

**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
COURT OF JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE**

RECEIVED AND FILED

IN RE:

SEP 24 2025

Judge Scott DiClaudio
Court of Common Pleas
First Judicial District
Philadelphia County

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1 JD 2025
2 JD 2025

COURT OF JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE
OF PENNSYLVANIA

PETITION FOR SPECIAL RELIEF PRE-HEARING WITNESS LIST

AND NOW, this 24th day of September, 2025, comes the Judicial Conduct Board of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (Board), by and through undersigned counsel, and in response to this Court's September 17, 2025 Order files this pre-hearing memorandum, as follows:

The Board plans to call the following witnesses in support of its Petition for Special Relief for Interim Suspension Without Pay:

1. Nicole Vernacchio
Court Clerk, First Judicial District
1301 Filbert St.
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Ms. Vernacchio is expected to testify that on June 12, 2025, she accompanied Judge Zachary Shaffer to Judge DiClaudio's robing room to purchase several t-shirts in support of Shay's Steaks, which is owned by Judge DiClaudio's wife. She will further testify that after several minutes of conversation she was asked by Judge DiClaudio to leave the room such that the two judges could continue their conversation privately.

2. The Honorable Zachary Shaffer
Judge, First Judicial District Court
327 City Hall
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Judge Shaffer is expected to testify that on June 12, 2025, he and Ms.

Vernacchio met with Judge DiClaudio in his robing room to complete the purchase of several Shay's Steaks t-shirts. Following Ms. Vernacchio's departure, Judge DiClaudio showed Judge Shaffer a piece of paper with identifying information regarding an upcoming sentencing before Judge Shaffer, telling him "I've heard you might do the right thing anyway," before ripping this paper up and discarding it. Judge Shaffer is expected to further testify that he promptly reported this interaction to his superiors and recused from hearing the case at issue.

3. The Honorable Daniel Anders
Administrative Judge, First Judicial District
516 City Hall
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Judge Anders is expected to testify that on June 13, 2025, Judge Shaffer reported the June 12, 2025, conversation that he'd had with Judge DiClaudio. Judge Anders is further expected to testify regarding his decision to limit Judge DiClaudio's duties and will describe those duties and their limitations.

Respectfully submitted,

MELISSA L. NORTON
Chief Counsel

DATE: September 24, 2025

By:



Elizabeth A. Hoffheins
Deputy Counsel
Pa. Supreme Court ID No. 209623
Judicial Conduct Board
Pennsylvania Judicial Center
601 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 3500
Harrisburg, PA 17106
(717) 234-7911

VERIFICATION


I, Elizabeth A. Hoffheins, Deputy Counsel to the Judicial Conduct Board, verify that the statements herein are true and correct and made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. § 4904, relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

Respectfully submitted,

MELISSA L. NORTON
Chief Counsel

Date: September 24, 2025

By:


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Deputy Counsel
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CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

I certify that this filing complies with the provisions of the *Case Records Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania* that require filing confidential information and documents differently than non-confidential information and documents.

Submitted by: Judicial Conduct Board of Pennsylvania

Signature: 

Name: ELIZABETH A. HOFFHEINS
Deputy Counsel

Attorney No.: 209623

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PROOF OF SERVICE

In compliance with Rule 122 of the Court of Judicial Discipline Rules of Procedure, on the below date a copy of this Petition for Special Relief Pre-Hearing Witness List was served by First-Class Mail and email upon Michael T. van der Veen, Esquire, counsel for Judge DiClaudio at the following address:


Michael T. van der Veen, Esquire
Van Der Veen, Hartshorn, Levine & Lindheim
1219 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Via Email: mtv@mtvlaw.com; aleasure@mtvlaw.com; AGustafson@mtvlaw.com;
klogan@mtvlaw.com; jmorace@mtvlaw.com

Respectfully submitted,

DATE: September 24, 2025

By:


Elizabeth A. Hoffheins
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