



COURTS

ADVISORY COUNCIL
ON ELDER JUSTICE

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



One Oxford Centre, Suite 3130
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219



Telephone: 412-565-2680

June 2025

Greetings,

As Liaison to the Advisory Council on Elder Justice in the Courts, and on behalf of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, I am honored to introduce the 2024 Annual Report of the Advisory Council on Elder Justice in the Courts. It is my pleasure to recognize the tremendous accomplishments of the Council's leadership, members, and contributing staff, along with the staff of the Office of Elder Justice in the Courts ("OEJC") in addressing the needs of older Pennsylvanians and the challenges they face.

I express my personal gratitude to State Court Administrator Andrea Tuominen, Esquire, for her leadership and support.

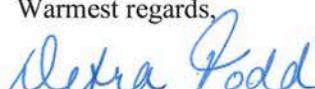
I am grateful to Advisory Council Chair Judge Lois Murphy, Vice-Chair Judge Sheila Woods-Skipper, OEJC Director Amy Whitworth, OEJC Assistant Director Keith Hinkel, Jr., along with the OEJC staff members, Cole Benko, Joan Bertone, and Robert Campbell for their time and effort in the preparation of this Report.

The Advisory Council members are to be commended for their commitment to meeting the challenges faced by our Commonwealth in addressing the growing needs of older Pennsylvanians. This Report highlights the work of the Council and the OEJC, which received a three-year (approximately \$3 million) Elder Justice Innovation Grant from the federal Administration for Community Living. This grant supports our ongoing efforts to protect older adults.

In addition, our Guardianship Tracking System, which was created in-house by AOPC IT personnel, has been enhanced to provide an improved experience for guardians and court staff, and to help courts protect persons with a guardian and safeguard financial assets under court supervision.

Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey once said, "The moral test of a government is how it treats those who are at the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the aged; and those who are in the shadow of life, the sick, the needy, and the handicapped." The progress recounted in this Report represents our Supreme Court's ongoing effort to meet this moral test.

Warmest regards,


Debra Todd

ELDER JUSTICE



The Advisory Council on Elder Justice in the Courts focuses on ensuring access to justice and due process for older Pennsylvanians, the protection of vulnerable persons with a guardianship, and the prevention of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.



ABOUT THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Advisory Council on Elder Justice in the Courts (Advisory Council) was established in 2015 to advise the Office of Elder Justice in the Courts (OEJC)

regarding the implementation of the Elder Law Task Force’s (ELTF) Report and Recommendations regarding best practices, judicial rules, and legislation to benefit older citizens of the Commonwealth. In addition to the 2024 accomplishments discussed in this Annual Report, the Advisory Council continues its ongoing work with the ELTF’s recommendations.

The mission of the Advisory Council is to identify and address elder justice issues affecting older Pennsylvanians.



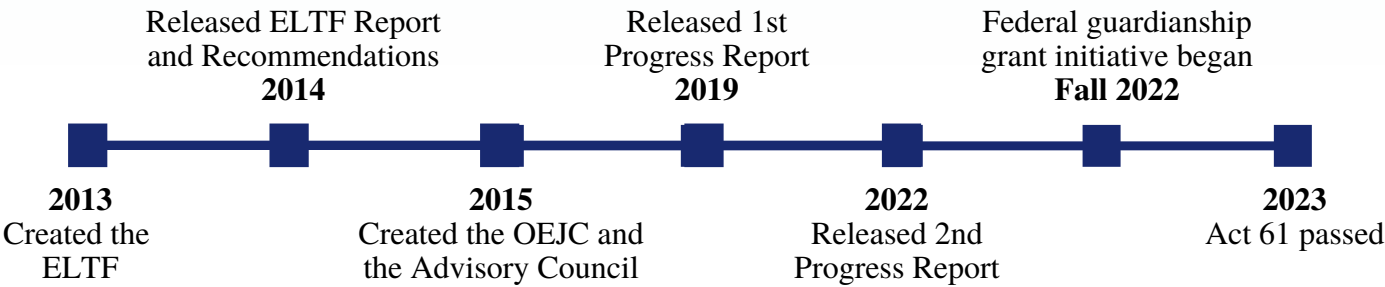
ABOUT THE OFFICE OF ELDER JUSTICE IN THE COURTS

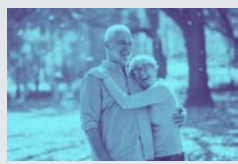
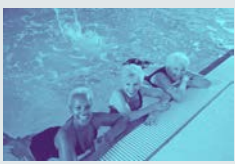
The OEJC was established in 2015 to promote best practices to address elder abuse and neglect, guardianship, and access to justice in the Commonwealth’s courts. The OEJC also educates judges, court staff, attorneys, guardians, and the public about the warning signs of elder abuse, and how to respond to suspected elder abuse.

In addition to education and best practices, the OEJC actively fosters collaboration with other elder justice entities and branches of government to enhance older Pennsylvanians’ ability to fully participate in legal proceedings.

The Advisory Council and OEJC exist to identify areas of need and challenges faced by elders, and to improve the ability of Pennsylvania courts to meet those needs.

TIMELINE OF PENNSYLVANIA SUPREME COURT'S ELDER JUSTICE INITIATIVE





MAJOR LEGISLATIVE NEWS: ACT 61 TAKES EFFECT IN JUNE OF 2024, BRINGING CHANGE TO GUARDIANSHIP PROCEEDINGS IN PENNSYLVANIA

On December 14, 2023, Governor Josh Shapiro signed into law **Act 61** of 2023. The Act provides for several crucial changes to guardianship law, requiring:

- **Appointment of counsel to represent alleged incapacitated persons in all proceedings** to determine capacity, and in subsequent actions to consider, modify, or terminate a guardianship.
- **Certification** of individuals seeking guardianship of three or more incapacitated persons (i.e. professional guardians), including passage of a certification exam administered by a national non-profit guardianship certification organization.
- Courts to consider and make specific findings of fact concerning **less restrictive alternatives to guardianship** prior to ordering guardianship.
- Courts to conduct a **review hearing** to determine whether guardianship continues to be necessary if evidence presented during the guardianship proceeding indicates that the circumstances of an individual's incapacity might change.

The law went into effect on June 11, 2024.

LSO PROJECT PROVIDES COMPELLING DATA TO SUPPORT ACT 61 REQUIREMENTS LEADING TO "MORE EQUITABLE OUTCOMES"

The Advisory Council and OEJC have engaged in an Administration for Community Living (ACL) grant-funded **legal services organization (LSO) pilot project with MidPenn Legal Services** in an effort to determine if the requirements of Act 61 can in fact lead to higher instances of alternatives to guardianship, terminations of guardianships through review hearings, limited guardianships being a case outcome instead of plenary guardianships, and more. The statistics of the pilot project have proven compelling in this regard (*see pages 9-10 for additional data and information on the pilot project*).

Judge John McNally presides over guardianship proceedings in Dauphin County, one of the counties participating in the pilot project. In October 2024, he stated "...In the ten months since the launch of the pilot program, **we have been able to achieve more equitable outcomes** with counsels' zealous advocacy, family engagement and a more collaborative thought process." Judge McNally's observations are borne out in the data (*see pages 9-10 for additional data and information on the pilot project*), which suggests that the LSO model used in the pilot project has resulted in significant preservation of rights for persons alleged to be in need of a guardian in counties participating in the pilot project.

2024 ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

*Long Range Planning
Committee Members

LEADERSHIP

Chair
Honorable Lois E. Murphy*
Administrative Judge, Orphans’ Court Division
Court of Common Pleas, Montgomery County

Vice-Chair
Honorable Sheila A. Woods-Skipper*
Administrative Judge
Philadelphia County Orphans’ Court Division

Director, OEJC
Cherstin Hamel* & Amy Whitworth*
Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts
(AOPC)

Supreme Court Liaison
Chief Justice Debra Todd*
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

STANDING MEMBERS

Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Aging
Secretary Jason Kavulich
Staff Designee, Althea O. Bennett, Esquire

Pennsylvania Attorney General
Attorney General Michelle Henry
Staff Designee, David Shallcross

Pennsylvania Senate
Senator Maria Collett
Staff Designee, Tom Holroyd
Staff Designee, Kayla Burnham

Pennsylvania Bar Association Designee
Anne N. John, Esquire
Past President, Pennsylvania Bar Association
John and John, Attorneys at Law

Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Representative Steven C. Mentzer
Staff Designee, Annemarie Robey, Esquire

Allegheny County Orphans’ Court Division
Honorable Lawrence J. O’Toole
Administrative Judge, ret.

*Chair, Supreme Court Orphans’ Court
Procedural Rules Committee*
Kendra D. McGuire, Esquire

Philadelphia County Orphans’ Court Division
Honorable Sheila A. Woods-Skipper*
Administrative Judge

*Register of Wills and Clerks of Orphans’ Court
Association Designee*
Sarah E. Edwards
Butler County Register of Wills & Clerk of Orphans’ Court

MEMBERS

Karen C. Buck, Esquire*
Executive Director
SeniorLAW Center
Philadelphia

Honorable Dale M. Fouse
Judge
Court of Common Pleas
Beaver County

John N. Kennedy, Esquire
Kennedy, PC Law Offices
Harrisburg

Kelly Callihan
Executive Director
Pennsylvania District
Attorneys Association
Harrisburg

Jason Karlawish, M.D.
Division of Geriatrics,
Ralston-Penn Center
Philadelphia

Rebecca May-Cole
Executive Director
Pennsylvania Association of
Area Agencies on Aging, Inc.
Harrisburg

2024 ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

**Long Range Planning
Committee Members*

MEMBERS (CONT.)

Diane Menio*

Executive Director Emerita
Center for Advocacy for the Rights and Interests
of the Elderly
Philadelphia

Honorable Shawn D. Meyers

President Judge
Court of Common Pleas
Franklin and Fulton Counties

Grace W. Orsatti, Esquire

Assistant Professor of Clinical Legal Education,
Tribone Center for Clinical Legal Education
Duquesne University School of Law
Pittsburgh

Elizabeth L. Pettis, Esquire

Chief Counsel
Governor's Office of General Counsel
Harrisburg

Honorable Frank J. Ruggiero

Judge
Court of Common Pleas
Lackawanna County

Mary Catherine Scott, Esquire

Director and Assistant Clinical Professor,
Central Pennsylvania Law Clinics
Widener University School of Law
Harrisburg

Pamela Walz, Esquire

Co-Director, Aging and Disabilities Unit
Community Legal Services
Philadelphia

Stephen A. Zappala Jr., Esquire

District Attorney
Allegheny County
Staff Designee, Dick Skrinjar

ADVISORS

Julian E. Gray, Esq.

Julian Gray Associates
Pittsburgh

Honorable Paula Francisco Ott*

Senior Judge, former Advisory Council Chair

Zygmunt A. Pines, Esquire

former Advisory Council Vice-Chair and Court
Administrator of Pennsylvania
Rydal

Honorable George N. Zanic*

President Judge
Court of Common Pleas
Huntingdon County

ANNUAL REPORT CONTRIBUTING STAFF

Rhonda Campbell

Chief Judicial Assistant
Chief Justice Debra Todd
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

**Damian Wachter,
Esquire**

Director
Legislative Affairs, AOPC

Amy Whitworth

Director
OEJC, AOPC

Keith Hinkel Jr.

Assistant Director
OEJC, AOPC

Joan Bertone

Grant Compliance
Coordinator
OEJC, AOPC

Cole Benko

Analyst
OEJC, AOPC

Robert Campbell

Trainer
OEJC, AOPC

FOND FAREWELLS AND WARM WELCOMES: LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS AND NEW STAFF FOR THE OEJC

After 24 years of service with the AOPC, Cherstin Hamel retired as director of the OEJC in April. In 2015, she was named director of the newly created OEJC after serving as the AOPC Judicial District Operations and Programs' Assistant Director and principal staff liaison to the Elder Law Task Force, whose seminal work laid the foundation for significant improvements in the way that the courts interact with elders and provided a blueprint for addressing challenges faced by our state's aging population.

Cherstin received a proclamation from Chief Justice Debra Todd on behalf of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and a citation from Senator Maria Collett on behalf of the Pennsylvania Senate, recognizing her career dedication to public service and to improving the lives of older Pennsylvanians. The AOPC, OEJC, and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court thank Cherstin for her many years of service.



Left to Right:

Judge Lois Murphy, Madame Chief Justice Debra Todd, Former OEJC Director Cherstin Hamel, Senator Maria Collett, Judge Sheila Woods-Skipper, Senior Judge Paula Ott.

"It was an honor and a privilege to serve as the OEJC's first director, and I am proud of the many initiatives the office and the Advisory Council accomplished during my tenure. Since 2015, the OEJC has grown from a one-person to a five-person office that continually strives to improve the ability of Pennsylvania's courts to meet the needs of older Pennsylvanians. I have been so pleased about the excellent work being done by my successor Amy Whitworth, the OEJC staff, and the Advisory Council, and I know they will continue to lead the way for improvements in elder justice."

-Cherstin Hamel, Director (ret.), Office of Elder Justice in the Courts

We were fortunate to have Cherstin's guidance with the creation of the Elder Law Task Force, her leadership on the work of the Elder Law Task Force, and ultimately as the Director of the newly created Office of Elder Justice in the Courts. It has been my honor to have worked so closely with Cherstin over the past several years.

-Madame Chief Justice Debra Todd, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

"Throughout her tenure at the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts, Cherstin consistently demonstrated a deep and abiding commitment to supporting the judiciary and public service generally. One of her most notable achievements was facilitating access to justice for Pennsylvania's elder population through the seminal work of the Elder Law Task Force. Recognizing that success requires collaboration, Cherstin worked closely with the Elder Justice Advisory Council, AOPC staff, and personnel of the courts, state agencies, and elder justice organizations to enhance the quality of life for older Pennsylvanians. I am grateful for Cherstin's exceptional leadership and many years of outstanding service."

-Andrea B. Tuominen, Court Administrator of Pennsylvania

"Cherstin generously gave me her time and attention to set me up for success in this role. I will be forever grateful for the support she showed me."

-Amy Whitworth, Director, Office of Elder Justice in the Courts

"Cherstin's passion and dedication to improving the lives of older adults and promoting access to justice was a true inspiration to everyone that had the pleasure of working with her. I will always be thankful for the guidance and leadership she provided throughout our time working together at the OEJC."

- Keith Hinkel Jr., Assistant Director, Office of Elder Justice in the Courts

"Cherstin was the right person at the right time to make certain the newly created OEJC and the Advisory Council succeeded. From 2015 until Keith Hinkel joined the OEJC in 2018, Cherstin did virtually everything for the Advisory Council, agendas, meetings, annual reports and special projects, with her amazing attention to details. She and I worked so well together and it is one of the highlights of my career to have worked with her to advance the goals of the Task Force through the OEJC and the Advisory Council."

-Senior Judge Paula Francisco Ott

"Cherstin is an inspirational leader who works with purpose, preparation, and intention. A task master who always required and worked with the utmost professionalism and efficiency. She has laid the groundwork for the continued success of the Office of Elder Justice."

-Judge Sheila Woods-Skipper

(continued from page 7)

“Cherstin has been a beacon of light in the world of elder justice. I have had the pleasure of working closely with her since 2013 when the Task Force was launched and through the inspiring work of the Council over this past decade plus. Her enduring professionalism, diplomacy and calm presence and leadership have inspired me and countless others to do more to raise the voice of older Pennsylvanians and promote access to justice.”

-Karen Buck, Esq., Executive Director, SeniorLAW

"Cherstin, you will truly be missed. Thank you for all of your hard work and for the impact you have had on the lives of so many of Pennsylvania's older adults."

-Diane Menio, Executive Director Emerita, Center for Advocacy for the Rights and Interests of the Elderly

“I have had the pleasure of working closely with Cherstin since the creation of the Elder Law Task Force in 2013. Cherstin’s dedication to the work of the OEJC and her tireless devotion to protecting the Commonwealth’s elders is impressive and awe-inspiring. I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work on these projects with Cherstin and am grateful for the friendship we have established.”

-Rhonda Campbell, Chief Administrative Judicial Assistant to Madame Chief Justice Debra Todd, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

ADDITIONAL STAFFING CHANGES: OEJC

Amy Whitworth was named Director of the OEJC, and transitioned into the role during April of 2024, working alongside founding OEJC Director Cherstin Hamel during her last month at the helm. Amy has been with the AOPC since 2002 in various roles within the IT department. Specifically, regarding GTS, Amy helped lead the IT analyst team that implemented this now-nationally recognized system in 2018.

“The guardianship project has been personally very important to me, and we are proud to assist families who must navigate difficult circumstances.”

- Amy Whitworth

In September, Keith Hinkel Jr. was named Assistant Director of the OEJC. Keith joined the AOPC’s IT department in 2010 and has been with the OEJC since 2018.

“I am thrilled and honored to continue my work with the OEJC in this new leadership position. It is incredibly rewarding to work with the talented OEJC staff and the passionate members of the Advisory Council to address issues facing older adults in Pennsylvania.”

- Keith Hinkel Jr.

Robert Campbell was hired as the new OEJC Trainer in March. Robert brings with him experience teaching in high schools and universities, with additional experiences in communications, conservation, and the arts.

OEJC PROGRESSES WITH GRANT FUNDED PROJECTS IN 2024

The AOPC is the recipient of a three-year (approximately \$3 million) Elder Justice Innovation Grant. Pennsylvania is one of three states to receive a portion of the funds awarded by the ACL through a highly competitive process. The funding is used by the AOPC to further its work to protect older adults through assessing and implementing improvements in the handling of adult guardianship cases in the Pennsylvania courts.



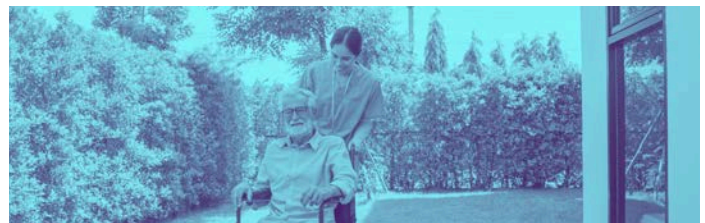
The work is overseen by the OEJC. The grant, which runs from September 1, 2022, through August 31, 2025, has three overarching goals: (1) assure due process for the alleged incapacitated person; (2) improve guardianship monitoring capabilities to prevent abuse and exploitation; and (3) promote alternatives to guardianship. Many of the projects envisioned under the grant were continued in 2024, including:

LEGAL SERVICES PILOT PROJECT PROVIDES COMPELLING DATA AROUND THE ROLE OF COUNSEL IN PROCURING ALTERNATIVES TO GUARDIANSHIP

The Legal Services Pilot Project was launched in Dauphin County in December 2023 to provide counsel from a legal services organization, **MidPenn Legal Services**, to represent alleged incapacitated persons (AIPs) and incapacitated persons (IPs) age 60+ at all guardianship proceedings in which private counsel was not retained. The pilot project is intended to increase the appointment of counsel and the frequency of attendance of the AIP or IP at guardianship proceedings.

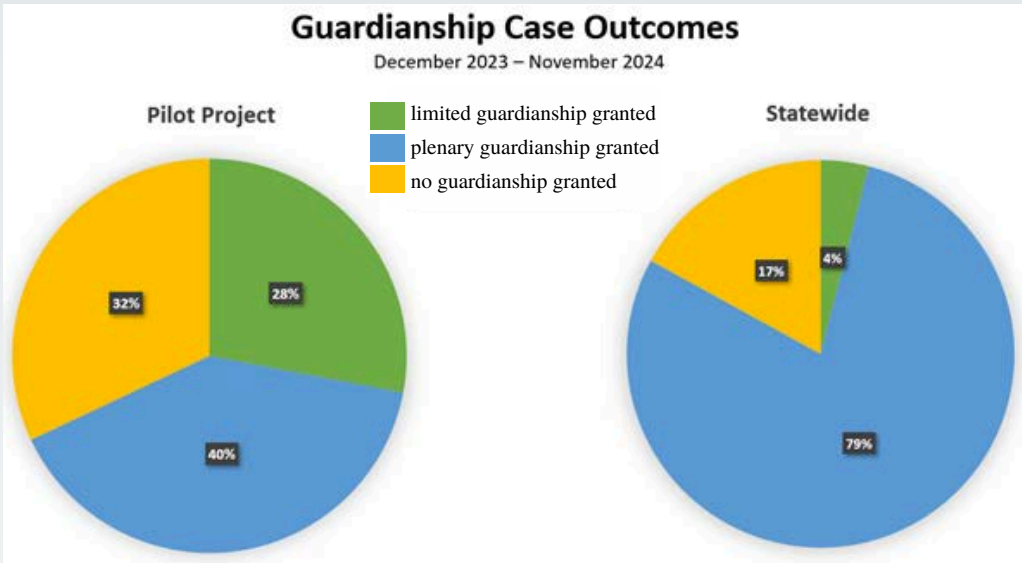
In March 2024, the pilot project launched in Perry County, which became the second county to participate in addition to Dauphin County. In April 2024, the project was expanded to Berks County and Cumberland County. MidPenn Legal Services continues its work in these four counties.

Since June 2024, Pennsylvania's Act 61 of 2023 (Act 61) requires courts to appoint counsel for all AIPs/IPs in guardianship proceedings. This pilot project will be of interest to courts statewide, as it will model both the use of a legal services organization for court appointments and outcomes for AIPs/IPs with counsel appointed. *(continued on next page)*



ACL GRANT PROJECT UPDATE SUMMARIES, 2024

(LSO data, continued from prev. page) During 2024, MidPenn attorneys were appointed on 136 cases. Of these cases, 101 were pre-adjudicatory, including 10 emergency petitions for guardianship. For pre-adjudicatory cases included in the pilot project, 40% of petitions resulted in plenary guardianship being ordered, 28% resulted in limited guardianships being ordered, and 32% resulted in no guardianship being ordered. The remaining 35 appointments were for post-adjudicatory hearings, 28 of which were scheduled by the court due to overdue or missing annual reports.



PLANNING UPDATE: THE SECOND PENNSYLVANIA GUARDIANSHIP JUSTICE SUMMIT, MAY 2025

The Summit will be held May 7-9, 2025. Planning for logistics, themes, and sessions began in earnest in 2024. The Advisory Council’s Educational Initiatives Committee and Grant Group provided input and direction to the OEJC staff as they developed and began to refine the lists of potential invitees, topics, themes, and speakers for sessions.



PENNSYLVANIA GUARDIANSHIP JUSTICE SUMMIT: AGENDA

Topics Include:

- Transformations in Guardianship in Pennsylvania and Nationwide
- Due Process
- Alternatives to Guardianship
- Elder Abuse
- Public Benefits
- Working with Financial and Healthcare Organizations
- Guardianship Monitoring

- Advance Planning, Succession Planning, and Guardianship
- Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs)
- End-of-Life Decision Making
- Capacity Evaluation
- Limited Guardianships
- Role of APS and AAAs in Guardianship
- Trauma-Informed Responses in the Courtroom
- Aging and Guardianship in Media

Speakers already confirmed for the Summit include Madame Chief Justice Debra Todd, State Court Administrator Andrea Tuominen, Esq., and Secretary of Aging Jason Kavulich. Additionally, speakers include representatives from national organizations the American Bar Association, the National Guardianship Association, and the National Center for State Courts, as well as legislators, judges, attorneys, medical and financial organization representatives, professional guardians, and more.



ACL GRANT PROJECT UPDATE SUMMARIES, 2024

GTS DATA AND NOTIFICATION ENHANCEMENTS PROGRESS TOWARDS IMPROVED MONITORING STATEWIDE

One enhancement implemented in 2024 was the ability for GTS to provide notifications to courts regarding attorneys who have been found to violate the Rules of Professional Conduct or updated attorney registration information from the Pennsylvania Disciplinary Board and are active on a guardianship case in their county. This notification enhancement was made possible due to a data feed that has been established in collaboration with the Disciplinary Board and the OEJC, AOPC IT, and Advisory Council on Elder Justice in the Courts.

Work continued on building the automated process to run guardian criminal record checks against the AOPC statewide criminal database for any new criminal charges filed against any guardian. This enhancement supports the project goal of improving guardianship monitoring by automating recurring record checks against the AOPC statewide criminal database for guardians. If new criminal charges are filed against any guardian, an alert notification will be generated and sent to the court(s).

Enhancements were added to assist courts with monitoring professional guardian certification. The courts are able to run a report to identify professional guardians who do not currently have their national certification entered in GTS. Court users and professional guardians also receive a notification when an active certification lapses.



BY THE NUMBERS

Pennsylvania's Guardianship Tracking System (GTS) Statistics as of 12/31/24

20,334

Total number of active guardianship cases

20,967

Number of family/lay guardians

372

Number of professional guardians

\$2,278,000,000+

TOTAL ASSETS UNDER COURT SUPERVISION

OEJC RELEASES NEW GUARDIANSHIP RESOURCES: THE PENNSYLVANIA GUARDIANSHIP HANDBOOK AND GUARDIANSHIP VIDEO TRAINING SERIES

In 2024, the OEJC released two new resources related to guardianship training and education in Pennsylvania: the *Pennsylvania Guardian Handbook* and the *Guardianship Video Training Series*, a series of 14 short educational videos.

The Pennsylvania Guardian Handbook, written by OEJC staff, edited by Advisory Council members and other stakeholders, and released in March of 2024, covers topics related to:

- guardianship basics;
- filing reports and the Guardianship Tracking System (GTS);
- duties and responsibilities of all guardians;
- signs of elder abuse and financial exploitation;
- how to report suspected abuse; and,
- additional resources for guardians.

In 2024, 12,500 copies of the Pennsylvania Guardianship Handbook were printed and **more than 8,000 handbooks have been distributed by the OEJC** to courts, libraries, and individuals. Courts were sent copies to distribute to new guardians. The OEJC worked with PA Forward, a Pennsylvania library consortium, to send two copies to each member library. These copies have been added to the libraries' reference sections, and a flyer advertising the handbook was mailed to each library for posting as well. Postcards and emails about the handbook were sent to guardians and have resulted in more than 1,000 individual requests for a copy of the handbook.

The handbook is also available on the OEJC webpage, as is a Spanish language version of the handbook. The OEJC has also fulfilled requests for over 100 hard copies of the Spanish language version thus far. Feedback received has been positive, and some counties have added a link to the digital copy to their website as a resource for guardians. Court staff from several counties have appreciated having the handbook as a comprehensive guide on a variety of topics to provide to new guardians who want more information about their roles and responsibilities. Additionally, many guardians have mentioned what an excellent resource the handbook has already been in many calls and emails to the OEJC.



*Scan the QR code
above to access a
digital PDF version
of the Pennsylvania
Guardian Handbook
online.*



PENNSYLVANIA GUARDIAN HANDBOOK



ACL GRANT PROJECT UPDATE SUMMARIES, 2024

Actors from the Guardianship Video Training Series shown here in stills from the final videos.



Scan the QR code below to access the Guardianship Training Series videos online.



The Guardianship Video Training Series, Pennsylvania's first series of educational videos produced for an intended audience of family/lay guardians, were released to the public in 2024. The series consists of **14 videos** focused on the role and responsibilities of guardians, alternatives to guardianship, and how to identify elder abuse and financial exploitation.

AOPC Communications worked with OEJC staff and professional actors to film the videos. The videos are hosted online and linked to the OEJC website. Printable flyers advertising the video series were sent to courts, Advisory Council members, libraries across the state, and others. In less than a year, the video series already has thousands of views.

Research and script writing for a second educational video series began in August 2024. This series will be for **attorneys**, and will cover topics including alternatives to guardianship, the role of an attorney and providing zealous advocacy, working with an alleged incapacitated client, review hearings, and more. This series will educate attorneys about requirements and best practices relating to guardianship proceedings, alternatives to guardianship, and the important role of the attorney representing the interests of the IP/AIP. The OEJC will seek to offer continuing education credits for attorneys and judges who participate in a live training focused on this video series. This video series is expected to be available in mid-2025.

PENN STATE FOCUS GROUPS GATHER DATA FROM GUARDIANSHIP STAKEHOLDERS



Penn State University, which was selected through a competitive process, conducted several **focus groups and in-depth interviews** in November and December of 2024. During the focus groups and interviews, information was gathered from family/lay guardians, professional guardians, family members of a person with a guardian, and advocates about their experiences with guardianship proceedings. The information collected will allow the OEJC and Advisory Council to address the greatest challenges faced by community members related to guardianship, alternatives to guardianship, and access to due process in guardianship proceedings. Penn State expects to share the results of their research with the OEJC in early 2025.

OEJC WEBSITE UPGRADED TO PROVIDE MORE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

The Advisory Council’s Alternatives to Guardianship Committee and AOPC Communications partnered with the OEJC to update the OEJC webpage to include descriptions of various alternatives to guardianship (e.g., powers of attorney, supported decision-making, etc.) as part of a larger redesign of the OEJC webpage. The redesign and web-based resource are focused on education and improving the usability and visual appeal of the page. These improvements help meet the goal of promoting alternatives to guardianship by increasing the utility of the webpage as a resource for members of the public looking for information on alternatives to guardianship.

The OEJC also worked with AOPC IT to create a new video about the GTS to be included as part of the [OEJC webpage](#) redesign. The GTS is key to the grant goal of improved guardianship monitoring, and the OEJC aimed to increase usership by providing up-to-date information highlighting the benefits of its use to attorneys, professional and family/lay guardians, and courts.

At the end of July, work on the website (homepage graphic shown below) was completed, and the updated site became publicly available. Newly discovered relevant resources are added to the website on an ongoing basis.

Elder Justice in the Courts



ALTERNATIVES TO
GUARDIANSHIP



GUARDIANSHIP
IN PENNSYLVANIA



ELDER ABUSE
AND FINANCIAL
EXPLOITATION



GUARDIANSHIP
TRACKING SYSTEM



HELPFUL
RESOURCES

CCJ/COSCA CONFERENCE FEATURES SUPREME COURT, AOPC, AND ADVISORY COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

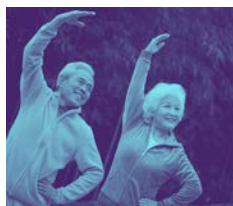
Pennsylvania was represented by Chief Justice Debra Todd and Court Administrator Andrea B. Tuominen at the 2024 Conference of Chief Justices and State Court Administrators (CCJ/COSCA) in August 2024 in Bend, Oregon. This national conference was focused on issues arising in guardianships and conservatorships nationwide, and the important role of state courts in protecting vulnerable individuals.

Chief Justice Todd, together with Paul L. Reiber, Chief Justice of Vermont, led a roundtable discussion of strategic planning for guardianship reform. They discussed guardianship reforms that envision a system that prioritizes the rights, dignity, and well-being of individuals under guardianship. Areas of focus for reform recognized nationally and implemented in Pennsylvania include using less-restrictive options, monitoring, and data collection.

Andrea B. Tuominen was appointed as Vice Co-Chair to the CCJ/COSCA Committee on Elders and the Courts for 2024-2025, which has since been renamed as the Vulnerable Adults and the Courts Committee.

The Honorable Lois Murphy, Chair of the Advisory Council on Elder Justice, also presented at the conference on practical tools to enhance monitoring of guardians of the person. Judge Murphy and her co-presenters from Minnesota and Nevada discussed technology driven solutions for monitoring guardians' reports, as well as protocols for consistent and meaningful review of guardianship annual reports, and the need for review hearings.

Right: Madame Chief Justice Debra Todd presents at the COSCA conference in Bend, Oregon, August 2024.



THE OEJC AND ADVISORY COUNCIL TRAVELS AND COLLABORATES ACROSS THE STATE AND NATION IN 2024

Throughout the year, OEJC staff and Advisory Council members traveled across the state and nation to attend and host presentations, hold public listening sessions, conduct trainings, and much more.

In Pennsylvania, the OEJC held regional listening sessions in Allegheny, Dauphin, Lehigh, and Philadelphia counties, and held regional Report Reviewer Roundtables in Butler, Centre, Dauphin, Lackawanna, and Montgomery Counties.

The OEJC also visited multiple counties for other reasons, including: attending Regional Unit meetings, presenting at conferences, conducting county-specific meetings, kicking off grant-related projects, and conducting in-person meetings with guardianship and elder justice stakeholders.

On a national scale, OEJC staff and Advisory Council members attended and presented at conferences and presentations across the country, including in California, Florida, Nevada, and New Mexico. The OEJC also presented virtually in collaboration with representatives from Maryland, Massachusetts, Alaska, Tennessee, and Virginia.

Right: This U.S. map marks states where OEJC staff and AC members presented in person or virtually in educational sessions and workshops.



OEJC DELIVERS A WIDE RANGE OF EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS TO EDUCATE STATEWIDE AND NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS

The Advisory Council’s Education Initiatives Committee and the Alternatives to Guardianship Committee worked with the OEJC to develop training programs on **access to due process, alternatives to guardianship, and more**. A major focus of the educational programs listed below is **Act 61** of 2023, guardianship reform legislation signed into law by Governor Shapiro in December 2023 and effective June 11, 2024. *(More information about Act 61 on page 3.)*

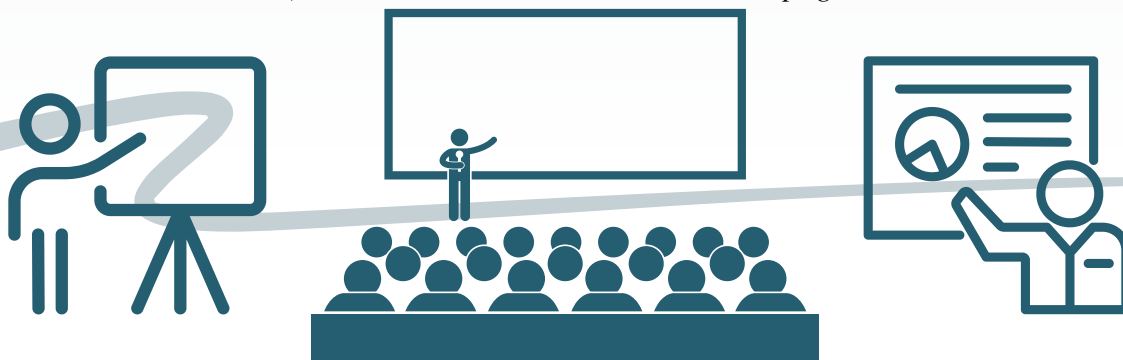
Some of the OEJC and Advisory Council led presentations from 2024 include:

- Presentations by Madame Chief Justice Debra Todd and Advisory Council leadership at the **Conference of Chief Justices and State Court Administrators (CCJ/COSCA)**. *(More information about this presentation on page 16.)*
- Delivered a presentation* at the **National Guardianship Association (NGA)** conference. The presentation focused on guardianship in Pennsylvania and grant funded projects. *(More information about this presentation on page 19.)*
- A presentation at **eCourts** focusing on guardianship innovation.
- In partnership with Judges on the Advisory Council and the Executive Director of the SeniorLAW Center, a presentation at the **National Aging and Law Conference (NALC)** on guardianship in Pennsylvania and projects funded under the grant.
- A presentation* at the **Pennsylvania Register of Wills and Clerk of the Orphans' Court Conference** on the projects funded under the grant (including the LSO Pilot Project, GTS Enhancements, Guardian Handbook, and more) and the impacts of Act 61.
- A presentation* at the **Pennsylvania Association of Area Agencies on Aging (P4A)** director meeting on projects funded under the grant and Act 61.
- A presentation* to the **Dauphin County Bar Association** on the LSO Pilot Project and Act 61.
- A presentation* by webinar through the **Pennsylvania Bar Institute** to more than 100 lawyers across Pennsylvania concerning Act 61.
- Delivered a presentation* at the **Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network's** conference. The presentation focused on the Legal Services Pilot Project.

**indicates grant funded presentation*

Work continued on identifying topics, audiences, and collaborative partners for future educational programs. These programs will support the grant goals of promoting alternatives to guardianship and ensuring due process for AIPs/IPs by addressing related topics with professionals and others who work with older adults and/or guardianships in Pennsylvania.

Additional partners and audiences engaged include: APS, Pennsylvania Department of Aging, University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work, MidPenn Legal Services, and many judges, attorneys, Adult Protective Services (APS) employees, professional and family/lay guardians, social workers. and members of the public from across the Commonwealth. *(More about educational outreach on pages 11, 16, 22, and 25-29.)*



OEJC AND ADVISORY COUNCIL LEADERSHIP PRESENT AT NGA CONFERENCE

In October, The OEJC’s Amy Whitworth and Keith Hinkel Jr. joined Advisory Council members Judge Lois Murphy and Judge Sheila Woods-Skipper in presenting “**How the Courts, Technology, Legislation, and a Federal Grant Impacted Guardianship in Pennsylvania**” at the National Guardianship Association’s (NGA) annual conference in Long Beach, California.



The presentation highlighted the monumental impact of Act 61 as well as projects funded through its ACL grant, and provided guidance to attendees on how to drive guardianship reform in their state. The feedback received from those in attendance was very positive and attendees expressed how impressed they were with the collaboration efforts of so many agencies and interested parties in Pennsylvania to drive significant change in guardianship proceedings.

The OEJC received invitations from other states and agencies to present on the work of the Advisory Council and guardianship-related topics because of the opportunity to present on a national level at the NGA conference. **The OEJC will also be presenting as part of a panel at the NGA’s Colloquium on Guardianship in May of 2025, and at the 2025 NGA Conference in October.**

NGA seeks to protect adults under guardianship by ensuring that their guardians receive quality education and access to resources. The association is recognized as the leading national resource for professional development and has developed national practice standards for individual guardians and guardianship agencies. More information about NGA and the national practice standards can be found at <https://www.guardianship.org/>.

PRO BONO CLE STATISTICS SHOW ATTORNEYS IN PENNSYLVANIA HIGHLY ENGAGED IN VOLUNTEER WORK

PRO BONO CLE Statistics *(as of December 2024)*

*Lawyers reported
for credit:*

603

*CLE credits
reported:*

1,118

*Volunteer hours these
credits represent:*

5,590

REGIONAL COLLABORATION GROUPS HOST INSIGHTFUL LISTENING SESSIONS FOR THE PUBLIC

After the 2023 Pennsylvania Guardianship Justice Summit, regional cohorts agreed to collaborate on self-directed projects going forward (with support and assistance from the OEJC) in Regional Collaboration Groups (RCGs) representing the Northern, Southeastern, Southcentral, and Western regions of the Commonwealth. One goal for each RCG was to host a public listening session on guardianship.

Four RCG listening sessions were held across the commonwealth in April and May 2024 with a combined 288 attendees. All four events offered virtual and in-person attendance options, with in-person meeting locations in *Monroeville, Mechanicsburg, Philadelphia, and Allentown*. The OEJC emailed all guardians with email addresses in the Guardianship Tracking System (GTS) to invite them to their region's listening session. RCG members advertised the event within their communities as well.

While RCG leaders and other members served as panelists at each session, the purpose of these events was to gain feedback from the public in each region, particularly family/lay guardians, family members, and other individuals with experience with Pennsylvania's guardianship system. While each speaker's message was unique, common challenges and areas of need identified by speakers included: education, guardianship monitoring and reporting, and the intersection between guardianship and mental health.

Speakers also described positive experiences and encouraging messages at the listening sessions, including: supportive judges, court staff, local guardianship organizations, and recognition of the meaningful work guardians do to support incapacitated persons each day. Additionally, many speakers cordially expressed appreciation for the opportunity to share their individual experiences and concerns.

The experiences and challenges shared by speakers at the listening sessions has informed the work of the RCGs as well as the efforts of the OEJC.

*Southeastern
Regional
Collaboration Group
Public Listening
Session

Philadelphia*



OEJC CONDUCTS REGIONAL REPORT REVIEWER ROUNDTABLES

In August and September, the OEJC conducted five Regional Report Reviewer Roundtables. Hosted in Butler, Centre, Dauphin, Lackawanna, and Montgomery Counties, the roundtables provided an opportunity for court staff and others tasked with reviewing guardianship reports in GTS to gather and discuss challenges, best practices, and data trends with OEJC staff. All 67 counties supplied the names of staff members involved in the guardianship report review process. All of the staff members identified were invited, with forty-four counties having representation at one of the five roundtables.

The roundtables provided significant takeaways to all who attended. Report reviewers got to hear about a wide range of strategies and techniques utilized in different counties. The OEJC was able to hear firsthand accounts of how reviewers work with guardians, court staff, and judges to ensure that matters raised on reports are promptly and appropriately addressed. Reviewers universally expressed appreciation for the chance to be heard and to connect with their peers to share stories of resolving challenging issues and to share ideas and best practices. The OEJC is designing report reviewer trainings based on the needs expressed by the reviewers present at the roundtables. Attendees at the roundtables also provided feedback on GTS and offered suggestions on how the system could be improved to make a more efficient and user-friendly experience for guardianship report reviewers and guardians. **The OEJC, AOPC IT, and the GTS Governance Committee are reviewing the suggestions for possible implementation, and some of the suggestions are already approved and underway.**



OEJC Assistant Director Keith Hinkel Jr. leads a discussion at the Dauphin County Regional Report Reviewer Roundtable at the PJC.



OEJC Grant Compliance Coordinator Joan Bertone (far right) answers a participant's question at the Dauphin County Regional Report Reviewer Roundtable at the PJC.



Montgomery County regional roundtable participants discuss guardianship practices at the Montgomery County Courthouse.

Amy Whitworth, Director of the OEJC states, “**The OEJC views these very successful roundtables as a positive first step in improving guardianship monitoring in Pennsylvania.** We believe Pennsylvania is positioned to take a great leap forward in the area of guardianship monitoring. The exercise of listening to report reviewers through focus groups has been invaluable in revealing aspects of monitoring that need improvement. We believe that every county, given the proper tools and support, will commit to best guardianship monitoring practices, which will result in better protection of the person under guardianship’s wellbeing and asset security.”

The OEJC looks forward to continued engagement with report reviewers statewide to promote the exchange of ideas, training opportunities, and resource sharing via a newly created report reviewer listserv, which was a suggestion received during the roundtables. The OEJC thanks all of the attendees and their willingness to engage in thoughtful conversations on how all stakeholders can collaborate effectively to improve the guardianship report review process statewide.

OEJC LAUNCHES EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP WITH SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

The OEJC began offering educational programs to guardians, attorneys, judges, court staff, and members of the public in collaboration with the Social Security Administration (SSA), offering the first session in August of 2024 and a second in December. The workshops focus on applying for benefits, rep payees (and their potential to act as an alternative to guardianship), SSI and SSDI benefits, and numerous other related topics.

Organized by the OEJC’s Keith Hinkel Jr. and Robert Campbell, the workshops are led by Frank Magni, a Pennsylvania-based Public Affairs Specialist for the SSA who frequently engages in leading training opportunities. Frank’s presentation makes complex SSA requirements and processes accessible and easier to understand. “Frank’s been an asset to our stakeholders not only through his trainings, but also through his patient and thorough follow-up with the participants,” noted Robert Campbell. “He’s stayed on for up to an hour of Q&A with our participants after the online trainings, and has answered email inquiries from participants for months after the workshop. He is truly devoted to engaging with and educating the public on these matters.” This partnership will continue in 2025.



2024 ELDER JUSTICE LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

The Advisory Council, together with the AOPC's Legislative Affairs Department, provided input and feedback to the legislature on legislation of importance to older Pennsylvanians.



Since the issuance of the Report and Recommendations of the Elder Law Task Force in 2014, and the creation of the Advisory Council and the OEJC, elder-impacting legislation has been a priority. Over the last 10 years, the Advisory Council, through AOPC Legislative Affairs, has worked on numerous bills of interest.

Involvement has ranged from tasks as basic as monitoring and reporting, to more complex activities including pursuing legislation originally recommended in the task force report, providing input on recommendations for necessary legislation identified after issuance of the report, testifying at legislative committees, and working with legislators and staff on bills and amendments of interest, including those introduced in the 2023-24 legislative session.

After a successful 2023, where the Advisory Council was involved in the enactment and implementation of **Act 61** (*see page 5 for more on Act 61*), it sought to build on the success, turning attention to **Slayer Statute** amendments and updates to the **Older Adult Protective Services Act (OAPSA)**. Progress noted below on legislation of interest whether passed in 2024 or not.

EXPANSION OF THE SLAYER STATUTE

Act 40 of 2024 – expands the provisions of Chapter 88 (Slayer Statute) of the Decedents, Estates and Fiduciaries Code to prevent individuals convicted of offenses constituting abuse against an elder victim from benefiting from the estate of the elder, and its expansion was a recommendation of the Elder Law Task Force. The bill defines the term elder abuse to include offenses including assault, sexual offenses, theft, and forgery and fraudulent practices, as well as criminal attempt, solicitation, and conspiracy to commit such offenses when the offense is committed against a person 60 years of age or older. The act became effective on December 29, 2024.

LANDLORD AND TENANT

House Bill 1441 – amends the Landlord and Tenant Act, allowing eligible tenants to terminate a lease prematurely, provided appropriate notice is provided to the landlord, in instances of domestic violence. The landlord would not be allowed to assess fees or penalties under the provisions of the Act. The Bill also defines the terms domestic violence, eligible tenant, immediate family (including the addition of grandparent and grandchild to immediate family), and victim. Passed the House 116-86; but was not considered by the Senate in 2024.

2024 ELDER JUSTICE LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS (CONT.)

OLDER ADULTS PROTECTIVE SERVICES ACT (OAPSA)

Senate Bill 885 – amends OAPSA, creating a statewide registry of perpetrators of abuse in facilities, as that term is defined in the underlying act. The bill was referred to the Senate Aging and Youth Committee with no further action taken.

House Bill 2064 – amends OAPSA, adding a new chapter governing financial institutions. The legislation requires a designated representative of a financial institution to report to the area agency on aging financial exploitation of an older adult. The bill also allows the placement of a temporary hold on proposed transactions as necessary to determine the legitimacy of a transaction. Finally, the legislation requires the creation of internal policies to comply with the new chapter. Passed the House 152-49; but was not considered by the Senate in 2024.

House Bill 2663 – amends Title 35 to codify and overhaul OAPSA, to address the holding in *Peake v. Commonwealth*, 132 A.3d 506 (Cmwlth.2015) that the use of lifetime bans in OAPSA was unconstitutional. The bill allows individuals who have committed disqualifying offenses to seek a waiver of the employment ban and demonstrate that they no longer pose a danger to the health and welfare of care-dependent individuals. Additionally, the bill refines employment bans for individuals convicted of certain crimes, updates background check requirements, requires financial institutions to conduct financial abuse training, expands the definition of mandatory reporters, and improves the investigation processes of AAAs. The bill was referred to the House Aging and Older Adult Services Committee with no further action taken.

DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE TAX NOTIFICATION

House Bill 1646 – amends the Real Estate Tax Sale Law, requiring the Department of Community and Economic Development to develop a designation form for use by a property owner who is an incapacitated adult or older adult to assign a designated individual to receive a notification regarding delinquent real estate taxes on the owner's real property. Passed the House 199-2; but was not considered by the Senate in 2024.



2024 ADVISORY COUNCIL TRAINING PROGRAMS AND EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

January 10, 2024

Pennsylvania Bar Association

Harrisburg, PA

Elder Justice and Pennsylvania's Master Plan for Older Adults

Secretary Jason Kavulich

January 11, 2024

John A. Hartford Foundation

Virtual Training

National Collaboratory to Address Elder Mistreatment

Secretary Jason Kavulich

January 25, 2024

OEJC and Dauphin County Bar Association

Harrisburg, PA

Dauphin County and MidPenn Legal Services Project

Kickoff

Senior Judge Paula Francisco Ott, Mary Catherine Scott, Esq., and Pam Walz, Esq.

February 7, 2024

Pennsylvania Bar Institute Estate and Elder law

Symposium: Healthcare

Virtual Training

Powers of Attorney, Living Wills, and POLST -- Decision-

Making Tools in the Event of Temporary or Permanent

Incapacity, and the Role of Healthcare Agents and

Supported Decision-Making Arrangements in Advance Care

Planning

Grace W. Orsatti, Esq.

February 28-29, 2024

OEJC

Virtual Training

Fundamentals of Guardianship: What Family and

Non-Professional Guardians Need to Know

Keith Hinkel Jr., and Joan Kretchmer

March 6, 2024

Philadelphia Bar Association Delivery of Legal Services

Committee Meeting

Philadelphia, PA

Presentation on Act 61, Including Work of the Advisory

Council

Karen Buck, Esq., and Pam Walz, Esq.

March 16, 2024

Franklin County Bar Association 126th Anniversary Gala

Waynesboro, PA

A Look at the Work of the Elder Law Task Force and

Advisory Council on Elder Justice in the Courts

Madame Chief Justice Debra Todd

March 20-21, 2024

OEJC

Virtual Training

Fundamentals of Guardianship: What Family and

Non-Professional Guardians Need to Know

Keith Hinkel Jr., and Joan Kretchmer

March 26, 2024

Elder Justice Innovation Grant Group

Virtual

Guardianship Monitoring Innovations: Pennsylvania and Alaska

Amy Whitworth

April 4, 2024

OEJC

Monroeville, PA

Adult Guardianship Community Listening Session --

Western Region

Anne John, Esq., Keith Hinkel Jr., and Joan Bertone

April 8, 2024

Pennsylvania Association of Area Agencies on Aging

Virtual Meeting

Discussing Guardianship Listening Sessions to Prep AAAs

to Participate

Rebecca May-Cole



2024 ADVISORY COUNCIL TRAINING PROGRAMS AND EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS (CONT.)

April 9, 2024

**Pennsylvania Law Schools Elder Justice Consortium
Pittsburgh, PA and Virtual**

National Healthcare Decision Day

Grace Orsatti, Esq., and Mary Catherine Scott, Esq.

April 15, 2024

OEJC

Mechanicsburg, PA

***Adult Guardianship Community Listening Session –
Southcentral Region***

Keith Hinkel Jr., and Cole Benko

April 16-17 and May 7-8, 2024

OEJC

Virtual Training

***Fundamentals of Guardianship: What Family and
Non-Professional Guardians Need to Know***

Keith Hinkel Jr., and Joan Kretchmer

May 10, 2024

OEJC

Philadelphia, PA

***Adult Guardianship Community Listening Session –
Southeastern Region***

Keith Hinkel, Jr., Cole Benko, Robert Campbell

May 10, 2024

Schuylkill Elder Abuse Prevention Alliance

Ashland, PA

20th Anniversary and Celebration

Secretary Jason Kavulich

May 14, 2024

Dauphin County Bar Association

Harrisburg, PA

PA Supreme Court's Initiatives to Protect Elders

Amy Whitworth, and Keith Hinkel Jr.

May 17, 2024

**National Aging and Law Conference, sponsored by the
ABA Commission on Law and Aging**

Miami, FL

Judicial Leadership in Transforming Guardianship

Judge Lois Murphy, Judge Sheila Woods-Skipper, and Karen
Buck, Esq.

May 29, 2024

OEJC

Allentown, PA

***Adult Guardianship Community Listening Session –
Northern Region***

Cole Benko, and Robert Campbell

June 4-5, 2024

OEJC

Virtual Training

***Fundamentals of Guardianship: What Family and
Non-Professional Guardians Need to Know***

Keith Hinkel Jr., and Joan Kretchmer

June 12, 2024

**Pennsylvania Association of Area Agencies on Aging
Pittsburgh, PA**

PA Supreme Court's Initiatives to Protect Elders

Rebecca May-Cole, Amy Whitworth, and Keith Hinkel Jr.

June 18, 2024

**Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency
Virtual Training**

The Work of the OEJC and Identifying Elder Abuse

David Shallcross, Amy Whitworth, and Keith Hinkel Jr.

July 9-10, 2023

OEJC

Virtual Training

***Fundamentals of Guardianship: What Family and
Non-Professional Guardians Need to Know***

Keith Hinkel Jr., and Joan Kretchmer

July 14, 2024

**Registers of Wills and Clerks of Orphans' Court
Association**

York, PA

ACL Grant Initiatives and Act 61 of 2023

Senior Judge Paula Francisco Ott, Amy Whitworth, Sonja
Waters, and Robert Campbell



2024 ADVISORY COUNCIL TRAINING PROGRAMS AND EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

July 25, 2025

Pennsylvania State Trial Judges' Conference

Hershey, PA

Guardianship Innovation

Amy Whitworth

July 26, 2024

PBI Elder Law Institute

Harrisburg, PA

Panel Presentation on Guardianship Law Update, Including Work of Advisory Council

Pam Walz, Esq.

August 6-7, 2024

OEJC

Virtual Training

Fundamentals of Guardianship: What Family and Non-Professional Guardians Need to Know

Keith Hinkel Jr., and Joan Kretchmer

August 7, 2024

Conference of Chief Justices / Conference of State Court Administrators

Bend, OR

What Should Guardianship/Conservatorship Look Like in Your State?

Madame Chief Justice Debra Todd

August 7, 2024

Conference of Chief Justices / Conference of State Court Administrators

Bend, OR

Practical Tools to Enhance Guardianship Monitoring

Judge Lois Murphy

August 23, 2024

Beaver County Bar Association

Elwood City, PA

Bench/Bar Roundtable on Act 61 and Guardianship

Judge Dale Fouse

September 17-18, 2024

OEJC

Virtual Training

Fundamentals of Guardianship: What Family and Non-Professional Guardians Need to Know

Keith Hinkel Jr., and Joan Kretchmer

September 18, 2024

Pennsylvania Bar Institute Guardianship & Power of Attorney Conference

Virtual

Guardianship Procedures

Kendra D. McGuire, Esq.

September 19, 2024

Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network (PLAN) Conference

Harrisburg, PA

Pennsylvania Improves Access to Justice and Guardianship Monitoring for Older Adults

Keith Hinkel Jr.

October 8, 2024

AOPC Regional Meetings, Ten County Meeting

Philadelphia, PA

Updates from the OEJC

Robert Campbell

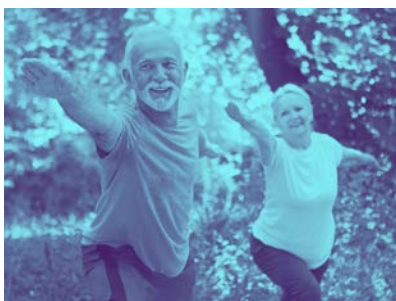
October 14-15, 2024

OEJC

Virtual Training

Fundamentals of Guardianship: What Family and Non-Professional Guardians Need to Know

Keith Hinkel Jr., and Joan Kretchmer



2024 ADVISORY COUNCIL TRAINING PROGRAMS AND EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

October 20, 2024

National Guardianship Association

Long Beach, CA

*How the Courts, Technology, Legislation, and a Federal Grant
Impacted Guardianship in Pennsylvania*

Judge Lois Murphy, Judge Sheila Woods-Skipper, Amy
Whitworth, and Keith Hinkel Jr.

October 24, 2024

AOPC Regional Meetings

Updates from the OEJC

Keith Hinkel Jr.

November 7 and 14, 2024

AOPC Continuing Judicial Education

Virtual Training

Guardianship Reform Legislation Part 1 and Part 2

Senior Judge Paula Francisco Ott, Judge Lois Murphy, Judge
Sheila Woods-Skipper, and Judge Dale Fouse

November 14, 2024

**Pennsylvania Department of Banking and Securities
Springdale, PA**

Act 61: Alternatives to Guardianship

Keith Hinkel, Jr.

November 19, 2024

PA Law Schools' Elder Justice Consortium

Hershey, PA

The Work of the Advisory Council and OEJC

Mary Catherine Scott, Esq., Grace Orsatti, Esq., and Keith
Hinkel Jr.

December 5, 2024

Pennsylvania Department of Aging

Virtual Presentation

The Courts' Role in Act 61 of 2023

Judge Murphy, Amy Whitworth, Keith Hinkel Jr., and Althia
Bennett, Esq.

December 6, 2024

AOPC Regional Meetings - Western Regional Unit

Washington, PA

Updates from the OEJC

Joan Bertone

December 11, 2024

eCourts

Las Vegas, NV

*Innovative Guardianship Improvements: Enhancing
Electronic Systems to Better Support Court Monitoring*

Amy Whitworth

2024 PRESENTATIONS TO THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON ELDER JUSTICE

February, 2024

Scranton's Older Adult Advocacy Center

Nancy Barrasse, Esq., Sara McDonald, Kerri Anzulewicz,
Jennifer Passaniti, Brian Duke, and Helen Schmid

September, 2024

Presentation on Domestic Violence in Older Populations

Jamie Pizzi, Kathy Sauter, Cassandra Reed, and Lindy Keefe

November, 2024

Presentation on the Work of the Law School Consortium

Grace Orsatti, Esq., and Mary Catherine Scott, Esq.





**ADVISORY COUNCIL on ELDER JUSTICE
&
OFFICE of ELDER JUSTICE in the COURTS**

MAILING ADDRESS:

Pennsylvania Judicial Center
601 Commonwealth Avenue
P.O. Box 62307
Harrisburg, PA 17106

OFFICE ADDRESS:

Pennsylvania Judicial Center
601 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 1500
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Tel: 717-231-3300

Email: oejc@pacourts.us

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT

www.pacourts.us/judicial-administration/court-programs/office-of-elder-justice-in-the-courts

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