



Judicial Conduct Board
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
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Press Release

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TO: Press

**FROM: Joseph A. Massa, Jr.
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SUBJECT: Judicial Conduct Board of Pennsylvania Elects New Officers

The Judicial Conduct Board of Pennsylvania has elected new officers.

The Board elected the Honorable Jack A. Panella as Chair, the Honorable Charles A. Clement, Jr., as Vice-Chair and re-elected Carolyn "Raven" Rudnitsky as Secretary.

Judge Jack A. Panella was elected to the Superior Court of Pennsylvania in November 2003. His election to the appellate court followed twelve years as a trial judge. He was initially sworn in as a trial judge on the Court of Common Pleas of Northampton County in October 1991, and was subsequently elected to a ten-year term commencing January 1, 1994.

In 2004, he was appointed by Chief Justice Ralph J. Cappy to the *Commission for Justice Initiatives in Pennsylvania*, a committee organized to coordinate and recommend judicial outreach and specialized court programs. He is the Chair of the Public Education and Community Outreach subcommittee of the Commission. He also is a member of the Justinian Society, an organization concerned with maintaining the highest standards of the legal profession.

On August 26, 1997, Judge Panella was appointed by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania to be a judge of the Pennsylvania Court of Judicial Discipline. In June 2000, he was elected President Judge by his fellow judges. The Court of Judicial Discipline is a constitutional court, which hears charges filed by the Judicial Conduct Board against judicial officers. His four-year term expired in August 2001. In 2005, he was appointed by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania to the Judicial Conduct Board, which is the investigatory and prosecutorial arm of the judicial discipline system in Pennsylvania.

Judge Charles A. Clement, Jr., is one of the three Judge Members of the Board, and is currently serving in his 19th year as a Magisterial District Judge in Cumberland County. He is a very active member of the Special Court Judges' Association of Pennsylvania, having served as its president from 1997 to 1998. Within this professional association, Judge Clement has also been an advisor to the President, a liaison to the Supreme Court and to the Legislature, and a member of the Ethics & Professional Committee, as well as serving in other capacities. He is also an appointed member of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency's Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, and Justice Systems Subcommittee on Courts and Corrections.

Judge Clement was born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania in 1957. He attended Canisius College in Buffalo, New York on a full athletic scholarship and earned a double Bachelor's degree in Sociology and Communication in 1980. In 1998, Judge Clement was presented the Dr. Marilyn G.S. Watt Alumni Award for sharing a sense of community and values through communication.

Judge Clement has also been a baseball and basketball coach for many years to the area's youth.

Carolyn W. "Raven" Rudnitsky has a private practice in Family Therapy in Selinsgrove, (Snyder County). She is also the Family Goals Facilitator for Rudnitsky and Hackman, LLP, a wealth strategies and estate planning law firm.

Ms. Rudnitsky is a speaker and facilitator for the Pennsylvania Bar Association and a member of its Quality of Life/Balance Task Force. She was the first woman and first non-lawyer to serve as chair during her six-year membership on the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

Ms. Rudnitsky has been active in several organizations in central Pennsylvania. She founded Valley Nursery School, a preschool program which has been in existence for more than 30 years. She has served as the past chair of the Professional Division of the United Way in Snyder County and is a past president of the Board of Directors at Hoffman Homes for Youth in Gettysburg.

Ms. Rudnitsky did her undergraduate work at The Pennsylvania State University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education and English, and completed her graduate studies at Bucknell University in School Psychology and Counseling.

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 comprised 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.

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