

Supreme Court of Pennsylvania Committees

Rules Committees

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court utilizes Rules Committees to assist and advise the Court in establishing rules for all the areas of the practice of law.

The Court typically appoints members to six-year terms. Members of the committees include both lawyers and judges, with one member of each committee assigned as Chair and one member assigned as Vice Chair.

Members of Rules Committees speak at conferences and seminars to inform judges, attorneys and court administrators and others of recent and proposed changes in the rules of practice.



Civil Procedural Rules Committee

The Civil Procedural Rules Committee assists the Court in the preparation, revision, publication and administration of the rules of civil procedure - including the entire spectrum of civil matters in the trial courts except matters relating to Orphans' Court and family division of those courts.

Established in 1937, it is the oldest of the Supreme Court's Rules Committees.



Minor Court Rules Committee

The Minor Court Rules Committee examines and evaluates the rules and standards regarding magisterial district judges' (MDJ) conduct, offices and civil matters in their courts. Members review Pennsylvania court cases and legislation to identify decisional or statutory changes that affect practice before the MDJs.



Appellate Court Procedural Rules Committee

The Appellate Court Procedural Rules Committee is responsible for making formal recommendations to the Court for refining and updating the rules of Appellate Procedure and experienced in state appellate practice in Pennsylvania.



Committee on Rules of Evidence

Created by the Court to advise and assist the court in prescribing general rules governing all court proceedings in Pennsylvania, the Committee on Rules of Evidence monitors the practical application of the rules of evidence and developments in evidence law, and identifies areas in which the rules of evidence law should be amended or clarified, ultimately making recommendations to the court.



Orphans' Court Procedural Rules Committee

The Orphans Court Procedural Rules Committee reviews current rules governing statewide practice and procedure in the Orphans' Court and recommends new rules as necessary.



Criminal Procedural Rules Committee

The Criminal Procedural Rules Committee assists the Court in achieving its constitutional mandate to prescribe general rules governing criminal practice and procedure throughout Pennsylvania. The committee monitors all local criminal rules and makes proposals for new rules and rule amendments.



Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee

The Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee advises the Supreme Court on matters related to the procedural rules governing actions for divorce, support, custody and paternity.



Juvenile Court Procedural Rules Committee

The primary goal of the Juvenile Court Procedural Rules Committee is to simplify juvenile delinquency and dependency law practice by recommending new rules or amendments to existing procedural rules. The committee reviews legislation and monitors court decisions to ensure that the rules conform to developments in the law as well as to the realities of juvenile law practice.