



## JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Joseph A. Massa, Jr.  
Chief Counsel  
(717) 234-7911  
joseph.massa@jcbpa.org

### APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBERS TO THE PENNSYLVANIA JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

**HARRISBURG, August 30, 2004** — The Judicial Conduct Board of Pennsylvania announces the appointment of new members, William D. Bucci, G. Craig Lord, Esquire, Charlene R. McAbee, Esquire, Carolyn W. “Raven” Rudnitsky, and the Honorable Thomas A. Wallitsch.

Mr. Bucci, a lay member, is a native of Philadelphia and is noted for his philanthropic work and his leadership in the brokerage and securities industry. Currently, a Senior Vice-President of a private client group at Ryan Beck and Company, he attended the United States Naval Academy Preparatory School and received a bachelor’s degree from Temple University.

G. Craig Lord, is the Head of the Financial Services/Real Estate Department of the Philadelphia law firm, Blank Rome, LLP. Formerly a Judge of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas (1988-1997) he is a *Magna Cum Laude* graduate of Gettysburg College and a *Magna Cum Laude* graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School where he served as Editor of the *Law Review*.

Charlene R. McAbee, after graduating from Seton Hill College with a bachelor’s degree in psychology, earned a master’s of Counselor Education and a Juris Doctor from Duquesne University. Recently retired from a distinguished 37 year career with the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, Ms. McAbee continues to practice law through her private practice and remains deeply involved in community affairs.

Carolyn W. “Raven” Rudnitsky, has a private practice in Family Therapy in Selingsgrove, (Snyder County) Pennsylvania. Married to Attorney Marvin Rudnitsky, she is a graduate of the Pennsylvania State University and received a master of science degree in Education, *Suma Cum Laude*,

from Bucknell University. A community leader, she was the first woman and first non-lawyer to serve as Chair during a six-year membership on the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. She is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Quality of Life/Balance Task Force and a speaker and facilitator for the American and Pennsylvania Bar Associations.

The Honorable Thomas A. Wallitsch, graduated from Dickinson College in 1970 and earned a Juris Doctor from Duquesne University School of Law where he served on the *Law Review*. Judge Wallitsch received his master's in Governmental Administration from the University of Pennsylvania. After serving Lehigh County as the Solicitor to the County Controller, as Assistant County Solicitor, and as Chief Public Defender, he was appointed Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Lehigh County in April 1991 and elected to his first full term in November of that year. In 2001, Judge Wallitsch was retained for another ten-year term. He was certified as a civil trial specialist by the National Board of Trial Advocacy and has served on the Board of Examiners for that organization. He serves as Co-Chair of the Education Committee of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges and is a member of the Advisory Committee of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court on Continuing Judicial Education. He currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's Appellate Rules Committee, of which he has been a member since 2001.

These distinguished Pennsylvanians will serve on the Board for a four (4) year term, and replace the following Board Members who recently completed their exemplary service: Christopher A. Lewis, Esquire (former Vice-Chair and Chair), Honorable Marilyn J. Horan (former Chair and Vice-Chair), Mr. Stanley R. Gumberg, Mr. Gary F. Lamont and Richard A. Sprague, Esquire.

Created by constitutional amendment in 1993, the Pennsylvania Judicial Conduct Board is an independent state agency responsible for reviewing, investigating, and where merited, prosecuting complaints of judicial misconduct. The Board is composed of twelve (12) Pennsylvania citizens, six (6) appointed by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and the other half appointed by the Governor, including three (3) judges, three (3) lawyers, and six (6) non-lawyers. No more than half of the appointed board members may be from the same political party. Appointed board members serve four-year terms without pay and meet regularly to review filed complaints against Pennsylvania Judges.

For further information about the Pennsylvania Judicial Conduct Board, see the Board's Website at [www.jcbpa.org](http://www.jcbpa.org).

# # #