

**Judicial Conduct Board**  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Melissa L. Norton, Chief Counsel  
717-234-7911

## **Press Release**

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**Tuesday, February 10, 2026**

**FROM: Melissa L. Norton**  
**Chief Counsel**

**SUBJECT: Magisterial District Judge Jonathan M. Wilcox**  
**Magisterial District Court 42-3-01**  
**42nd Judicial District**  
**Bradford County**  
**2 JD 2026**

HARRISBURG, PA - On February 9, 2026, the Judicial Conduct Board filed formal charges in the Court of Judicial Discipline against Bradford County Magisterial District Judge Jonathan M. Wilcox. The Board Complaint alleges violations of the Rules Governing Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Under the Pennsylvania Constitution, Judge Wilcox, as the subject of the charges, is presumed innocent in all proceedings before the Court of Judicial Discipline. The Board has the burden of proving the charges filed in the Court of Judicial Discipline by clear and convincing evidence.

In accordance with the rules which govern proceedings before the Court of Judicial Discipline, Judge Wilcox has the right to respond to the charges, to obtain and inspect the evidence which forms the basis of the allegations, and to a public trial before the Court of Judicial Discipline.

Upon completion of the trial, if the Court determines that any of the charges have been proven by clear and convincing evidence, it will schedule a hearing to determine what sanction, if any, should be imposed. Possible sanctions include censure, suspension, fine or removal from office.

*The Board Complaint accompanies this press release. The documents are also available on the Board's website at [www.jcbpa.org](http://www.jcbpa.org) (select the Resource Tab then select Press Releases in the drop-down menu).*

*Court filings for all cases prosecuted by the Board are available on the Court of Judicial Discipline website at <http://www.pacourts.us/courts/court-of-judicial-discipline>.*

**Counsel:**

**Representing the Judicial Conduct Board: Elizabeth R. Donnelly, Deputy Counsel**

**Representing Magisterial District Judge Jonathan M. Wilcox: To Be Determined**

**Contact: Melissa L. Norton, Chief Counsel**

**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
COURT OF JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE**

RECEIVED AND FILED

IN RE:

FEB - 9 2026

Judge Jonathan M. Wilcox :  
Magisterial District Judge :  
Magisterial District 42-3-01 : 2 JD 2026  
42<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District :  
Bradford County :

COURT OF JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE  
OF PENNSYLVANIA

**TO: JONATHAN M. WILCOX**

**You are hereby notified that the Pennsylvania Judicial Conduct Board has determined that there is probable cause to file formal charges against you for conduct proscribed by Article V, § 17(b) and § 18(d)(1) of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the Rules Governing Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges. The Board's counsel will present the case in support of the charges before the Pennsylvania Court of Judicial Discipline.**

**You have an absolute right to be represented by a lawyer in all proceedings before the Court of Judicial Discipline. Your attorney should file an entry of appearance with the Court of Judicial Discipline within fifteen (15) days of service of this Board Complaint in accordance with C.J.D.R.P. No. 110.**

**You are hereby notified, pursuant to C.J.D.R.P. No. 302(B), that should you elect to file an omnibus motion, that motion should be filed no later than thirty (30) days after the service of this Complaint in accordance with C.J.D.R.P. No. 411.**

**You are further hereby notified that within thirty (30) days after the service of this Complaint, if no omnibus motion is filed, or within twenty (20) days after the dismissal of all or part of the omnibus motion, you may file an Answer admitting or denying the allegations contained in this Complaint in accordance with C.J.D.R.P. No. 413. Failure to file an Answer shall be deemed a denial of all factual allegations in the Complaint.**

**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
COURT OF JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE**

IN RE:

Judge Jonathan M. Wilcox	:	
Magisterial District Judge	:	
Magisterial District 42-3-01	:	2 JD 2026
42nd Judicial District	:	
Bradford County	:	

**COMPLAINT**

AND NOW, this 9<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026, comes the Judicial Conduct Board of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (Board) and files this Board Complaint against the Honorable Judge Jonathan M. Wilcox, Magisterial District Judge for Magisterial District 42-3-01, Bradford County, Pennsylvania, alleging that Judge Wilcox has violated the Rules Governing Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as more specifically delineated herein.

**FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

1. Article V, § 18 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania grants to the Board the authority to determine whether there is probable cause to file formal charges against a judicial officer in this Court, and thereafter, to prosecute the case in support of such charges in this Court.
2. From March 28, 2000, until his suspension on November 6, 2025, Judge Wilcox served as Magisterial District Judge for Magisterial District 42-3-01, Bradford County Pennsylvania.
3. On August 21, 2024, Judge Wilcox sent a letter on his judicial letterhead addressed to President Judge Maureen Beirne requesting that the Court grant

his Clerk, SB's, Protection from Abuse Petition (PFA). A copy of this letter is attached hereto as Exhibit A, made a part hereof, and incorporated herein as though set forth in full.

4. The Bradford County District Attorney's Office referred the issue to the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General for investigation.
5. On November 20, 2025, Detective Christopher Weaver of the Attorney General's Office informed Judge Wilcox that he was the subject of an official investigation by the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General regarding his involvement in the 2024 PFA matter.
6. Rule 1921 of the Pennsylvania Rules of Judicial Administration (Rule 1921) mandates:

[w]henver a judge receives notice that he or she is the subject of any federal or state criminal investigation or prosecution through a target letter, a subject letter, a presentment, an indictment, an arrest, a summons, a complaint, or other legal process, or any other means from the investigating or prosecuting authority, unless precluded by order of court, the judge must report the receipt of such notice in writing to the Chief Justice and the Judicial Conduct Board within five (5) days.

7. Judge Wilcox failed to comply with Rule 1921 and report to the Chief Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court that he was the subject of a state criminal investigation.
8. Judge Wilcox failed to comply with Rule 1921 and report to the Judicial Conduct Board that he was the subject of a state criminal investigation.

## **CHARGES**

### **Count 1 - Violation of Canon 1, Rule 1.1**

9. By virtue of some or all of the conduct alleged conduct set forth above Judge Wilcox violated Canon 1, Rule 1.1 of the Rules Governing Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges (RGSCMDJ).
10. Canon 1, Rule 1.1 states the following:

Canon 1, Rule 1.1 Compliance with the Law.

A magisterial district judge shall comply with the law, including the Rules Governing Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges.

11. By failing to comply with Rule 1921 of the Pennsylvania Rules of Judicial Administration as set forth above, Judge Wilcox failed to comply with the law within the meaning of Canon 1, Rule 1.1 of the RGSCMDJ.

### **Count 2 - Violation of Canon 1, Rule 1.2**

12. By virtue of some or all of the conduct alleged above Judge Wilcox violated Canon 1, Rule 1.2 of the RGSCMDJ.
13. Canon 1, Rule 1.2 states the following:

Canon 1, Rule 1.2 Promoting Confidence in the Judiciary.

A magisterial district judge shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary, and shall avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety.

14. By engaging in the conduct set forth above, Judge Wilcox failed to promote confidence in the judiciary and avoid impropriety or the appearance of impropriety within the meaning of Canon 1, Rule 1.2 of the RGSCMDJ.

**Count 3 - Violation of Canon 1, Rule 1.3**

15. By virtue of some or all of the conduct alleged in paragraph 3, Judge Wilcox violated Canon 1, Rule 1.3 of the RGSCMDJ.

16. Canon 1, Rule 1.3 states the following:

Canon 1, Rule 1.3 Avoiding Abuse of the Prestige of Judicial Office.

A magisterial district judge shall not abuse the prestige of judicial office to advance the personal or economic interests of the magisterial district judge or others, or allow others to do so.

17. By sending a letter on his judicial letterhead on behalf of his Clerk to President Judge Beirne, Judge Wilcox abused the prestige of his judicial office within the meaning of Canon 1, Rule 1.3 of the RGSCMDJ.

**Count 4 - Violation of Canon 2, Rule 2.10**

18. By virtue of some or all of the conduct alleged in paragraph 3, Judge Wilcox violated Canon 2, Rule 2.10 of the RGSCMDJ.

19. Canon 2, Rule 2.10 states the following:

Canon 2, Rule 2.10 Judicial Statements on Pending or Impending Cases

(A) A magisterial district judge shall not make...any nonpublic statement that might substantially interfere with a fair trial or hearing.

20. By sending a letter on his judicial letterhead on behalf of his Clerk to President Judge Beirne, Judge Wilcox substantially interfered with a PFA hearing within the meaning of Canon 2, Rule 2.10 of the RGSCMDJ.

**Counts 5 - 8 – Violation of Article V, § 17(b) of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania**

21. By virtue of some or all of the conduct set forth above, Judge Wilcox violated Article V, § 17(b) of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
22. Article V, § 17(b) of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania states the following:

Justices and judges shall not engage in any activity prohibited by law and shall not violate any canon of legal or judicial ethics prescribed by the Supreme Court. Justices of the peace shall be governed by rules or canons which shall be prescribed by the Supreme Court.

23. A violation of the RGSCMDJ constitutes an automatic derivative violation of Article V, § 17(b) of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
24. Judge Wilcox violated Canon 1, Rule 1.1.
25. Judge Wilcox violated Canon 1, Rule 1.2.
26. Judge Wilcox violated Canon 1, Rule 1.3.
27. Judge Wilcox violated Canon 2, Rule 2.10.
28. By violation of all, or some, of the Rules set forth above, Judge Wilcox violated Article V, § 17(b) of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

**Count 9 – Violation of Article V, § 18(d)(1) of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania**

29. By virtue of some or all of the conduct set forth above, Judge Wilcox violated Article V, § 18(d)(1) of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.



30. Article V, § 18(d)(1) of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of

Pennsylvania states the following:

A justice, judge or justice of the peace may be suspended, removed from office or otherwise disciplined for . . .conduct which brings the judicial office into disrepute, whether or not the conduct occurred while acting in a judicial capacity [.]

31. By engaging in the conduct set forth above, Judge Wilcox engaged in conduct that was so extreme that it brought the judicial office itself into disrepute and thereby constitutes a violation of the Disrepute Clause of Article V, § 18(d)(1) of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.


WHEREFORE, Jonathan M. Wilcox, a Magisterial District Judge of Bradford County, Pennsylvania, is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Article V, § 18(d)(1).

Respectfully submitted,

MELISSA L. NORTON  
Chief Counsel

DATE: February 9, 2026

By:

  
ELIZABETH R. DONNELLY  
Deputy Counsel  
Pa. Supreme Court ID No. 308085  
Judicial Conduct Board  
Pennsylvania Judicial Center  
601 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 3500  
Harrisburg, PA 17106  
(717) 234-7911


**VERIFICATION**

I, Elizabeth R. Donnelly, Deputy Counsel to the Judicial Conduct Board, verify that the Judicial Conduct Board found probable cause to file formal charges contained in the *BOARD COMPLAINT*. I understand that the statements herein are 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: February 9, 2026

By:   
ELIZABETH R. DONNELLY  
Deputy Counsel  
Pa. Supreme Court ID No. 308085  
Judicial Conduct Board  
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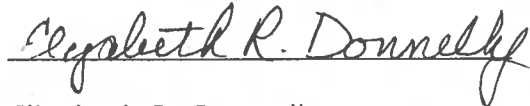
**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
COURT OF JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE**

IN RE:

Judge Jonathan M. Wilcox	:	
Magisterial District Judge	:	
Magisterial District 42-3-01	:	2 JD 2026
42 <sup>nd</sup> Judicial District	:	
Bradford County	:	

**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 R. Donnelly Deputy Counsel
Attorney No.:	308085

# **EXHIBIT A**

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA



COUNTY OF BRADFORD

**JONATHAN M. WILCOX**

**DISTRICT JUSTICE**

Magistral District 42-3-01  
123 Canton Street  
Troy PA 16947

TEL: (570) 297-3880  
FAX: (570) 297-5071

ALBA BOROUGH  
CANTON BOROUGH  
TROY BOROUGH  
SYLVANIA BOROUGH  
ARMENIA TOWNSHIP  
CANTON TOWNSHIP  
COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP

GRANVILLE TOWNSHIP  
LEROY TOWNSHIP  
RIDGEBURY TOWNSHIP  
SOUTH CREEK TOWNSHIP  
SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP  
TROY TOWNSHIP  
WELLS TOWNSHIP

August 21, 2024

Honorable Maureen Beirne  
President Judge  
301 Main Street  
Towanda, PA 18848

Dear Honorable Judge Beirne,

I would respectfully request that due to the ongoing stalking, harassment and terrorization of my employee [REDACTED] that a protection of abuse order be ordered against [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] has been spoken to by the Pennsylvania State police, this Honorable Judge, [REDACTED] spouse and [REDACTED] mother in law about these acts that have been committed against [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] has been warned numerous times to cease and desist. These actions that [REDACTED] is committing to [REDACTED] has come to the point where [REDACTED] has threatened [REDACTED] to physical altercation and reporting her for fictitious criminal activities. This defendant is not mentally stable and will not listen to reason therefore [REDACTED] feels her only recourse is to file a protection from abuse order from this honorable court. It is my hope and desire that the protection from abuse order is granted and immediately served upon [REDACTED] today so this behavior will hopefully stop.

I leave this in the courts honorable hands to decide this is the remedy to protect [REDACTED] her family and her mother in law from further harassment and mental abuse along with stalking.

Respectfully Yours,

  
Honorable Jonathan M. Wilcox  
42-3-01