



JEAB | JUDICIAL ETHICS
ADVISORY BOARD

Promoting Confidence through Guidance

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



A Message From The Board Chair

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am pleased to present the 2025 Annual Report of the Pennsylvania Judicial Ethics Advisory Board (JEAB). Established by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in 2022, the JEAB advances judicial independence by promoting proactive ethical guidance, accountability, and public trust. This Report reflects our ongoing contribution to that mission, and we are honored to serve Pennsylvania's judicial officers as an independent advisory body.

The JEAB remains committed to providing prompt, practical, and consistent guidance to judges and judicial candidates across all levels of the judiciary. Each request represents an individual confronting an ethics dilemma—often urgent and complex—and striving to “do the right thing.” Every inquiry is an opportunity to support members of the judiciary in meeting their ethical obligations with confidence and clarity.

Each year, hundreds of judicial officers seek guidance from the Board, demonstrating the trust placed in the JEAB as a reliable resource. Since its inception, the Board has strengthened its structure, expanded membership, and enhanced administrative support to fulfill its mission effectively. Our work is continuous, and our dedicated volunteers devote substantial time and care to thoughtfully addressing each inquiry.

The Board also provides robust educational programming throughout the Commonwealth, offering proactive guidance and practical instruction designed to prevent ethical missteps and support judges as they navigate evolving challenges. These efforts reinforce our advisory role and strengthen the judiciary as a whole.

As I complete my second term as Chairperson, this will be my final Annual Report in that role.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as Chairperson since the Board's inception and to witness its growth and maturation. I would like to recognize and thank our Vice Chair, President Judge Stephen P.B. Minor, for his exceptional service over the past four years. His leadership, insight, and unwavering commitment to the Board's mission have been invaluable. As Judge Minor and I step down from our respective roles, I am grateful for the collaboration we have shared, and I have full confidence in the Board's continued success.

I also extend my sincere appreciation to our volunteer Board members, Executive Director, and dedicated staff. Their professionalism, integrity, and commitment are the foundation of the JEAB's reputation as a trusted resource across the Commonwealth.

I am confident that the JEAB is well-positioned to continue its important work with the same dedication, excellence, and fidelity to its mission in the coming years.

Sincerely,



HON. LINDA ROVDER FLEMING, *Chair*

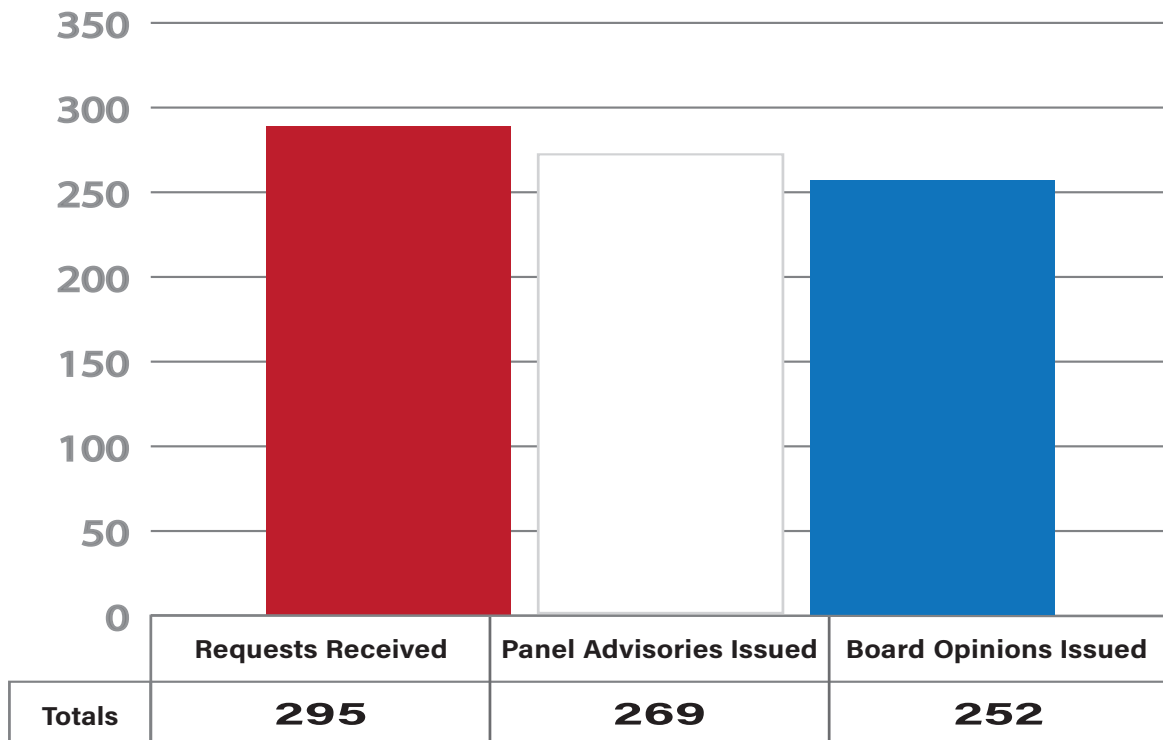
Mission Statement

“To ensure the continued integrity and public trust of Pennsylvania’s Judiciary, the Judicial Ethics Advisory Board shall, upon request, provide Advice and/or Opinions to any Judicial Officer or judicial candidate based upon the Codes.”

Prompt | Reliable | Consistent

The Judicial Ethics Advisory Board (“JEAB” or “Board”) operates as a unified, independent body distinct from the adjudicatory and investigative functions of the Judicial Conduct Board and the Court of Judicial Discipline. The Supreme Court has designated the Board as the approved body to render advice, opinions, and guidance regarding ethical conduct of both judicial officers and judicial candidates, subject to the Code of Judicial Conduct and/or the Rules Governing Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges.

Comprehensive 2025 Annual Summary



Authority of the Board

Pursuant to its constitutional, statutory, and inherent authority as set forth in Section 10(c) of Article V of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and in 42 Pa.C.S. Sections 1722 and 1723, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania established the Judicial Ethics Advisory Board by Order dated January 14, 2022.

The Court's establishment of the Board reflects its commitment to judicial independence through proactive ethical guidance, judicial accountability, and the preservation of the public's trust in the judiciary.

Responsibilities and Functions of the Board

In furtherance of its mandate, the Board is charged with the authority and responsibility to:

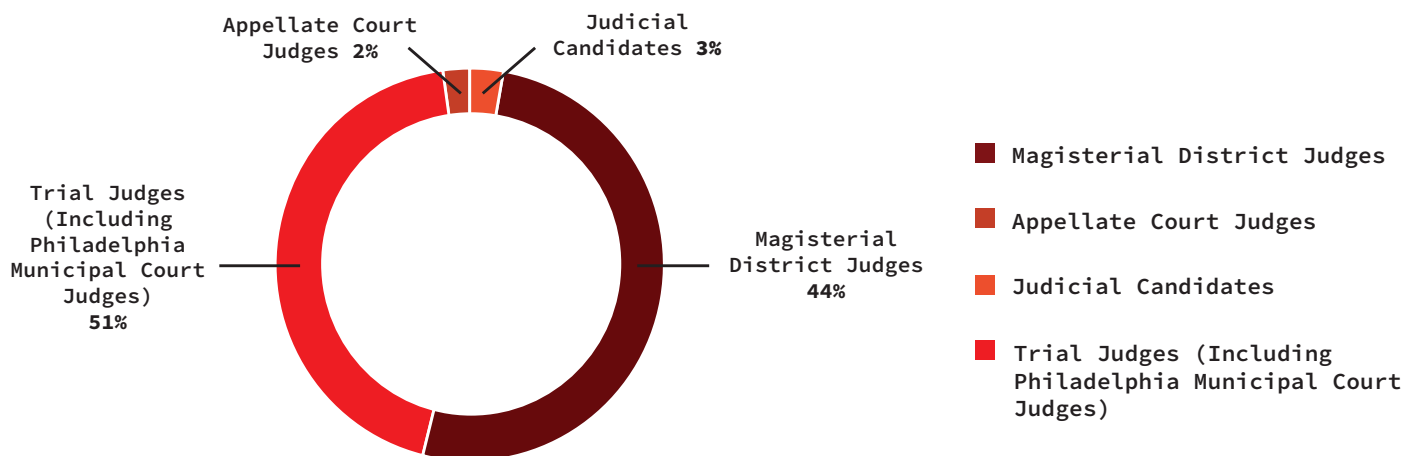
- Render advisory opinions concerning proper judicial conduct under the applicable Codes and Rules of Judicial Ethics.
- Adopt regulations and procedural guidelines governing its internal operations and advisory processes.
- Participate in and support judicial education initiatives addressing ethical standards and emerging issues.
- Recommend amendments to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania regarding the Codes and Rules of Judicial Ethics when appropriate.
- Suggest educational topics and initiatives to the Continuing Judicial Education Board and the Minor Judiciary Education Board to enhance ethics-based training.
- Perform additional duties as may be requested by the Supreme Court consistent with its advisory function.
- Submit an annual report summarizing its activities, advisory opinions, educational efforts, and other initiatives undertaken during the reporting period.

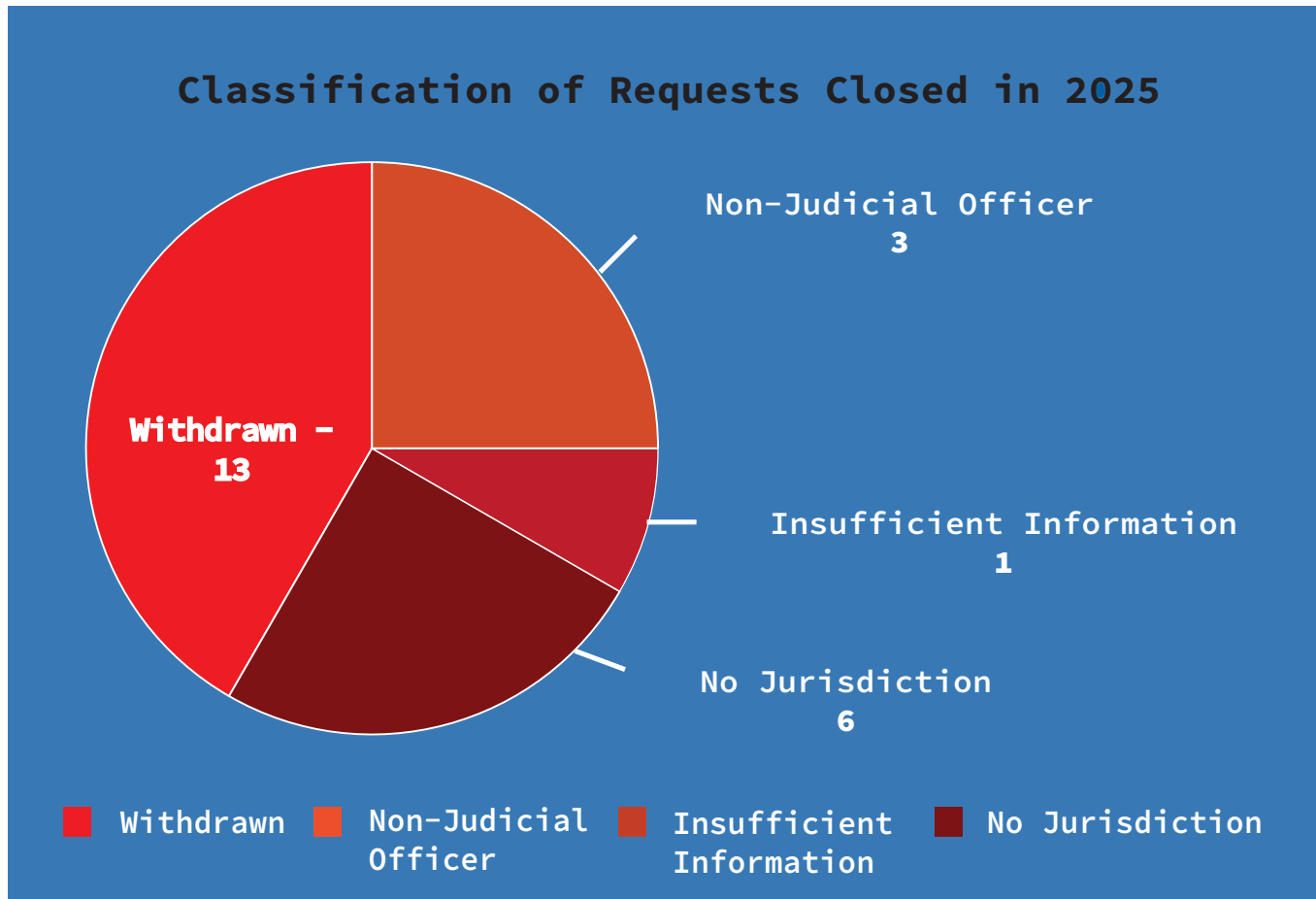
How Does the JEAB Work?

The Judicial Ethics Advisory Board (JEAB) operates independent from the Judicial Conduct Board and the Court of Judicial Discipline by providing Judicial Officers with Advisory Opinions which carry the "Rule of Reliance" to assist judges with navigating ethical concerns while fulfilling their judicial duties and obligations.

A Judicial Officer seeking the Rule of Reliance regarding their duties and obligations pursuant to the Canons and Rules of judicial ethics must first submit a written Request for an Advisory Opinion. Requests may be sent via U.S. Mail, or more commonly, via email to JEAB@pacourts.us. A request is then assigned to a Panel of three (3) Members of the JEAB, at least one of which is of the same level of the judiciary as the Judicial Officer seeking guidance (i.e., the Requesting Judicial Officer or "RJO"). To ensure the confidentiality of the RJO, all Requests are assigned a series of identifying numbers which are utilized to identify the Panel Advisory as it progresses through the advisory process. A Judge's name, location/county, court, etc., is redacted from both public and the Board's view, such that only staff has knowledge as to the identity of the RJO. At no time will staff intentionally disclose the identity of the RJO absent an explicit and expressed waiver by the RJO in writing or when the Chair of the Board believes disclosure is necessary for a sufficient clear and convincing reason. Just as the RJO's identity is confidential, so too is the composition of the Advisory Panel and such composition will not be disclosed except to Members and staff of the JEAB.

Levels of Judicial Officers Seeking an Advisory Opinion in 2025





Once the Panel reaches a consensus as to the Panel Advice, it is issued to the RJO in the same manner in which the Request was received (i.e., email or U.S. mail). Following issuance to the RJO, the Panel Advice is forwarded to all Board Members, including those serving on the Panel, for review and comment. The Board will then vote to adopt, modify, or reverse the Panel Advice as a Board Opinion.

Pursuant to Pa.R.J.E.A.B. Rule 207, once issued, the RJO can submit a written Request for reconsideration within twenty days of the issuance of the Board's Opinion. Any Request for reconsideration must include a detailed explanation setting forth the reason why the Opinion should be reconsidered. A Request for reconsideration will delay the publication of an Opinion but will not affect the Rule of Reliance unless reconsideration is granted by the Board. The Board may reconsider an Opinion if a material error of law or fact has been made; or when new facts are provided which would lead to reversal or modification of the Opinion and those facts could not be or were not discovered by the exercise of due diligence.

What is the “Rule of Reliance”?

The Rule of Reliance serves as a foundational safeguard within Pennsylvania’s judicial ethics framework. It ensures that Judicial Officers who proactively seek ethical guidance from the Judicial Ethics Advisory Board (JEAB) are afforded meaningful protection should disciplinary proceedings later arise.

To invoke the Rule of Reliance, a Judicial Officer must submit a written Request for an Advisory Opinion to the Board. Although Advisory Opinions are not binding upon adjudicatory bodies, actions taken in good-faith reliance upon the Board’s conclusions must be considered if discipline is pursued by the Judicial Conduct Board of Pennsylvania, the Court of Judicial Discipline of Pennsylvania, or the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. Governing Authority – Rule 206.

Scope of Protection

The scope and effect of reliance protections are set forth in Pa.R.J.E.A.B. Rule 206 (Rules of Reliance), as amended by Order of the Supreme Court on February 28, 2024.

Prior to the February 2024 amendment, if a Panel Advisory was later modified or reversed before formal adoption by the Board, reliance on that Advice was merely “taken into account” by disciplinary authorities. This standard provided limited protection during the interim period between issuance of Panel Advice and adoption as a Board Opinion.

The February 28, 2024, amendment materially strengthened these protections. Under the revised Rule 206:

- Reliance upon a Panel Advisory or Board Opinion is now afforded “substantial weight” in disciplinary proceedings.
- This substantial weight applies even if the Advisory Opinion is later modified or reversed, provided the Judicial Officer acted in reliance prior to such modification or reversal.
- The Court’s amendment recognizes the practical reality that Judicial Officers frequently take action upon receipt of Panel Advice, often before formal Board adoption. By directing that both Panel Advisories and Board Opinions receive substantial weight, the Supreme Court meaningfully reinforced the integrity and effectiveness of the advisory process under the Pennsylvania Rules of the Judicial Ethics Advisory Board.



FORMAL GUIDANCE

When a Judicial Officer seeks and complies with formal written guidance issued by the Board, such compliance is entitled to substantial weight in determining whether discipline should be recommended or imposed.

Although the term “substantial weight” is not specifically defined within the Rule, it reflects a heightened and meaningful level of deference. The protection afforded by the Rule of Reliance is not merely symbolic; its importance was most recently underscored by the Court of Judicial Discipline in a published Opinion emphasizing the value of a Judicial Officer’s proactive request for advisory guidance.



GENERAL GUIDANCE

Where a Judicial Officer complies with General Guidance issued by the Board, such compliance may be taken into account in disciplinary determinations.



INFORMAL COMMUNICATIONS

Informal or informational discussions with Board Members or Board staff do not qualify for consideration under the Rule of Reliance.



LIMITS OF PROTECTION

For the Rule of Reliance to apply, the Judicial Officer must seek his or her own Advisory Opinion. A Judicial Officer may not rely upon an Advisory or Opinion issued to another Judicial Officer—even where the factual circumstances appear identical. Reliance protections attach only to the requesting Judicial Officer who has sought and received guidance specific to his or her inquiry.

About Our Work

The Board received an average of 25 formal Requests for ethics guidance per month during 2025, varying slightly from the monthly average of 21 reported for years 2022-2024. This number does not include informal phone conversations, email, text messaging and/or in-person conversations. Not only does the staff of the JEAB engage in such discussions, but Board Members are frequently contacted directly by their colleagues to discuss issues of judicial ethics. Informal or informational only discussions do not carry the Rule of Reliance (Pa.R.J.E.A.B. 206(d)) and because of that, following any informal conversation, a Judicial Officer is always encouraged to submit a formal Request for an Advisory Opinion.



293

Requests Received
Via Email in 2025



2

Requests Received
Via US Mail in 2025

What are Judges asking?

The top three topics or areas of inquiry are:

1

Extrajudicial Activities

2

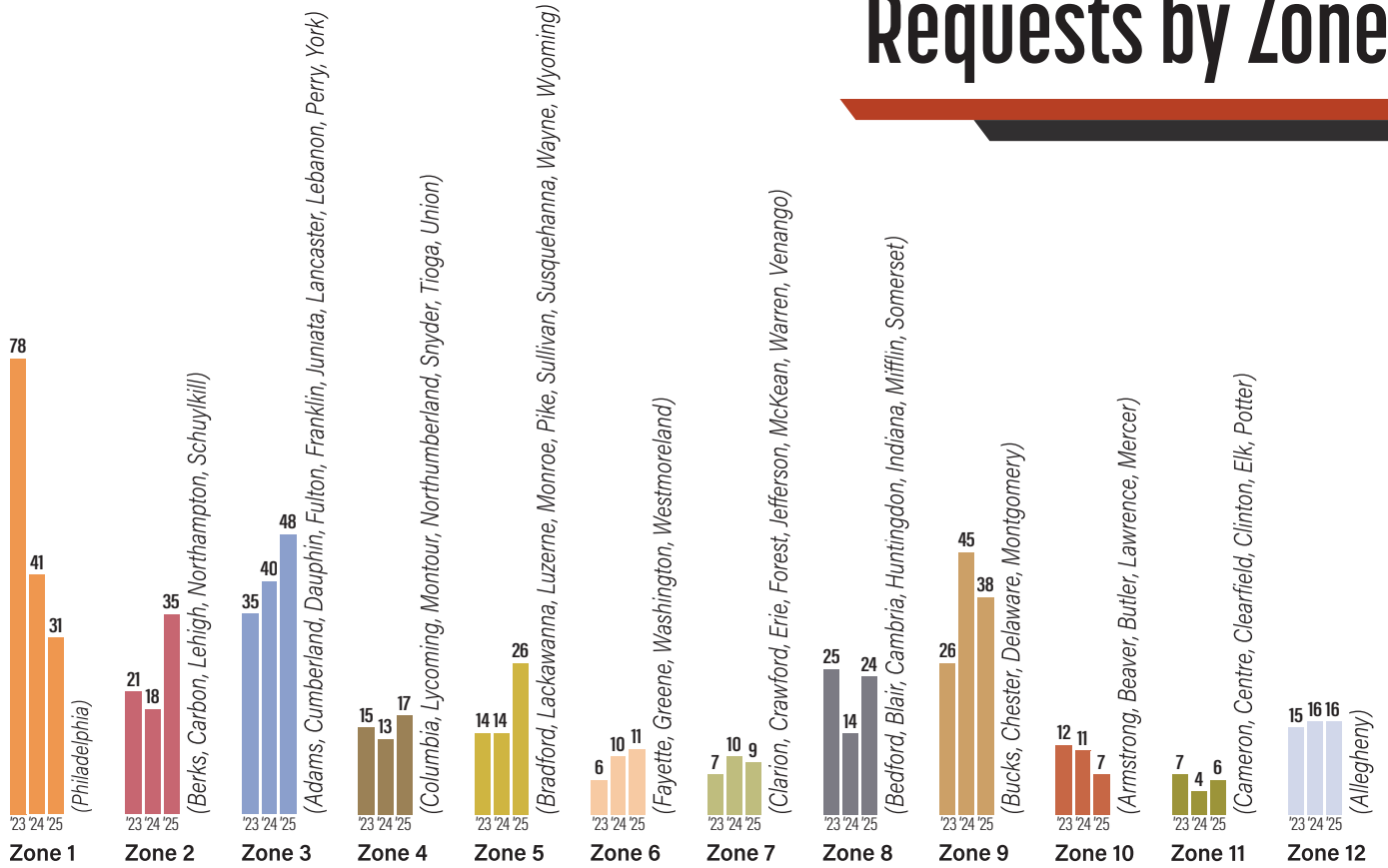
Avoiding impropriety
and the appearance of
impropriety

3

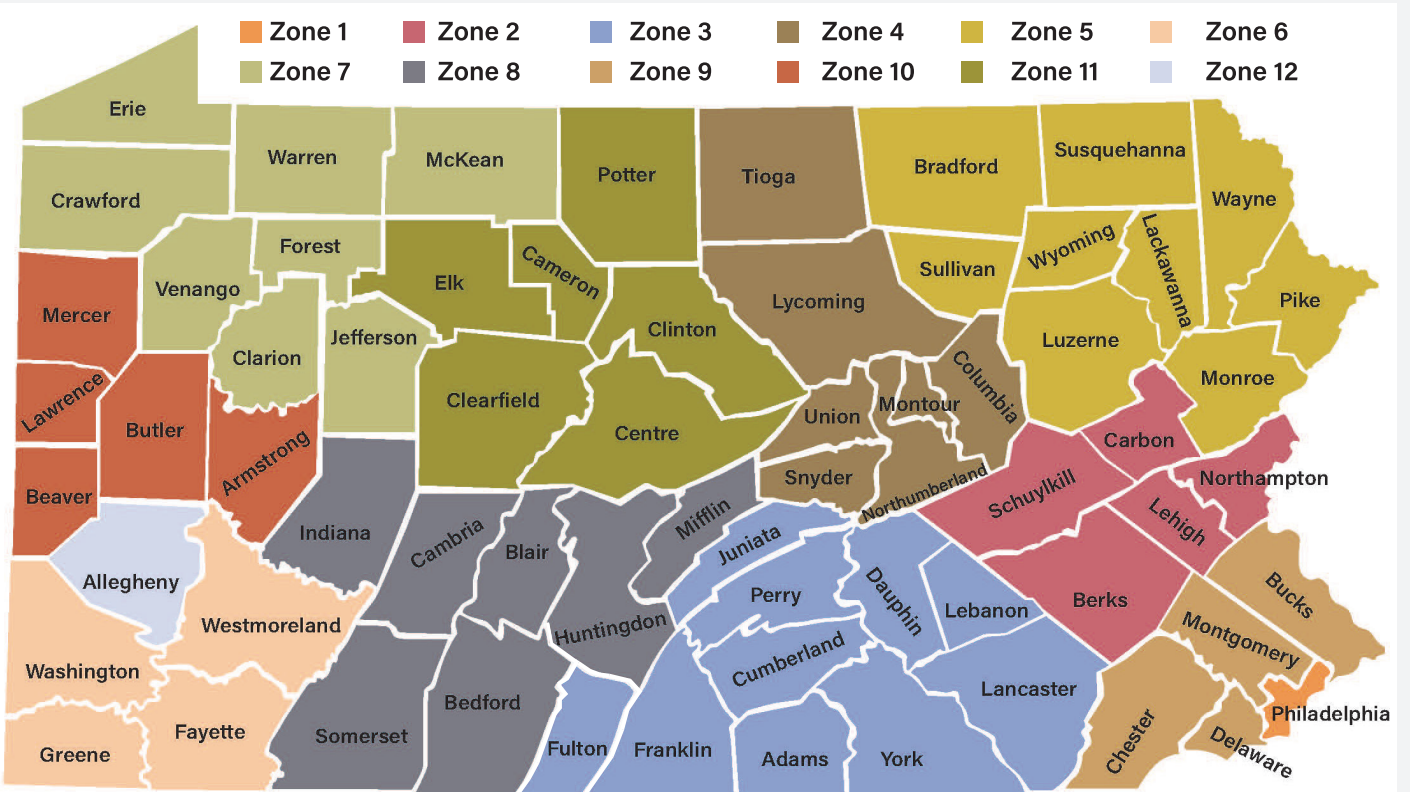
Recusal and
Disqualification

As would be expected, the most frequently cited sections of the Code/Rules within Board Opinions are: Rule 3.7 Participation in Educational, Religious, Charitable, Fraternal or Civic Organizations and Activities / Rule 3.1 Extrajudicial Activities in General; Rule 1.3 Avoiding Abuse of the Prestige of Judicial Office / Rule 1.2 Promoting Confidence in the Judiciary; and Rule 2.11 Disqualification / Rule 2.7 Responsibility to Decide.

Requests by Zone



Pa Zoning Map



Request Procedure

Any Judicial Officer may request an ethics Advisory Opinion (i.e., "Request"). A Request must be submitted to the Board in writing. The overwhelming majority of Requests received by the Board are via email, which allows for rapid receipt, processing, and response. In fact, during calendar year 2025, on average, the Board issued an Advisory Opinion within 7 calendar days of receiving a Judicial Officer's Request.



5

Average number of calendar days between receipt of an **Exigent Request** and issuance of a Panel Advisory



7

Average number of calendar days between receipt of a **General Request** and issuance of a Panel Advisory

A Request must contain a statement of the facts regarding the intended conduct and a concise question of judicial ethics, with references to the relevant section(s) of the Codes, case law, and other authority the inquiring Judicial Officer has already consulted. A Request must relate to the inquiring Judicial Officer's own prospective conduct or conduct of the inquiring Judicial Officer that has occurred in the past and is ongoing. A Request may not relate to hypothetical situations or to facts that are the subject of past or pending litigation, disciplinary investigation, or disciplinary proceedings. Pa.J.E.A.B. 201.

A Request must be submitted at least 14 days prior to the event or action giving rise to the question. The Board Chair or the Chair's designee may, in his or her discretion, waive the 14-day requirement if the Chair or the Chair's designee determines that the circumstances giving rise to the Request were not reasonably foreseeable and that the inquiry can be addressed in the time available.

Exigent Circumstances

When circumstances require an immediate response to a question of judicial ethics, Judicial Officers may initiate an Exigent Request by contacting Board staff via telephone at 717-705-1785, by email to JEAB@pacourts.us, or by any other expedient means available to the Judicial Officer. An Exigent Request should include all information required under the Rules and Regulations of the Board. If the Judicial Officer relays the information orally, the Judicial Officer shall immediately commit the Request to writing, directed to staff.

Upon receiving an Exigent Request (including an oral Request), staff will convene a Panel as provided by the Rules. Upon receiving a 2/3 or greater consensus, the Advice of the Panel will be conveyed to the Requesting Judicial Officer, usually via telephone. The Requesting Judicial Officer may act upon that Advice as it has been rendered by a Panel pursuant to the Rules and Regulations of the Board. A formal Panel Advisory will be issued to the Requesting Judicial Officer as soon as practicable, usually within 3-5 business days. A failure to reduce the Request to writing precludes the JEAB from issuing the Requesting Judicial Officer a Panel Advisory, even if the Advice of the Panel has already been conveyed orally.

289

Judicial Officers
Requested
Guidance
in 2025

81

Judicial Officers
Requested Guidance
for Exigent Panel
Advice in 2025

Requests for Advisory Opinions Received by Month in 2025

Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
21	20	31	31	21	18	20	20	29	37	22	26

Outreach and Education

During calendar year 2025, 289 of Pennsylvania's approximately 1,027 Judicial Officers sought an Advisory Opinion from the Board, meaning nearly 28% of the Commonwealth's jurists received prompt, reliable, and consistent guidance regarding their judicial ethics obligations. In addition to these commissioned judges, the Board processed dozens of additional Requests from judicial candidates, including both incumbents and individuals seeking election to different judicial offices.

Beyond issuing Advisory Opinions, the Judicial Ethics Advisory Board (JEAB) is also responsible for developing and participating in judicial ethics education and for recommending educational topics to the Continuing Judicial Education Board and the Minor Judiciary Education Board. In 2025, Board Members and its Executive Director and staff collectively delivered more than 50 hours of judicial ethics instruction to audiences across all levels of Pennsylvania's Unified Judicial System. The vast majority of these presentations were conducted in-person and qualified for Continuing Judicial Education (CJE) and/or Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credit.

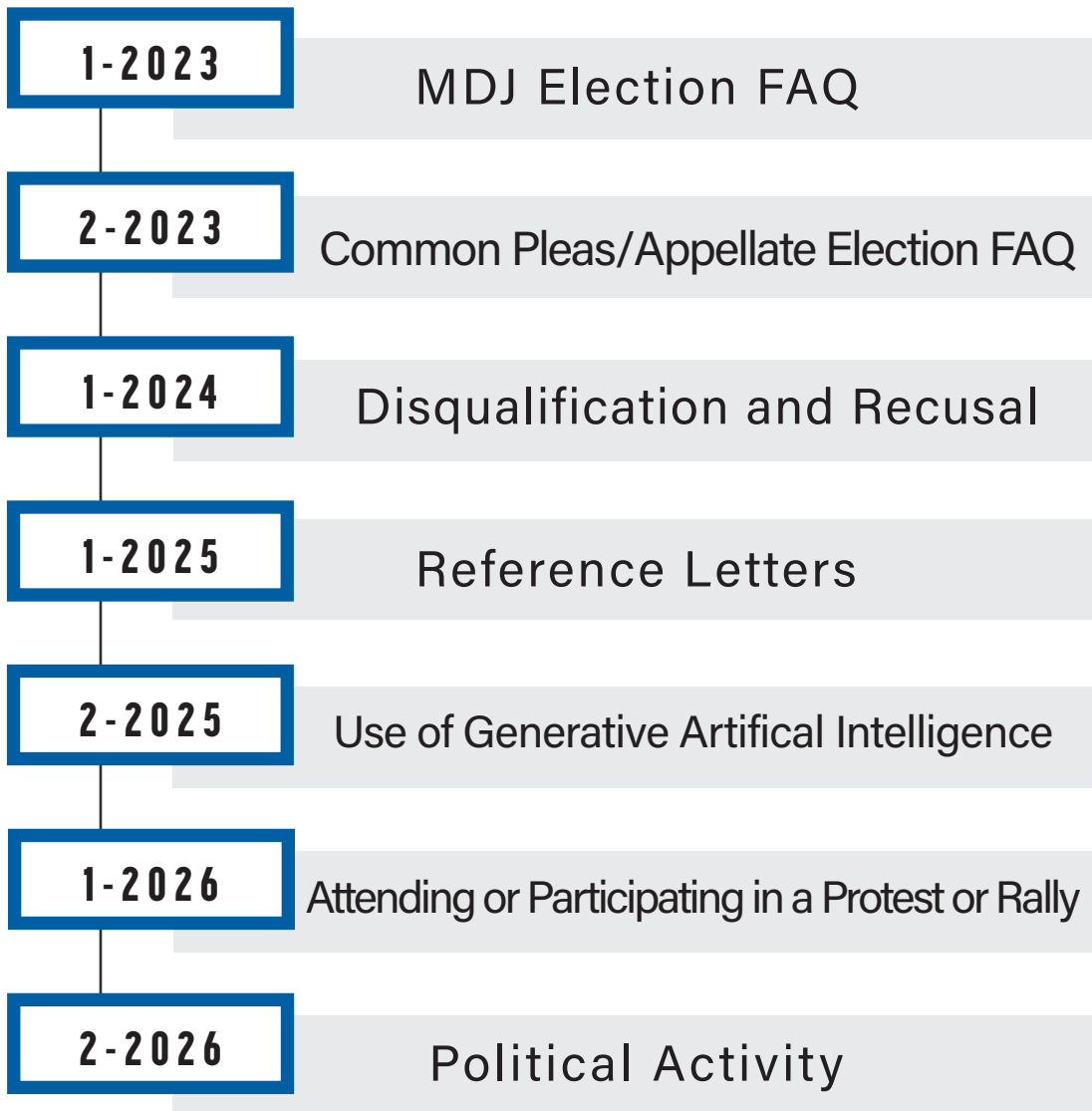
Under the governing rules, the Board must also develop a judicial ethics training program that each Board Member must complete before beginning service. Pa.R.J.E.A.B. 104(d)(4). In anticipation of new appointees in 2026 and recognizing limitations in the prior program, the Board created a new training curriculum consisting of twelve educational videos ranging from seven to twenty minutes each, totaling nearly two and one-half hours of instruction. This program was produced at no cost and will support the orientation of new Members for years to come.

The Board also maintains pocket-sized editions of the Code of Judicial Conduct and the Rules Governing Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges for distribution to Judicial Officers as a way of making the Rules of judicial ethics more accessible. Nearly 2,000 copies have been distributed. In 2025, the Board also corrected and refined minor stylistic elements in these booklets and contracted with a government-approved printer to produce updated copies to replenish the now-depleted inventory.



General Ethics Guidance

The Board has issued General Ethics Guidance (General Guidance) on relevant topics and frequently asked questions, such as:



Scan for access to our
General Guidance



Budget

Board Members are not compensated for their service but are eligible for reimbursement of actual expenses incurred in the performance of Board duties. The Board’s Administrative costs and personnel expenses deemed necessary for operation are fixed by the Court Administrator of Pennsylvania and paid out of funds appropriated to the Judicial Branch by the General Assembly. Annual funding provides for reimbursement of Board Member expenses, staff salaries and benefits, as well as operational and fixed expenses. Presently, the Board does not anticipate any significant increase in expenses (operational or personnel) for fiscal year 2026-2027.

For the 2025-2026 fiscal year (July 1, 2025- June 30, 2026), the General Assembly appropriated \$259,000 for judicial ethics. Because actual expenses exceeded the appropriated funding, a transfer from Act 49 fees of \$556,000 was necessary to maintain operations of the Board. For the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the Governor has proposed an approximate 42% increase to the Board’s budget for a total appropriation of \$369,000. Ideally the Board’s budget appropriation would be such that supplemental funding from Act 49 fees would not be necessary to continue operations.

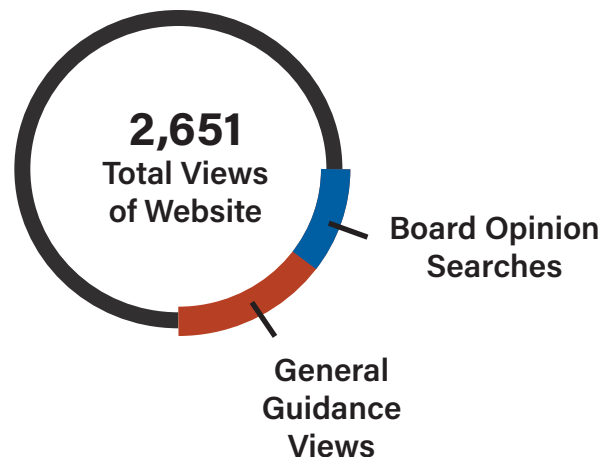
2025-2026 Budgets (in thousands)

Fiscal Year	Amount Appropriated	Act 49 Supplement
2025-2026	\$259	\$556

**Rounded to the nearest thousand.*

Board Website

The Board’s website - <https://JEAB.pacourts.us> - includes information regarding Advisory Opinions, General Guidance as well as frequently asked questions concerning the Board. During 2025 the Board’s webpage had 2,651 views across 1,058 users, which included 1,882 views of the Website itself, 335 Opinion searches, and 369 General Guidance views. To obtain access to the Board’s Opinion database, any Judicial Officer may contact the Board at JEAB@pacourts.us to request a password.



Confidentiality

Encouraging Judicial Officers to seek ethics opinions and advice from the Board promotes ethical conduct and the fair administration of justice. Therefore, the following confidentiality requirements apply to Requests and other matters before the Board.

With the exception of Opinions and General Ethics Guidance published by the Board under Rules 204(b) (Publication of Board Opinions) and (c) (General Ethics Guidance), all Opinions, inquiries, replies, circulated drafts, records, documents, writings, files, communications with staff, work product of the Board or staff, and deliberations and proceedings of the Board are confidential.

Members of the Board and staff may not disclose (outside the Board or staff) any confidential information, including identifying information, obtained by the Board or staff.

Waiver of Confidentiality by Judicial Officer

A Judicial Officer may waive confidentiality by doing so in written communication to the Board. Notwithstanding any such waiver, Board deliberations and all other records concerning the Request shall remain confidential.



Board Members

On April 1, 2022, the Supreme Court appointed nine individuals to serve as the inaugural Members of the Judicial Ethics Advisory Board. Terms for these Members were staggered at two, four and six-year terms. Thereafter, any new appointment to the Board would be a single six-year term. Shortly after initiating operations, it was evident that the Requests for Advisory Opinions far exceeded expectations and recognizing the greater than anticipated demand on Members, the Court authorized an expansion in Board Membership by appointing four additional Members on March 31, 2023, bringing the Board's complement to thirteen.

In 2024, the first of the staggered Members' terms expired. With the Board still in its infancy, a request was made to the Supreme Court to amend the Rules of the JEAB to allow Members who were appointed for an initial term of less than six years, or who were appointed to fill a vacancy, to be eligible for reappointment. This amendment was approved and thus far four Members (three in 2024 and one in 2025) were reappointed to the Board. Although Members may be reappointed, no Member may be reappointed more than once or serve on the Board for more than 10 years.

All JEAB Board Members serve voluntarily, in addition to other judicial and personal responsibilities.

When a vacancy occurs, the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges ("PCSTJ") submits three candidates for each vacancy to be filled by a judge of a common pleas court or a judge of the Philadelphia Municipal Court and likewise the Special Court Judges Association of Pennsylvania ("SCJAP") will submit three nominees for each Board position to be filled by a Magisterial District Judge to the Chief Justice. The Supreme Court proceeds to select appointees for those positions from the names submitted.

While amending the operating Rules of the Board, the Supreme Court also clarified and solidified the terms and eligibility of the Board's Chair and Vice Chair directing that appointments shall be for a two-year period unless otherwise stated and that eligible appointees shall have served as Board Members for at least one year prior to appointment as Chair or Vice Chair.

On March 27, 2024, both the Honorable Linda Rovder Fleming and the Honorable Stephen P.B. Minor were reappointed as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, of the Board for a two-year period.

Membership of the JEAB

- 1 – Judge of the Superior Court
- 1 – Judge of the Commonwealth Court
- 4 – Judges of the Court of Common Pleas
- 1 – Judge of the Philadelphia Municipal Court
- 4 – Magisterial District Judges
- 1 – One Retired Judge from any level of the judiciary
- 1 – One Member of the Pennsylvania Bar who is not a Judicial Officer

Superior Court Judge Member

Honorable Victor P. Stabile
 Superior Court of Pennsylvania
 Commenced Service: April 1, 2022 |
 Term Expires April 1, 2028

Commonwealth Court Judge Member

Honorable Lori A. Dumas
 Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania
 Commenced Service: April 1, 2022 |
 Term Expires April 1, 2028

Common Pleas Judge Members

Honorable Linda Rovder Fleming
 (Chair of the Judicial Ethics Advisory Board)
 Court of Common Pleas of Cambria County
 Commenced Service: April 1, 2022 | Reappointed
 March 27, 2024 | Term Expires April 1, 2030

Honorable Stephen P.B. Minor
 (Vice Chair of the Judicial Ethics Advisory Board)
 Court of Common Pleas of Potter County
 Commenced Service: April 1, 2022 |
 Term Expires April 1, 2028

Honorable Leonard G. Brown, III
 Court of Common Pleas of Lancaster County
 Commenced Service: January 26, 2026 |
 Term Expires April 1, 2027

Honorable Edward D. Reibman
 Court of Common Pleas of Lehigh County
 Commenced Service: April 1, 2022 |
 Term Expired December 31, 2025

Honorable Stella M. Tsai
 Court of Common Pleas Orphans' Court,
 Philadelphia
 Commenced Service: April 1, 2023 |
 Term Expired December 31, 2025

Honorable Evan S. Williams, III
 Court of Common Pleas of Bradford County
 Commenced Service: January 26, 2026 |
 Term Expires April 1, 2032

Municipal Court Judge Members

Honorable Bradley K. Moss
 Philadelphia Municipal Court
 Commenced Service: April 6, 2023 |
 Term Expires April 1, 2026

Magisterial District Judge Members

Honorable David J. Barton
 Magisterial District Judge, District Court 05-2-17
 Commenced Service: April 1, 2022 |
 Reappointed March 27, 2024 | Term Expires April
 1, 2030

Honorable Jennifer J.P. Clancy
 Magisterial District Judge, District Court 19-2-05
 Commenced Service: April 1, 2022 |
 Term Expires April 1, 2026

Honorable Mark D. Double
 Magisterial District Judge, District Court 07-2-02
 Commenced Service: April 1, 2023 |
 Term Expires April 1, 2027

Honorable Katherine E. McGill
 Magisterial District Judge, District Court 38-1-08
 Commenced Service: April 1, 2023 |
 Term Expires April 1, 2029

Retired Judge Member

Honorable Maureen E. Lally-Green
 (Retired Superior Court of Pennsylvania)
 Commenced Service: April 1, 2023 | Reappointed
 January 17, 2025 | Term Expires April 1, 2031

Attorney Member

Honorable Jayne F. Duncan
 Commenced Service: April 1, 2022 | Reappointed
 March 27, 2024 | Term Expires April 1, 2030

Board Staff

Brian D. Jacisin, Executive Director
 Holly A. Mishkin, Administrative Coordinator
 Tiffany A. Morris, Assistant Counsel
 Kasey Zelenka, Administrative Assistant

Judicial Ethics Advisory Board Members' Biographies

The Honorable Linda Rovder Fleming is President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Cambria County. She was elected in 2009, retained in 2019, and became President Judge in 2024. She is the first female judge in the County's history. Judge Fleming presided over the Family Law Division for 16 years, and she continues to handle family law cases and to oversee the Mental Health Treatment Court in addition to her administrative duties. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Fleming practiced family law for 22 years, including 18 years as a partner with Ayres, Ayres & Fleming in Johnstown. She also served as a part-time Assistant Public Defender for Cambria County from 1989 to 1994. Judge Fleming is a 1985 graduate of the Pennsylvania State University and a 1988 graduate of The Dickinson School of Law, where she served as Articles Editor of The Dickinson Law Review. Judge Fleming served on the Judicial Ethics Committee of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges beginning January 1, 2011, including as its Chairperson beginning in October 2020. Judge Fleming's service on the Judicial Ethics Committee ended on July 1, 2022, when the Judicial Ethics Advisory Board (JEAB) succeeded the Committee as the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's designated body to render ethics advice to members of the Pennsylvania judiciary. On April 1, 2022, the Supreme Court appointed Judge Fleming to a two-year term on the JEAB as its Chairperson. On March 27, 2024, the Supreme Court reappointed Judge Fleming to a six-year term, including a second two-year term as Chairperson. As an attorney, Judge Fleming served on the Pennsylvania Bar Association Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility Committee. Judge Fleming is a frequent speaker on judicial ethics, legal writing, and family law issues for the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges, including its school for new judges, and other organizations.

The Honorable Stephen P. B. Minor is the President Judge on the Potter County Court of Common Pleas in Pennsylvania. He received

a Bachelor of Arts degree from Mansfield University in 1982 and a Juris Doctor from Oral Roberts University Law School in 1986. President Judge Minor was admitted to the Pennsylvania Bar in 1986. He was a Member of the Washington County Bar Association from 1986-1991, Associate Attorney with Binotto, Sweat and Johnson in Washington, Pennsylvania from 1986-1991, Law Offices of Stephen Minor, P.C. in Port Allegany, Pennsylvania from 1991-2009, Member of the McKean County Bar Association from 1991-2009, McKean County Juvenile Master from 1995-2009, McKean County Custody Mediator in 2005, President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Potter County in 2010, Member of Potter County Bar Association from 2010 to present, Chairman of the Potter County Criminal Justice Advisory Board from 2010 to present, Chairman of the Juvenile Section of the Pennsylvania Conference of Trial Judges in 2019, Appointed to the Continuing Judicial Education Board from 2017-2020, Appointed by Governor Wolf to the Juvenile Court Judge's Commission in 2017, Instructor and discussion leader for New Judge School from 2020-2022, Member of the Supreme Court Autism and the Courts Taskforce in 2020, Judges Concerned for Judges volunteer, Member of Judicial Ethics Committee of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges in 2021, and Appointed to the Judicial Ethics Advisory Board in 2022. In 2024, Judge Minor became a member of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network. He was also appointed in 2024 to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee of PCCD.

The Honorable David J. Barton has served as a Magisterial District Judge in Allegheny County since 1996. In 2015, he was appointed by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania as a judge on the Court of Judicial Discipline, and was elected its President Judge for 2018-2019. As an active member of the Special Court Judges Association of Pennsylvania he has chaired numerous committees, including its Ethics & Professionalism Committee that, prior to the

creation of the JEAB, rendered ethical advisory opinions to judges. As a member of AOPC's Language Access Group, he helped to develop and implement AOPC's language access program. Judge Barton also serves as solicitor for the Special Court Judges' Association of Pennsylvania. He has authored materials and served as faculty for numerous CLE and CJE programs. As a practicing lawyer, he focuses on commercial disputes, surety and fidelity bond matters, probate litigation, and complex commercial real estate development.

The Honorable Leonard G. Brown, III, is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics with a concentration in Electrical Engineering. Following graduation, he served on active duty in the United States Army as an airborne combat engineer. He later served in the United States Army Reserve Judge Advocate General's Corps, including assignments supporting United States Strategic Command and United States Africa Command, where he gained experience in national security law and international humanitarian law. He retired after 28 years of honorable military service. Judge Brown received his Juris Doctor degree magna cum laude from Campbell University. Following law school, he served as a law clerk to the Honorable Malcolm J. Howard of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina. Judge Brown began his judicial service on January 1, 2012, as a general jurisdiction trial judge on the Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas. In addition to his judicial duties, he has served as an adjunct assistant professor in the Government Department at Franklin & Marshall College, where he taught international human rights law. In January 2025, Judge Brown commenced a five-year term as President Judge, providing administrative and judicial leadership for 14 judges, 19 magisterial district judges, and a staff of more than 450 employees. Judge Brown has been married to Amy (Herr) Brown for nearly 35 years, and they have three adult children.

The Honorable Jennifer J.P. Clancy was elected as Magisterial District Judge of District Court 19-2-05 in York, Pennsylvania, in 2015; she was re-elected in 2021. Judge Clancy graduated summa cum laude from Messiah College in 1988. She then graduated in 1991 from the Dickinson School of Law (now Penn State Law) where she was a member of the Appellate Moot Court Board. While in law school, she interned with the Dauphin County District Attorney's Office. She was admitted to the Pennsylvania Bar in 1991 and worked as an Associate with Rhoads & Sinon in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania from 1991-1994. Judge Clancy went on to clerk for Justice Robert Thomas of the State of Illinois Appellate Court (Second Judicial District) from 1994-1998 and was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1997. Judge Clancy has maintained a solo law practice since 2000. She is active in various professional endeavors. She served as past President of District 9 of the Special Courts Judges Association of Pennsylvania. She is a member of the Pennsylvania State Bar Association, member/CLE presenter of the York County Bar Association, and member of the York County Bar Foundation Grants Committee. She served as a longtime member of the York County Criminal Justice Advisory Board and is a regular presenter at the Leadership York Crimes & Corrections Session. Judge Clancy has extensive past and present community involvement. She served two terms on the Messiah College (now Messiah University) Board of Trustees (Executive Committee), and was appointed then twice re-elected to the York Suburban School Board (Vice-President, Treasurer). She served on the York Little League Board (Softball General Manager) and was a volunteer Varsity High School Assistant Coach for tennis and softball. She was a member of the Messiah College Women of Influence Mentoring Program and member of the Church of the Open Door Employee Relations Committee. Judge Clancy is a founding member of the Messiah University Law Professional Council, is a volunteer with LCBC York, and is a member of the Rotary Club of York. Her husband is a surgeon; they have three young adult children.

The Honorable Mark D. Double Magisterial District Judge has been a Judge since 2010. In 2015, he was elected president of the Magisterial District Judges Association of Bucks County. He is a member of the Bucks County Criminal Justice Advisory Board. As a member of the Special Court Judges Association of Pennsylvania he has served on the Non-Crimes Code Committee, the Ethics and Professionalism Committee and the Strategic Planning Committee. He is the Association's Public Defender Liaison. He graduated from The University of Toledo College of Law in 1986. In the summer before graduation and immediately after graduation he was the law clerk at the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission. Thereafter, he was employed at the Bucks County Public Defender's Office. He then worked at an insurance defense firm where he handled product liability and professional liability cases. For a number of years before he became a judge, he was a partner with another Bucks County attorney where he represented clients in litigation matters including personal injury and criminal law. He also represented clients at children and youth proceedings and mental health commitment hearings. He was also a Guardian Ad Litem. He remains a member of the Bucks County Bar Association. In the past he was the chairman of the lawyer referral service and bench bar conference committees. He is a past recipient of the president's award in recognition to his dedication and service to the Bar Association. He resides in Doylestown with his wife. They are the parents of four sons.

The Honorable Lori A. Dumas was elected to the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court on November 2, 2021, and took office on January 3, 2022. She previously served on the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas for nearly two decades. She is a graduate of Duke University and North Carolina Central University School of Law, completed the Fels Institute of Government at the University of Pennsylvania, DiverseForce Board Governance Program and is also a Georgetown Fellow, specializing in Crossover Systems. She also holds an Executive Certificate

in Diversity and Inclusion from Cornell University. Judge Dumas is active with numerous boards and community organizations including Friends of Rittenhouse, Harambe, Hannah's House and Philadelphia Anti Human Trafficking Coalition, the Forum of Executive Women, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated and the Links, Incorporated.

The Honorable Jayne F. Duncan is a retired Magisterial District Judge in Lancaster County. Judge Duncan is a former Chairperson of the Judicial Conduct Board of Pennsylvania. She is currently an ex-officio member of the Ethics and Professionalism Committee of the Special Court Judges Association, where she served as Chairperson and committee member for many years. Judge Duncan served on the Criminal Procedural Rules Committee of the Supreme Court. She is a former President of the Lancaster County Magisterial District Judges Association and served as the Vice-President of the Lancaster County Bar Association. She is a former Mock Trial professor and coach at Elizabethtown College. In addition, she has lectured on the topic of Magisterial District Judge Practice and Judicial Ethics for the Pennsylvania Bar Institute. For many years Judge Duncan taught Ethics for the Minor Judiciary Education Board. She is a graduate of Dickinson School of Law, and a former Deputy District Attorney in Dauphin County.

The Honorable Maureen E. Lally-Green retired as a Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania in 2009. Recently, she served as Dean/Interim Dean of the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University and is presently an adjunct Professor of Law Emerita there. She has served as an associate general secretary of her local diocese, a part-time consultant to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, a professor of law at Kline Duquesne, as counsel for a major corporation, and as counsel for a federal agency. Throughout her career, she served and continues to serve non-profit organizations in various capacities.

The Honorable Katherine E. McGill is a Magisterial District Judge serving Springfield Township, Montgomery County since 2012. At the Springfield District Court, Judge McGill handles a variety of cases including criminal matters, civil and landlord tenant disputes, traffic cases, township code violations and truancy. Her goal in every case is to listen to all sides of a dispute and apply the law fairly. Judge McGill works diligently to help resolve disputes between people in the community. Her favorite part of her work is when she speaks with students. Over the years she's partnered with the schools in the community to bring students to court and to learn about the judicial system and participate in mock trials. Judge McGill is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania where she received her B.A. in Political Science and graduated cum laude. She went on to Temple Beasley School of Law where she received her J.D. and participated in Temple's National Trial Team and twice was awarded the Barrister's Award for excellence in trial advocacy. Prior to her service as Judge, Judge McGill was an Assistant District Attorney with the Montgomery County District Attorney's office where she served as the Captain of the Economic Crimes unit as well as a member of the sex crimes prosecution team. Judge McGill was recently president of the Montgomery County Special Court Judges Association and is currently an active member of the Montgomery Bar Association. Judge McGill most recently worked on a County-wide team to create and implement Montgomery County's Pretrial Service program to improve the Pretrial process in Montgomery County. She previously served Magisterial District Judges around the state as a member of the Ethics and Professionalism Committee for the Special Court Judges Association of Pennsylvania. She is a proud member of the newly-formed Judicial Ethics Advisory Board of Pennsylvania.

The Honorable Bradley K. Moss has served as a judge since February of 2003. In addition to hearing cases as a judge on the Philadelphia Municipal Court, he served for a year as a Common Pleas Court judge and continues to sit by the designation of the Supreme Court

as a Common Pleas Court judge. Judge Moss served for thirteen years as the supervising judge of the Philadelphia Municipal Court's Civil Division and served for many years as the chair or co-chair of the court's Judicial Conference and Education Committee. By appointment by the Supreme Court, Judge Moss has served as a member and as the chair of the Minor Court Rules Committee and is currently serving as a member of the Judicial Ethics Advisory Board. Before beginning his service as a judge, he was a partner at two Philadelphia law firms where he handled a wide variety of cases at trial and on appeal. Judge Moss also served as a law clerk to the Honorable Theodore O. Rogers of the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania and to the Honorable John B. Hannum of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Judge Moss is an active member of his community. While he was a practicing attorney, he provided free legal services to those who could not afford them. He also represented children as a volunteer lawyer and was a board member of the Support Center for Child Advocates. Additionally, he served on the board and was the president of the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House. He currently is a member of the board of the Northeast Center for Behavioral Health. Judge Moss also coached local youth baseball, soccer and basketball for the Fairmount Sports Association and continues to serve as the head umpire for the league composed of players between the ages of seven and nine years old. Judge Moss has lectured to lawyers and the community on a variety of legal issues. He also has been involved in high school Mock Trial as a coach and a judge of competitions. Judge Moss graduated from Wesleyan University, cum laude, with honors in 1980 and received his law degree from the Dickinson School of Law in 1983. He is married and has two adult children.

The Honorable Edward D. Reibman has been a judge on the Court of Common Pleas of Lehigh County since January 1992, President Judge from 2015 through 2020, and senior judge since 2022. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Lafayette College and a Juris Doctor degree from the Duke Law School. He clerked for the

late Judge Bryan Simpson of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit (formerly the Fifth Circuit) and served as a trial attorney in the Education Section of the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. While engaged as a sole practitioner of law in Allentown, Pennsylvania, he served as special counsel to the NAACP Legal and Defense Educational Fund, Inc., and to the City Councils of the cities of Hazleton and Allentown, Pennsylvania. He has litigated successfully in the Supreme Court of the United States and in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. Judge Reibman has presided over the entire range of civil, family, juvenile, criminal and orphans' court matters. He helped establish Lehigh County's Court Appointed Special Advocate program ("CASA"), to assist the court in child dependency cases; drug court; a mortgage foreclosure conciliation program, to bring lenders and homeowners together to avoid residential foreclosures; and a panel discussion of doctors and diverse religious leaders to address end-of-life issues and train court-appointed decision-makers entrusted with end-of-life choices. Judge Reibman is a former chair of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges' Ethics Committee, which, prior to the creation of the Judicial Ethics Advisory Board, rendered advisory opinions to judges and candidates for judicial office on matters subject to the Code of Judicial Conduct, and was a member of the Chief Justice's Ad Hoc Committee to Re-Write the Code of Judicial Conduct, which the Supreme Court adopted in 2014. He was one of the original members of the Continuing Judicial Education Board of Judges, and has served as a member of the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts/ Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges' Magisterial District Court Security Task Force, to address security needs in the Magisterial District Courts' offices; Remote Proceedings Task Force, to address continued use of advanced communication technology following termination of judicial emergencies; and Jury Trial Working Group, to resume jury trials post-COVID. Judge Reibman and his wife, a retired nurse-midwife and educator, have two adult children.

The Honorable Victor P. Stabile Judge Stabile was elected as a judge to the Superior Court of Pennsylvania in 2013. Prior to his election, he had over thirty years of broad legal experience. Judge Stabile is a 1982 graduate of the Dickinson School of Law and was a member of its Law Review. Upon graduation, he served as an appellate judicial clerk in the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania. After completion of his clerkship, Judge Stabile was appointed a Deputy Attorney General in a trial division of the Office of Attorney General where he litigated cases in defense of Commonwealth agencies in many of the Commonwealth's trial and appellate courts. While a Deputy Attorney General, he also served as the acting chief of this state-wide trial division and successfully argued and litigated now precedential case law in the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. In 1987, Judge Stabile joined the law firm of Dilworth Paxson LLP, and was a partner and the managing member of its Harrisburg office from 1992 until his election to the Superior Court in 2013. His practice at Dilworth principally involved complex commercial and business litigation. While at Dilworth, Judge Stabile continued to successfully argue and litigate cases in the appellate courts of Pennsylvania. He practiced before all state and federal courts in Pennsylvania and is a member of the United States Supreme Court and Pennsylvania Supreme Court Bars. A substantial amount of Judge Stabile's time also had been devoted to public service in his community and to pro bono legal work. His pro bono work included representations of individuals, community organizations, political candidates, and disabled individuals. He served as a member of the Supreme Court's Judicial Education Board and currently serves as a member of the Judicial Ethics Advisory Board. He was nominated and elected as a member to the American Law Institute. Judge Stabile also served as the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Middlesex Township, Cumberland County, where he earned a reputation for being fiscally conservative and for treating people fairly. He was active in community planning and was a founding member of the Cumberland County Task Force on Regional Development. He has

been married for over forty years, has two children, and resides with his family in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

The Honorable Stella M. Tsai joined the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania in 2026. She previously served on the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas to which she was appointed in 2016 then elected in her own right in November 2017. She served in the Orphans' Court Division, and the Criminal and Civil Trial Divisions, and Family Court. Judge Tsai served on the Judicial Ethics Advisory Board and the Education Committee of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges from 2023 to 2025. She served on the Civil Jury Trial Task Force convened by Justice Christine Donohue of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and is a delegate to the Pennsylvania Bar Association House of Delegates. Before joining the bench, Judge Tsai was a business litigation partner in the Philadelphia office of Archer & Greiner, PC concentrating in regulatory compliance, land use, and ethics. Judge Tsai re-entered private practice after serving as Chair of Administrative Law at the City of Philadelphia Law Department from 2000-2003. Over her career, Judge Tsai has remained actively involved in charitable activities and public service. She was an inaugural member of the reconstituted City of Philadelphia Board of Ethics and was appointed to the City's Zoning Code Commission ("ZCC") to help rewrite the Zoning Code. Judge Tsai has also chaired or held other leadership positions on numerous non-profit boards including the Community College of Philadelphia, Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Pennsylvania, the Women's Law Project, Volunteers for the Indigent in Philadelphia ("VIP"), Philadelphia Diversity Law Group, and the First Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia. While in private practice, Judge Tsai provided countless hours of pro bono representation and advocacy for low-income individuals in a wide range of matters including custody and support disputes, voting rights cases, civil rights cases, political asylum, and other immigration issues. Judge Tsai earned her B.A. in political science with honors and distinction from the

Pennsylvania State University in 1985. She earned her J.D. in 1988 from the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School, where she has co-taught Remedies as an adjunct professor, and is a member of the Board of the Inn of Court, and Law School Alumni Society.

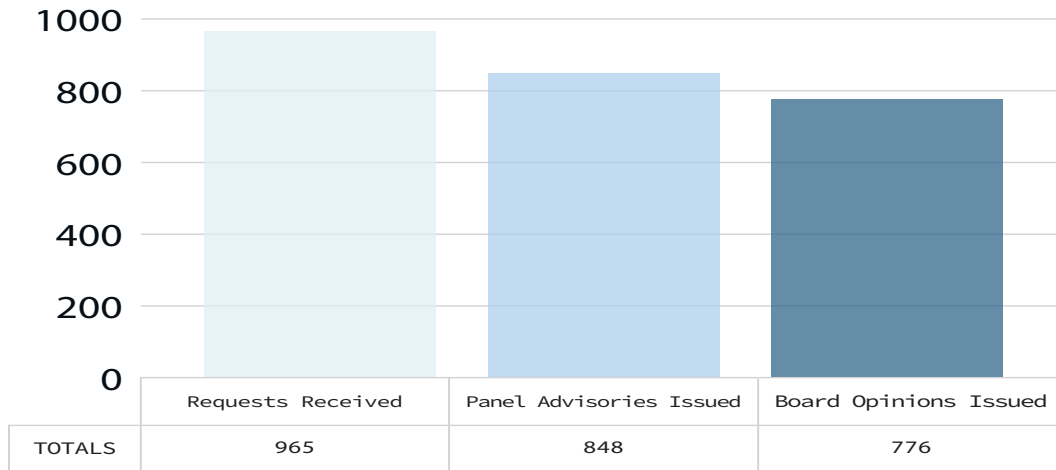
The Honorable Evan S. Williams, III, born and raised in Troy, Pennsylvania, is one of two judges in the Court of Common Pleas of Bradford County. After graduating from Cornell University in 1993 where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree, played four years of intercollegiate football, and met his bride-to-be, Tricia Tafe (Williams), he returned to Ithaca to attend Cornell Law School, earning his law degree three years later. He then followed Tricia—with her encouragement and consent—to Chicago, where she earned her doctorate in medicine and he practiced law in the litigation department of a mid-size Chicago firm. In 2002, Judge Williams, his wife (at the time a doctor in Family Practice, who has since completed a fellowship in Integrative Medicine), and their one-year-old daughter, Sophie, returned to his hometown where he worked with his father and other colleagues in a local firm. Their family grew to include two more children, Owen and Natalie. Judge Williams left private practice when he was elected judge and began serving Bradford County in January of 2016. While seated at the bench, he is pleased and honored to have a view of the portrait of his grandfather, the late Evan S. Williams, who served as Judge from 1968 to 1983. Judge Williams is currently a member of the Executive Committee of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges (PCSTJ) and is a former member of the PCSTJ Ethics Committee which, prior to the creation of the JEAB, rendered ethics opinions to judges and judicial candidates. Although having stopped, for the time being, coaching various team sports, including football, basketball, baseball, and soccer, Judge Williams has taken up the piano this year and remains involved in his community, serving on the boards of the Troy Area High School Foundation, Cornell Sprint Football, and the A. Eugene and Eleanor K. Case Community Trust.

Historical Statistics

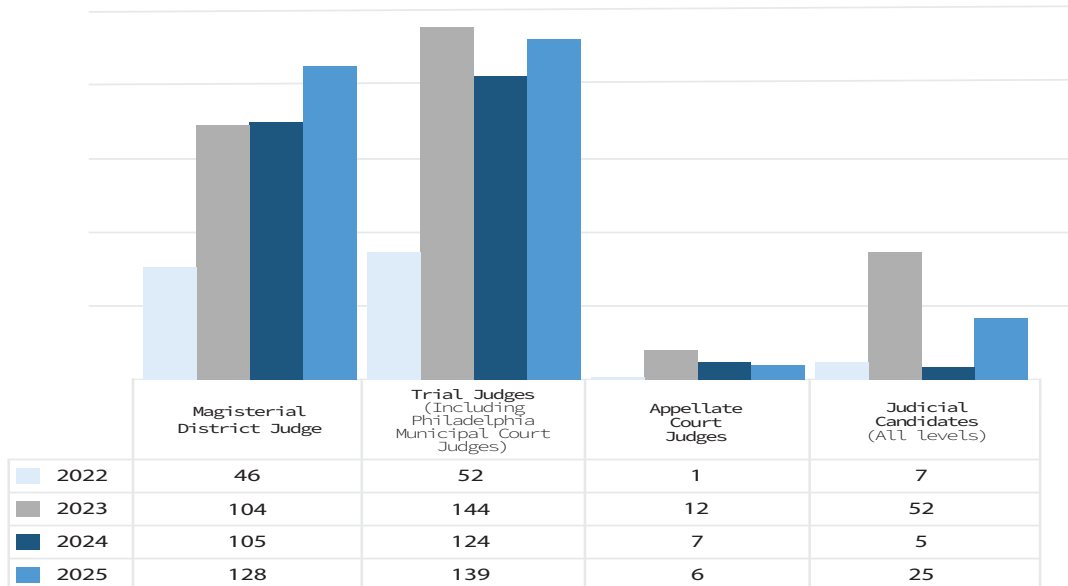
The JEAB has continued to provide support for Judges and Judicial Candidates statewide since issuing its first Panel Advisory on July 1, 2022. Since its creation, the JEAB has received a total of 965 Requests and issued over 848 Advisory Opinions. In compliance with its governing Rules (Pa.R.J.E.A.B. 204(b)), the Board has published its adopted Opinions on its secure website at <https://JEAB.pacourts.us>. If you are a Judicial Officer and wish to secure a password to this database, please contact the Board at JEAB@pacourts.us.

The following graphs provide a pictorial overview of the Board’s work from its creation in 2022 through 2025.

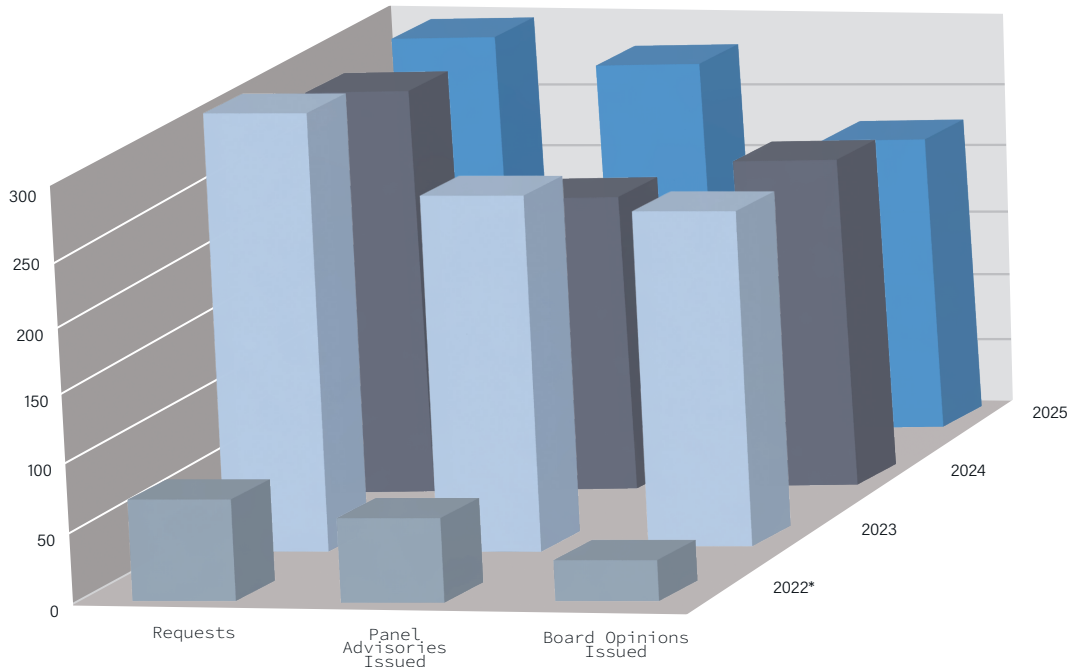
Cumulative Totals – 2022–2025



Origins of Judicial Officers Submitting Requests for Advisory Opinions 2022–2025



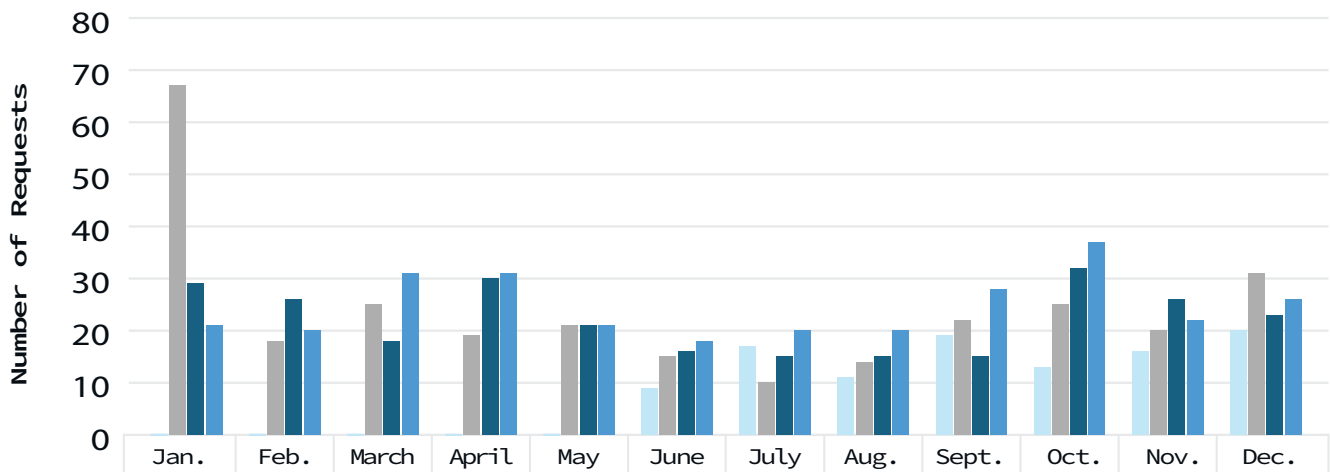
Annualized Totals - Calendar Years 2022-2025



	Requests	Panel Advisories Issued	Board Opinions Issued
2022*	107	89	43
2023	297	247	227
2024	266	243	254
2025	295	269	252

*July-Dec. only

Monthly Intake of Advisory Opinion Requests



2022					9	17	11	19	13	16	20
2023	67	18	25	19	21	15	10	14	22	20	31
2024	29	26	18	30	21	16	15	15	15	32	26
2025	21	20	31	31	21	18	20	20	28	37	22

2022 2023 2024 2025

Judicial Ethics Advisory Board Annual Report 2025



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