



## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE of PENNSYLVANIA COURTS

### News for Immediate Release

Sept. 12, 2023

#### Pa. Supreme Court Advisory Council Releases Annual Report

**HARRISBURG** — Focused on addressing critical issues confronting Pennsylvania’s elders, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court’s Advisory Council on Elder Justice in the Courts today released its annual report – a timely review of progress and implementation of new efforts in addressing the needs of older Pennsylvanians.

“I am pleased to introduce the [2022 Annual Report](#) of the Advisory Council and recognize the tremendous accomplishments of the Council’s leadership, members, and contributing staff in addressing the needs of older Pennsylvanians and the challenges they face,” said Supreme Court of Pennsylvania Chief Justice Debra Todd.

As the Annual Report details, 2022 marked an important milestone for the Office of Elder Justice in the Courts (OEJC) as a recipient of an ACL Elder Justice Innovation Grant from the federal Administration for Community Living (ACL). The Grant program provides financial assistance to states working to assess and improve their handling of adult guardianship cases.

Three overarching goals of the grant are to:

1. Assure due process for the alleged incapacitated person
2. Improve guardianship monitoring capabilities to prevent abuse and exploitation
3. Promote alternatives to guardianship.

Pennsylvania is one of three states to receive funding. The OEJC is overseeing work of the grant, which runs from Sept. 1, 2022, through Aug. 31, 2025.

Throughout the Report, several other key initiatives are highlighted including the following:

- First Elder Justice Consortium of law schools created in the nation by Pa Law School Deans
- Guardianship Tracking System enhancements implemented
- Updated elder abuse resources distributed to judges
- New resource guide created for financial institutions
- Education offered for magisterial district judges on elder justice

Read the full [2022 Annual Report](#) and find more information about the Council and OEJC on our website.

*This press release is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$2,458,957 (\$1,145,290 for Year 1 + \$1,313,667 for Year 2) with 100 percent funding by ACL/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, ACL/HHS or the U.S. Government.*

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**About the Advisory Council on Elder Justice in the Courts:**

*The Advisory Council on Elder Justice in the Courts was established in 2015 to advise the Office of Elder Justice in the Courts (OEJC) regarding the implementation of the Elder Law Task Force Report and Recommendations which includes best practices, judicial rules and legislation to benefit older Pennsylvanians. The mission of the Council is to identify and address elder justice issues affecting older Pennsylvanians. Together, the Council and the OEJC work to identify areas of need and challenges faced by elders, and to improve the ability of Pennsylvania Courts to meet those needs.*

**About the Office of Elder Justice in the Courts:**

*The OEJC promotes best practices to address elder abuse and neglect, guardianship and access to justice in Pennsylvania Courts. The OEJC also educates judges, court staff, attorneys, guardians, the public and others about the warning signs of elder abuse, and how to respond to suspected abuse. In addition, 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.*