



## ANNUAL REPORT 2001



SUPERIOR COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SUPERIOR COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA



CHAMBERS OF PRESIDENT JUDGE

2000 OXFORD DRIVE  
SUITE 470  
BETHEL PARK, PA 15102

JOSEPH A. DEL SOLE  
PRESIDENT JUDGE

(412) 565-2542

February 15, 2002

Dear Citizens of Pennsylvania:

John Adams, on becoming a lawyer, wrote:

*Now to what higher object, to what greater character, can any mortal aspire than to be possessed of all this knowledge, well digested and ready at command, to assist the feeble and friendless, to discountenance the haughty and lawless, to procure redress to wrongs, the advancement of right, to assert and maintain liberty and virtue, to discourage and abolish tyranny and vice?*

*John Adams*, by David McCullough (Simon & Schuster, 2001)

During this court's 107-year history of service to the people of Pennsylvania, many have said that its judges have constantly sought that "higher object." As our Annual Report demonstrates, the tradition of providing just and timely decisions to the people remains our highest priority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph A. Del Sole".

Joseph A. Del Sole  
President Judge

# 2001

## *The Year in Review*

The year began with the installation of Judge Joseph A. Del Sole as the seventieth President Judge of the Superior Court. He was selected by the Court to succeed PJE Stephen J. McEwen, Jr.. During 2001, Judge Zoran Popovich and Judge James R. Cavanaugh became Senior Judges.



The Supreme Court appointed Justice Frank J. Montemuro, Jr. as Chair of the Legislative Reapportionment Commission, charged with the responsibility of redrawing State Senate and House districts to reflect population shifts evidenced by the 2000 Census. He returned to the Court in December.



Our 2001 Heritage Conference was conducted at Nemacolin Woodlands, located in the historical area of Southwestern Pennsylvania.



Academic sessions were held covering recent Pennsylvania and United States Supreme Court cases; the potential ramifications of *Apprendi v. New Jersey* on sentencing enhancements; revision to the

Uniform Commercial Code; application of the new Pennsylvania Rules of Evidence; Justice William Arnot, Texas Court of Appeals, lectured on judicial independence. Andrew Masich, President of the Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center, spoke about George Washington whose first expedition involved delivering a message to the French at Fort Duquesne, a request they leave the Ohio territory claimed by the British. Tours of Fort Necessity, location of the French and British battle that fostered the French and Indian War, and Fallingwater, the dwelling Frank Lloyd Wright designed for the Kaufmann family, were held. David McCullough's lecture on John Adams was also attended.



The Court began making its public dockets available on the Internet, and a project to provide for the electronic distribution of its decisions was initiated. Enhancements of its internal computerized case management system allowed for direct voting and the elimination of approximately 50,000 e-mail messages annually.



## 2001

### *The Year in Review*

The Founders Courtroom and related space in Philadelphia was refurbished. The process has begun to relocate the Pittsburgh and Harrisburg Administrative Offices to provide a more efficient working environment.



The Court continued to “ride the circuit,” holding special sessions in Scranton, Erie and Clearfield Counties. There were three en banc sessions and 18 cases were presented to the en banc court for decision.



There were four ceremonial sessions during 2001. The first, a memorial session, paid tribute to the life and accomplishments of President Judge Emeritus Vincent A. Cirillo. Next, was a special memorial session in tribute to long-time Court Crier, Bruce Cassidy, who served the Court for over thirty years.



In May, the formal installation ceremony of President Judge Joseph A. Del Sole was conducted.



The final ceremonial session recognized the leadership of President Judge Emeritus Stephen J. McEwen, Jr. A portrait of Judge McEwen was presented to the Court and the Court dedicated the Philadelphia conference room as the “Stephen J. McEwen, Jr. Conference Center.”



In the November election, the citizens of Pennsylvania chose Judge Richard B. Klein, District Justice John T. Bender and Attorney Mary Jane Bowes to serve them as Judges of the Superior Court. Also, they chose our colleague J. Michael Eakin to serve as a member of the Supreme Court.

# 2001

## *The Year in Statistics*

### APPEALS FILED AND CONCLUDED

	TOTAL	CIVIL	CRIMINAL
Appeals Pending 01/01/2001	6296	2464	3832
New Appeals Filed in 2001	7839	3447	4392
Appeals Concluded in 2001	7944	3523	4421
Appeals Pending 01/01/2002	6191	2388	3803

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

	EAST	MIDDLE	WEST	TOTAL
Appeals Filed	3530	2075	2234	7839
Petitions Filed	4436	1250	2764	8450
Misc. Dkt Filings	131	110	123	364
Wiretaps	45	—	15	60

### REARGUMENT/RECONSIDERATION

Petitions Filed .....	439
Petitions Granted.....	28
Percent Granted.....	6.4%

### APPEALS BY COUNTY OF ORIGIN

Adams.....	45	Lackawanna.....	103
Allegheny.....	949	Lancaster.....	179
Armstrong.....	14	Lawrence.....	27
Beaver.....	65	Lebanon.....	44
Bedford.....	34	Lehigh.....	148
Berks.....	196	Luzerne.....	191
Blair.....	78	Lycoming.....	85
Bradford.....	61	McKean.....	18
Bucks.....	200	Mercer.....	45
Butler.....	68	Mifflin.....	20
Cambria.....	60	Monroe.....	113
Cameron.....	1	Montgomery.....	267
Carbon.....	40	Montour.....	11
Centre.....	120	Northampton.....	110
Chester.....	177	Northumberland.....	45
Clarion.....	17	Perry.....	35
Clearfield.....	46	Philadelphia.....	2097
Clinton.....	24	Pike.....	42
Columbia.....	24	Potter.....	17
Crawford.....	52	Schuylkill.....	83
Cumberland.....	94	Snyder.....	34
Dauphin.....	249	Somerset.....	31
Delaware.....	311	Sullivan.....	7
Elk.....	18	Susquehanna.....	16
Erie.....	242	Tioga.....	20
Fayette.....	97	Union.....	17
Forest.....	3	Venango.....	36
Franklin.....	69	Warren.....	9
Fulton.....	5	Washington.....	94
Greene.....	40	Wayne.....	25
Huntingdon.....	23	Westmoreland.....	131
Indiana.....	35	Wyoming.....	18
Jefferson.....	17	York.....	240
Juniata.....	7		

**TOTAL ..... 7839**

# 2001

## *The Year in Statistics*

### APPEALS BY TYPE OF CASE

Adoption.....	26	Equity.....	192	Products Liability.....	23
Aggravated Assault.....	387	Estate/Probate/Wills/Intestate...	94	Protection from Abuse .....	43
Arbitration.....	44	Forgery.....	22	Rape.....	147
Asbestos.....	50	Harassment.....	38	Receiving Stolen Property.....	54
Assault.....	123	Homicide.....	81	Recklessly Endangering Another Person.....	20
Assumpsit.....	119	Indecent Assault.....	66	Robbery.....	328
Burglary.....	190	Involuntary Deviate Sexual Conduct.....	98	Spousal Support.....	39
Child Support.....	165	Involuntary Termination of Parental Rights.....	129	Summary Offense/Conviction...50	
Civil Action - Law.....	852	Legal Malpractice.....	20	Termination of Parental Rights.....	24
Contract.....	110	Medical Malpractice.....	118	Terroristic Threats.....	30
Controlled Substance.....	544	Mortgage Foreclosure.....	41	Theft.....	134
Corruption of Minors.....	46	Motor Vehicle Accident.....	75	Trespass.....	277
Criminal.....	259	Murder.....	167	Uniform Firearms Act.....	35
Criminal Conspiracy.....	143	Murder 1.....	198	Vehicle Violations.....	89
Custody / Visitation.....	212	Murder 2.....	30	Other Civil*.....	377
Declaratory Judgment.....	50	Murder 3.....	50	Other Criminal*.....	752
Dependency.....	84	Ordinance Violation.....	23	<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>7839</b>
Disorderly Conduct.....	26	Possession of an Instrument of Crime.....	39		
Divorce.....	237	Premises Liability - Slip and Fall.....	41		
Driving Under the Influence.....	207				
Ejectment.....	21				

\* Includes appeals originally classified as "other" as well as appeals originally classified in categories with fewer than 20 appeals filed in 2001.

### OPINIONS FILED

	TOTAL	CIVIL	CRIMINAL
Published Opinions	385	222	163
Non-Published Opinions	4281	1428	2853
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4666</b>	<b>1650</b>	<b>3016</b>

### DISPOSITIONS BY TYPE

	TOTAL	CIVIL	CRIMINAL
By File Decision	4941	1790	3151
By Order or Discontinuance	3003	1733	1270
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7944</b>	<b>3523</b>	<b>4421</b>

# 2001

## *The Year in Statistics*

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

	Cases Decided by Published Opinion	%	Cases Decided by Unpublished Opinion	%	Total All Cases	%
Affirmed	245	55.8	3532	78.5	3777	76.4
Reversed	152	34.6	545	12.1	697	14.1
Affirmed in Part, Reversed in Part	28	6.4	178	4.0	206	4.1
Quashed, Dismissed, Transferred	13	3.0	208	4.6	221	4.5
Other	1	0.2	39	0.9	40	0.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>439</b>		<b>4502</b>		<b>4941</b>	

### SUPREME COURT TREATMENT OF SUPERIOR COURT CASES

#### ALLOCATORS: CASES FILED AND CONCLUDED

Total Allocatur Petitions Filed in 2000 from Superior Court Decisions.....	1749
Number Granted.....	111
Number Denied.....	1660
Other Disposition.....	45
Open.....	863

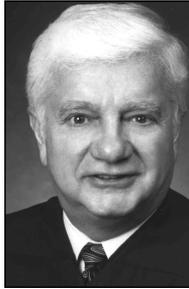
#### DISPOSITION OF APPEALS FROM SUPERIOR COURT CASES

Reversed.....	32
Affirmed.....	37
Other*.....	39
Total.....	108

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

## PRESIDENT JUDGE JOSEPH A. DEL SOLE

Joseph A. Del Sole was born on November 16, 1940, in Pittsburgh. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Carnegie Institute of Technology (now Carnegie Mellon University); an LL.B. from Duquesne University School of Law; and a LL.M. from the University of Virginia School of Law. He is a member of the Century Club of Distinguished Alumni of Duquesne University and received the 1988 President's Award from the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association.



Judge Del Sole co-authored "The Demise of Fair Trade in Pennsylvania" which appeared in the Duquesne University Law Review and is the author of "Appellate Review in a Sentencing Guidelines Jurisdiction: The Pennsylvania Experience." 31 Duq. L. Rev. 479 (1993). He is a member of the Supreme Court Statewide Steering Committee on Computer Automation and was instrumental in spearheading the Superior Court's computerization

and statistical development programs. He was a member of the former Judicial Inquiry and Review Board and was the first Chairman of the Judicial Conduct Board. He is an Adjunct Professor of Law at Duquesne University Law School.

He was appointed to the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas in 1978 and elected to a full term in 1979. He was elected to the Superior Court in 1983, and retained for a second term in 1993. He is now the President Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

He and his wife, Karen, have three children. Their son Joseph M. Del Sole, is a police officer; their daughter, Kristin is an attorney at Kirkpatrick & Lockhart and is married to Tod Eberle, a Butler County Assistant District Attorney. Their son Stephen is an attorney at Reed Smith and is married to Christine Astorino, a landscape architect at LD Astorino, Inc.

## JUDGE JAMES R. CAVANAUGH

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Judge McEwen commenced service on the Superior Court in 1981 after appointment by Governor Dick Thornburgh, was elected to a full 10-year term in November 1981, was retained for further 10-year terms in the general elections of November 1991 and 2001, and was elected President Judge by the members of the Superior Court for a five-year term commencing January 1996.



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

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

Judge McEwen, a native of Upper Darby, was an active trial lawyer during 23 years of private practice, and was District Attorney of Delaware County from 1967 through 1976. He served as General Counsel for the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association and, for 10 years commencing in

1975, was a Professor of Trial Advocacy at Villanova University Law School. In 1997 he published *Not Even Dicta*, a collection of judicial/personal lessons in the law. Judge McEwen has lectured at various law schools, universities, and PBI seminars. He authored articles published by the *St. John's Journal of Legal Commentary*, the *Notre Dame Journal of Law, Ethics and Policy*, the *Dickinson Law Review*, the

*Appellate Journal of UALR*, the *Philadelphia Legal Intelligencer*, and *Court Review*, the *Journal of the American Judges Association*.

Judge McEwen presently serves upon the Executive Committee of the Council of Chief Judges of State Courts of Appeal, as Editor of the periodical of the Appellate Judges Conference, as a member of the ALI Transnational Civil Procedure Section, and as lecturer in Bulgaria in 2000 and 2001 for the USAID Judicial Development Project. He has been awarded Honorary Doctorates by deSales University, Widener University Law School, and the University of Scranton.

## JUDGE JUSTIN MORRIS JOHNSON

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

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

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



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

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

## JUDGE JOSEPH A. HUDOCK

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

He was elected to the Court of Common Pleas of Westmoreland County and served for 12 years before being elected to the Superior Court in November, 1989. He was retained for another term in 1999.

He has been actively involved for many years with the Advisory Board of the Salvation Army, Rotary Club, Boy Scouts, Community Nursing Service, and the United Way of Central Westmoreland, serving at one time as campaign manager and president of the latter.



He has been a member of the Regional Planning Council of the Governor's Justice Commission, the Latrobe Area Task Force of the Diocese of Greensburg, and the Alumni Council of St. Vincent College. In 1987, he was awarded the St. Vincent College "Alumnus of Distinction Award". He presently is a member of the Editorial Board of "The Practical Litigator", and past president

of the Westmoreland American Inn of Court. He is presently vice-chairman of the Supreme Court Appellate Procedural Rules Committee.

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

## JUDGE KATE FORD ELLIOTT

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



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

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

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

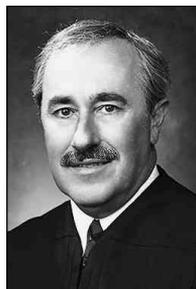
She served as a Law Clerk to Senior Judge Harry M. Montgomery, Superior

Court of Pennsylvania, 1977-1980; Administrative Assistant to then-President Judge William F. Cercone, Superior Court of Pennsylvania, 1980-1982; Chief Staff Attorney, Superior Court of Pennsylvania, 1982-1988; and as a lawyer with the firm Kirkpatrick and Lockhart, 1988-1989. She was elected Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania in November 1989 and retained for a second term in 1999.

## JUDGE J. MICHAEL EAKIN

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

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



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

Institute. He is currently Chair of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Criminal Rules Committee.

## JUDGE MICHAEL T. JOYCE

Judge Michael T. Joyce was born Feb. 24, 1949 in Pittsburgh. He received his B.A. from the Pennsylvania State University in 1973 and was awarded a J.D. from the Franklin Pierce Law Center in 1977. Judge Joyce served as a staff sergeant, U.S. Army Intelligence, from 1967-70. He served with the 25th Infantry Division in Vietnam from 1969-70 and was decorated three times. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and two Army Commendation Medals. He was a Presidential Law Clerk in The White House in 1975, and maintained a private practice from 1977-85. He was appointed judge, Erie County Court of Common Pleas in July 1985 after winning both the Republican and Democratic primaries. He was then elected to a ten-year term in November 1985, and retained for an additional term in November 1995. He was elected a judge of the Superior Court in November 1997. Judge Joyce is a member of the Pennsylvania Trial Judges



Association, American Judicature Society, American Judges Association, Pennsylvania Bar Association, Erie County Bar Association, Penn State Alumni Association, the Domestic Relations Association of Pennsylvania, Vietnam Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Vietnam Veterans of Pennsylvania, American Legion, Millcreek Youth Athletic Association and served as an Explorer

leader, Boy Scouts of America. Judge Joyce is a licensed SCUBA diving instructor certified by both the Professional Association of Dive Instructors (PADI) and the National Association of Dive Instructors (NAUI) and a member of the Erie County Sheriff's Scuba Rescue and Recovery Dive Team.

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

## JUDGE CORREALE F. STEVENS

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

Judge Stevens was engaged in the private practice of law, served as Hazleton City Solicitor and Hazleton City Authority Solicitor. He was named Outstanding Young Pennsylvanian by the state Jaycee organization and served on the



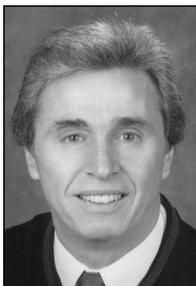
executive board of the Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association.

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

November 1997, Judge Stevens was elected to the Superior Court.

## JUDGE JOHN L. MUSMANNO

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



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

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

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

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

## JUDGE JOAN ORIE MELVIN

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



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

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

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

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

## JUDGE MAUREEN E. LALLY-GREEN

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



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

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

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

various capacities.

She has been recognized for her achievements: Duquesne University Distinguished Alumna Award, 2001; Chatham College's Presidents Medal, 2001; Who's Who in America; Who's Who in American Law; Who's Who Among American Women; Who's Who in Emerging Leaders; Woman of the Year (Duquesne Women Law Students); and, Fellow in International Development, Kellogg Foundation.

## JUDGE DEBRA McCLOSKEY TODD

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



Judge Todd has been a lecturer and panelist for continuing legal education programs on trial procedure and

practice, as well as an instructor for the National Institute for Trial Advocacy.

From 1989 through 1999 Judge Todd served as a Court-Appointed Special Master for the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas. The Judge presently serves as a board member of the Finnegan Foundation, a foundation established to provide internships in Pennsylvania government to outstand-

ing accredited college and university students. She is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Commission on Women in the Profession and the American Judicature Society.

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

## PRESIDENT JUDGE EMERITUS WILLIAM F. CERONE

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



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

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

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

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

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

## SENIOR JUDGE JOHN P. HESTER

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



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

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

Judge Hester served on the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County from 1960 to 1977 and as administrative judge of that court during 1976 and 1977. Prior to ascending the bench, he had been a Deputy Attorney General. He was elected to the Superior Court of Pennsylvania in 1977 and served the Commonwealth in that capacity until his retirement in 1983 when he was designated as a senior judge by the Supreme Court. Judge Hester's chambers are in Pittsburgh.

## SENIOR JUDGE JOHN G. BROSKY

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



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

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

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

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

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

## SENIOR JUDGE PETER PAUL OLSZEWSKI

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



Judge Olszewski has served on the boards of trustees of College Misericordia and the Wilkes-Barre Campus of the Pennsylvania State University. He is an honorary Director of St. John's University Law School Alumni Association. He has received the Liberty Under Law Award, Fraternal Order of Eagles, the Distinguished Law and Justice Award of the Deputy Sheriffs' Association of Pennsylvania, the Distinguished Law and

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

Justice Award of County and State Detectives Association of Pennsylvania, and is a past member of the Interfaith Council. He is also active in the American Bar Association, the Pennsylvania Bar Association, and the Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association, and is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. He is also an Honorary Lifetime Member, Frank Albert State Police Lodge.

## JUSTICE FRANK J. MONTEMURO, JR.

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

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

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



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

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

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

## SENIOR JUDGE PHYLLIS W. BECK

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

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

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



Foundation, vice president of the Free Library of Philadelphia, and as a member of the American Law Institute, the Boards of Villanova and Temple Law Schools, WHYY, Public Broadcasting System, the Mann Music Center, the American Judicature Society, Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts, Overseer of the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, and of the Museum of American Jewish

History, as well as President of the Foundation for Cognitive Therapy.

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

## SENIOR JUDGE PATRICK R. TAMILIA

Judge Patrick R. Tamilia was born in Pittsburgh. He attended Duquesne University where he received his B.S., did graduate work, and received his J.D. from the School of Law. Judge Tamilia served with the U.S. Marine Corps, and received a commission as an officer in the U.S. Army Artillery.

He has served as Chairman of the Family Law Sections of the Pennsylvania and Allegheny County Bar Associations and the Juvenile Judges section of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges; and member of the Supreme Court Domestic Relations Committee. Judge Tamilia was instrumental in the creation of the Neuropsychiatric Assessment Unit for Violent Children, the Parental Stress Center, and Infant Abuse Agency; Booth Parenting Program for unwed mothers and numerous other treatment programs for delinquent and dependent children. He has authored numerous articles on juvenile delinquency, mental health and family court. In 2000, he authored *Keystone of Justice*, The Pennsylvania Superior Court, published by the Pennsylvania Historical and



Museum Commission.

Judge Tamilia is a former Professor of Family Law, Duquesne University School of Law. Among his numerous awards are the Duquesne University Distinguished Alumnus Award, College of Arts and Science; Charter Membership in the Century Club of Distinguished Alumni of Duquesne University; the Columbus 500 Distinguished Citizen Award; and the ACBA Juvenile Justice Award, 1991. He was chairman of the Public Safety and Criminal Justice Task Force of the Allegheny County 2001 Project. He holds the position of Honorary National President of the Italian Sons and Daughters of America. He is presently a member of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Juvenile Court Procedural Rules Committee.

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

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

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

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

Judge Kelly is a member of The Pennsylvania Society,



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

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

## JUDGE ZORAN POPOVICH

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



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



## *History of the Superior Court*

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

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



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

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

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

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

## PRESIDENT JUDGES

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

## JUDGES OF THE COURT

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

\*Currently serving

\*\*Currently serving as Senior Judge

# *Administrative Offices*

## **OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR**

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

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

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

Business responsibilities also extend to other operations within the Court such as the administration of the 238 individuals who serve the court, and includes maintenance of all personnel records, preparation of all personnel transaction forms, record keeping of all leave time, and resolution of questions and problems relating to personnel. In addition, the Executive Administrator is responsible for the administration of telecommunications within the Superior Court, including all staff and judicial offices, and the management of the facilities used by the Court.

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

## **OFFICE OF THE PROTHONOTARY**

**T**he Prothonotary's office employs four deputy prothonotaries and 40 supporting staff under the immediate supervision of the Prothonotary. Offices are maintained at 530 Walnut Street in Philadelphia, the Fulton Building in Harrisburg, and the Grant Building in Pittsburgh.

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

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

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

## CENTRAL LEGAL STAFF

The Central Legal Staff is composed of 21 attorneys who assist the Court in procedural and substantive matters under the direction of the President Judge. The Staff has offices in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh under the immediate supervision of the Chief Staff Attorney. Staff responsibilities include: screening all appeals for jurisdictional defects prior to listing before the Court; reviewing and screening cases for the Court's special treatment programs; assisting the Court in the processing of miscellaneous motions, applications for relief, and petitions for reargument; preparing bench memoranda on selected cases listed before the Court; reviewing panel decisions to assist the Court in avoiding the issuance of conflicting opinions; maintaining a computerized issue-tracking index of the Court's opinions for both conflict clearance and legal research

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

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

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

## OFFICE OF LEGAL SYSTEMS

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

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

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

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

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

# Directory

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