

2024

JEAB | JUDICIAL ETHICS ADVISORY BOARD

Promoting Confidence through Guidance

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



A Message From The Board Chair

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am pleased to present the 2024 Annual Report of the Pennsylvania Judicial Ethics Advisory Board (JEAB). This Report reflects another year of progress, expansion, and dedicated service by Board members and staff who respond to ethics inquiries from judicial officers and candidates across Pennsylvania.

Although it is tempting to gauge the efficacy of an organization by its statistics, there is much more to the JEAB's success than its numbers. Each of the inquiries answered by the JEAB represents a judicial officer or candidate with an ethics dilemma. Often their issues are urgent or time-sensitive; many times, the questions are a source of anxiety for the inquiring judge. Every inquiry presents an important opportunity for the JEAB to provide guidance to a judicial officer or candidate who is striving to "do the right thing." The JEAB is committed to providing timely, accurate, and practical guidance to appellate judges, common pleas judges, municipal court judges, magisterial district judges, and non-incumbent judicial candidates. This is a critical component in promoting the public's confidence in the independence, integrity, and impartiality of Pennsylvania's judiciary as a whole.

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court demonstrated its commitment to a supportive and independent ethics system in Pennsylvania by expanding the Board from nine volunteer members to 13 members, allowing for increased intellectual contributions to our work product. Additionally, the Supreme Court strengthened the Rule of Reliance for inquiring judicial officers. Now, when a judicial officer complies with advice provided by a panel of the Board, that compliance is entitled to substantial weight in determining whether discipline should be recommended or imposed, even if the panel advice is subsequently reversed or modified by the Board. These changes build confidence in the advisory process.

I'd like to take this opportunity to again recognize the significant contributions of our volunteer Board members, all of whom balance the robust workload of the JEAB with their professional and personal obligations. Each member provides dedicated service and thoughtful guidance to judicial officers who seek ethics advice. Likewise, our Executive Director and staff are hard-working and committed to making the ethics process accessible and convenient. The meaningful contributions of our Board members and staff are the most significant reason why the JEAB is a trusted resource for judicial officers across the Commonwealth.

It is my sincere honor to serve my second term as Chairperson of the Judicial Ethics Advisory Board. Please be assured that the JEAB remains committed to providing high quality guidance and excellent service to all members of Pennsylvania's judiciary.

Sincerely,



Linda Rovder Fleming
HON. LINDA ROVDER FLEMING, Chair

Mission Statement

"To ensure the continued integrity and public trust of Pennsylvania's Judiciary, the Judicial Ethics Advisory Board shall, upon request, provide Advice and/or Opinions to any Judicial Officer or judicial candidate based upon the Codes."

As a unified body, independent from the judicial conduct structures of the Judicial Conduct Board and Court of Judicial Discipline, the Judicial Ethics Advisory Board is the designated and approved body to render advice, opinions, and guidance regarding appropriate ethical conduct involving all judicial officers and candidates for all judicial offices who are subject to the Code of Judicial Conduct and/or the Rules Governing Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges.

Prompt | Reliable | Consistent

Authority of the Board

Pursuant to its constitutional, statutory, and inherent authority as set forth in Section 10(c) of Article V of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and in 42 Pa.C.S. Sections 1722 and 1723, the Supreme Court established the Judicial Ethics Advisory Board by Order dated January 14, 2022. In doing so, the Court established the Board as the approved body to render Advisory Opinions and General Guidance regarding ethical concerns involving judges, other judicial officers, and judicial candidates subject to the Code of Judicial Conduct and Rules Governing Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges.

The JEAB is tasked, in part, with the authority to:

- Render advisory opinions regarding proper judicial conduct under the Codes and Rules of judicial ethics.
- Adopt regulations pertaining to its processes and procedure.
- Participate in education regarding judicial ethics.
- Suggest recommendations to the Supreme Court regarding amendments to the Codes and Rules of judicial ethics.
- Suggest recommendations to the Continuing Judicial Education Board and the Minor Judiciary Education Board regarding topics for judicial education.
- Complete such other related duties as may be requested of the Board by the Supreme Court.
- Report a summary of its activities to the Supreme Court on an annual basis.

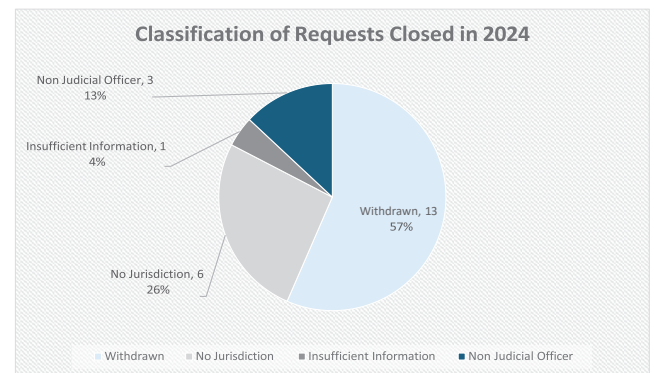
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Judicial Officers Requested Guidance in 2024

How does the JEAB work?

The Judicial Ethics Advisory Board (JEAB) operates independent from the Judicial Conduct Board and the Court of Judicial Discipline by providing Judicial Officers with Advisory Opinions which carry the “Rule of Reliance” to assist judges with navigating ethical concerns while fulfilling their judicial duties and obligations.

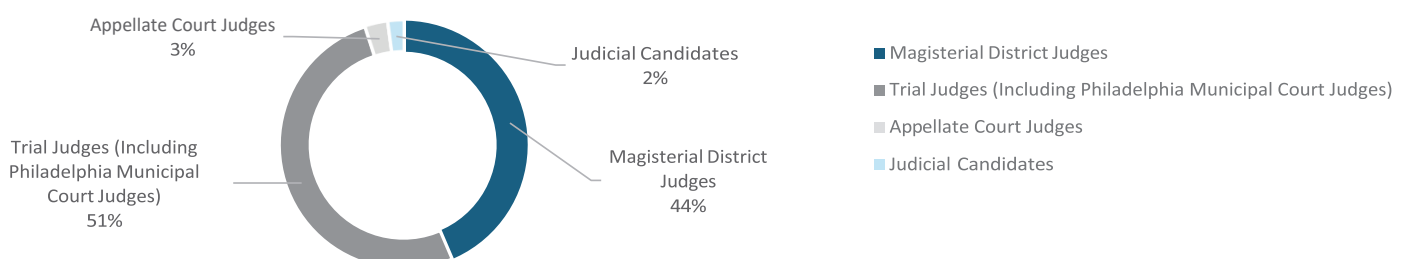
A Judicial Officer seeking the Rule of Reliance regarding their duties and obligations pursuant to the Canons and Rules of judicial ethics must first submit a written “request” for an Advisory Opinion. Requests may be sent via U.S. Mail, or more commonly, via email to JEAB@pacourts.us. A request is then assigned to a Panel of three (3) Members of the JEAB, at least one of which is of the same level of the judiciary as the Judicial Officer seeking guidance (i.e., the Requesting Judicial Officer or “RJO”). To ensure the confidentiality of the RJO, all requests are assigned a series of identifying numbers which are utilized to identify the Panel Advisory as it progresses through the advisory process. A Judge’s name, location/county, court, etc., is redacted from both public and the Board’s view, such that only staff has knowledge as to the identity of the RJO. At no time will staff intentionally disclose the identity of the RJO absent an explicit and expressed waiver by the RJO in writing or when the Chair of the Board believes disclosure is necessary for a sufficient clear and convincing reason. Just as the RJO’s identity is confidential, so too is the composition of the Advisory Panel and such composition will not be disclosed except to Members and staff of the JEAB.



Once the Panel reaches a consensus as to the Panel Advice, it is issued to the RJO in the same manner in which the Request was received (i.e., email or U.S. mail). Following issuance to the RJO, the Panel Advice is forwarded to all Board Members, including those serving on the Panel, for review and comment. The Board will then vote to adopt, modify, or reverse the Panel Advice as a Board Opinion.

Pursuant to Pa.R.J.E.A.B. Rule 207, once issued, the RJO can submit a written request for reconsideration within twenty days of the issuance of the Board’s Opinion. Any request for reconsideration must include a detailed explanation setting forth the reason why the Opinion should be reconsidered. A request for reconsideration will delay the publication of an Opinion but will not affect the Rule of Reliance unless reconsideration is granted by the Board. The Board may reconsider an Opinion if a material error of law or fact has been made; or when new facts are provided which would lead to reversal or modification of the Opinion and those facts could not be or were not discovered by the exercise of due diligence.

Levels of Judicial Officers Seeking an Advisory Opinion in 2024



Board Members

On April 1, 2022, the Supreme Court appointed nine individuals to serve as the inaugural members of the Judicial Ethics Advisory Board. Terms for these members were staggered at two, four and six-year terms. Thereafter, any new appointment to the Board would be a single six-year term. Shortly after initiating operations, it was evident that the requests for Advisory Opinions far exceeded expectations and recognizing the greater than anticipated demand on Members, the Court authorized an expansion in Board Membership by appointing four additional Members on March 31, 2023, bringing the Board's complement to thirteen.

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The number of
Requests for Exigent
Panel Advice

In 2024, the first of the staggered members' terms expired. With the Board still in its infancy, a request was made to the Supreme Court to amend the Rules of the JEAB to allow members who were appointed for an initial term of less than six years, or who were appointed to fill a vacancy, to be eligible for reappointment. This amendment was approved and thus far four members (three in 2024 and one in 2025) were reappointed to the Board. Although members may be reappointed, no member may be reappointed more than once or serve on the Board for more than 10 years.

When a vacancy occurs, the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges ("PCSTJ") submits three candidates for each vacancy to be filled by a judge of a common pleas court or a judge of the Philadelphia Municipal Court and likewise the Special Court Judges Association of Pennsylvania ("SCJAP") will submit three nominees for each Board position to be filled by a Magisterial District Judge to the Chief Justice. The Supreme Court proceeds to select appointees for those positions from the names submitted.

While amending the operating Rules of the Board, the Supreme Court also clarified and solidified the terms and eligibility of the Board's Chair and Vice Chair directing that appointments shall be for a two-year period unless otherwise stated and that eligible appointees shall have served as Board members for at least one year prior to appointment as Chair or Vice Chair.

On March 27, 2024, both the Honorable Linda Rovder Fleming and the Honorable Stephen P.B. Minor were reappointed as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, of the Board for a two-year period.

**All JEAB Board Members serve voluntarily, in addition to other
judicial and personal responsibilities.**

Membership of the JEAB

- 1 – Judge of the Superior Court
- 1 – Judge of the Commonwealth Court
- 4 – Judges of the Court of Common Pleas
- 1 – Judge of the Philadelphia Municipal Court
- 4 – Magisterial District Judges
- 1 – One Retired Judge from any level of the judiciary
- 1 – One Member of the Pennsylvania Bar who is not a Judicial Officer

Superior Court Judge Member

Honorable Victor P. Stabile
Superior Court of Pennsylvania
Commenced Service: April 1, 2022 |
Term Expires April 1, 2028

Commonwealth Court Judge Member

Honorable Lori A. Dumas
Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania
Commenced Service: April 1, 2022 |
Term Expires April 1, 2028

Common Pleas Judge Members

Honorable Linda Rovder Fleming
(Chair of the Judicial Ethics Advisory Board)
Court of Common Pleas of Cambria County
Commenced Service: April 1, 2022 | Reappointed
March 27, 2024 | Term Expires April 1, 2030

Honorable Stephen P.B. Minor
(Vice-Chair of the Judicial Ethics Advisory Board)
Court of Common Pleas of Potter County
Commenced Service: April 1, 2022 |
Term Expires April 1, 2028

Honorable Edward D. Reibman
Court of Common Pleas of Lehigh County
Commenced Service: April 1, 2022 |
Term Expires April 1, 2026

Honorable Stella M. Tsai
Court of Common Pleas Orphans' Court,
Philadelphia
Commenced Service: April 1, 2023 |
Term Expires April 1, 2027

Municipal Court Judge Member

Honorable Bradley K. Moss
Philadelphia Municipal Court
Commenced Service: April 6, 2023 |
Term Expires April 1, 2026

Magisterial District Judge Members

Honorable David J. Barton
Magisterial District Judge, District Court 05-2-17
Commenced Service: April 1, 2022 | Reappointed
March 27, 2024 | Term Expires April 1, 2030

Honorable Jennifer J.P. Clancy
Magisterial District Judge, District Court 19-2-05
Commenced Service: April 1, 2022 |
Term Expires April 1, 2026

Honorable Mark D. Douple
Magisterial District Judge, District Court 07-2-02
Commenced Service: April 1, 2023 |
Term Expires April 1, 2027

Honorable Katherine E. McGill
Magisterial District Judge, District Court 38-1-08
Commenced Service: April 1, 2023 |
Term Expires April 1, 2029

Retired Judge Member

Honorable Maureen E. Lally-Green
(Retired Superior Court of Pennsylvania)
Commenced Service: April 1, 2023 | Reappointed
January 17, 2025 | Term Expires April 1, 2031

Attorney Member

Honorable Jayne F. Duncan
Commenced Service: April 1, 2022 | Reappointed
March 27, 2024 | Term Expires April 1, 2030

Board Staff

Brian D. Jacisin, Executive Director
Holly A. Mishkin, Administrative Coordinator
Tiffany A. Morris, Assistant Counsel
Kasey Zelienka, Administrative Assistant

What is the “Rule of Reliance”?

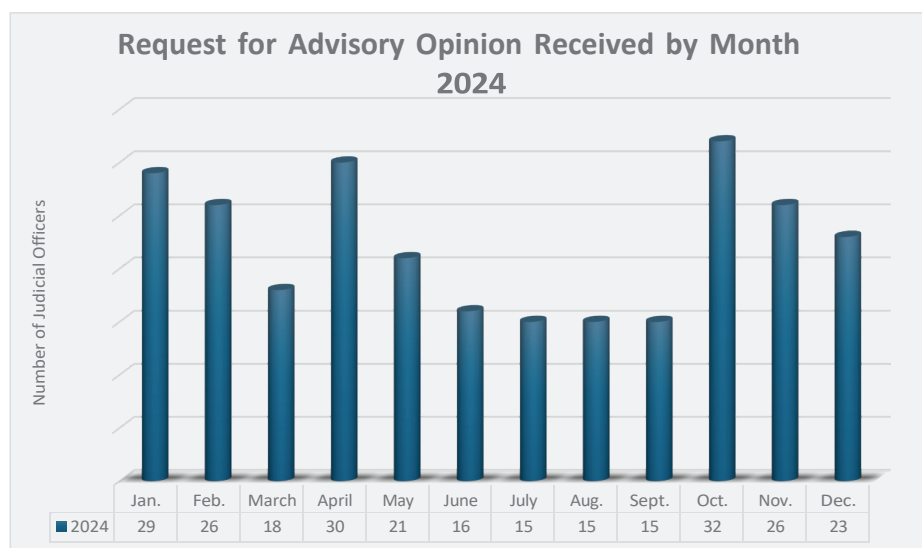
The “Rule of Reliance” provides Judicial Officers with a level of protection should judicial discipline be recommended or imposed. To receive the Rule of Reliance, a Judicial Officer must first submit a request for an Advisory Opinion to the Board in writing. Although not binding upon any adjudicatory entity, a Judicial Officer’s action taken in reliance upon the conclusion(s) of the Board must be considered should the Judicial Conduct Board, the Court of Judicial Conduct, or the Supreme Court pursue discipline against the requesting Judicial Officer.

The specific weight and protections an Advisory Opinion issued by the JEAB provides is addressed by Pa.R.J.E.A.B. Rule 206 (Rules of Reliance) as amended by Order of the Supreme Court on February 28, 2024. Previously, if a Panel Advisory was subsequently reversed or modified prior to adoption by the Board, reliance on such advice was only “taken into account” by disciplinary entities. As of the Court’s February 2024 amendment, even if the conclusion of the Advisory opinion is subsequently modified or reversed, reliance prior to any modification or reversal is now afforded “substantial weight”. The Court’s recognition that most Judicial Officers take action following issuance of a Panel Advice – but prior to the Board’s adoption as an Opinion – addresses the diminished rule of reliance during this critical time and the amendment of the Rules directing both Panel Advisories and Board Opinions be afforded “substantial weight” is a very much appreciated amendment to the Pennsylvania Rules of the Judicial Ethics Advisory Board.

Generally, where a Judicial Officer seeks and complies with formal guidance provided by the Board, be it either Panel Advice or Board Opinion, that Judicial Officer’s compliance shall be entitled to substantial weight in determining whether discipline should be recommended or imposed. Although substantial weight is not specifically defined, the protection afforded a Judicial Officer by the Rule of Reliance should not be disregarded. Most recently, the value of the Rule of Reliance was emphasized by the Court of Judicial Discipline in rendering one of its Opinions.

Where a Judicial Officer complies with General Guidance, such compliance may be taken into account in determining whether discipline should be recommended or imposed. Informal or informational discussions with Board members or Board staff is not afforded any consideration.

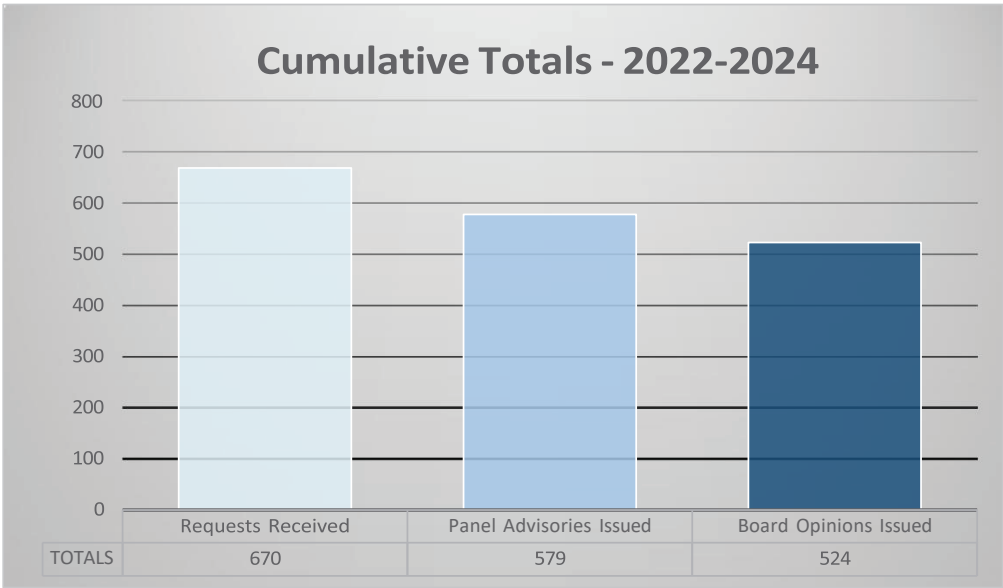
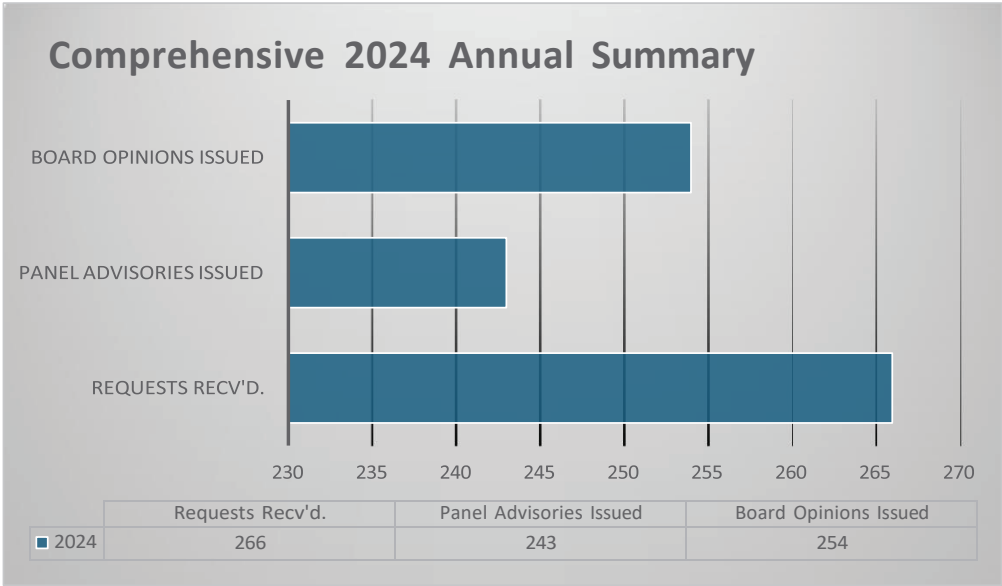
It is important to note that for the Rule of Reliance to apply, a Judicial Officer must seek his or her own Advisory Opinion and should not rely upon an Advisory or Opinion issued to another Judicial Officer - even if the facts are exact to those of the inquiring judge.



About our Work

The Board received an average of 22 formal Requests for ethics guidance per month during 2024, varying slightly from the monthly average of 21 reported for years 2022-2023. This number does not include informal phone conversations, email, text messaging and/or in-person conversations. Not only does the staff of the JEAB engage in such discussions, but Board Members are frequently contacted directly by their colleagues to discuss issues of judicial ethics. Informal or informational only discussions do not carry the Rule of Reliance (Pa.R.J.E.A.B. 206(d)) and because of that, following any informal conversation, a Judicial Officer is always encouraged to submit a formal Request for an Advisory Opinion.

What are judges asking? The top three topics or areas of inquiry are: Extrajudicial Activities; Avoiding impropriety and the appearance of impropriety; and Recusal and Disqualification. As would be expected, the most frequently cited sections of the Code/Rules within Board Opinions are: Rule 3.7 Participation in Educational, Religious, Charitable, Fraternal or Civic Organizations and Activities / Rule 3.1 Extrajudicial Activities in General; Rule 1.3 Avoiding Abuse of the Prestige of Judicial Office / Rule 1.2 Promoting Confidence in the Judiciary; and Rule 2.11 Disqualification / Rule 2.7 Responsibility to Decide.



Request Procedure

Any Judicial Officer may request an ethics Advisory Opinion (i.e., "Request"). A Request must be submitted to the Board in writing. The overwhelming majority of Requests received by the Board are via email, which allows for rapid receipt, processing, and response. In fact, during calendar year 2024, on average, the Board issued an Advisory Opinion within 11 calendar days of receiving a Judicial Officer's Request.

A Request must contain a statement of the facts regarding the intended conduct and a concise question of judicial ethics, with references to the relevant section(s) of the Codes, case law, and other authority the inquiring Judicial Officer has already consulted. A Request must relate to the inquiring Judicial Officer's own prospective conduct or conduct of the inquiring Judicial Officer that has occurred in the past and is ongoing. A Request may not relate to hypothetical situations or to facts that are the subject of past or pending litigation, disciplinary investigation, or disciplinary proceedings. Pa.J.E.A.B. 201.

A Request must be submitted at least 14 days prior to the event or action giving rise to the question. The Board Chair or the Chair's designee may, in his or her discretion, waive the 14-day requirement if the Chair or the Chair's designee determines that the circumstances giving rise to the Request were not reasonably foreseeable and that the inquiry can be addressed in the time available.

Exigent Circumstances

When circumstances require an immediate response to a question of judicial ethics, Judicial Officers may initiate an Exigent Request by contacting Board Staff via telephone at 717-705-1785, by email to JEAB@pacourts.us, or by any other expedient means available to the Judicial Officer. An Exigent Request should include all information required under the Rules and Regulations of the Board. If the Judicial Officer relays the information orally, the Judicial Officer shall immediately commit the Request to writing, directed to staff.

Upon receiving an Exigent Request (including an oral request), staff will convene a Panel as provided by the Rules. Upon receiving a 2/3 or greater consensus, the Advice of the Panel will be conveyed to the Requesting Judicial Officer, usually via telephone. The Requesting Judicial Officer may act upon that Advice as it has been rendered by a Panel pursuant to the Rules and Regulations of the Board. A formal Panel Advisory will be issued to the Requesting Judicial Officer as soon as practicable, usually within 3-5 business days. A failure to reduce the Request to writing precludes the JEAB from issuing the Requesting Judicial Officer a Panel Advisory, even if the Advice of the Panel has already been conveyed orally.

5

Average number
of calendar days
between receipt of an
Exigent Request and
issuance of a Panel
Advisory

11

Average number
of calendar days
between receipt of a
General Request and
issuance of a Panel
Advisory



261

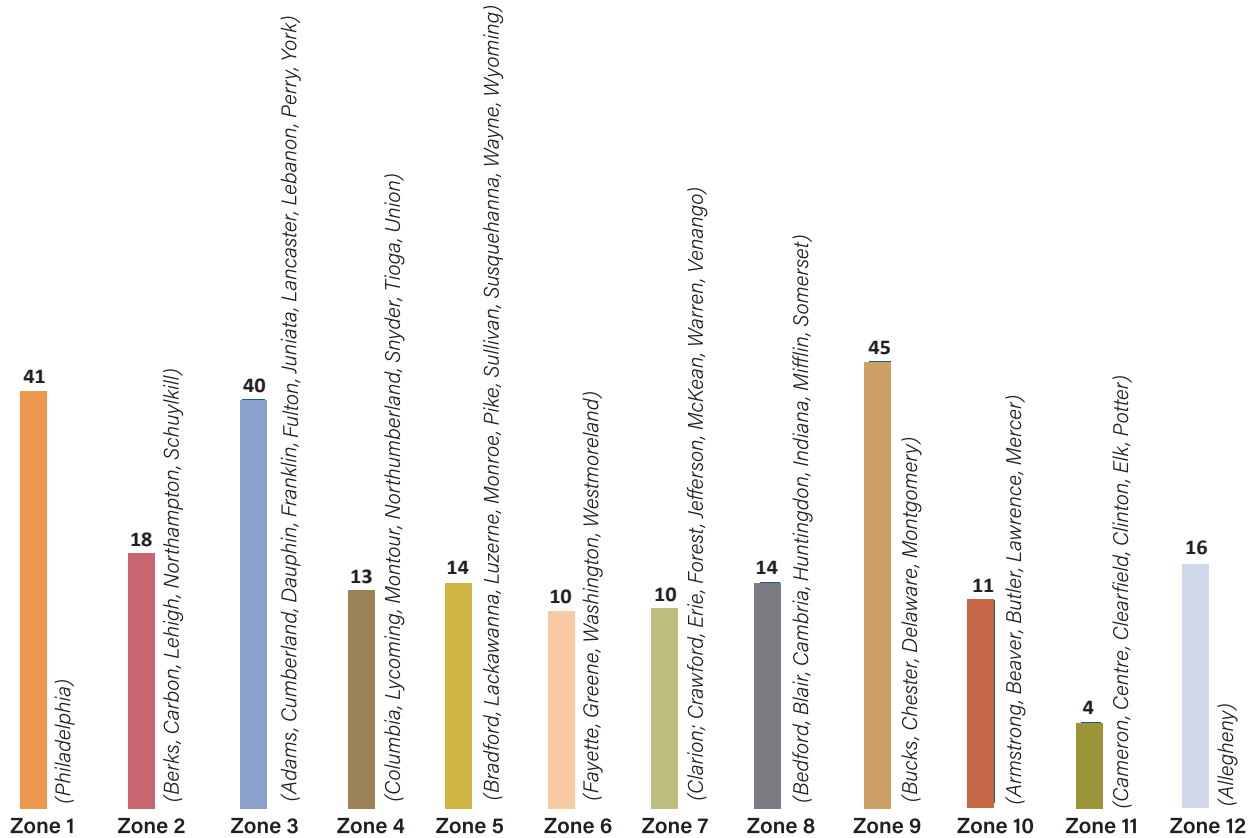
Requests Received
Via Email in 2024



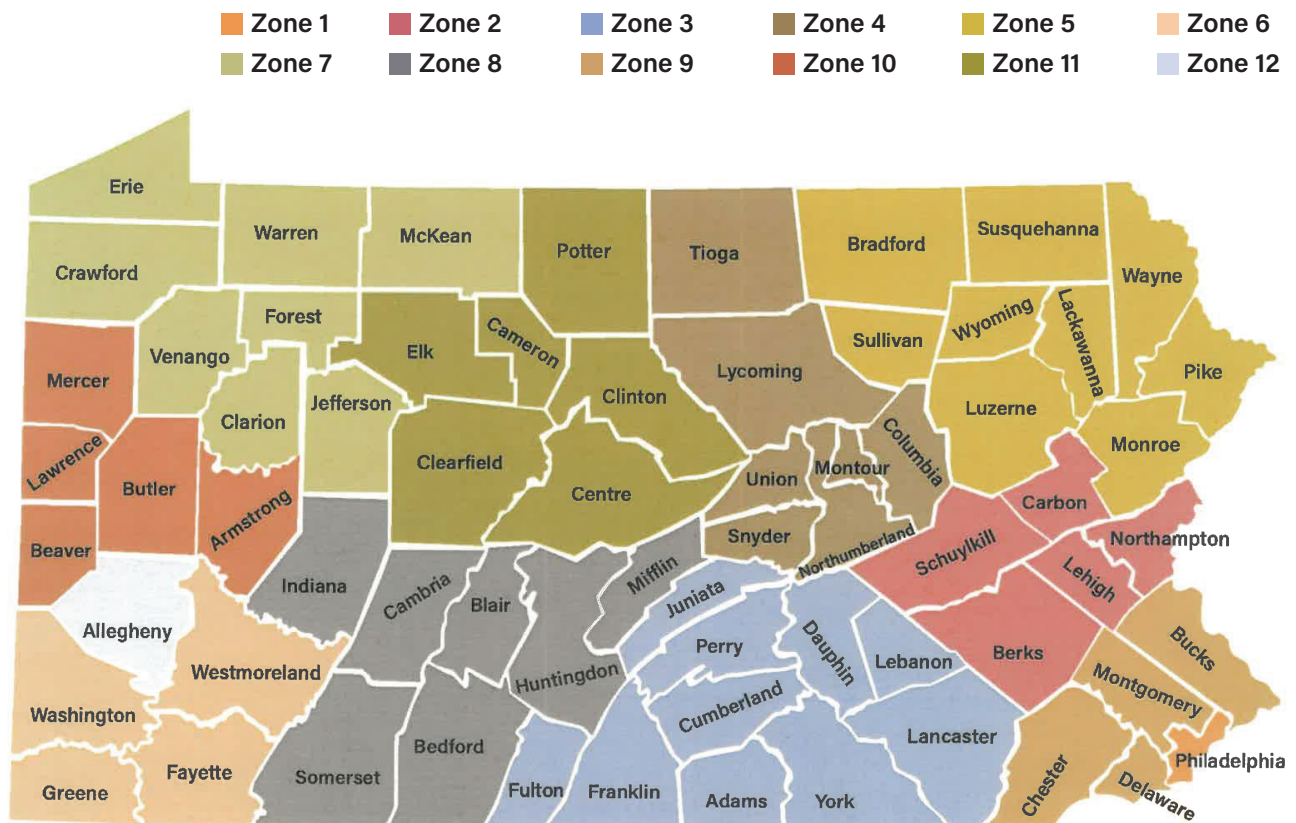
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Requests Received
Via US Mail in 2024

Requests Received by Zone 2024



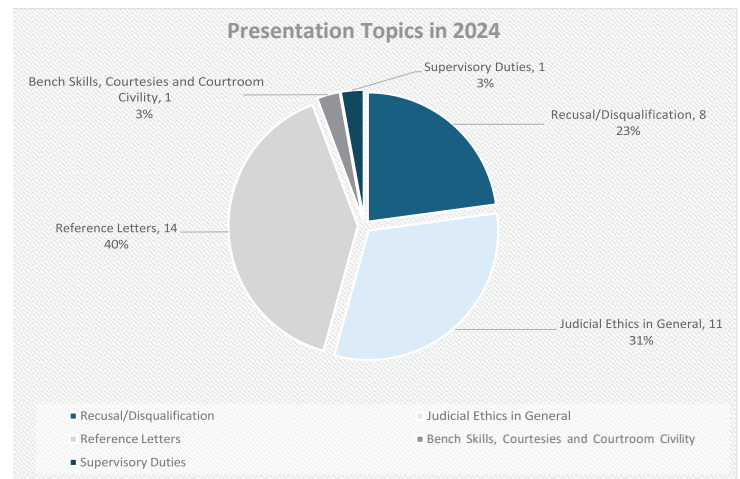
Pa Zoning Map



Outreach and Education

During the reporting period (calendar year 2024), over 200 of Pennsylvania's approximately 1,160 Judicial Officers sought an Advisory Opinion of the Board. In other words, nearly 20% (or 1 in 5) of Pennsylvania's jurists received prompt, reliable, and consistent guidance concerning their judicial ethics obligations. In addition to these commissioned judges, the Board processed dozens of additional Requests from judicial candidates, including those who were incumbents and those seeking a different judicial office.

In addition to rendering Advisory Opinions, the JEAB is also tasked with developing and participating in judicial ethics education, including making recommendations of topics for judicial education, to the Continuing Judicial Education Board and the Minor Judiciary Education Board. During 2024, membership of the Board and its Executive Director/staff presented over 50 hours of judicial ethics education to audiences from all levels of the Unified Judicial System, with the overwhelming majority of those being live presentations which qualified for Continuing Judicial Education credit (CJE) and/or Continuing Legal Educational Credit (CLE).



As a way of outreach, the Board maintains printed copies of the Code of Judicial Conduct and the Rules Governing Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges, and has distributed nearly 2000 copies of these convenient, briefcase sized versions of the Code and Rules to Judicial Officers in an effort to make the rules of judicial ethics more accessible. In compliance with its governing Rules (Pa.R.J.E.A.B. 204(b)), the Board has published over 500 of its adopted Opinions on its secure website at <https://JEAB.pacourts.us>. These Opinions are available to Judicial Officers only and are searchable and indexed by the relevant provisions of the applicable Code/Rule. If you are a Judicial Officer and wish to secure a password to this database, please contact the Board at JEAB@pacourts.us.

Because of the Board's mid-year creation in 2022, in an effort to showcase the Board and its accomplishments, printed copies of the Board's 2022/2023 Annual Report were mailed to all Justices of the Supreme Court, all judges of the Superior and Commonwealth Court, all President Judges within the Commonwealth, and all Executive Committee members and District Presidents/Directors of the Special Court Judges Association. Copies of the Annual Report were also distributed at the 2024 Pennsylvania Conference for State Trial Judges and the Special Court Judges Association Conference.

Lastly, the Board has issued General Ethics Guidance (General Guidance) on relevant topics and frequently asked questions, such as: MDJ Election FAQ, Common Pleas/Appellate Election FAQ, Disqualification and Recusal, and Reference Letters. When a Judicial Officer complies with an issued General Guidance, such compliance may be taken into account in determining whether discipline should be recommended or imposed. See Pa.R.J.E.A.B. 206 (C). Because the Rule of Reliance afforded compliance with a General Guidance is optional (i.e. "may be taken into account"), the Board recommends Judicial Officers seek an Advisory Opinion should any question as to their obligations under the Canons and Rules remain.

Budget

Board members are not compensated for their service but are eligible for reimbursement of actual expenses incurred in the performance of Board duties. The Board's Administrative costs and personnel expenses deemed necessary for operation are fixed by the Court Administrator of Pennsylvania and paid out of funds appropriated to the Judicial Branch by the General Assembly. Annual funding provides for reimbursement of Board member expenses, staff salaries and benefits, as well as operational expenses and fixed expenses. During 2024, the Supreme Court authorized the creation of two additional staff positions within the Board, specifically assistant legal counsel and administrative assistant. The need for additional staff correlated with an increase in the Board's personnel expenses.

For the 2024-2025 fiscal year (July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025), the General Assembly appropriated \$259,000 for judicial ethics. Because expenses exceeded the appropriated funding, a transfer from Act 49 fees was necessary to maintain operations of the Board. The Board's 2024-2025 budget accounted for 0.17% of the overall budget of the Judicial Branch and 0.00159% of the 2024-2025 budget of the Commonwealth. The Board does not anticipate any significant increase in expenses (operational or personnel) for fiscal year 2025-2026.

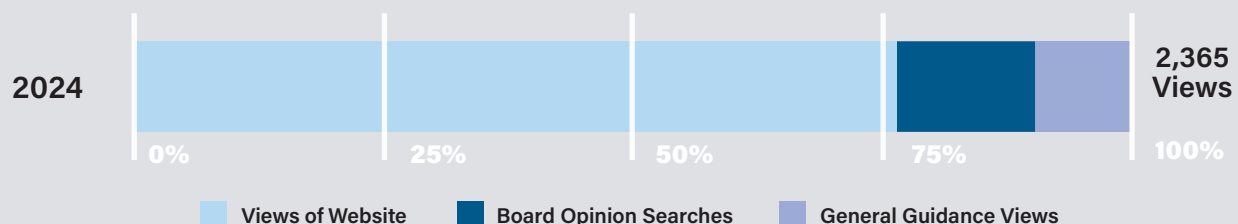
2024-2025 Budget (in thousands)

Fiscal Year	Amount Appropriated	Act 49 Supplement
2024-2025	\$259	\$499
<i>*Rounded to the nearest thousand.</i>		

Board Website

The Board's website - <https://JEAB.pacourts.us> - includes information regarding Advisory Opinions, General Guidance, as well as frequently asked questions concerning the Board. During 2024, the Board's webpage had 2,365 views across 1,130 users, which included 1,810 views of the Website itself, 281 Opinion searches, and 234 General Guidance views. To obtain access to the Board's Opinion database, any Judicial Officer may contact the Board at JEAB@pacourts.us to request a password.

Overall Average of Webpage Views across 2024



Confidentiality

Encouraging Judicial Officers to seek ethics opinions and advice from the Board promotes ethical conduct and the fair administration of justice. Therefore, the following confidentiality requirements apply to Requests and other matters before the Board.

With the exception of Opinions and General Ethics Guidance published by the Board under Rules 204(b) (Publication of Board Opinions) and (c) (General Ethics Guidance), all Opinions, inquiries, replies, circulated drafts, records, documents, writings, files, communications with staff, work product of the Board or staff, and deliberations and proceedings of the Board are confidential.

Members of the Board and staff may not disclose (outside the Board or staff) any confidential information, including identifying information, obtained by the Board or staff.

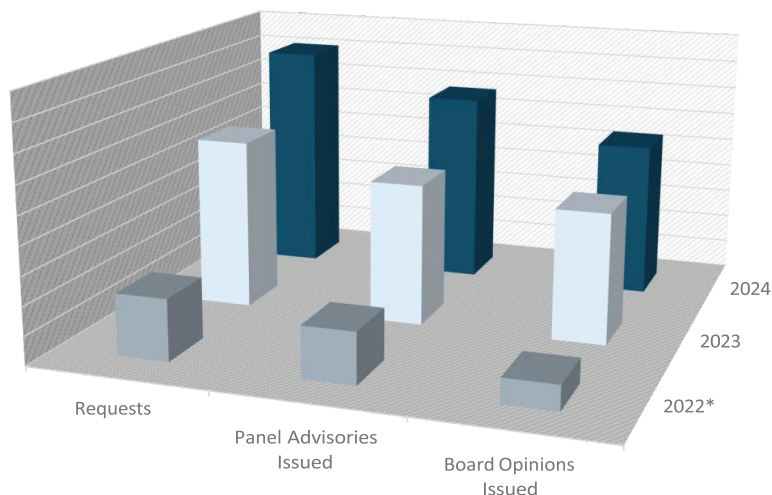
Waiver of Confidentiality by Judicial Officer

A Judicial Officer may waive confidentiality by doing so in written communication to the Board. Notwithstanding any such waiver, Board deliberations and all other records concerning the Request shall remain confidential.

Historical Statistics

The JEAB has continued to provide support for Judges and Judicial Candidates statewide since issuing its first Panel Advisory on July 1, 2022. Since its creation, the JEAB has received a total of 670 Requests and issued over 579 Advisory Opinions. The following graphs provide a pictorial overview of the Board's work from its creation in 2022 through 2024.

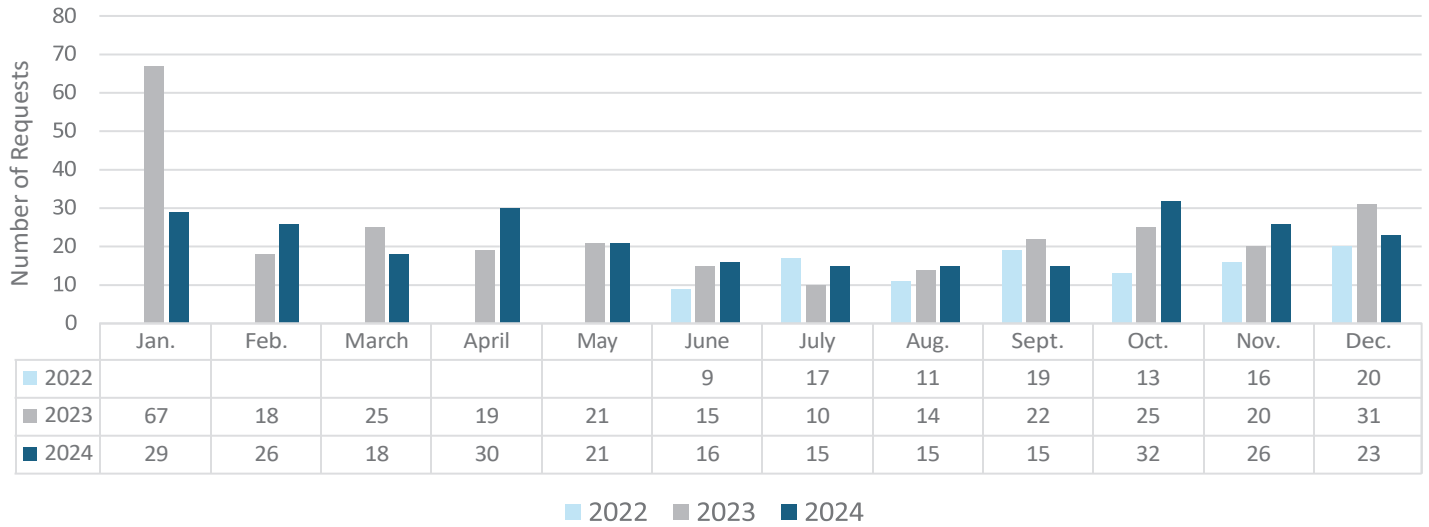
Annualized Totals - Calendar Years 2022-2024



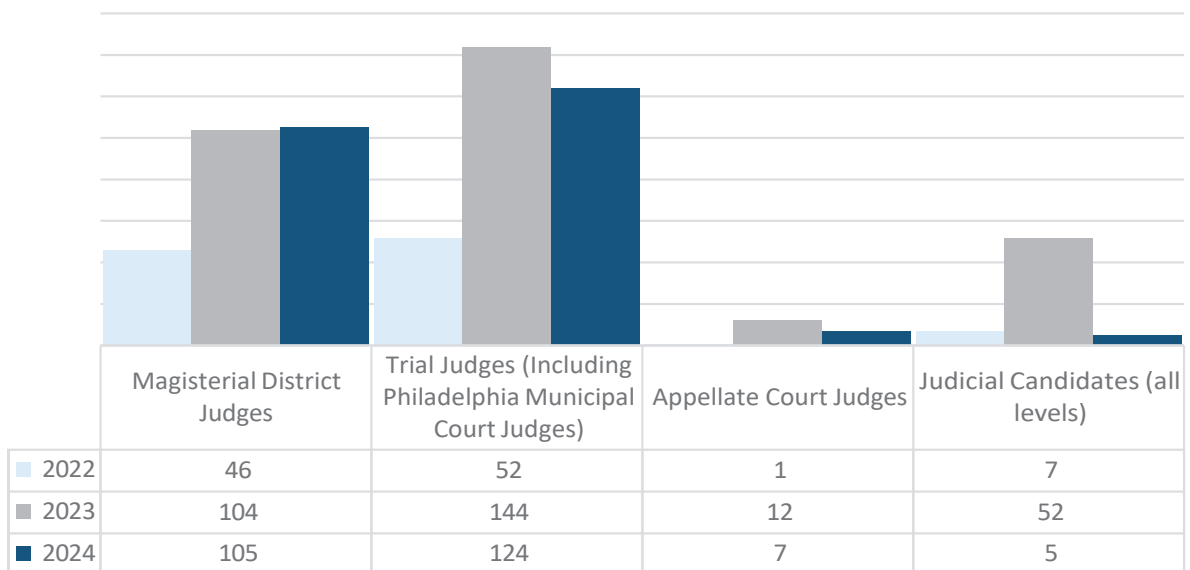
	Requests	Panel Advisories Issued	Board Opinions Issued
2022*	107	89	43
2023	297	247	227
2024	266	243	254

*July-Dec. only

Monthly Intake of Advisory Opinion Requests



Origins of Judicial Officers Submitting Request for Advisory Opinion 2022-2024



Judicial Ethics Advisory Board Members' Biographies

The Honorable Linda Rovder Fleming is President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Cambria County. She was elected in 2009, retained in 2019, and became President Judge in 2024. She is the first female judge in the County's history. Judge Fleming oversees the Family Law Division and Mental Health Treatment Court. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Fleming practiced family law for 22 years, including 18 years as a partner with Ayres, Ayres & Fleming in Johnstown. She also served as a part-time Assistant Public Defender for Cambria County from 1989 to 1994. Judge Fleming is a 1985 graduate of the Pennsylvania State University and a 1988 graduate of The Dickinson School of Law, where she served as Articles Editor of The Dickinson Law Review. Judge Fleming served on the Judicial Ethics Committee of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges beginning January 1, 2011, including as its Chairperson beginning in October 2020. Judge Fleming's service on the Judicial Ethics Committee ended on July 1, 2022, when the Judicial Ethics Advisory Board (JEAB) succeeded the Committee as the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's designated body to render ethics advice to members of the Pennsylvania judiciary. On April 1, 2022, the Supreme Court appointed Judge Fleming to a two-year term on the JEAB as its Chairperson. On March 27, 2024, the Supreme Court reappointed Judge Fleming to a six-year term, including a second two-year term as Chairperson. As an attorney, Judge Fleming served on the Pennsylvania Bar Association Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility Committee. Judge Fleming is a frequent speaker on judicial ethics, legal writing, and family law issues for the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges, including its school for new judges, and other organizations.

The Honorable Stephen P. B. Minor is the President Judge on the Potter County Court of Common Pleas in Pennsylvania. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Mansfield University in 1982 and a Juris Doctor from Oral Roberts University Law School in 1986. President Judge Minor was admitted to the Pennsylvania Bar in 1986. He was a Member of the Washington

County Bar Association from 1986-1991, Associate Attorney with Binotto, Sweat and Johnson in Washington, Pennsylvania from 1986-1991, Law Offices of Stephen Minor, P.C. in Port Allegany, Pennsylvania from 1991-2009, Member of the McKean County Bar Association from 1991-2009, McKean County Juvenile Master from 1995-2009, McKean County Custody Mediator in 2005, President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Potter County in 2010, Member of Potter County Bar Association from 2010 to present, Chairman of the Potter County Criminal Justice Advisory Board from 2010 to present, Chairman of the Juvenile Section of the Pennsylvania Conference of Trial Judges in 2019, Appointed to the Continuing Judicial Education Board from 2017-2020, Appointed by Governor Wolf to the Juvenile Court Judge's Commission in 2017, Instructor and discussion leader for New Judge School from 2020-2022, Member of the Supreme Court Autism and the Courts Taskforce in 2020, Judges Concerned for Judges volunteer, Member of Judicial Ethics Committee of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges in 2021, and Appointed to the Judicial Ethics Advisory Board in 2022. In 2024, Judge Minor became a member of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network. He was also appointed in 2024 to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee of PCCD.

The Honorable David J. Barton has served as a Magisterial District Judge in Allegheny County since 1996. In 2015, he was appointed by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania as a judge on the Court of Judicial Discipline, and was elected its President Judge for 2018-2019. As an active member of the Special Court Judges Association of Pennsylvania he has chaired numerous committees, including its Ethics & Professionalism Committee that, prior to the creation of the JEAB, rendered ethical advisory opinions to judges. As a member of AOPC's Language Access Group, he helped to develop and implement AOPC's language access program. Judge Barton also serves as solicitor for the Special Court Judges' Association of Pennsylvania. He has authored materials and served as faculty for numerous

CLE and CJE programs. As a practicing lawyer, he focuses on commercial disputes, surety and fidelity bond matters, probate litigation, and complex commercial real estate development.

The Honorable Jennifer J.P. Clancy was elected as Magisterial District Judge of District Court 19-2-05, in York, Pennsylvania, in 2015; she was re-elected in 2021. Judge Clancy graduated summa cum laude from Messiah College in 1988. She then graduated in 1991 from the Dickinson School of Law where she was a member of the Appellate Moot Court Board. While in law school, she interned with the Dauphin County District Attorney's Office. She was admitted to the Pennsylvania Bar in 1991 and worked as an Associate with Rhoads & Sinon in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania from 1991-1994. Judge Clancy went on to clerk for Justice Robert Thomas of the State of Illinois Appellate Court (Second Judicial District) from 1994-1998 and was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1997. Judge Clancy has maintained a solo law practice since 2000. She is active in various professional endeavors. She served as past President of District 9 of the Special Courts Judges Association of Pennsylvania. She is a member of the Pennsylvania State Bar Association, member/CLE presenter of the York County Bar Association, and member of the York County Bar Foundation Grants Committee. She serves as a member of the York County Criminal Justice Advisory Board and as a regular presenter of the Leadership York Crimes & Corrections Session. Judge Clancy has extensive past and present community involvement. She was appointed to the Messiah College Board of Trustees (Executive Committee), and appointed then twice elected to the York Suburban School Board (Vice-President, Treasurer). She served on the York Little League Board (Softball General Manager) and was a volunteer Varsity High School Assistant Coach for tennis and softball. She was a member of the Messiah College Women of Influence Mentoring Program and member of the Church of the Open Door Employee Relations Committee. Judge Clancy is a founding member of the Messiah University Law Professions Council, is a volunteer with LCBC West York, and is a member of the Rotary Club of York. She is married to a physician and has three young adult children.

The Honorable Mark D. Double Magisterial District Judge has been a Judge since 2010. In 2015, he was elected president of the Magisterial District Judges Association of Bucks County. He is a member of the Bucks County Criminal Justice Advisory Board. As a member of the Special Court Judges Association of Pennsylvania he has served on the Non-Crimes Code Committee, the Ethics and Professionalism Committee and the Strategic Planning Committee. He is the Association's Public Defender Liaison. He graduated from The University of Toledo College of Law in 1986. In the summer before graduation and immediately after graduation he was the law clerk at the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission. Thereafter, he was employed at the Bucks County Public Defender's Office. He then worked at an insurance defense firm where he handled product liability and professional liability cases. For a number of years before he became a judge, he was a partner with another Bucks County attorney where he represented clients in litigation matters including personal injury and criminal law. He also represented clients at children and youth proceedings and mental health commitment hearings. He was also a Guardian Ad Litem. He remains a member of the Bucks County Bar Association. In the past he was the chairman of the lawyer referral service and bench bar conference committees. He is a past recipient of the president's award in recognition to his dedication and service to the Bar Association. He resides in Doylestown with his wife. They are the parents of four sons.

The Honorable Lori A. Dumas was elected to the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court on November 2, 2021, and took office on January 3, 2022. She previously served on the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas for nearly two decades. She is a graduate of Duke University and North Carolina Central University School of Law, completed the Fels Institute of Government at the University of Pennsylvania, DiverseForce Board Governance Program and is also a Georgetown Fellow, specializing in Crossover Systems. She also holds an Executive Certificate in Diversity and Inclusion from Cornell University. Judge Dumas is active with numerous boards and community organizations including the National Council of

Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Penn's Village, the Mann Center, the Forum of Executive Women, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated and the Links, Incorporated.

The Honorable Jayne F. Duncan is a retired Magisterial District Judge in Lancaster County. Judge Duncan is a former Chairperson of the Judicial Conduct Board of Pennsylvania. She is currently an ex-officio member of the Ethics and Professionalism Committee of the Special Court Judges Association, where she served as Chairperson and committee member for many years. Judge Duncan served on the Criminal Procedural Rules Committee of the Supreme Court. She is a former President of the Lancaster County Magisterial District Judges Association and served as the Vice-President of the Lancaster County Bar Association. She is a former Mock Trial professor and coach at Elizabethtown College. In addition, she has lectured on the topic of Magisterial District Judge Practice and Judicial Ethics for the Pennsylvania Bar Institute. For many years Judge Duncan taught Ethics for the Minor Judiciary Education Board. She is a graduate of Dickinson School of Law, and a former Deputy District Attorney in Dauphin County.

The Honorable Maureen E. Lally-Green retired as a Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania in 2009. Recently, she served as Dean/Interim Dean of the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University and is presently an adjunct Professor of Law Emerita there. She has served as an associate general secretary of her local diocese, a part-time consultant to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, a professor of law at Kline Duquesne, as counsel for a major corporation, and as counsel for a federal agency.

The Honorable Katherine E. McGill is a Magisterial District Judge serving Springfield Township, Montgomery County since 2012. At the Springfield District Court, Judge McGill handles a variety of cases including criminal matters, civil and landlord tenant disputes, traffic cases, township code violations and truancy. Her goal in every case is to listen to all sides of a dispute and apply the law fairly. Judge McGill works diligently to help resolve disputes between people in the

community. Her favorite part of her work is when she speaks with students. Over the years she's partnered with the schools in the community to bring students to court and to learn about the judicial system and participate in mock trials. Judge McGill is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania where she received her B.A. in Political Science and graduated cum laude. She went on to Temple Beasley School of Law where she received her J.D. and participated in Temple's National Trial Team and twice was awarded the Barrister's Award for excellence in trial advocacy. Prior to her service as Judge, Judge McGill was an Assistant District Attorney with the Montgomery County District Attorney's office where she served as the Captain of the Economic Crimes unit as well as a member of the sex crimes prosecution team. Judge McGill was recently president of the Montgomery County Special Court Judges Association and is currently an active member of the Montgomery Bar Association. Judge McGill most recently worked on a county-wide team to create and implement Montgomery County's Pretrial Service program to improve the Pretrial process in Montgomery County. She previously served Magisterial District Judges around the state as a member of the Ethics and Professionalism Committee for the Special Court Judges Association of Pennsylvania. She is a proud member of the newly-formed Judicial Ethics Advisory Board of Pennsylvania.

The Honorable Bradley K. Moss has served as a judge since February of 2003. In addition to hearing cases as a judge on the Philadelphia Municipal Court, he served for a year as a Common Pleas Court judge and continues to sit by the designation of the Supreme Court as a Common Pleas Court judge. Judge Moss served for thirteen years as the supervising judge of the Philadelphia Municipal Court's Civil Division and served for many years as the chair or co-chair of the court's Judicial Conference and Education Committee. By appointment by the Supreme Court, Judge Moss has served as a member and as the chair of the Minor Court Rules Committee and is currently serving as a member of the Judicial Ethics Advisory Board. Before beginning his service as a judge, he was a partner at two Philadelphia law firms where he handled a wide

variety of cases at trial and on appeal. Judge Moss also served as a law clerk to the Honorable Theodore O. Rogers of the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania and to the Honorable John B. Hannum of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Judge Moss is an active member of his community. While he was a practicing attorney, he provided free legal services to those who could not afford them. He also represented children as a volunteer lawyer and was a board member of the Support Center for Child Advocates. Additionally, he served on the board and was the president of the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House. He currently is a member of the board of the Northeast Center for Behavioral Health. Judge Moss also coached local youth baseball, soccer and basketball for the Fairmount Sports Association and continues to serve as the head umpire for the league composed of players between the ages of seven and nine years old. Judge Moss has lectured to lawyers and the community on a variety of legal issues. He also has been involved in high school Mock Trial as a coach and a judge of competitions. Judge Moss graduated from Wesleyan University, cum laude, with honors in 1980 and received his law degree from the Dickinson School of Law in 1983. He is married and has two adult children.

The Honorable Edward D. Reibman has been a judge on the Court of Common Pleas of Lehigh County since January 1992, and President Judge from 2015 through 2020. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Lafayette College and a Juris Doctor degree from the Duke Law School. He clerked for the late Judge Bryan Simpson of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit (formerly the Fifth Circuit) and served as a trial attorney in the Education Section of the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. While engaged as a sole practitioner of law in Allentown, Pennsylvania, he served as special counsel to the NAACP Legal and Defense Educational Fund, Inc., and to the City Councils of the cities of Hazleton and Allentown, Pennsylvania. He has litigated successfully in the Supreme Court of the United States and in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. Judge Reibman has presided over the entire range of civil, family,

juvenile, criminal and orphans' court matters. He helped establish Lehigh County's Court Appointed Special Advocate program ("CASA"), to assist the court in child dependency cases; drug court; a mortgage foreclosure conciliation program, to bring lenders and homeowners together to avoid residential foreclosures; and a panel discussion of doctors and diverse religious leaders to address end-of-life issues and train court-appointed decision-makers entrusted with end-of-life choices. Judge Reibman is a former chair of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges' Ethics Committee, which, prior to the creation of the Judicial Ethics Advisory Board, rendered advisory opinions to judges and candidates for judicial office on matters subject to the Code of Judicial Conduct, and was a member of the Chief Justice's Ad Hoc Committee to Re-Write the Code of Judicial Conduct, which the Supreme Court adopted in 2014. He was one of the original members of the Continuing Judicial Education Board of Judges, and has served as a member of the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts/ Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges' Magisterial District Court Security Task Force, to address security needs in the Magisterial District Courts' offices; Remote Proceedings Task Force, to address continued use of advanced communication technology following termination of judicial emergencies; and Jury Trial Working Group, to resume jury trials post-COVID. Judge Reibman and his wife, a retired nurse-midwife and educator, have two adult children.

The Honorable Victor P. Stabile Judge Stabile was elected as a judge to the Superior Court of Pennsylvania in 2013. Prior to his election, he had over thirty years of broad legal experience. Judge Stabile is a 1982 graduate of the Dickinson School of Law and was a member of its Law Review. Upon graduation, he served as an appellate judicial clerk in the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania. After completion of his clerkship, Judge Stabile was appointed a Deputy Attorney General in a trial division of the Office of Attorney General where he litigated cases in defense of Commonwealth agencies in many of the Commonwealth's trial and appellate courts. While a Deputy Attorney General, he also served

as the acting chief of this state-wide trial division and successfully argued and litigated now precedential case law in the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. In 1987, Judge Stabile joined the law firm of Dilworth Paxson LLP, and was a partner and the managing member of its Harrisburg office from 1992 until his election to the Superior Court in 2013. His practice at Dilworth principally involved complex commercial and business litigation. While at Dilworth, Judge Stabile continued to successfully argue and litigate cases in the appellate courts of Pennsylvania. He practiced before all state and federal courts in Pennsylvania and is a member of the United States Supreme Court and Pennsylvania Supreme Court Bars. A substantial amount of Judge Stabile's time also had been devoted to public service in his community and to pro bono legal work. His pro bono work included representations of individuals, community organizations, political candidates, and disabled individuals. He served as a member of the Supreme Court's Judicial Education Board and currently serves as a member of the Judicial Ethics Advisory Board. He was nominated and elected as a member to the American Law Institute. Judge Stabile also served as the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Middlesex Township, Cumberland County, where he earned a reputation for being fiscally conservative and for treating people fairly. He was active in community planning and was a founding member of the Cumberland County Task Force on Regional Development. He has been married for over forty years, has two children, and resides with his family in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

The Honorable Stella M. Tsai was appointed to the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas in 2016 then elected to the bench in her own right in November 2017. She is assigned to the Orphans' Court Division, having served in the Criminal and Civil Trial Divisions and Family Court. She is co-chair of the Orphans' Court Education Subcommittee. Judge Tsai serves on the Judicial Ethics Advisory Board and the Education Committee of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges. She is a member of the Philadelphia Bar Association State Civil Executive Committee. She served on the Civil Jury Trial Task Force convened by Justice Christine Donohue

of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. Before joining the bench, Judge Tsai was a business litigation partner in the Philadelphia office of Archer & Greiner, PC, concentrating in regulatory compliance, land use, and ethics. Judge Tsai re-entered private practice after serving as Chair of Administrative Law at the City of Philadelphia Law Department from 2000-2003. Over her career, Judge Tsai has remained actively involved in charitable activities and public service. She was an inaugural member of the reconstituted City of Philadelphia Board of Ethics and was appointed to the City's Zoning Code Commission ("ZCC") to help rewrite the Zoning Code. Judge Tsai has also chaired or held other leadership positions on numerous non-profit boards including the Community College of Philadelphia, Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Pennsylvania, the Women's Law Project, Volunteers for the Indigent in Philadelphia ("VIP"), Philadelphia Diversity Law Group, and the First Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia. While in private practice, Judge Tsai provided countless hours of pro bono representation and advocacy for low-income individuals in a wide range of matters including custody and support disputes, voting rights cases, civil rights cases, political asylum, and other immigration issues. Judge Tsai earned her B.A. in political science with honors and distinction from the Pennsylvania State University in 1985. She earned her J.D. in 1988 from the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School, where she co-teaches Remedies as an adjunct professor, and is a member of the Board of the Inn of Court, and Law School Alumni Society.

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Judicial Ethics Advisory Board

Annual Report 2024



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