

2019-2020 Judicial Budget Request

In 2018 Pennsylvania courts . . .



reduced number of children in care by

4,300

reduced number of days in care by

951 thousand

saved more than

\$40 million

in federal, state and county dollars.



utilized a social media outreach campaign to educate the public about

protection orders.

The campaign included digital ads on Facebook, Instagram and Google, pointing users to detailed step-by-step videos available in both English and Spanish on how to file protection orders. The campaign was federally funded by the STOP Grant program through the U.S Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women.

facilitated

40,443

requests for interpreters.



PENNSYLVANIA COURTS



GUARDIANSHIP TRACKING SYSTEM

designed and developed the

Guardianship Tracking System

which protects vulnerable citizens by improving how the courts monitor legal guardians and simplifying the filing process.

AOPConnected takes a look at the Unified Judicial System's 2019-20 budget request to the legislative and executive branches.

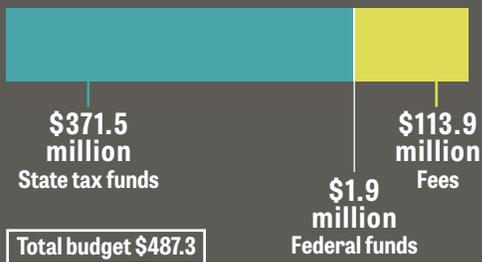
Saving Tax Dollars

The judiciary is committed to spending taxpayer dollars wisely, and has saved over \$10 million in the past year.

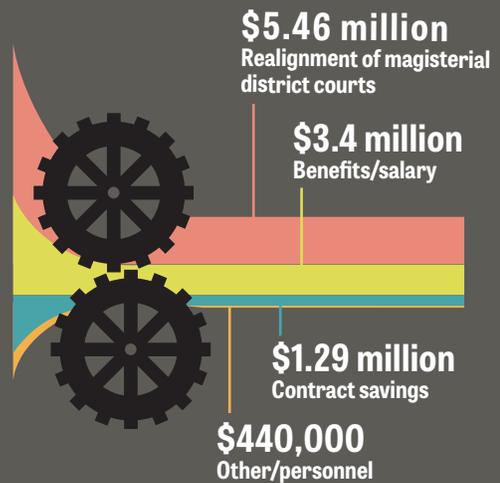
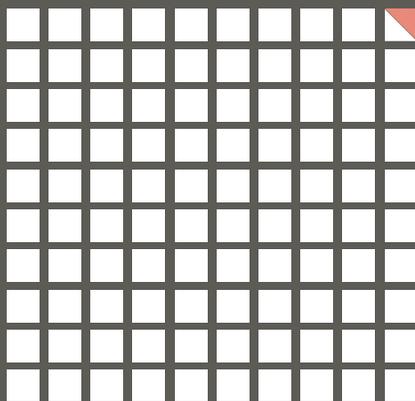
Funding Sources

Since 2009, fee revenue has been used to fund a portion of the judiciary's annual budget, currently about 13% of the total.

Proposed 2019-20 Budget



The judiciary receives about $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1% of the state budget.



Over the past 11 years, the judiciary has saved \$102.4 million.

Senior Judge Assignments Fall

A two-year pilot program began in July 2018 to review the use of senior judges within the Courts of Common Pleas, using data from the Judicial Needs Assessment (JNA).

Comparing month-to-month data from 2017-2018, the period of July to October saw a more than 12% decrease in the number of assignments.

The JNA is also available for use in helping to determine whether county judicial complements are appropriate.

Senior judge assignments saw a more than

12% decrease

from July to October, 2017 to 2018.

Collections Rise

Collecting fines, fees, costs and restitution is a priority for the judiciary – with \$483 million collected in 2018 alone. These dollars flow back into the state budget and Pennsylvania communities, and to victims of crimes.

State (\$239 million)

Local governments (\$201 million)

Victims of crime (\$39 million)

Airports, parking authorities, libraries, schools, etc. (\$3.9 million)

Over the past 10 years, the judiciary has collected \$4.65 billion.

Problem-Solving Courts

In 2017 . . .


1,576

participants graduated successfully from problem-solving court programs.



32,506

hours of community service completed by problem-solving court participants.



541

became employed between admission and discharge.

378 

of the participants discharged in 2017 improved their level of education between time of admission and discharge.

Breaking New Ground in Judicial Education



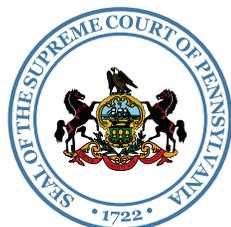
Pennsylvania judges attended

37,672

total hours of continuing education.

Topics of judicial education:

Autism, Bail, Fairness and Access, Mental Health, PFAs, Security, Self-Representation and Trauma



Chief Justice Thomas G. Saylor
Justice Max Baer
Justice Debra Todd
Justice Christine Donohue
Justice Kevin M. Dougherty
Justice David N. Wecht
Justice Sallie Updyke Mundy

Combating elder abuse in Pennsylvania

The Advisory Council on Elder Justice in the Courts' latest Progress Report published in January details the efforts of the Advisory Council and the Office of Elder Justice in the Courts (OEJC) since the creation of the initial Elder Law Task Force in 2013.

Of the 130 recommendations made in the Elder Law Task Force's Report, 70 have been completed and 35 are currently in progress.

"This report is evidence of Pennsylvania's strong commitment to protecting its elders," said Pennsylvania Supreme Court **Justice Debra Todd**. "I am deeply grateful to all those who have contributed to the many successes detailed in the report, and who are affecting real change in the way that our commonwealth combats elder abuse."

Enhanced judicial administration

One of the most notable achievements of the Advisory Council has been the creation and implementation of the Guardianship Tracking System (GTS), which will allow the courts to better monitor active guardianships through a uniform statewide process.

As of December, the GTS has successfully launched in all counties statewide.

Among the system's numerous advantages are the ability for guardians to file annual reports and inventories online, as well as the ability for judges to effectively communicate a concern regarding a specific guardian in the form of a statewide alert.

Another judicial automation enhancement of note is the update to both the common pleas and magisterial district judge case management systems to track cases in



(l to r) Judge Lois Murphy, Judge Sheila Woods-Skipper, Judge Paula Francisco Ott, Justice Debra Todd

which at least one of the victims is age 60 or older.

Additionally, the Supreme Court approved a proposal to begin a pilot Elder Court Project in Philadelphia, which included the creation of the Elder Justice & Civil Resource Center that opened in 2016. Through the Center, volunteer attorneys and advocates provide direct services on legal issues as they relate to elders including training programs on landlord/tenant, mental health issues and financial exploitation. Since opening, the center has provided assistance to hundreds of elders and their families.

Education efforts

As part of their continuing efforts to help educate judges, court staff, attorneys, guardians, the public and others about the warning signs of elder abuse, the Advisory Council and the OEJC have worked closely with the AOPC/Judicial Education team.

Together, they have developed and conducted statewide training programs for judges handling guardianship cases. In addition, the Advisory Council will be releasing (in early 2019) two judicial resources – a Guardian Benchbook and an Elder Abuse Benchbook.

The OEJC has also developed and presented educational sessions for

judges and court staff on elder abuse and exploitation, and has piloted training for family and lay guardians about their powers, duties and responsibilities.

Furthermore, educational material including brochures and posters were created by the OEJC and distributed to all common pleas, magisterial district and municipal courts.

"The Advisory Council and OEJC are committed to increasing awareness about the warning signs of elder abuse and how to report it to help protect vulnerable elders in Pennsylvania," said Director of the OEJC, **Cherstin Hamel**.

Best practices

Numerous and significant best practices were adopted and implemented that will help ensure the protection of Pennsylvania's elders – including the holding of periodic hearings to monitor the status of a guardianship, timely completion and filing of inventories and annual reports, the provision of oral and written instructions to guardians at their time of appointment.

While there is still work to be done, this report offers a moment of reflection on the magnitude and significance of the steps that are being taken to better protect Pennsylvania's rapidly growing population of elders. **AOPC**

Martial arts for the mouth and mind

Treating people with dignity and respect

The AOPC held its second largest webinar to date with over 200 employees participating. The hour-long webinar, “Verbal Judo” was led by Judicial District Security Analyst, **Kyle Ramberger**.

The webinar aimed to teach court staff how to appropriately and effectively handle verbal confrontation with the end goal of generating voluntary compliance.

Ramberger explained that the idea for the webinar stemmed from Judicial Security’s review of Pennsylvania Judicial Incident Reporting System (PAJIRS) reports, which indicated that the leading security incident court staff experienced over the past five years was inappropriate verbal conduct.

“Once I learned this, I sought information on verbal conflict de-escalation techniques and verbal judo seemed to be the best option for our audience,” Ramberger explained.

Verbal judo provides participants with the tools needed to defuse verbal aggression before it escalates.”

Additionally, the webinar included common phrases that people should refrain from using, along with alternative phrases that could help defuse the situation rather than escalate it.

The webinar was very well-received and employees submitted positive feedback. A second verbal judo webinar will be offered in early 2019.



Kyle Ramberger, Judicial District Security Analyst

The webinar concluded with a Q & A session, along with some security tips to use when verbal judo doesn’t work, reminding court staff to check their court duress systems monthly and to report all security incidents in PAJIRS. [AOPC](#)

Five universal truths of human interaction

- 1 People feel the need to be respected
- 2 People would rather be asked than told
- 3 People have a desire to know why
- 4 People prefer to have options over threats
- 5 People want to have a second chance

Instead of saying:

“Come here!”

Try saying:

“Can we talk?”

Instead of saying:

“Calm down!”

Try saying:

“It’s going to be okay.”

Engaging with members of the transgender community

Following a similar theme, the AOPC recently held a “Transgender Awareness” webinar that emphasized the importance of conveying respect and openness to everyone – being especially mindful of a person’s gender identity and expression.

It was organized by Judicial Programs Administrator **Rick Pierce** and was the largest AOPC webinar yet with over 300 court staff participating statewide.

The speakers and content for the presentation were provided by the

Mazzoni Center in Philadelphia, a group that focuses on meeting the health and wellness needs of LGBTQ communities.

The webinar focused on training court staff how to better understand and respectfully engage with members of the transgender community.

The program presenters explained that when a person identifies with a different gender than their one assigned at birth, it causes an internal struggle; and to resolve this,

it is important for them to be able to express the gender with which they identify.

However, this can only be accomplished when others understand and respect them – which is the ultimate goal behind these types of trainings.

Some of the advice that the webinar gave court staff included:

- Honor a person’s request to be called by a different name, even if it doesn’t match their legal documents; and
- If you see a person being mocked or disrespected, make a correction or report it to someone who can.

Highlighting Black History Month in the courts

In honor of Black History Month, the AOPC interviewed several Pennsylvania judges to talk about what Black History Month means to each of them and how they approach diversity in the courtroom. [AOPC](#)



more
INFORMATION

Watch the three-minute video at <http://www.pacourts.us/news-and-statistics/media-resources>.

Saluting an impressive track record of court service

Major Tom Hargis is living proof that age is just a number. At 96 years old, Hargis works at the Dauphin County courthouse as a court clerk to **Judge Jeannine Turgeon**, Court of Common Pleas.

Born in a small town in Maryland, Hargis grew up during the Great Depression where his family got by through farming and share-cropping.

“After graduating from the Salisbury Colored High School, unemployment was extremely high and the only work available for the most part was farming work, which led to my decision to volunteer for the U.S. Army on Feb. 12, 1941,” said Hargis.

After Pearl Harbor, Hargis was deployed for special training in land and water amphibious vehicles in preparation for shipment into the Theater of Operations in the South Pacific.

In 1944, Hargis participated in the landing of U.S. Forces as part of the Philippines Liberation invasion under the command of General MacArthur.

He served in the Army Reserve for many years until 1975 when he was honorably discharged with the rank of Major.



Major Tom Hargis and Judge Jeannine Turgeon

In 1988, Hargis started with Dauphin County in the Prothonotary’s office before moving to the Clerk of Court’s office, working in various judges’ courtrooms before being assigned to Judge Turgeon’s courtroom in 1992 – when he was pushing 70 years old.

“He helped me learn my way,” said Judge Turgeon. “He drives to work every day – rain or shine, and has worked alongside me some nights until 8 or 9 p.m. With only a 15-minute break for lunch on crammed days, he has never once complained.”

“He is wise. He is kind. He is a team player,” added Judge Turgeon. “I admire him immensely and will be forever grateful to whomever assigned him to take care of me and my courtroom 27 years ago.”

Hargis has five children, and says that outside of work, he enjoys spending time with his family and gardening.

This past November, Governor Tom Wolf sent Hargis a proclamation for his 96th birthday, thanking him for his dedicated service to both the country and the commonwealth. [AOPC](#)

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Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

Thomas G. Saylor
Chief Justice of Pennsylvania

Max Baer
Justice

Debra Todd
Justice

Christine Donohue
Justice

Kevin M. Dougherty
Justice

David N. Wecht
Justice

Sallie Updyke Mundy
Justice



Judge John Driscoll with newly adoptive family. Shirts read: Families don't have to match when their hearts do.

Celebrating Adoption Day in Westmoreland County

Westmoreland County courthouse was filled with lots of smiles and hugs as court staff celebrated Adoption Day in November the best way imaginable.

Westmoreland County Common Pleas **Judges John Driscoll** and **Jim Silvis** oversaw the adoptions of eight happy children who found their permanent homes and forever families that day.

“Child protection has such an enormous workload and occasionally, termination of parental rights must occur,” said Judge Driscoll. “It is sad and difficult when this happens, but National Adoption Day is a day filled with joy.”

Among the many smiling faces in the courtroom was little Kareem, whose smile didn't leave his face the whole hearing, while repeatedly asking, “Am I adopted yet?”

Kareem was adopted by Jennifer and Dale Shawley, who had previously adopted his half-brother.

Another particularly moving story was that of a 17-year-old boy, Ryan Stokes.

After having been placed in the system when he was three years old, Ryan had been bounced around homes nearly 22 times.

“People don't understand how hard it is to go through what we have,” Ryan said. “You just have to keep trying until you break through and get to know us. Once you get to know us, you'll like us.”

Ryan's adoptive mother, Barb Stokes, was the secretary at Ryan's high school when she learned that he was going to be moved to yet another home.

“I've had a good life, and it broke my heart to know he had gone through so much in life,” Barb said. “He deserved to have the same things in life that I've had.”

Barb and her husband, Rob asked Ryan if he wanted to come live with them, and on Nov. 29, they officially welcomed him into their family.

“Nearly half of the children in the Pennsylvania foster care system are teenagers,” said Director of the Office



Rob, Ryan and Barb Stokes

of Children and Families in the Courts, **Sandy Moore**.

While the goal initially is almost always to safely reunite a child with their biological family, when this is not possible, Pennsylvania law encourages anyone who knows and cares for a child to step forward and become that forever family.”

When asked how he was going to celebrate with his new family, Ryan said he was excited to take a trip to the beach this summer – something he's never done.

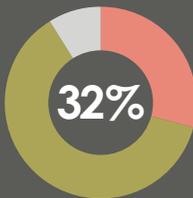
Having already been accepted to three colleges, Ryan has a bright future ahead of him, with plans to go to college for nursing. **AOPC**

Women in the Pennsylvania Judiciary

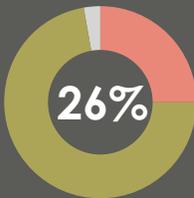
As of February 2019 . . .

30% of Pennsylvania's active judges are women

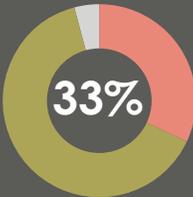
Women on the bench in other PA courts:



Common Pleas Judges
134 women / 284 men / 40 vacancies



Magisterial District Judges
128 women / 371 men / 13 vacancies



Philadelphia Municipal Court
8 women / 16 men / 1 vacancy



There are three women serving on the seven-member Pennsylvania Supreme Court:



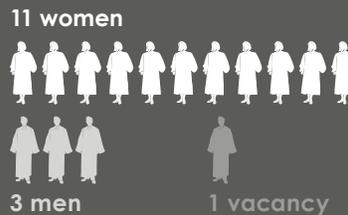
Justice
Debra Todd

Justice
Christine Donohue

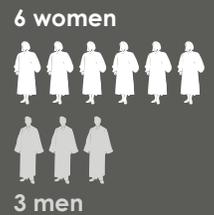
Justice
Sallie Updyke Mundy

The majority of Superior and Commonwealth Courts are women:

Superior Court



Commonwealth Court



The president judge of Commonwealth Court is a woman:

Hon. Mary Hannah Leavitt

14 women serve as president judges in Courts of Common Pleas.

Hon. Sara M. Soffel was the first woman appointed as a judge in Pennsylvania (Allegheny County).

Hon. Juanita Kidd Stout was the first elected African American female judge in the nation – and the first African American woman to serve on any state Supreme Court. (Philadelphia County).

Irene Bizzoso, Esq., Prothonotary, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

Gicine Brignola, Esq., Executive Director, Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners

Kristen W. Brown, Esq., Prothonotary Commonwealth Court

Cathy Kane, Court Administrator, Court of Judicial Discipline

Stephanie Libhart, Executive Director, Interest on Lawyers Trust Account Board (IOLTA)

Kathryn Peifer Morgan, Esq., Executive Director, Pennsylvania Lawyers Fund for Client Security

Andrea Tuominen, Esq., Assistant Court Administrator of Pennsylvania

CLE credits for pro bono work

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court recently approved a three-year pilot program that began on Jan. 1, 2019, allowing attorneys to receive Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credits in exchange for offering their legal services pro bono.

Registered, active Pennsylvania attorneys can receive one CLE credit for every five hours of pro bono work they complete with a legal aid organization that has been approved by the Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board.

The pilot program allows attorneys to receive a maximum of three CLE credits annually.

Additionally, the Supreme Court adopted a new rule last May that allows retired attorneys to volunteer their services pro bono under a new “emeritus” status.

“It used to be that you couldn’t practice once you’re retired, but this new emeritus status allows retired attorneys the ability to continue practicing, while performing a much-needed service to



Dan Levering and Katey Buggy

low-income Pennsylvanians,” said **Dan Levering**, CLE Board administrator.

Attorneys under this status will only have to complete eight annual CLE credits instead of the standard 12 credits that are required for active attorneys.

Prior to applying for emeritus status, retired attorneys must complete six hours of continuing legal education within a year of submitting their application to the Office of Attorney Registration.

“Emeritus status and the CLE for pro bono pilot project are important Court initiatives we have been happy to be involved with,” added **Katey Buggy**, CLE Board associate administrator.

They are an example of using goals of the CLE Board to connect lawyers with legal service providers and hopefully boost pro bono participation.” **AOPC**

more INFORMATION

Learn more at www.pacle.org.

New rule provides direction to attorneys with unclaimed funds in their IOLTA account

For several years, the IOLTA Board has received calls from attorneys seeking guidance on the ethical distribution of unclaimed and unidentifiable funds in their IOLTA trust account.

This is an especially common question when an attorney is winding down a law practice in preparation for retirement or when his or her attempts to contact a former client are unsuccessful.

Fortunately, Pennsylvania Rule of Professional Conduct 1.15(v) was recently adopted and will be able to provide this necessary guidance.

The new rule provides that after reasonable efforts have been undertaken to reunite funds in an IOLTA account with

their rightful owner for at least two years, any unidentifiable or unclaimed funds may be transferred to the IOLTA Board for safekeeping.

The funds may be reclaimed if the rightful owner is identified or located at a later time.

Directing unclaimed and unidentifiable funds to the IOLTA Board advances the mission of funding civil legal assistance for low-income and disadvantaged Pennsylvanians since the beneficial interest from the funds remains a source of legal aid funding. **AOPC**

more INFORMATION

For additional information and to access the related forms, please visit <https://www.paiolta.org/unclaimed-funds/>.



l to r: Conference attendees at Crowne Plaza in Harrisburg, Drug Court Commissioner Judge Peggy Davis from Greene County, Missouri

Mental health courts: Changing the face of criminal justice and changing lives

Pennsylvania's problem-solving courts held their first statewide mental health courts training this past December during a two-day conference at the Crowne Plaza in Harrisburg.

Over 125 people attended the conference sponsored by AOPC with almost every mental health court in the state represented.

The conference agenda included a wide range of keynote speakers including mental health researchers and advocates, as well as experienced problem-solving court judges and program administrators from across the country.

"The purpose of this training was for our teams to gain the valuable insight and advice that these speakers had to offer, and to take that back and apply it in their own courts," said **Angela Sobol Lowry**, problem-solving courts administrator.

Among the many training topics covered at the conference was Motivational Interviewing, led by Drug

Court Commissioner, Judge Peggy Davis from Greene County, Missouri.

"In order to get a defendant to change their behavior, you have to understand and explore their own personal motivations," said Judge Davis.

"Rehabilitation is the paramount purpose of sentencing for most people, and judges can begin and support this process by adopting Motivational Interviewing methods," said Judge Davis.

Judge Davis explained that the overall goal of all problem-solving courts is to get the defendant to change their behavior, and defendants are far more likely to change when they are motivated to do so.

She shared some of her own experiences using Motivational Interviewing methods, and demonstrated effective rebuttal statements for court staff to use when talking to defendants who are resistant to changing their behavior.

Some of these methods include:

- Asking a person's permission to give feedback before responding
- Acknowledging what a person has said while pointing out contradictory statements
- Helping relate a person's past success/challenges to their present efforts to change.

Judge Davis concluded the presentation by commending court staff for the important work they do.

"Drug addiction, mental health issues—these are battles; and you all should be proud to help fight this battle." **AOPC**



Legislative roundup

by Damian J. Wachter, Esq.

A new session of the General Assembly commenced with swearing-in ceremonies in both chambers and a joint session on January 1.

Make up of the House:

110 Republicans, 91 Democrats and two vacancies (filled by special election on March 12).

Make up of the Senate:

28 Republicans, 21 Democrats and one vacancy (filled by special election on April 2).

Judiciary Committee - New chairs were appointed in three of the four Judiciary Committee seats. In the House, Representative Rob Kauffman from Franklin County will serve as the majority chair and Representative Tim Briggs from Montgomery County was appointed the Democratic chair.

In the Senate, Senator Lisa Baker from Luzerne, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne and Wyoming Counties was appointed as the majority chair. Senator Daylin Leach from Montgomery County was reappointed as Democratic chair, but he has temporarily stepped aside from his chairmanship role. An acting Democratic chair has not yet been named.

Legislative Action - With only a few session days completed thus far, the legislative calendar has been light. The most prominent action was the passage of Senate Resolution 20 by a vote of 31-18. The resolution directs the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study of the impact of venue in medical professional liability cases on medical care access and system maintenance. The study must be completed by Jan. 1, 2020.

The resolution requests that the Pennsylvania Supreme Court delay action on proposed amendments to the Rules of Civil Procedure Rule governing venue in medical liability cases until completion of the study.

Coming Up - It is expected over the next few months the legislature will vote to:

1. Establish a victims rights amendment to the constitution
2. Explore advancing a second Justice Reinvestment Initiative; and
3. Debate reforms to statutory probation provisions.



{Damian Wachter, Esq. is the assistant director of Legislative Affairs.}

Around the Judiciary



Joint announcement by Board of Commissioner's Chair Dr. Valerie Arkoosh and President Judge **Thomas DelRicci** on the establishment of the Montgomery County Family Justice Advisory Board (FJAB). The mission of FJAB is to examine and address Family Court issues from a systemic and policy perspective, and recommend ways in which the Court, public agencies and private organizations can efficiently, effectively and collaboratively improve the process, programs and institutions.

(l to r) *Kenneth Lawrence, county commissioner, Family Court Judge Dan Clifford, Family Court Administrative Judge Carolyn Carluccio, Board of Commissioner's Chair, Dr. Valerie Arkoosh, President Judge Thomas DelRicci, Joseph Gale, county commissioner, Michael Kehs, court administrator and Gary Kline, director of domestic relations and Chair of FJAB.*



extraordinary leadership and support of those in the problem-solving court field in Pennsylvania.

(l to r): President Judge **Russell B. Shurtleff**, Court of Common Pleas, Wyoming-Sullivan County; Senior Judge **John Leete**, Court of Common Pleas, Potter County; and President Judge **Stephen P. B. Minor**, Court of Common Pleas, Potter County.



Judge **Kim Berkeley Clark** during swearing in ceremony as President Judge for Court of Common Pleas, Allegheny County.



Philadelphia's Veterans Court received the Henry Czajkowski Award from the Pennsylvania Bar Association in December.

(l to r): *James Funt, Esq. founding partner at Greenblatt, Pierce, Funt and Flores, LLC; President Judge Patrick Dugan, Philadelphia Municipal Court; Leshia Sanders, Veterans court coordinator; Timothy Wynn, Veterans Court mentor coordinator; Susan Lin, Esq. attorney with Kairys, Rudovsky, Messing & Feinberg, LLP.*

Senior Judge **John Leete** was the recipient of the Louis J. Presentza Distinguished Service Award at the Pennsylvania Association of Drug Court Professionals (PADCP) Conference. The Louis J. Presentza Distinguished Service Award is recognition by one's peers for dedication and commitment to the field of problem-solving courts. This unique award recognizes an individual who has shown



Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice **Kevin Dougherty** participated in the Al Dia Lawyers Forum.



Superior Court Judge **Carolyn Nichols** joined Pennsylvania Representative Margo Davidson for the fourth annual Public Safety Forum in Upper Darby.



The AOPC's Judicial District Operations department conducted workshops on "Preventing and Responding to Domestic and Sexual Violence in Courthouse Workplaces" across the state. This free one-day training was delivered by Futures Without Violence, a national resource center focused on ending gender based violence and child abuse by raising awareness through education and support. District court administration staff, judges, supervisors and managers working in the courthouse, domestic relations, probation and MDJ staff attended the training.



Tom Darr, court administrator of Pennsylvania, pictured with Senator Stewart Greenleaf during Greenleaf's retirement reception in the Pennsylvania Capitol. Greenleaf retired after serving as Senate Judiciary chair for 30 years.



Superior Court Judge **Corraele Stevens** visited Sarah Grega's class for reading day at Wyoming Valley Children Association, Forty Fort. Readings included Spiderman and The Cow in the Silo. Pictured with Judge Stevens is his grandson, Maxton Mercadante (immediate left).



Carbon County held its first Veterans Court graduation ceremony on Dec. 12. Judge **Joseph Matika**, Court of Common Pleas, oversaw the graduation ceremony of the first three participants to successfully complete Carbon County's Veterans Treatment Court program. (l to r): Edward Dubosky, Corey Perich and Jay Dalrymple



Justice **Debra Todd** swearing in Judge **Jim Eisenhower** to the Court of Judicial Discipline.

Judge Panella elected president judge of Superior Court



This past December, **Judge Jack Panella** was elected President Judge of the Pennsylvania Superior Court effective Jan. 7, 2019.

"I am grateful to have the confidence of my court, and am truly honored and excited to lead such an exceptional group," said President Judge Panella.

President Judge Panella was first appointed as a Northampton County Common Pleas judge in 1991, and was elected to the Superior Court in 2003.

Over the course of his many years on the bench, Judge

Panella worked hard to help other judges navigate the complex issues involved in sexual violence cases. He has authored three benchbooks on the subject, and recently received national recognition from the National Sexual Violence Resource Center.

Some of his other notable work includes leading the Public Education and Community Outreach Committee under

the Supreme Court's Commission for Justice Initiative, and chairing the Commonwealth Partners Program – for which he received the President's Award from the PA Conference of Trial Judges in 2002.

Judge Panella succeeds **Judge Susan Gantman** as President Judge of the Pennsylvania Superior Court, whose five-year term ended Jan. 6, 2019. [AOPC](#)

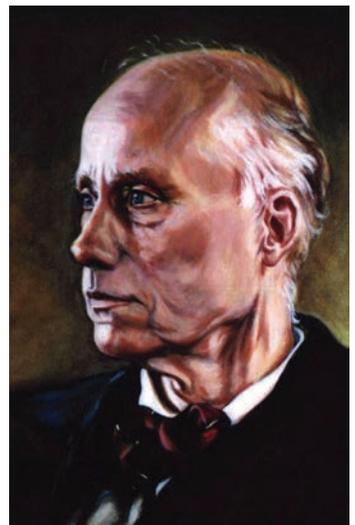
Retired Chief Justice Flaherty dies at 87

Chief Justice Emeritus **John P. Flaherty** passed away on Feb. 20, 2019, after a five-year battle with Alzheimer's disease. He died at age 87 in his home in Indiana Township.

Justice Flaherty received his bachelor's degree from Duquesne University and his law degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. In 1953, he enlisted in the Army and served for two years. He then opened a private practice in Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania prior to being elected to Allegheny County Common Pleas Court in 1973.

In 1979, Flaherty was appointed to fill an interim six-month term on the state Supreme Court before winning a full 10-year term and retention twice. He became Chief Justice in 1996 and served in that role until his retirement in 2001.

"Justice Flaherty's tenure marked a time of healing for the court as he stepped into the role of mediator and encouraged his colleagues to speak with one voice," said Court Administrator of Pennsylvania **Thomas B. Darr**. [AOPC](#)



New Judicial Conduct Board chief counsel



The Judicial Conduct Board (JCB) welcomed their new Chief Counsel, **Richard Long, Esq.** this past December.

"I am excited and honored to join the outstanding men and women at the Judicial Conduct Board in their dedicated efforts to further the independence and integrity of the Commonwealth's judiciary," said Long.

Prior to his appointment as chief counsel at the JCB, Long served as the executive director of the Pennsylvania District

Attorney's Association (PDAA) for eight years.

Before that, Long served as deputy district attorney in Dauphin County for four years, and maintained a private law practice in Harrisburg.

In between his time in private practice and at the PDAA, Long worked for the NFL's Cleveland Browns for eight years.

Since 1989, Long has continued to notably serve in the U.S. Army Reserve, most recently as Colonel in the Judge Advocate General's Corps.

Long lives in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania and is married with two children.

He succeeds the **Honorable Bob Graci** who announced his retirement in August after serving six years as chief counsel to the JCB.

AOPC

Transitions

NEW TO THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

RYAN M. BONAFAIR - PURCHASING SPECIALIST - FINANCE
MEGAN L. DAVIS - COUNSEL - LEGAL
MATTHEW S. GRAY - HR ANALYST - HUMAN RESOURCES
LORIE L. LAMBIE - DEPUTY COURT ADMINISTRATOR - FAYETTE
MARIO T. LANZA - WEB DEVELOPER - IT
TERILYN L. WICKIZER - DEPUTY COURT ADMINISTRATOR - SULLIVAN/WYOMING

COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND ADVISORY GROUPS

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HON. KIM BERKELEY CLARK - REAPPOINTED - INTERBRANCH COMMISSION FOR GENDER, RACIAL AND ETHNIC FAIRNESS
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LESLIE A. COLLINS, ESQ. - APPOINTED - PENNSYLVANIA BOARD OF LAW EXAMINERS
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JAMES C. HAGGERTY, ESQ. - VICE-CHAIR - DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF PENNSYLVANIA
MDJ SUE E. HAGGERTY - APPOINTED - MINOR COURT RULES COMMITTEE
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CANDICE L. KOMAR, ESQ. - APPOINTED - CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION BOARD
HON. BETH A. LAZZARA - REAPPOINTED - CRIMINAL PROCEDURAL RULES COMMITTEE

HON. RICHARD A. LEWIS - REAPPOINTED - CONTINUING JUDICIAL EDUCATION BOARD OF JUDGES
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HON. DAVID A. REGOLI - APPOINTED - PENNSYLVANIA LAWYERS FUND FOR CLIENT SECURITY BOARD
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MDJ BETH SCAGLINE-MILLS - APPOINTED - MINOR COURT RULES COMMITTEE
JESSIE L. SMITH, ESQ. - APPOINTED - INTERBRANCH COMMISSION FOR GENDER, RACIAL AND ETHNIC FAIRNESS
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CATHERINE L. VOLPONI, ESQ. - APPOINTED - INTERBRANCH COMMISSION FOR GENDER, RACIAL AND ETHNIC FAIRNESS

RETIREMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

LEO S. ARMBRUSTER - MDJ - SNYDER/UNION
BRADLEY J COBER - COURT ADMINISTRATOR - SOMERSET
HON. WILLIAM R. CUNNINGHAM - CP JUDGE - ERIE

HON. RHONDA LEE DANIELE - CP JUDGE - MONTGOMERY
HON. JOHN P. GARHART - CP JUDGE - ERIE
TARI L. HOKE - PAYROLL SPECIALIST - FINANCE
JANICE JIMENEZ - MDJ - LANCASTER
KAREN L JOHNSON - ASSISTANT TO THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR - MCKEAN
HON. ANTHONY G. MARSILI - CP JUDGE - WESTMORELAND
HON. RICHARD A. MASSON - CP JUDGE - CAMERON/ELK
HON. DONNA J. MCDANIEL - CP JUDGE - ALLEGHENY
GERALD J. MILLER - NETWORK SPECIALIST - IT
VERONICA P. MILLER, ESQ. - COUNSEL - LEGAL
HON. NATHANIEL C. NICHOLS - CP JUDGE - DELAWARE
ALLEN P. PAGE III - MDJ - LYCOMING
ROBERT CRAIG RAPP - END USER HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE TECHNICIAN - IT
HON. ANTHONY A. SARCIONE - CP JUDGE - CHESTER
JAY H. WELLER - MDJ - WASHINGTON

OTHER CHANGES

HON. WALLACE H. BATEMAN JR. - BUCKS - COMMENCE PJ STATUS
J. MATTHEW CHIARA - IT DEVELOPMENT MANAGER - MOVED TO PABLE
HON. KIM BERKELEY CLARK - ALLEGHENY - COMMENCE PJ STATUS
HON. PATRICK F. DUGAN - PHILADELPHIA - COMMENCE MUNICIPAL COURT PJ STATUS
HON. IDEE C. FOX - PHILADELPHIA - COMMENCE PJ STATUS
TAMMY J. LAMBIE - TRANSFER FROM FAYETTE COUNTY AS DEPUTY COURT ADMINISTRATOR TO SOMERSET COUNTY AS DISTRICT COURT ADMINISTRATOR
HON. JACK A. PANELLA - SUPERIOR COURT - COMMENCE PJ STATUS



601 Commonwealth Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17120

In memory of Chief Justice Emeritus

John P. Flaherty, Jr.

Nov. 19, 1931 - Feb. 20, 2019

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