

SUPERIOR COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA  
ANNUAL REPORT 2000



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ON THE COVER:

The Scale of the Law - *by Violet Oakley*

A MURAL IN THE CAPITOL COURTROOM OF  
THE PENNSYLVANIA SUPREME AND SUPERIOR COURTS



**THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA**  
CHAMBERS OF  
**PRESIDENT JUDGE STEPHEN J. McEWEN, JR.**

COURT HOUSE  
MEDIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19063

610-565-9191

January 4, 2001

My Dear Citizens, Lawyers, and Judges:

How sage the observation that Harmony is intrinsic to the Universe... to Music ... and to the Law. Yet, though the harmony of motion in the universe can be measured, as can be the harmony of sound in music – the harmony of justice, like the quality of mercy, can be neither measured nor strained.

Thus, the need to rely upon symbols to depict Justice and to portray Law.

For many centuries, Themis has relied upon her scales to reflect the equality of justice for all parties, the concord of precise balance, and the precious consonance achieved by law through equal measures of justice and of mercy.

For the past century, The Scale of the Law, the visionary work of legendary artist Violet Oakley, depicted on the cover of this Report, would achieve that balance, that concord, that consonance, in the harmony sounded by the notion that all law begins and ends with Divine Law.

And so, lacking the soul of an artist, I turn to my trade to consider both presentations, and conclude: *Judgments affirmed.*

With warmest regards, I remain,

Very truly yours,

Stephen J. McEwen, Jr.  
President Judge

**2000**  
*The Year in Review*

The joy of the New Year was enhanced by the Ceremony of the Oath for two new Judges of the Court, both from Allegheny County, Judge Maureen Lally-Green who had been serving by appointment and was in November elected to a full term, and Judge Debra Todd who enjoyed similar full-term success in that election.



When our Executive Administrator Joseph J. Mittleman was appointed by the Supreme Court to serve as Director of Judicial District Administration in the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts, Chief Staff Attorney R. Mitchell Gruner was named Executive Administrator of this Court, and Ernest N. Genneccaro was appointed to direct the operations of our Central Legal Staff.



The Heritage Conferences of this Court are conducted at sites which enable commemoration and celebration of the sacrifices and heroism of the founders and early patriots. If, as some historians observe, the three bedrock colonies of the original 13 were Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Massachusetts, the 2000 Heritage Conference of the Court conducted in Boston/Quincy, completed the cycle since the 1996 Conference was conducted in Pennsylvania's Brandywine Valley, and the 1997 Conference in Charlottesville, Virginia. The academic sessions

conducted in the State House, the scene of the Boston Massacre, and at the Massachusetts Historical Society were enhanced by visits to the Quincy cabin home of patriots John and Abigail Adams, their later home as President and First Lady Adams, to Bunker Hill, the USS Constitution still poised to defend Boston Harbor, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, the Copley Plaza, Northside's Mamma Maria's, and the legendary Locke-Ober's, with memorable addresses by Massachusetts Senate President/UMass President Bill Bulger, by Richard A. Ryerson, Editor-in-Chief of The Adams Papers, Massachusetts Historical Society, and by *Rascal King* (James Michael Curley) author/Atlantic Monthly editor Jack Beatty.



The en banc sessions in Harrisburg, Philadelphia, and Pittsburgh included a salute to the 50-year members of the Bar: 6 in the Middle District, 23 in the Eastern District, and 12 in the Western District.



The tone of the Founders Courtroom was enhanced in June when the Court dedicated the busts of Founders George Wythe, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and John Marshall.



## 2000 *The Year in Review*

The Court "rode the circuit" as it traveled to participate in the Bicentennial Celebrations of Armstrong County and of Crawford County, and to salute the Luzerne County Bar Association upon its 150th Anniversary.



The Court concluded its Commonwealth Partners program of regional meetings with the members of the legislature and the county court judges, and has welcomed those Senators, Representatives, Common Pleas court judges, and law school deans, who have accepted the standing invitation to join us upon the Bench during the presentation of oral arguments.



The Court could not duplicate the prestige of the unique 1999 American Bar Association Presidential Proclamation saluting the Court for its innovative programs, but the Journal of the American Judges Association provided distinction by publication of a thorough essay upon the statewide telecast of the En Banc Argument Sessions of our Court.



This Court celebrated in 1995 the Centennial of its founding. The arduous five-year effort to assemble the history of that first century was concluded this year as a result of the fervor for goal and constancy

of determination of Judge Patrick R. Tamilia, to whom all members of this Court, past, present, and future, can be grateful for a classic collage of historical text, jurisprudential development, and treasured photographs.



The Chambers Coat was introduced as the complement to the traditional courtroom robe as formal judicial attire.



The Judges of our Court were deeply saddened, and the Bar and the Bench of the Commonwealth diminished, when President Judge Emeritus Vincent A. Cirillo died on November 28, 2000. Judge Cirillo, following a career as a trial lawyer, prosecutor, and Montgomery County Common Pleas Court Judge, became a Judge of this Court in January 1982, and served as its President Judge for five years commencing in January 1986, during which the Court was the beneficiary of his vigorous direction.



The members of the Court in December elected Judge Joseph A. Del Sole to guide and administer the Court during a five-year term as President Judge commencing January, 2001, upon the expiration of the tenure of President Judge Stephen J. McEwen, Jr.

## 2000 *The Year in Statistics*

### APPEALS FILED AND CONCLUDED

	TOTAL	CIVIL	CRIMINAL
Appeals Filed	8131	3640	4491
Appeals Concluded By Written Decision	5022	1875	3147

### APPEALS, PETITIONS AND WIRETAPS FILED, BY DISTRICT

DISTRICT	TOTAL PETITIONS	WIRETAPS
Eastern	4639	46
Middle	1214	0
Western	2793	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8646</b>	<b>51</b>

### REARGUMENT/RECONSIDERATION

Petitions Filed .....	442
Petitions Granted.....	30
Percent Granted.....	6.8%

### APPEALS BY COUNTY OF ORIGIN

Adams.....	38	Lackawanna.....	138
Allegheny.....	936	Lancaster.....	216
Armstrong.....	26	Lawrence.....	33
Beaver.....	68	Lebanon.....	57
Bedford.....	19	Lehigh.....	163
Berks.....	201	Luzerne.....	205
Blair.....	84	Lycoming.....	135
Bradford.....	38	McKean.....	22
Bucks.....	181	Mercer.....	49
Butler.....	64	Mifflin.....	33
Cambria.....	64	Monroe.....	111
Cameron.....	1	Montgomery.....	316
Carbon.....	31	Montour.....	9
Centre.....	95	Northampton.....	131
Chester.....	198	Northumberland.....	38
Clarion.....	21	Perry.....	18
Clearfield.....	33	Philadelphia.....	2143
Clinton.....	34	Pike.....	30
Columbia.....	20	Potter.....	7
Crawford.....	50	Schuylkill.....	93
Cumberland.....	121	Snyder.....	19
Dauphin.....	273	Somerset.....	19
Delaware.....	354	Sullivan.....	4
Elk.....	23	Susquehanna.....	37
Erie.....	260	Tioga.....	25
Fayette.....	67	Union.....	14
Forest.....	10	Venango.....	48
Franklin.....	68	Warren.....	15
Fulton.....	5	Washington.....	73
Greene.....	37	Wayne.....	38
Huntingdon.....	31	Westmoreland.....	134
Indiana.....	29	Wyoming.....	13
Jefferson.....	12	York.....	246
Juniata.....	7		

**TOTAL .....8131**

**2000**  
*The Year in Statistics*

**APPEALS BY TYPE OF CASE**

Action to Quiet Title.....21	Equity.....203	Post Conviction Relief Act.....131
Adoption.....34	Estate/Probate/Wills/Intestate...98	Protection from Abuse Act.....39
Aggravated Assault.....396	Forgery.....27	Rape.....168
Arbitration.....77	Habeas Corpus.....20	Receiving Stolen Property.....42
Asbestos.....77	Harassment.....53	Recklessly Endangering Another Person.....41
Assault.....89	Homicide.....59	Robbery.....365
Assumpsit.....105	Indecent Assault.....50	Spousal Support.....75
Attempted Murder.....26	Involuntary Deviate Sexual Conduct.....92	Summary Offense/Conviction...48
Burglary.....152	Involuntary Termination of Parental Rights.....79	Termination of Parental Rights.....27
Child Support.....148	Kidnapping.....22	Terroristic Threats.....42
Contract.....137	Legal Malpractice.....27	Theft.....156
Controlled Substance.....576	Medical Malpractice.....128	Trespass.....312
Corruption of Minors.....42	Mortgage Foreclosure.....56	Uniform Firearms Act.....46
Criminal Conspiracy.....70	Motor Vehicle Accident.....76	Vehicle Violations.....124
Custody / Visitation.....188	Murder.....188	Other Civil*.....1346
Declaratory Judgment.....61	Murder 1.....241	Other Criminal*.....841
Dependency.....73	Murder 2.....45	<b>TOTAL.....8131</b>
Disorderly Conduct.....32	Murder 3.....58	
Divorce.....253	Possession of an Instrument of Crime.....22	
Driving Under the Influence...200		
Ejectment.....27		

*\* Includes appeals originally classified as "other" as well as appeals originally classified in categories with fewer than 20 appeals filed in 2000.*

**OPINIONS FILED**

	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>CIVIL</b>	<b>CRIMINAL</b>
Published Opinions	387	238	149
Non-Published Opinions	4447	1543	2904
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4834</b>	<b>1781</b>	<b>3053</b>

**DISPOSITIONS BY TYPE**

	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>CIVIL</b>	<b>CRIMINAL</b>
By Written Decision	5022	1875	3147
By Order or Discontinuance	2143	1196	947
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7165</b>	<b>3071</b>	<b>4094</b>

**2000**  
*The Year in Statistics*

**SUPERIOR COURT TREATMENT OF CASES FROM  
COURTS OF COMMON PLEAS**

	<b>Cases Decided by Published Opinion</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Cases Decided by Unpublished Opinion</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Total All Cases</b>	<b>%</b>
Affirmed	255	55.9	3681	80.6	3936	78.3
Reversed	134	29.4	537	11.7	671	13.3
Affirmed in Part/ Reversed in Part	52	11.4	132	2.9	184	3.7
Quashed/Dismissed/ Transferred	14	3.1	170	3.7	184	3.7
Other	1	0.2	46	1.0	47	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>456</b>		<b>4566</b>		<b>5022</b>	

**SUPREME COURT TREATMENT OF SUPERIOR COURT CASES**

**ALLOCATORS:  
CASES FILED AND CONCLUDED**

Total Allocatur Petitions Filed in 1999 from Superior Court Decisions.....	1855
Number Granted.....	136
Number Denied.....	2408
Other Disposition.....	99
Open.....	823

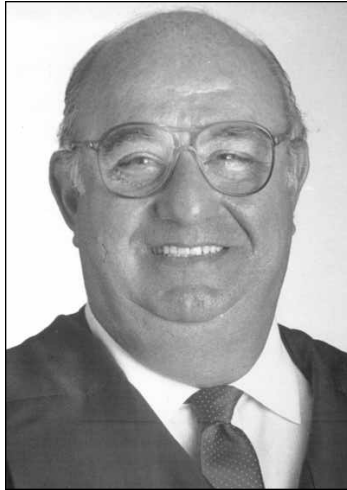
**DISPOSITION OF APPEALS FROM  
SUPERIOR COURT CASES**

Reversed.....	32
Affirmed.....	30
Other*.....	38
Total.....	100

*\* Includes affirmed/reversed, dismissed, improvidently granted, vacated and withdrawn.*

IN MEMORIAM

*President Judge Emeritus Vincent A. Cirillo*  
1927 - 2000



President Judge Emeritus Vincent A. Cirillo was an epochal figure in Pennsylvania jurisprudence as well as upon the Pennsylvania Superior Court. All of those who have been his colleagues at the Bar and his associates upon the Bench embrace his memory warmly and fondly in thoughts and expressions which spring from a deep well of admiration, respect, and affection for with us, he was our colleague – and for us, he was and is our ideal.

Judge Cirillo was a splendid Judge, for he was patient teacher, kindly counselor, careful thinker, and wise scholar. As much as we, as colleagues, were the beneficiaries of his special insight, he particularly enriched us by a gentle and pure spirit committed powerfully to that which is fair and just in government affairs and human relations.

Judge Cirillo realized that, if the law is to remain the repository of the traditional values, the

Bench must not only be enlightened, its Judges must be resolute. Literature, and even history, lesson the need for the steadfast. The clever inspire respect, but the steadfast are inspiration. And Judge Cirillo was every bit of that.

As President Judge of this Court, he blazed a path into and through the Information Age and, in a sense, his bold instinct for molding technology to the crushing inventory of this Court became the curve for electronic administration of appellate courts elsewhere.

While, as a lawyer, he was renowned for his skill and intensity as an advocate, and, as a Judge, for his gifted insight, it is the memory of his joyful embrace of life and fervor in friendship that will most enrich his memory among all who knew him.

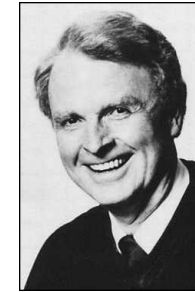
The Bar and Bench of Pennsylvania are diminished by his departure.

**PRESIDENT JUDGE STEPHEN J. MCEWEN, JR.**

President Judge Stephen J. McEwen, Jr. commenced service on the Superior Court in 1981 after appointment by Governor Dick Thornburgh, was elected to a full ten-year term in November, 1981, was retained for a further ten-year term in the general election of November, 1991, and was elected President Judge by the members of the Superior Court for a five-year term commencing January, 1996.

While a Judge on the Superior Court, he was twice appointed by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to the Board of Judicial Inquiry and Review, and in 1996, was appointed by Governor Tom Ridge to the Court of Judicial Discipline and elected President Judge by the members of that Court.

Judge McEwen pursued his study of the law at St. Joseph's College and the University of Pennsylvania Law School, and upon completion of graduate study was awarded, in 1986, the degree of Master of Laws by the University of Virginia Law School.



Judge McEwen, a native of Upper Darby, was an active trial lawyer during twenty-three years of private practice, and was District Attorney of Delaware County from 1967 through 1976. He served as General Counsel for the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association and, for ten years commencing in 1975, was a Professor of Trial Advocacy at Villanova University Law School. In 1997 he published *Not Even Dicta*, a collection of judicial/personal

lessons in the law. Judge McEwen has lectured at various law schools and universities, and PBI seminars. He authored articles published by the St. John's Journal of Legal Commentary, the Notre Dame Journal of Law, Ethics, and Policy, the Dickinson Law Review, and the Philadelphia Legal Intelligencer, and Court Review, the Journal of the American Judges Association, and has been awarded Honorary Doctorates by deSales University, Widener University Law School, and the University of Scranton.

**JUDGE JAMES R. CAVANAUGH**

Judge James R. Cavanaugh was born on August 26, 1931 in Philadelphia. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from St. Joseph's College and his J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

Judge Cavanaugh has served as chairman of the advisory committee of the Prisoner's Family Welfare Association and as director of the Counseling or Referral Agency. Judge Cavanaugh was a director of the Philadelphia Bicentennial Committee. In addition, Judge Cavanaugh has served as Chairman and founding member of the Advisory Board of the Self-Help program, is a member of the Board of Managers of the Catholic Philopatric Literary Institute and served as President of the St. Joseph's University Law Alumni.

The Judge has also served on the Governor's Justice Commission Regional Board, the Pennsylvania Board of



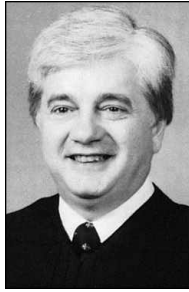
Judicial Inquiry and Review, and the executive committee of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges.

Judge Cavanaugh became a commissioned judge on the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas in 1969, and was appointed to the Superior Court in August of 1979. He was elected to the Superior Court in November of the same year. In April, 1991, Judge Cavanaugh

moved his chambers from Philadelphia to West Chester in Chester County, Pa. In West Chester he is a member of the Italian Social Club, Monsignor Henry C. Schuyler Knights of Columbus Council 1333, Rotary International and The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Lodge No. 853. Judge Cavanaugh was retained in the retention election of November, 1999.

### JUDGE JOSEPH A. DEL SOLE

Judge Joseph A. Del Sole was born on November 16, 1940, in Pittsburgh. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Carnegie Institute of Technology (now Carnegie Mellon University); an LL.B. from Duquesne University School of Law; and an L.L.M. from the University of Virginia School of Law. He is a member of the Century Club of Distinguished Alumni of



Duquesne University and received the 1988 President's Award from the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association.

Judge Del Sole co-authored "The Demise of Fair Trade in Pennsylvania" which appeared in the Duquesne University Law Review and is the author of "Appellate Review in a Sentencing Guidelines Jurisdiction: The Pennsylvania Experience." 31 Duq. L. Rev. 479

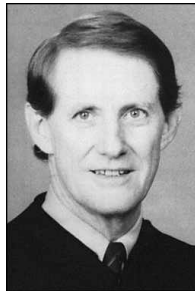
(1993). He is a member of the Supreme Court Statewide Steering Committee on Computer Automation and is Chairman of the Common Pleas Court Implementation Project, designing an automation system for the trial courts of Pennsylvania. Further, he was instrumental in spearheading the Superior Court's computerization and statistical development programs. He

was a member of the former Judicial Inquiry and Review Board and was the first Chairman of the Judicial Conduct Board.

He was appointed to the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas in 1978 and elected to a full term in 1979. He was elected to the Superior Court in 1983, and retained for a second term in 1993. Judge Del Sole's chambers are in Allegheny County.

### JUDGE JOHN T. J. KELLY, JR.

Judge John T. J. Kelly, Jr. is a graduate of LaSalle University (B.S., 1956) and Creighton Law School (LL.B., 1961); he is admitted to practice in Pennsylvania and Nebraska.



Before coming to the bench, Judge Kelly served as Deputy Secretary of Labor and Industry (1980-1985); trial lawyer, Philadelphia Public Defenders Association (1972-1978); Assistant to the Lieutenant Governor of Pa., Assistant to the President of the Pa. Constitutional Convention (1967-1971); Assistant Attorney General, Chief Counsel Department of Public Welfare (1963-1966). He has also been a private attorney, political consultant, and campaign director.

The Brehon Society, YMBA Society, American Bar Association, Pennsylvania Bar Association, the Montgomery County Bar Association, the Nebraska Bar Association, the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges, and Knights of Columbus. He was honorably discharged from the United States Army (1952-1954).

Judge Kelly was elected to the Superior Court as the nominee of both the Republicans and the Democrats in 1985 and was retained for a second term in 1995. He was appointed to a four year term on the Judicial Inquiry and Review Board commencing on December 9, 1988. His chambers are in Philadelphia.

Judge Kelly is a member of The Pennsylvania Society,

### JUDGE ZORAN POPOVICH

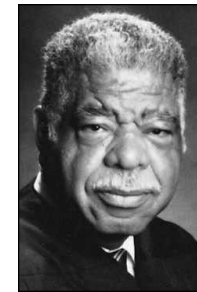
Judge Zoran Popovich was born on February 4, 1931, in Akron, Ohio. He received his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Pittsburgh in 1954 and his LL.B. from the University of Pittsburgh Law School in 1957. He was on active duty with the United States Air Force



from 1951-53. Judge Popovich was elected to the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County in 1973. In 1980, he was appointed to the Superior Court, and he was elected to a full ten-year term in 1985.

### JUDGE JUSTIN MORRIS JOHNSON

Justin Morris Johnson was appointed to the Superior Court in 1980 and elected to a ten-year term in 1985. His chambers are in Pittsburgh.



Judge Johnson was born at Wilkinsburg on August 19, 1933. He received his A.B. and J.D. degrees from the University of Chicago and has attended the Graduate Program for Judges at the University of Virginia. His active military duty, 1954-59, and his reserve duty 1963-73, including two active duty flights into Vietnam during 1971, were with the United States Air Force as an aircraft commander.

General Assembly, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) from 1981 to 1989. He completed a six-year term on the Advisory Committee on the Constitution of that national, churchwide body in June, 1996. In August, 1993, Judge Johnson was appointed to a two-year term on the newly-established Court of Judicial Discipline by then Acting Governor Mark S. Singel.

In March, 1989, Judge Johnson completed twenty years service on the Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners, the last six as its chairman. He served on the Board of Managers of the National Conference of Bar Examiners from 1984 to 1989. From 1977 until his appointment to the bench, he was a member of the Pennsylvania Crime Commission. Judge Johnson sat upon the Permanent Judicial Commission of the

Judge Johnson served for five years as an Adjunct Professor, Duquesne University School of Law. He has served as chairman of Hearing Committee 4.11, Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, and is a Past President and Director of Neighborhood Legal Services Association (Pittsburgh). He is an active member of the American Bar Association, the National Bar Association, the Pennsylvania Bar Association, the Homer S. Brown Law Association and a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation.

### JUDGE JOSEPH A. HUDOCK

Judge Joseph A. Hudock was born in Greensburg, Pennsylvania on November 21, 1937. He was educated at St. Vincent College (B.A.) and Duquesne University School of Law (J.D.). He served in the United States Navy Judge Advocate Generals Corps from 1963 to 1967, and then practiced law in Greensburg for 11 years.



He was elected to the Court of Common Pleas of Westmoreland County and served for 12 years before being elected to the Superior Court in November, 1989.

He has been actively involved for many years with the Advisory Board of the Salvation Army, Rotary Club, Boy Scouts, Community Nursing Service, and the United

Way of Central Westmoreland, serving at one time as campaign manager and president of the latter.

He has been a member of the Regional Planning Council of the Governor's Justice Commission, the Latrobe Area Task Force of the Diocese of Greensburg, and the Alumni Council of St. Vincent College. In 1987 he was awarded the St. Vincent College "Alumnus of

Distinction Award". He presently is a member of the Editorial Board of "The Practical Litigator", and past president of the Westmoreland American Inn of Court.

Judge Hudock is married to the former Rita Giegerich, and they have four children, Joseph, Jr., Ann, Daniel and Mary. His chambers are in Greensburg.

### JUDGE KATE FORD ELLIOTT

Kate Ford Elliott was born June 8, 1949, in Pittsburgh, the daughter of Dr. John M. and Loretto O'Toole Ford. She attended the University of Pittsburgh, where, in 1971, she earned a B.A. in Education (cum laude). Duquesne University, M.S. in Education, 1973; Duquesne University School of Law, Evening Division, J.D. 1978.



A member of the Allegheny County, Pennsylvania and American Bar Associations, Judge Ford Elliott is also Past Chairperson, Allegheny County Appellate Practice Committee, a member of the ABA Judicial Administration Division, and Vice Chair of the Pennsylvania Futures Commission on Justice in the 21st Century established by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. She is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, a member of the National Association of Women Judges, the Women's Bar Association of Western Pennsylvania, the American Inn of Court, Pittsburgh

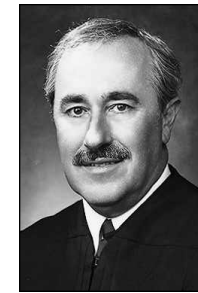
Chapter, the Matrimonial American Inn of Court, and the American Judicature Society. She has served on the Executive Board of the ABA Committee of Appellate Staff Attorneys and is a frequent lecturer on issues of Appellate Practice and Procedure.

Judge Ford Elliott was employed as a reading specialist by the Pittsburgh Board of Education from 1971 to 1977. She served as a Law Clerk to Senior

Judge Harry M. Montgomery, Superior Court of Pennsylvania, 1977-1980; Administrative Assistant to then-President Judge William F. Cercone, Superior Court of Pennsylvania, 1980-1982; Chief Staff Attorney Superior Court of Pennsylvania, 1982-1988; and as a lawyer with the firm Kirkpatrick and Lockhart, 1988-1989. She was elected Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania in November, 1989.

### JUDGE J. MICHAEL EAKIN

Judge J. Michael Eakin was elected to a ten-year-term as a Superior Court judge in November, 1995. Born in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania on November 18, 1948, Judge Eakin graduated from Franklin & Marshall College in 1970 and earned a J.D. from the Dickinson School of Law in 1975.



From 1975 to 1983, Judge Eakin served as an assistant district attorney in Cumberland County, and in 1983 was elected District Attorney, an office in which he served until 1995. He also maintained a private law practice from 1980 to

1989. Judge Eakin served on the executive committee of the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association for seven years, and in 1992-93, served as president of that organization. He also served on the board of directors and as president of the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Institute, and on the Criminal Law Symposium Planning Committee of the Pennsylvania Bar Institute. He is currently Chair of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Criminal Rules Committee.

### JUDGE MICHAEL T. JOYCE

Judge Michael T. Joyce was born Feb. 24, 1949 in Pittsburgh. He received his B.A. from the Pennsylvania State University in 1973 and was awarded a J.D. from the Franklin Pierce Law Center in 1977. Judge Joyce served as a staff sergeant, U.S. Army Intelligence, from 1967-70. He served with the 25th Infantry Division in Vietnam from 1969-70 and was decorated three times.



He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and two Army Commendation Medals. He was a Presidential Law Clerk in the White House in 1975, and maintained a private practice from 1977-85. He was appointed judge, Erie County Court of Common Pleas in July 1985 after winning both the Republican and Democratic primaries. He was then elected to a ten-year term in November 1985, and retained for an addi-

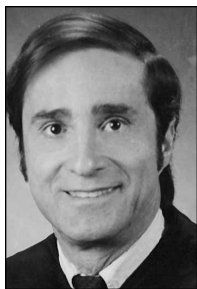
tional term in November 1995. The Judge is a member of the Pennsylvania Trial Judges Association, American Judicature Society, the Domestic Relations Association of Pennsylvania, Vietnam Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Vietnam Veterans of Pennsylvania, American Legion, Millcreek Youth Athletic Association and serves as an Explorer leader, Boy Scouts of America. He was elected a judge of the Superior Court in November 1997.

Judge Joyce has two sons, Timothy, a 1999 graduate of the University of Notre Dame who is currently a naval submarine officer, and Robert, who is currently a junior at the University of Notre Dame.



### JUDGE CORREALE F. STEVENS

Judge Correale F. Stevens was born in Hazleton. Judge Stevens graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1964, and from Dickinson School of Law with a J.D. in 1972. While in law school, he was an associate editor of the Dickinson Law Review.



Judge Stevens was engaged in the private practice of law, served as Hazleton City Solicitor from 1976-79 and Hazleton City Authority Solicitor from 1979-84. He was named Outstanding Young Pennsylvanian by the state Jaycee

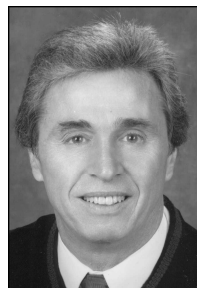
organization and served on the executive board of the Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association.

In 1980, Judge Stevens was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, and was re-elected in 1982, 1984 and 1986. In 1987 he was elected District Attorney of Luzerne County, and in 1991 he was appointed to the Court of Common Pleas of Luzerne County and

elected to a full term that same year. In November 1997, Judge Stevens was elected to the Superior Court.

### JUDGE JOHN L. MUSMANNO

Judge John L. Musmanno was born March 31, 1942, in McKees Rocks. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Washington & Jefferson College in 1963, graduating Phi Beta Kappa, and a Juris Doctor from Vanderbilt University School of Law in 1966, where he was assistant editor of the Vanderbilt Law Review.



Judge Musmanno is a member of the Allegheny County Bar Association; an honorary master, American Inns of Court, Pittsburgh chapter; member, ISDA, Sons of Italy, and the Italian Heritage Society.

He received the President's Award, Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association in 1991, and the Academy of Trial Lawyers of Allegheny County award in 1993.

He maintained a private law practice, 1966-81, was elected district justice, 1970-81 (specially assigned city court magistrate 1970-73); elected judge, Allegheny Court of Common Pleas,

1982-90; and was the administrative judge, civil division, Allegheny Court of Common Pleas, 1990-97. In November 1997, he was elected to the Superior Court.

### JUDGE JOAN ORIE MELVIN

Judge Joan Orie Melvin, elected to the Superior Court in 1997, was born in Pittsburgh, and graduated from the University of Notre Dame and the Duquesne University School of Law. Judge Orie Melvin served as corporate counsel and in private law practice, concentrating in civil litigation, before she was appointed a Magistrate in the City of Pittsburgh Municipal Court in 1985, and as Chief Magistrate in 1987, where she established Pennsylvania's first Domestic Violence Court and innovative sentencing alternatives for non-violent indigent or juvenile offenders.



In 1990, Judge Orie Melvin was appointed Judge of the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas and

elected to a full term in 1991, and served in the civil, criminal and family divisions.

Judge Orie Melvin is a member of the Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, and American Bar Associations. She has served as President of the Allegheny County Prison Board, as a member of the Board of Directors of the Vincentian Home and of the United

Way Community Committees. She was the recipient of the YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh Leadership Award and has also been named Woman of the Year by organizations of Duquesne University and Carlow College.

### JUDGE MAUREEN E. LALLY-GREEN

Judge Maureen E. Lally-Green was born in Sharpsville, Mercer County. She graduated from Duquesne University with a B.S. in Secondary Education, Mathematics (1971) and its School of Law (1974).



Judge Lally-Green has been an associate with a private law firm in Pittsburgh, counsel to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (Washington, D.C.) and to Westinghouse Electric Corporation (now CBS), a consultant to a Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, and a full-time Professor of Law at Duquesne's School of Law. In 1998, she was appointed to the Superior Court and, in 1999, was elected for a term of ten years.

The Judge is, among other things, a member of the Gender Committee of the Supreme Court's Racial and Gender Equity Committee, the Pennsylvania Bar

Association's Commission on Women in the Profession, and the Allegheny County Bar Association's Board of Directors. She continues as an adjunct professor at Duquesne's Law School and annually teaches in various law-related programs in Pennsylvania and in Ireland. She is published in various law reviews. In the past, she has served the Supreme Court, Butler County, Cranberry Township and the Pittsburgh Diocese in various capacities.

She has been recognized for her achievements: Who's Who in America; Who's Who in American Law; Who's Who Among American Women; Who's Who in Emerging Leaders; Woman of the Year (Duquesne Women Law Students); and, Fellow in International Development, W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

**JUDGE DEBRA MCCLOSKEY TODD**

Judge Debra McCloskey Todd was born in Ellwood City on October 15, 1957, the daughter of the late Harry and Blanche McCloskey. She is a 1979 Honors graduate of Chatham College and a 1982 Law Review graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. From 1982 through 1987, Judge Todd was an in-house litigation attorney for USX Corporation. She maintained a trial practice in the City of Pittsburgh from 1987 to 1999 with an emphasis in complex civil litigation. She is an elected member of the Academy of Trial Lawyers of Allegheny County and an alumna and former board member of the Leadership Pittsburgh Program. From 1989 through 1999 Judge Todd served as a Court-Appointed Special Master for the Allegheny County



Court of Common Pleas. She is a member of the Allegheny, Pennsylvania and American Bar Associations, as well as the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Commission on Women in the Profession.

Judge Todd has been a lecturer and panelist for continuing legal education programs on trial procedures and practice, and is an instructor for the National Institute for Trial Advocacy.

Institute for Trial Advocacy.

Judge Todd was elected to the Superior Court in November 1999, and commenced service on the Court in January 2000. Her chambers are in Pittsburgh.

Judge Todd and her husband Stephan K. Todd reside in Pittsburgh. They have one daughter.

**PRESIDENT JUDGE EMERITUS WILLIAM F. CERONE**

Judge William F. Cercone was born in Stowe Township, Pennsylvania. He received his B.A. from the University of Pittsburgh in 1936, and his LL.B. from Duquesne Law School in 1941. During World War II he served as lieutenant in the U.S. Navy with the amphibious forces in the Pacific.



As Assistant District Attorney of Allegheny County Judge Cercone successfully prosecuted Steve Nelson, one of the communists responsible for turning over atomic bomb secrets to Communist Russia. He is a past president of the Pennsylvania Judicial Board of Inquiry and Review.

He was a judge on the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County from 1956-68. Elected to the Superior Court in 1968, he became President Judge on January 2,

1979, whereupon he arranged for the American Judicature Society study of the work of the Superior Court. The report stated, "The Pennsylvania Superior Court has for some years been one of the most overworked appellate courts in America in terms of caseload and number of written opinions per judges per year... it is evident that the judges of the court have had as much work to do, and have evidently done

as much work as human beings reasonably could be expected to do." As a result of Judge Cercone's efforts, the people of Pennsylvania approved, by referendum and the legislature by law, an increase in the court of eight additional members.

Judge Cercone and his wife Amelia have 8 children and 9 grandchildren.

**SENIOR JUDGE JOHN P. HESTER**

Judge John P. Hester is a native of McKeesport, Allegheny County. He received his B.A. from Duquesne University and his J.D. from the Law School of the University of Pittsburgh.



Judge Hester has lectured at the Institute of Legal Medicine at the University of Rome, and at the International Institute of Comparative Law in Rome. He has served as a trustee of Mercy Hospital and the Mercy Hospital Foundation. He is the recipient of the Saint Thomas More Award, and was selected by Duquesne University as one of the University's one hundred outstanding graduates. He was an original member of the Allegheny County Hospital Financing Authority where he served as Vice President. He is

the recipient of the Saint Thomas More Award, and was selected by Duquesne University as one of the University's one hundred outstanding graduates. He was an original member of the Allegheny County Hospital Financing Authority where he served as Vice President. He is

President of the Stephen Foster Community Center and the C.Y.A. He is Chairman of the Allegheny District Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Judge Hester served on the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County from 1960 to 1977 and as administrative judge of that court during 1976 and 1977. Prior to ascending the

bench, he had been a Deputy Attorney General. He was elected to the Superior Court of Pennsylvania in 1977 and served the Commonwealth in that capacity until his retirement in 1983 when he was designated as a senior judge by the Supreme Court. Judge Hester's chambers are in Pittsburgh.

**SENIOR JUDGE JOHN G. BROSKY**

Judge John G. Brosky was born on August 4, 1920. He graduated from the University of Pittsburgh and received his LL.B. and his J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh Law School and Honorary Doctorate of Public Service Degree in 1996 from LaRoche College.



Judge Brosky serves on the Board of Visitors of the Law School, University of Pittsburgh; the Family Law Section and Professionalism Committee, Pennsylvania Bar Association; Appellate Practice Committee, Allegheny County Bar Association, and is a Fellow of the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation and a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. Judge Brosky is Past President of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges, Past National President of the Air Force Association and among his awards are the St. Thomas More Award in 1989, the George Washington Honor Medal from Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge in 1990, Kosciuszko Foundation in 1991, Man of the Year, Law and

Government, by Vectors/Pittsburgh, in 1994, the Pride in Pennsylvania Award by Commissioners of Allegheny County, 1995, and the Dr. Samuel Francis School of Law Award, 2000.

Judge Brosky is named in Who's Who in American Law, International Who's Who of Intellectuals, and Men of Achievement.

Judge Brosky served in the South Pacific during World War II and retired as a Major General in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard. He and his wife, Rose, have three children, John, David and Carol.

Judge Brosky was appointed to the Allegheny County Court in 1956; in 1960 appointed to the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas and elected a full term in 1961. He was reelected in 1971. Judge Brosky served as Administrative Judge of the Family Division from 1970 until he was elected to the Superior Court in 1980. His chambers are in Pittsburgh.

### SENIOR JUDGE PETER PAUL OLSZEWSKI

Judge Peter Paul Olszewski, of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, graduated from Wyoming Seminary, Lafayette College, and St. John's University School of Law. He is a member of Pi Delta Epsilon (honorary collegiate journalism fraternity). Instructor, King's College, Wilkes-Barre, "Constitutional Limitations on Evidence in Criminal Cases" - 1969-70. During World War II, Judge Olszewski served with the United States Army in the China-Burma-India Theatre of Operations.



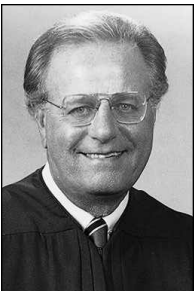
College Misericordia and the Wilkes-Barre Campus of the Pennsylvania State University. He is an honorary Director of St. John's University Law School Alumni Association. He has received the Liberty Under Law Award, Fraternal Order of Eagles, the Distinguished Law and Justice Award of the Deputy Sheriffs' Association of Pennsylvania, the Distinguished Law and Justice Award of County and State Detectives Association of Pennsylvania, and is a past member of the Interfaith Council. He is also active in the American Bar Association, the Pennsylvania Bar Association, and the Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association, and is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. He is also an Honorary Lifetime Member, Frank Albert State Police Lodge.

Judge Peter Paul Olszewski was a trial lawyer for fifteen years before he was elected to the Court of Common Pleas of Luzerne County, where he served as a trial judge for sixteen years. In 1983, Judge Olszewski was elected to the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

Judge Olszewski has served on the boards of trustees of

### JUSTICE FRANK J. MONTEMURO, JR.

Justice Frank J. Montemuro, Jr. was born in Philadelphia, attended Temple University, and received his L.L.B. from Duke University Law School. During World War II, he served with the U.S. Navy amphibian forces in the Pacific.



Pennsylvania from 1992 through 1996, when he was appointed Senior Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. He currently sits as Senior Judge of the Superior Court.

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court appointed Justice Montemuro Master to implement the unified statewide court system, and his report recommending a four-phase transition to state funding of that unified system has been implemented by the Pennsylvania Legislature.

Justice Montemuro was appointed to the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County in 1964, and was elected to a 10-year term in 1965. In 1968, he was chosen as the Administrative Judge of the 20-judge Family Court Division, and served in that role until he was appointed to the Superior Court in 1980, and thereafter in 1983 elected for a 10-year term as the nominee of both parties. He has served on the Pennsylvania Judicial Inquiry and Review Board.

Justice Montemuro, following appointment by Governor Robert Casey, served as a Justice of the Supreme Court of

Justice Montemuro has served as both State and National President of the Order Sons of Italy in America. Thrice decorated by the President of the Republic of Italy, in 1982 he received the Papal Honor of Knight Commander of the Order of St. Gregory from Pope John Paul II.

### SENIOR JUDGE PHYLLIS W. BECK

Phyllis W. Beck, a magna cum laude graduate of Brown University, earned a J.D. from Temple Law School in 1967 where she was first in her class. After practicing law, she taught at Temple Law School and then was Vice Dean at the University of Pennsylvania Law School.



Initially appointed to the court by Governor Thornburgh in 1981, she was elected in 1983, and retained in office in 1993.

Judge Beck, known as a strong advocate for judicial reform, served as chair of the Governor's (Casey) Commission on Judicial Reform, and authored a 190-page report recommending major structural reform in Pennsylvania's Judicial System. Her scholarly articles, published in a variety of law reviews, reflect her interest in issues relating to women, the family and equality, among others.

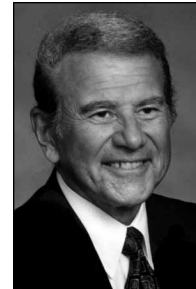
Judge Beck has served as chair of the Independence Foundation, vice president of the Free Library of Philadelphia, and as a member of the American Law Institute, the Board at Villanova Law School and Temple Law School, the American Judicature Society, Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts, Overseer of the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, and

of the Museum of American Jewish History, the Delaware Valley Grant Makers, as well as President of the Foundation for Cognitive Therapy.

She is the recipient of two honorary degrees and of awards from the Pennsylvania Bar Association, the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Commission on Women, the Philadelphia Bar Association, the National Association of Women Judges, the American Judicature Society, and the Distinguished Daughter of Pennsylvania.

### SENIOR JUDGE PATRICK R. TAMILIA

Judge Patrick R. Tamilia was born in Pittsburgh, graduated from Duquesne University and its School of Law, and served both with the U.S. Marine Corps and as an officer in the U.S. Army Artillery.



He has served as Chairman of the Family Law Sections of the Pennsylvania and Allegheny County Bar Associations and the Juvenile Judges section of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges; member of the Supreme Court Domestic Relations Committee. Judge Tamilia was instrumental in the creation of several agencies and programs which serve unwed mothers and delinquent and dependent children, and has authored numerous articles on juvenile delinquency, mental health and family court.

Judge Tamilia is a former Professor of Family Law, Duquesne University School of Law, and has received a number of awards from Duquesne University, the Columbus 500 Society, and the ACBA Juvenile Committee. He was chairman of the Public Safety and Criminal Justice Task Force of the Allegheny County 2001 Project, and holds the position of Honorary National

President of the Italian Sons and Daughters of America.

Judge Tamilia was elected to the Court of Common Pleas in 1969. In 1983 he was elected to a ten-year term on the Superior Court and won retention in 1993. Judge Tamilia's chambers are in Pittsburgh.

# History of the Superior Court

In 1895, the Pennsylvania General Assembly established the Superior Court to hear appeals from decisions of the Courts of Common Pleas of the Commonwealth. From time to time, the legislature has expanded the Court's jurisdiction, and today it decides appeals touching almost every aspect of life and commerce in the state, including family matters, such as child custody, visitation, adoption, divorce, and support; criminal cases; issues concerning wills and estates; property disputes; and cases involving damages for breach of contract or personal injury. The judges of the Court are also responsible for hearing applications made by the Attorney General and district attorneys under the Wiretapping and Electronic Surveillance Control Act.

The Superior Court is often the final arbiter of legal disputes in Pennsylvania. Although the Supreme Court may grant a petition for an appeal from a decision of the Superior Court, in the large majority of cases, such petitions are denied. Appeals allowed to the United States Supreme Court are even more infrequent.



The Superior Court was originally composed of seven judges who gathered at the three forums of the Court in Harrisburg, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh to hear every case. The Supreme Court, in 1978, citing the "exceedingly heavy vol-

ume of appeals coming to the Superior Court," exercised its constitutional supervisory powers over Pennsylvania courts to order the Superior Court to begin sitting in panels of three judges composed of a Supreme Court justice, a Superior Court judge, and a Common Pleas judge. By rule, the Supreme Court provided that each panel would constitute a quorum and speak for the entire Superior Court.

In 1979, the voters approved an amendment to the Pennsylvania Constitution providing that the Superior Court be enlarged permanently. Pursuant to this constitutional change, the General Assembly in 1980 provided for the gubernatorial appointment of eight additional judges. By the start of 1986, all fifteen Superior Court seats had been filled by election.

Under statute, judges gain seniority by length of continuous service on the Court, and judges elected or appointed together determine seniority by lot. The president judge is chosen by election of the Court to serve a five-year term. Except for cases in which the Court specially orders consideration by an en banc panel of nine judges, the Court continues to sit in three-judge panels, assisted by senior judges specially appointed by the Supreme Court.

## JUDGES OF THE COURT

Charles E. Rice	1895	Chester H. Rhodes	1935	John G. Brosky	1980**
James A. Beaver	1895	William E. Hirt	1939	Richard B. Wickersham	1980
Howard J. Reeder	1895	Charles E. Kenworthy	1941	Richard DiSalle	1980
George B. Orlady	1895	Claude T. Reno	1942	Justin M. Johnson	1980*
John J. Wickham	1895	F. Clair Ross	1945	Frank J. Montemuro, Jr.	1980**
Edward N. Willard	1895	W. Heber Dithrich	1945	Zoran Popovich	1980*
Henry J. McCarthy	1895	John C. Arnold	1945	Perry J. Shertz	1980
Peter P. Smith	1896	John S. Fine	1947	Phyllis W. Beck	1981**
William W. Porter	1897	Blair F. Gunther	1950	Stephen J. McEwen, Jr.	1981*
William D. Porter	1898	J. Colvin Wright	1953	Vincent A. Cirillo	1982
Dimner Beeber	1899	Robert E. Woodside	1953	James E. Rowley	1982
John I. Mitchell	1900	Harold L. Ervin	1954	Peter Paul Olszewski	1984**
Thomas A. Morrison	1902	Phillip O. Carr	1956	Joseph A. Del Sole	1984*
John J. Henderson	1903	G. Harold Watkins	1957	Patrick R. Tamilia	1984**
John B. Head	1906	Harry M. Montgomery	1960	John T.J. Kelly, Jr.	1986*
John W. Kephart	1914	Gerald F. Flood	1961	James R. Melinson	1988
Frank M. Trexler	1914	Robert Lee Jacobs	1965	Joseph A. Hudock	1990*
J. Henry Williams	1916	J. Sydney Hoffman	1965	Kate Ford Elliott	1990*
William H. Keller	1919	Theodore O. Spaulding	1966	Thomas G. Saylor	1994
William B. Linn	1919	John B. Hannum	1968	D. Donald Jamieson	1995
Robert S. Gawthrop	1922	William F. Cercone	1969**	J. Michael Eakin	1996*
Jesse E.B. Cunningham	1926	Israel Packer	1971	Berle M. Schiller	1996
Thomas J. Baldridge	1929	Edmund B. Spaeth, Jr.	1973	Michael T. Joyce	1998*
J. Frank Graff	1930	Gwylm A. Price, Jr.	1974	Correale F. Stevens	1998*
John G. Whitmore	1930	Robert Van der Voort	1974	John L. Musmanno	1998*
James B. Drew	1931	Donald E. Wieand	1978	Joan Orié Melvin	1998*
Joseph Stadtfeld	1931	John P. Hester	1978**	Maureen E. Lally-Green	1998*
William M. Parker	1932	Abraham H. Lipez	1978	Debra McCloskey Todd	2000*
Arthur H. James	1933	James R. Cavanaugh	1979*		

\*Currently serving  
\*\*Currently serving as Senior Judge

## PRESIDENT JUDGES

Charles E. Rice	1895-1915	Chester H. Rhodes	1947-1965	Edmund B. Spaeth, Jr.	1983-1986
George B. Orlady	1915-1925	Harold L. Irvin	1965-1967	Vincent A. Cirillo	1986-1991
William D. Porter	1925-1930	J. Colvin Wright	1968-1974	James E. Rowley	1991-1996
Frank M. Trexler	1930-1935	G. Harold Watkins	1974-1978	Stephen J. McEwen, Jr.	1996-2001
William H. Keller	1935-1945	Robert Lee Jacobs	1978-1979		
Thomas J. Baldridge	1945-1947	William F. Cercone	1979-1983		

# Administrative Offices

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR

The Executive Administrator is the chief administrative officer of the Court and is directly responsible to the President Judge for the performance of administrative assignments necessary for the efficient operation of the Court. He manages the business and judicial administrative operations of the Court and oversees the various administrative offices within the Court. He also is a liaison between the Superior Court and the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts, the other appellate courts, and the public in general.

The Executive Administrator is responsible for all of the fiscal operations of the Court. This includes preparing the Court's annual budget and monitoring the Court's expenditures of its appropriations. The Office was restructured in 1996 and a new position, Budget/Fiscal Coordinator, was established to assist in the budgetary duties of the Office. The Executive Administrator also supervises the daily processing of

invoices for goods and services applied to the Court, and the procurement of supplies.

Business responsibilities also extend to other operations within the Court such as the administration of the 206 individuals who serve the court, and includes maintenance of all personnel records, preparation of all personnel transaction forms, record keeping of all leave time, and resolution of questions and problems relating to personnel. In addition, the Executive Administrator is responsible for the administration of telecommunications within the Superior Court, including all staff and judicial offices, and the management of the facilities used by the Court.

The office of the Executive Administrator is in Philadelphia, and the Budget/Fiscal Coordinator is located in Harrisburg.

## OFFICE OF THE PROTHONOTARY

The Prothonotary's office employs four deputy prothonotaries and thirty-six supporting staff under the immediate supervision of the Prothonotary. Offices are maintained at 530 Walnut Street in Philadelphia, the Fulton Building in Harrisburg, and the Grant Building in Pittsburgh.

As the filing office of the Court, the Prothonotary's office is responsible for docketing appeals, ancillary papers, and miscellaneous motions; collecting appropriate fees; filing and circulating original records; corresponding with judges, litigants, and attorneys; processing and distributing court orders, opinions, and judgments; and scheduling submit and argument panel sessions as well as hearings on miscellaneous motions.

The Crier of the Court, as a member of the staff of the Prothonotary, is responsible for indexing, maintaining, and distributing all briefs filed with the Court, preparing the courtrooms, collecting and distributing materials for each court session, providing assistance to the judges during session, and assisting the public in their dealings with the Court.

Caseflow management is another function of the Prothonotary. The primary focus of the caseflow manager is that period of time between the filing of a notice of appeal and the filing of the trial court record in the Superior Court. The caseflow manager monitors this stage of the appellate process to ensure that records are promptly filed and any deficiencies cured so that cases may reach their conclusion without delay.

## CENTRAL LEGAL STAFF

The Central Legal Staff is composed of 19 attorneys who assist the Court in procedural and substantive matters under the direction of the President Judge. The Staff has offices in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh under the immediate supervision of the Chief Staff Attorney. Staff responsibilities include: screening all appeals for jurisdictional defects prior to listing before the Court; reviewing and screening cases for the Court's special treatment programs; assisting the Court in the processing of miscellaneous motions, applications for relief, and petitions for reargument; preparing bench memoranda on selected cases listed before the Court; reviewing panel decisions to assist the Court in avoiding the issuance of conflicting opinions; maintaining a computerized issue-tracking index of the Court's opinions for both conflict clearance and legal research

purposes; preparing position papers and memoranda of law on various substantive and procedural issues before the Court; and, conducting seminars for new law clerks.

Through the Chief Staff Attorney, the Staff may advise the Court and President Judge, either upon request or upon the Staff's own initiative, of recommended changes in court operations and procedures due to changes in the law or administrative policy.

The Staff also serves the Court by maintaining a central library and fulfilling requests for research materials from that library or from Philadelphia's Jenkins Law Library.

## OFFICE OF LEGAL SYSTEMS

The Legal Systems Coordinator is responsible for the Court's computer operations and related data and information processing activities. With the help of the Legal Systems staff, which is located in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, he advises and assists the President Judge, individual judges, and the various administrative offices of the Court in all aspects of the acquisition, programming and use of computers and office automation equipment, both hardware and software.

In 1996, the Legal Systems Office coordinated the wiring and computer installations in three new judges' chambers. The first steps were taken in acquiring the hardware and software for a complete upgrade of the Court's network servers and application software. Working together, the Superior Court, Supreme Court, and Commonwealth Court adopted a project plan for development of a new docketing and case manage-

ment system, and the initial contracts for the data modeling phase of this project were awarded.

The Legal Systems staff sets up new computer accounts when new staff join the Court, assists in training of new staff, provides orientation and training for existing staff when new software and hardware are installed, and coordinates all hardware and software maintenance, resolving problems whenever possible and referring other problems to the appropriate outside source.

The Legal Systems staff is responsible for the operation of the Court's computerized docketing and case management system. The Legal Systems Coordinator is also responsible for using the Court's computer resources to generate and analyze caseflow statistics and to prepare statistical reports as requested for use by the Court and for submission to the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts.

# Directory

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SUPERIOR COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA