Avalli, Esq. - apptd. to Orphans' Court Procedural Rules Committee

Honorable R. Stephen Barrett - apptd. to Juvenile Court Procedural Rules Committee

Oori J. Cerato, Esq. - apptd. to Orphans' Court Procedural Rules Committee

Alan M. Feldman, Esq. - apptd. to Pennsylvania Interest on Lawyers Trust Account Board

Eugene H. Gillin, Esq. - reapptd. to Orphans' Court Procedural Rules Committee

Robert A. Gleason Jr. - apptd. to Pennsylvania Lawyers Fund for Client Security Board

Jeffrey R. Hoffmann, Esq. - reapptd. to Criminal Procedural Rules Committee

Honorable J. Brian Johnson - apptd. vice chair of Juvenile Court Procedural Rules Committee

John F. Meck, Esq. - reapptd. to Orphans' Court Procedural Rules Committee, apptd. chair

Honorable Lawrence J. O'Toole - reapptd. to Orphans' Court Procedural Rules Committee

Wayne M. Pecht, Esq. - apptd. to Orphans' Court Procedural Rules Committee

Caroline Roberto, Esq. - apptd. vice chair of Criminal Procedural Rules Committee

Burton A. Rose, Esq. - reapptd. to Continuing Legal Education Board

Honorable Thomas P. Rogers - apptd. chair of Criminal Procedural Rules Committee

Elizabeth G. Simcox, Esq. - reapptd. to Continuing Legal Education Board

OTHER BOARDS/COMMITTEES

Lucille Marsh, Esq. - reapptd. to Interbranch Commission for Gender, Racial and Ethnic Fairness

Rhonda Hill Wilson, Esq. - reapptd. to Interbranch Commission for Gender, Racial and Ethnic Fairness

Gantman chosen by peers to president judge post



The Superior Court of Pennsylvania elected **Susan Peikes Gantman** as its new president judge.

President Judge Gantman succeeded interim President Judge **John T. Bender**, who filled a vacancy created when former President Judge **Correale F. Stevens** was appointed to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. President Judge Gantman will serve a five-year term as head of the Superior Court.

She first was elected to the Superior Court in 2003 and retained for another 10-year term in 2013.

Before joining the Superior Court, President Judge Gantman was in private law practice for 22 years. She served as a senior member and co-chair of the Family Law Section of Cozen O'Connor and as a partner in the former law firm of Sherr Joffe & Zuckerman P.C. She represented the Montgomery County Office of Children and Youth as well as Housing and Community Development, and was a former assistant district attorney of Montgomery County. [AOPC](#)



Stabile sworn in to Superior Court

Superior Court Judge **Victor P. Stabile** was sworn into office during a formal ceremony at the Forum Building in Harrisburg. Supreme Court Justice **Thomas G. Saylor** administered the oath of office to Judge Stabile, who was elected to the intermediate appellate court during what was the only statewide race in the 2013 general election. Judge Stabile's wife, Victoria, and daughters — Christina and Alexandra — accompanied him at the ceremony. Superior Court President Judge **Susan Peikes Gantman** and Commonwealth Court Judge **Anne E. Covey** presented remarks at the event. [AOPC](#)

Honors & Dispatches



Chief Justice of Pennsylvania **Ronald D. Castille** is part of a workgroup formed by the National Institute of Justice to develop videoconferencing technology guidelines for use in state and local courts.

“Pennsylvania’s court system is recognized as a leader in the use of videoconferencing technology,” Chief Justice Castille said. “Since 2008 our courts have been applying this technology, most importantly to enhance security by reducing the risk of defendant escape or assault on transport officers, judges and persons in the courtroom — and as a secondary benefit to significantly cut costs associated with transporting prisoners.”

Most of Pennsylvania’s estimated 15,000 monthly videoconferencing proceedings are preliminary arraignments. Other uses include warrant proceedings and bail and sentencing hearings. Videoconferences are conducted with defendants in state, county and local jails; in booking centers and at Pennsylvania State Police stations.



Retired Commonwealth Court Judge **Doris Smith-Ribner** was appointed to the president’s Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for African-Americans.

She is one of 15 people named to the commission, which is charged with advising the president and the Secretary of Education how to advance federal programs that promote educational opportunities and increase participation in federal agency programs for African-Americans.

Judge Smith-Ribner served on the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court from 1988 until her retirement in 2009. She was an Allegheny County Common Pleas judge from 1984 until her election to Commonwealth Court. She currently serves on the Interbranch Commission on Gender, Racial and Ethnic Fairness’ Criminal Justice and Equal Opportunity and Diversity Committees.

Chief Justice of Pennsylvania **Ronald D. Castille** administered the formal oaths of office for several newly elected Philadelphia judges, including Common Pleas Court Judges **Anne Marie B. Coyle**,

Timika Lane, Joe Fernandes, Giovanni Campbell, Sierra Thomas and J. Scott O’Keefe; retained Judges **Remy I. Djerassi, Lori A. Dumas, Holly J. Ford, Joel S. Johnson, Frederica A. Massiah-Jackson, Jeffery P. Minehart, Paula A. Patrick, Allan L. Tereshko and Nina Wright Padilla**; newly elected Municipal Court Judges **T. Francis Shields, Henry Lewandowski III and Martin S. Coleman**; and retained Municipal Court Judges **Teresa Carr Deni, Jacquelyn Frazier-Lyde and Joseph J. O’Neill**.

Mayor Michael A. Nutter presented official greetings to the nearly two dozen judges at the Academy of Music in Center City.

“The women and men who were sworn in to office today represent an impressive group of elected officials committed to city government and judicial service,” Mayor Nutter said. “Congratulations to all of the incumbent and newly elected judges of the Court of Common Pleas and Municipal Court, as they embark on the next chapter of service to the citizens of Philadelphia. I know they will work with city government, our partners at the state and federal level, and the city’s many communities to improve the quality of life and address critical law enforcement, financial and judicial issues for the City of Philadelphia.”

The Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission sponsored a special screening of the film “Kids For Cash” at the Pennsylvania Judicial Center for jurists, court administrators and others prior to its theatrical premiere in Philadelphia. A group discussion about the film and its key messages followed.

The film premiered in Philadelphia before opening in theaters nationwide, exploring events that entangled thousands of children in Pennsylvania’s juvenile court system and sent two former judges to prison.

The Supreme Court initiated a statewide revamping of many court rules and practices following the much-publicized juvenile justice failings. The changes were based on a series of recommendations from the Interbranch Commission on Juvenile Justice. In addition, an extensive review of the convictions of Luzerne County juveniles over a period of several years and expungement of the criminal records of all 2,400 juveniles took place under the direction of the Supreme Court.



A new criminal case diversion program in the First Judicial District aims to address domestic violence matters through individual treatment for anger, mental illness

and drug abuse without bringing the defendants to prosecution.

Philadelphia Municipal Court launched the

Domestic Violence Diversion Court under the supervision of President Judge **Marsha H. Neifield**. The domestic violence court is the newest of several diversion programs designed to address the root causes of crime and reduce strain on the court system.

When an individual is brought up on domestic violence charges, depending on the severity of the alleged offense, that person has the opportunity to enter the program. The defendant’s case is evaluated and the proper course of action for treatment is determined.

Stephen Feller, director of Judicial Education, and **Mary Kennedy**, assistant director, attended the Sixth International Conference on the Training of the Judiciary in Washington, D.C. The theme of the conference was “Judicial Excellence through Education.” The hosts for the conference were the International Organization for Judicial Training (IOJT) and the National Center for State Courts.

Over four days judicial educators from around the globe participated in seminars focusing on leadership; skill building; technology; and supporting reform, independence and accountability. Events included a reception at the United States Supreme Court and a dinner at the Library of Congress.

Cathy Kane has been named administrator of the Court of Judicial Discipline of Pennsylvania, succeeding **Wanda Sweigart** who retired this year after serving in the post since the court’s inception in 1993.

Kane has extensive experience working for state government and the private legal community. She served as legal secretary to the Senate majority chief counsel’s office and as an administrative assistant for Pennsylvania’s Legislative Reapportionment Commission, whose chair was Senior Superior Court Judge **Stephen J. McEwen**. She also spent 14 years as an office manager for a Harrisburg law firm that focused on public utility law. A native of Harrisburg, Kane and her husband, Mike, live in Cumberland County.

The court administrator’s duties include ensuring filings, orders and other documents are properly docketed. The administrator also assists the court in scheduling hearings and trials and arranging facilities as needed for meetings. The Court of Judicial Discipline hears cases brought against jurists for alleged misconduct — whether on or off the bench — and has the authority to impose sanctions ranging from a reprimand to removal from office if the charges are sustained.



Justice **Thomas G. Saylor** was keynote speaker at the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network 2014 Excellence Awards dinner in Harrisburg.

The event is held annually to recognize attorneys, lawmakers

and other professionals from across Pennsylvania for their efforts in support of those served by the civil legal programs of the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network. York County Senior Judge **John C. Uhler** was one of a dozen award recipients.

The awards were presented at the organization's annual dinner at the Harrisburg Hilton & Towers.



The First Judicial District is helping Philadelphia's growing immigrant communities by releasing Cambodian, Chinese, Korean, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese translations of the most frequently used

documents in Family Court and Municipal Court.

"We've seen how frustrating the process can be for people who don't speak the

language," Common Pleas Court President Judge **Sheila A. Woods-Skipper** has said. "We wanted to help."

Twenty-nine documents, including those related to landlord-tenant disputes and traffic violations, were translated into each language. The project could also be a money saver for the court, the judge said, eliminating the need to pay interpreters to do in-person translations of the documents that were part of the project.

The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania has increased the number of online credit hours that attorneys can earn to meet a portion of their continuing legal education (CLE) requirements.

The adjustment boosts the number of credits to six from four that lawyers may earn through distance learning. The Supreme Court also increased the ethics component of annual CLE requirements to two credit hours from one hour. Both changes were announced in February to take effect this year to meet requirement deadlines in 2015.

The changes reflect feedback from attorneys seeking an increase in the number of allowable distance learning credits and a growing comfort level with the online delivery of professional education. Distance learning has been an option for Pennsylvania lawyers since 2003.



The Legal Intelligencer has presented Berks County Senior Judge **Arthur E. Grim** with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Supreme Court appointed Judge Grim in 2009 as a special master to review

thousands of cases in the aftermath of a scandal involving the Luzerne County juvenile justice system. As a result of his findings, 2,400 juveniles had their records expunged, and \$65,000 in restitution was provided to 110 victims. Several recommendations he made were implemented by court rule or state law to strengthen and enhance Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system.

"All Pennsylvanians owe Judge Grim a debt of gratitude for helping coordinate unprecedented cooperation among all three branches of state government in bringing about a fair resolution to a miscarriage of justice that affected so many juveniles, their families and the community at large," Chief Justice of Pennsylvania **Ronald D. Castille** said. "I thank him — on behalf of the entire court — for his service, dedication and professionalism."

Anderson retires, leaves mark in juvenile justice field



Jim Anderson, executive director of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission since 1986, has retired after a distinguished career.

Known across the Commonwealth and beyond as an expert in his field, Anderson led numerous efforts to establish juvenile probation standards that promoted professionalism in the field. He notably led initiatives known as the "Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy" that fosters evidence-based practices in all decision-making and Pennsylvania's "Models for Change" that improved mental health/juvenile justice coordination. The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur

Foundation presented Anderson with its first national Champions for Change award in recognition of his efforts.

Anderson also spearheaded significant amendments to the Juvenile Act that redefined the mission of the juvenile justice system in Pennsylvania. The change became known as "Balanced and Restorative Justice" and has been touted nationally.

"While he does not hold an elected office, his work has been central to some of the most important legislative actions affecting juveniles in Pennsylvania's justice system," said Bob Schwartz, executive director of Juvenile Law Center. "Jim Anderson is a problem solver who applies his considerable talents to bettering the lives of dependent and delinquent children and youth."

Keith Snyder succeeds Anderson as acting director of the commission. The nine-member commission establishes administrative practices and procedures used in juvenile courts and employment standards used in probation offices.

Anderson began his career as a probation officer in Elk County before becoming a justice planner for the Governor's Justice Commission — the predecessor of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. He later became legislative coordinator for the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission before being named director in 1986.



601 Commonwealth Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17120

PA courts provide millions to crime victims and communities

Pennsylvania's courts distributed more than \$455 million in fees, fines, costs and restitution in 2013.

Most of the money was received by the state, local governments and victims of crime. A small portion collected was distributed to schools, libraries and tax agencies.

"The judiciary's first priority is the fair and timely administration of justice, but after cases are adjudicated, it is important to enforce the collection of court-ordered fees, fines, costs and restitution," Chief Justice of Pennsylvania **Ronald D. Castille** said. "We continue to enhance court collections by working closely with the local officials responsible for collecting the money and through the development of new technology such as PAePay."

PAePay allows defendants to conveniently make payments via the Internet with a debit or credit card. A record \$62 million in court fees, fines, costs and restitution was collected through PAePay in 2013.

"By providing this convenient way to settle court-ordered payments, defendants can avoid facing arrest, contempt of court proceedings, driver's license suspensions and/or additional collection agency fees," Chief Justice Castille said.



The state received \$207 million of the total \$455 million collected by the courts. Counties received \$156.7 million and municipalities \$51.3 million to support local government programs. Crime victims received a total of \$35.3 million in restitution, and various entities received \$4.3 million. **AOPC**