



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

Press Release

March 12, 2026

FROM: Melissa L. Norton
Chief Counsel

SUBJECT: Philadelphia Common Pleas Court Judge Michael Fanning
1st Judicial District
Philadelphia County
3 JD 2026

HARRISBURG, PA - On Wednesday, March 11, 2026, the Judicial Conduct Board filed a Petition for Relief for Interim Suspension Without Pay in the Court of Judicial Discipline against Philadelphia County Common Pleas Court Judge Michael Fanning pending final disposition of criminal charges filed against him. The Board took this action after the Philadelphia County District Attorney's Office charged Judge Fanning with several felony and misdemeanor offenses. As to the pending criminal charges, Judge Fanning enjoys the presumption of innocence unless and until he is convicted.

The Petition for Relief for Interim Suspension Without Pay accompanies this press release. The document is also available on the Board's website at 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 A. Hoffheins, Deputy Counsel

Representing Judge Michael Fanning: To Be Determined

Contact: Melissa L. Norton, Chief Counsel

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
COURT OF JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE

RECEIVED AND FILED

MAR 11 2026

COURT OF JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE
OF PENNSYLVANIA

3 JD 2026

IN RE:

Michael Fanning
Court of Common Pleas
First Judicial District
Philadelphia County

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PETITION FOR RELIEF FOR INTERIM SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY

AND NOW, this 11th day of March, 2026, comes the Judicial Conduct Board of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (Board), by and through undersigned counsel, and files this Petition for Relief for Interim Suspension Without Pay pursuant to Article V, §18(d)(2) of the Pennsylvania Constitution, Rule 701 of the Court of Judicial Discipline Rules of Procedure, and Rule 13(A) of the Judicial Conduct Board Rules of Procedure and in support thereof avers the following:

1. The Pennsylvania Constitution provides this Court with the authority to impose interim suspension as follows:

Prior to a hearing, the court may issue an interim order directing suspension, with or without pay, of any justice, judge or justice of the peace against whom formal charges have been filed with the court by the board or against whom has been filed an indictment or information charging a felony. An interim order under this paragraph shall not be considered a final order from which an appeal may be taken.

Pa. Const, Art. V, § 18(d)(2).

2. From approximately July 10, 2014, until the present, Judge Fanning has served continuously as a judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County.

3. By criminal complaints filed March 10, 2026, at ***Commonwealth v. Michael Fanning***, docket numbers MC-51-CR-0004241-2026 and MC-51-CR-0004242-2026, the Philadelphia County District Attorney's Office filed criminal charges against Judge Fanning. A true and correct copy of the criminal complaints and affidavit of probable cause is attached hereto as Attachment A, made a part hereof, and incorporated herein by reference as though set forth in full.
4. The Philadelphia County District Attorney's Office charged Judge Fanning with the following offenses across the above dockets: (1) aggravated assault, 18 P.S. §2702, a felony of the first degree; (2) strangulation, 18 P.S. §2718, a felony of the second degree; (3) simple assault, two counts, 18 P.S. §2701, a misdemeanor of the second degree; and (4) recklessly endangering another person, two counts, 18 P.S. §2705, a misdemeanor of the second degree.
5. The allegations contained within the felony charges and the other criminal charges pending against Judge Fanning undermine both public confidence in the judiciary and its reputation. If Judge Fanning is permitted to continue presiding over cases in the Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas during the pendency of these charges, the public's confidence in the judiciary will continue to erode.

WHEREFORE, it is respectfully requested that this Honorable Court enter an interim order suspending Judge Fanning without pay pending disposition of the charges filed against him, and to grant such other relief as may be deemed appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Norton
Chief Counsel

DATE: March 11, 2026

BY:


Elizabeth A. Hoffheins
Deputy Counsel
Pa. Supreme Court ID No. 209623
Judicial Conduct Board
Pennsylvania Judicial Center
601 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 3500
P.O. Box 62525
Harrisburg, PA 17106
(717) 234-7911

**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
COURT OF JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE**

IN RE:

Michael Fanning
Court of Common Pleas
First Judicial District
Philadelphia County

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: 3 JD 2026
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VERIFICATION

I, Elizabeth A. Hoffheins, Deputy Counsel to the Judicial Conduct Board, verify that the facts set forth in the foregoing petition are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief. I understand that the statements made in this petition are subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S.A. § 4904, regarding unsworn falsification to authorities.

DATE: March 11, 2026

BY:


Elizabeth A. Hoffheins
Deputy Counsel

Pa. Supreme Court ID No. 209623
Judicial Conduct Board
Pennsylvania Judicial Center
601 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 3500
P.O. Box 62525
Harrisburg, PA 17106
(717) 234-7911

**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
COURT OF JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE**

IN RE:

Michael Fanning
Court of Common Pleas
First Judicial District
Philadelphia County

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: 3 JD 2026
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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



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

DC#: 26-08-012121
Dckt/MC#: MC51-CR-0004241-2026
Date: MAR 10, 2026

SID: 60466203

Criminal Complaint

Domestic Violence

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA VS. MICHAEL FANNING

I, the undersigned, do hereby state under oath or affirmation:

(1) My name is: JAREK KRAJEWSKI

District Attorney's Representative

(2) I accuse MICHAEL FANNING

who lives at [REDACTED]

with violating the Penal Laws of Pennsylvania on or about Monday, March 09, 2026
in the County of Philadelphia.

(3) The acts committed by the accused were:

See Supplemental Page For Complete Text

In violation of Pennsylvania Penal Laws, section(s) and title(s)

CHARGES:

Defendant has been fingerprinted

Code	Description	Grade	Counts
CC2702	AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	F1	001
CC2718	STRANGULATION	F2	001
CC2701	SIMPLE ASSAULT	M2	001
CC2705	REAP	M2	001

All of which is against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

(4) I ask that a warrant of arrest or a summons are issued and that the accused be required to answer the charges I have made. This complaint has been reviewed and approved by CHRISTOPHER RUDOLPH

A.D.A.

(5) I swear to or affirm the within complaint upon my knowledge, information and belief, and sign it on 03/10/2026 before Philadelphia Municipal Court Judge/Arraignment Court Magistrate.

Signature of Arraignment Court Magistrate

Signature of Affiant

Commonwealth's Representative: "I certify that this filing complies with the provisions of the Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania: Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts that require filing confidential information and documents differently than non-confidential information and documents."

On _____, the above named affiant swore or affirmed that the facts set forth in the complaint were true and correct to the best of his/her knowledge, information and belief, and signed it in my presence. I believe the within affiant to be a responsible person and that there is probable cause for the issuance of process.

Issuing Authority

Seal





COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

DC#: 26-08-012121

Dckt/MC#: MC51-CR-0004241-2026

SID: 60466203

Date: MAR 10, 2026

Supplemental Page For Complete Text

ON 3/9/2026 AROUND 8:45 OM NEAR 9600 MILNOR STREET IN PHILADELPHIA THE DEFENDANT KNOWINGLY, INTENTIONALLY, OR RECKLESSLY CAUSED OR ATTEMPTED TO CAUSE SERIOUS BODILY INJURY TO THE COMPLAINANT, AF, BY PUNCHING HER MULTIPLE TIMES IN THE HEAD AND FACE, BY HITTING HER CAUSING HER TO FALL TO THE GROUND, BY PULLING HER TO THE GROUND, AND BY KNOWINGLY OR INTENTIONALLY IMPEDING HER BREATHING OR CIRCULATION OF HER BLOOD BY APPLYING PRESSURE TO HER THROAT OR NECK THEREBY RECKLESSLY PLACING AF AT RISK OF DEATH OR SERIOUS BODILY INJURY.



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

DC#: 26-08-012121
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in the County of Philadelphia.

(3) The acts committed by the accused were:

ON 3/9/2026 AROUND 8:45 PM NEAR 9600 MILNOR STREET IN PHILADELPHIA THE DEFENDANT KNOWINGLY, INTENTIONALLY, OR RECKLESSLY CAUSED OR ATTEMPTED TO CAUSE BODILY INJURY TO THE COMPLAINANT, AF, HIS ADULT DAUGHTER, BY GRABBING HER BY THE HAIR AND PULLING HER TO THE GROUND CAUSING A CUT ON HER FACE.

In violation of Pennsylvania Penal Laws, section(s) and title(s)

CHARGES:

Defendant has been fingerprinted

Code	Description	Grade	Counts
CC2701	SIMPLE ASSAULT	M2	001
CC2705	REAP	M2	001

All of which is against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

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Seal





**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA COUNTY**

DC#: 26-08-012121

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