



# The Pennsylvania Supreme Court at 300: *Past, Present & Future*

The National Constitution Center, Philadelphia

**THURSDAY, MAY 19**

**8:00 am** Registration and Continental Breakfast

**8:45 am**  
**Welcome**

**Honorable Sallie Updyke Mundy**  
Justice, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania  
Wellsboro, Pennsylvania

**Honorable Tom Wolf**  
Governor of Pennsylvania  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

**Robert J. Mongeluzzi, Esquire**  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**9:15 am - 10:30 am**

## **The Pennsylvania Supreme Court and the Pennsylvania Constitution in America's Early Years**

The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania is the oldest continuously operating appellate court in the Western Hemisphere, officially established in 1722, with origins dating back to William Penn's provincial courts that began in 1684. This session will explore the early history and decisions of the court reaching into the 19th century.

Moderator:  
**Professor Craig Green**  
Temple University Beasley School of Law  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Faculty:  
**Charles L. Becker, Esquire**  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Dr. Joel Fishman**  
Duquesne University School of Law  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

**John J. Hare, Esquire**  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Professor Catherine J. Lanctot**  
Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law  
Villanova, Pennsylvania

**Professor Robert F. Williams**  
Rutgers Law School  
Camden, New Jersey

**10:30 am - 10:45 am** Break

**10:45 am - Noon**

## **The Supreme Court and the Declaration of Rights**

As the supreme interpreter of the Pennsylvania Constitution, the Supreme Court has issued numerous decisions concerning the foundational rights guaranteed within the Declaration of Rights set forth in Article I of the Constitution. This session will review the Court's decisions on a variety of issues to illustrate the Court's profound impact on the Commonwealth.

Moderator:

**Professor Pamela S. Karlan**

Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division,  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D.C.

Faculty:

**Honorable Christine L. Donohue**

Justice, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

**Professor John C. Dernbach**

Widener University Commonwealth Law School  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

**Professor Gary S. Gildin**

Penn State Dickinson Law  
Carlisle, Pennsylvania

**Professor Seth Kreimer**

University of Pennsylvania Carey School of Law  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Noon - 1:00 pm** Lunch

**1:00 pm - 2:30 pm**

## **Judicial Federalism**

In our federal republic, we are awash in constitutions. Each of the fifty states has a constitution. Only one constitution belongs to the country as a whole. Given the sovereignty and independence reserved to the states, state supreme courts may reach outcomes when applying state constitutional principles that differ from outcomes reached by the federal supreme court under counterpart provisions of the federal constitution. This panel will explore the concept of "judicial federalism" and discuss decisions by the Supreme Court that illustrate how judicial federalism informs the American constitutional system.

Moderator:

**Charles L. Becker, Esquire**

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Faculty:

**Honorable David Wecht**

Justice, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

**Professor Ken Gormley**

President, Duquesne University  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

**Professor Tabatha Abu El-Haj**

Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Professor Amy J. Wildermuth**

Dean, University of Pittsburgh School of Law  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

**8:00 am** Registration and Continental Breakfast

**9:00 am**  
**Welcome**

**Honorable Max Baer**  
Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

**Honorable P. Kevin Brobson**  
Justice, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

**9:15 am - 10:30 am**  
**The Modern Supreme Court**

In addition to serving as a jurisprudential body, the modern Supreme Court administers the Pennsylvania judiciary and therefore impacts Pennsylvania's citizens in some of the most sensitive moments of their lives. This panel will explore the extraordinary work being done within the Pennsylvania judiciary to serve Pennsylvania's citizens and promote confidence in our judicial institutions.

Moderator:  
**Professor JoAnne A. Epps**  
Temple University, Beasley School of Law  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Faculty:  
**Honorable Debra M. Todd**  
Justice, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

**Honorable Kevin M. Dougherty**  
Justice, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Professor Steven L. Chanenson**  
Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law  
Villanova, Pennsylvania

**Teresa Ficken Sachs, Esquire**  
Counsel, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

**Honorable John Wetzel**  
Former Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Corrections  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

**10:30 am - 10:45 am** Break

**10:45 am - Noon**

### **Judicial Decision-Making in State Supreme Courts**

This program focuses on how state supreme court justices decide cases, in particular, the working principles that such justices apply when analyzing legal issues and the methods by which they exercise their decision-making authority, especially given the unique role that state supreme court justices occupy as supreme arbiters of their state constitutions within the context of our federal republic.

Moderator:

**Honorable Cheryl Ann Krause**

United States Court of Appeals, Third Circuit  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Faculty:

**Honorable Max Baer**

Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

**Honorable Donald W. Beatty**

Chief Justice, Supreme Court of South Carolina  
Columbia, South Carolina

**Honorable Maureen O'Connor**

Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Ohio  
Columbus, Ohio

**Honorable Paul A. Suttell**

Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Rhode Island  
Providence, Rhode Island

**Noon - 1:00 pm** Lunch

**1:00 pm - 2:30 pm**

### **Reflections from the Bench**

This session will feature a wide-ranging discussion among leaders of the judiciary and academia on the role of the judiciary in American life, the evolving relationship between the federal, state courts, and preservation of the rule of law.

Moderator:

**John J. Hare, Esquire**

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Faculty:

**Honorable Anthony M. Kennedy**

Associate Justice, Supreme Court of the United States  
Washington, D.C.

**Honorable D. Brooks Smith**

Senior Judge, United States Court of Appeals, Third Circuit  
Duncansville, Pennsylvania

**Honorable Thomas G. Saylor**

Chief Justice Emeritus, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania (ret)  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

**Professor Pamela S. Karlan**

Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division, United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D.C.

These sessions are eligible for 8 hours of CJE/CLE.

<https://www.pacourts.us/learn/history/celebrating-300-years>