

## 2019 Bench-Bar Conference Faculty Biographies

**John T. Adams, Esquire**, is a native of Berks County. He graduated from Conrad Weiser High School in 1979 and from Shippensburg University in 1983 with a Bachelor of Arts in Government. John worked as a Probation Officer in Berks County from 1985 through 1987. In 1990 John graduated from New England School of Law, Boston, MA. From 1990 to 1992 John was an associate at Rhoda, Stoudt & Bradley. From 1992 through 1994 John served as an Assistant District Attorney in Berks County. From 1994 through 2007 John was a member and then a partner at the Law Firm of Linton, Distasio, Adams and Edwards, where he primarily practiced in the area of litigation and criminal defense. In November, 2007 he was elected District Attorney of Berks County and was sworn in as District Attorney in January, 2008. He was re-elected 2011 and 2015. As District Attorney, Mr. Adams supervises a staff of 30 attorneys, 26 support staff and 36 detectives. John has served on the Boards of Berks Connections Pretrial Services and the YMCA of Sinking Spring. He is a member of Lodge 71 Fraternal Order of Police and the Berks County Chief's Association. He is also a member of Crime Alert Berks County's Advisory Board. This year, John was elected to the YMCA Corporate Board of Directors. In 2009, John was elected to the Executive Committee of the Pennsylvania District Attorney's Institute and was subsequently elected to the Executive Committee of the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association in 2010. In 2016, John was elected Secretary/Treasurer of the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association (PDAA). In 2017, he was elected to the President of the District Attorneys Association. John is now the Immediate-Past President of the PDAA. John is also a member of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) and the Pennsylvania Medical Marijuana Board and the Mental Health and Justice Advisory Committee at PCCD.

**Honorable Patrick T. Barrett** was elected to the Bench of the Berks County Court of Common Pleas in 2015. A University of Scranton and Temple Law school graduate, he was a former Berks County Assistant District Attorney. After three years in the DA's office, he moved into private practice in both civil and commercial litigation. Judge Barrett, prior to ascending to the Bench, was a certified federal mediator, receiving case appointments from federal judges, and he had tried cases in 14 counties from Philadelphia to Scranton and counties in between. Judge Barrett resides in Maiden Creek Township with his wife of 32 years, Paula; together they raised two children, Jennifer and Patrick.

**Kourtney E. Bernecker, Esquire**, is an associate with the firm of Kozloff Stoudt, Professional Corporation. Kourtney concentrates her practice in business transactions and education/municipal law. She has experience launching, advising and selling businesses as well as representing regional and national banks in commercial loan transactions. Kourtney is a native of the Berks-Lehigh area and serves on the committee for the annual Valentine's Gala benefiting the Cystic Fibrosis Fund of Berks County. She volunteers as the Lead Advisor for the Delta Phi Epsilon Sorority at Kutztown University. Kourtney is a graduate from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law,

where she concentrated her studies in business transactions, received a certificate in Health Law, and participated in its Education Law Practicum. During her time there, Kourtney served as Executive Editor of the Pittsburgh Journal of Environmental and Public Health Law (PJEPHL) and the President of the Student Bar Association. She was also the 2017 recipient of the W. Edward Sell Award for Excellence in Corporate Law, the Award for Excellence in Health Law, the Pro Bono Service Award and the Student Leader Award. Prior to law school, Kourtney completed a double major from the University of Pittsburgh in Politics & Philosophy and Economics. Kourtney is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, American Bar Association Business Law Section, and serves on the board of the Young Lawyer Section of the Berks County Bar Association.

**Pamela W. Blumer** is a professional fiduciary in private practice. Pam has been acting as a court-appointed guardian and agent under power of attorney for clients in Berks County since 2010. In her work she actively manages the financial and medical decision making for between 25 and 30 individuals coping with dementia, mental illness and developmental disabilities.

**William R. Blumer, CELA, Esquire**, is a shareholder in the law firm of Leisawitz Heller in Spring Township. He focuses his practice on the areas of estate planning and administration, elder law and fiduciary litigation. He is one of only two certified elder law attorneys practicing in Berks County. Bill is a graduate of Bucknell University, the Dickinson School of Law of the Pennsylvania State University and the Villanova University School of Law (LLM in taxation). He serves on the Board of Trustees of the Law Foundation of Berks County and is a past board member of Berks Encore, Reading Symphony Orchestra, Berks County Chapter of the American Red Cross and of the Advisory Board of the Berks County Office of Aging.

**Justin D. Bodor, Esquire**, is a native of Berks County. He is a 1998 graduate of Boyertown Area Senior High and a 2002 graduate of Albright College, where he earned a degree in Economics. In 2005, Justin graduated from The Dickinson School of Law of the Pennsylvania State University. Since 2010, Justin has served as an Assistant District Attorney in Berks County. He is currently assigned to Judge Johnson's courtroom. Additionally, Justin is the A.D.A. assigned to the Drug and Mental Health Treatment Courts. Justin is a board member of Treatment Access and Service Center. He was a member of the board of directors of the Reading Public Library from 2011 through 2015 and Berks Connections/Pretrial Services from 2016 through 2018. Justin currently serves as Vice President of the Berks County Bar Association.

**Benjamin F. Brooks, Director of Security at Prime Wellness**, is a retired Major of the Pennsylvania State Police, Management Consultant, and Founder of Major Ben's Consulting Agency, specializing in providing assistance to companies to more effectively implement Cultural Diversity programs. Brooks is a native of Elizabethtown, North Carolina. In 1979, he received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology from Kutztown University. He completed the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Management Training Program for Senior Managers, the FBI National Academy, Pennsylvania State University Police Supervisor In-service Training, and Police Executive Development Program. He is certified by the U.S. Department of Justice for Diversity Training. Brooks' yearning for social justice led him to enlist in the Pennsylvania State Police in 1961. He was one of the first African-Americans in the history of the State Police. Ben rose through the ranks to

become the first African-American Captain/Troop Commander. In 1987, Brooks became the first enlisted member of the Pennsylvania State Police to head the Affirmative Action/Contract Compliance Division. In that capacity, he developed the State Police's Sexual Harassment policy and training program, and redefined the concept of Affirmative Action, and its relationship to cultural diversity. He joined a multi-agency task force which was responsible for training Police and Corrections Departments throughout Pennsylvania in the Ethnic Intimidation laws relating to hate crimes. Brooks is a member of the National Speakers Association, American Seminar Leaders Association, Dale Carnegie Group, and the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives. (NOBLE).

**Honorable Daniel J. Clifford** was elected to the Bench in November 2015 and serves on the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas in the Family Court Division. Prior to his election, Judge Clifford was the Managing Partner in the Norristown office of the Philadelphia-based law firm Weber Gallagher LLP and prior to that was an attorney with another Philadelphia-based firm, Wolf Block. He is a Fellow of the International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (IALM), and, in practice, earned recognition in the area of international child custody on numerous occasions from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent Program. Judge Clifford served as Chair of the Pennsylvania Bar Association Family Law Section in 2013-2014. He was instrumental the enactment of a 2016 law reducing the time period to finalize contested divorces to one year from two years and adoption of a Supreme Court Rule establishing a parental coordination program, which went into effect in March of this year. In March 2018, he was designated by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania as Vice Chair of the Rules Committee. On November 1, 2018, Judge Clifford was appointed by the General Assembly to the Joint State Government Commission Advisory Committee on Domestic Relations Law, which provides the Legislature with expertise and advice on formulating legislation relating to family law. He received the Pro Bono Award in 2014 and a Special Achievement Award in 2015 from the Pennsylvania Bar Association. Judge Clifford was active in his community, serving as Chair of the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board for 20 years and as a previous member of the Board of Directors of Adoptions from the Heart, Equality Forum and the Montgomery County Children and Youth Services Advisory Board. Judge Clifford received his undergraduate degree in political science from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania and earned a law degree from the University of Baltimore

**Laurel Cline** is an Associate with the Human Resources Professional Services firm Mosteller & Associates in Reading. She has more than 25 years of work experience in multiple areas of Human Resources. Prior to joining Mosteller & Associates in mid-1998, Laurel was Director of Human Resources for Morgan Corporation, then North America's leading manufacturer of small to mid-size truck bodies. In her capacity as Director of Human Resources, Laurel was responsible for all aspects of the creation and delivery of HR services (compensation, benefits, training and development, recruitment, employee relations, and EEO/AA) for the corporate headquarters and the six regional manufacturing facilities with over 1200 employees. In addition to general management and Human Resource knowledge, Laurel's functional areas of specialization include compensation (executive, incentive, and base pay plans) human resource policies and procedures, and HR Outsourcing. Laurel works with a diverse client base, including higher education, manufacturing, financial services and not-for-profit organizations. She has made presentations to a number of local and national professional organizations

and business groups and has provided training on topics such as Compensation and Incentive Plans, Affirmative Action Plans, Harassment Awareness Training, Communication and Conflict Resolution Skills, Manager/Supervisory Training, and Workplace Violence. Laurel graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Speech Communications where she also took numerous business courses. She is a graduate of the PA Banker's Association Intermediate School of Banking, a member of World at Work (formerly American Compensation Association), as well as the Society for Human Resource Management.

**Matt Fessler, Esquire**, passed the Pennsylvania Bar exam in 2018 has been the law clerk to the Honorable James M. Bucci of the Berks County Court of Common Pleas since August 2018. Prior to passing the bar exam, he was a student at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. While he was a student, Matt had the opportunity to clerk for the Honorable Ann Lazarus of the Pennsylvania Superior Court and the Honorable Justice David Wecht of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

**Honorable Eleni Dimitriou Geishauser** was elected to the Bench of the Berks County Court of Common Pleas in 2015. She attended Holy Name High School, Immaculata College, and The Dickinson School of Law. During college and law school she interned in the Delaware County District Attorney's Office, The Cumberland County Public Defender's Office and clerked for The Honorable Peter W. Schmehl. She was admitted to the bar on November 18, 1996 and began working with her father in the firm of Emmanuel H. Dimitriou, P.C. That practice evolved into what became Dimitriou Geishauser, P.C. Prior to ascending to the Bench, her practice included criminal defense, family law and estate administration. She is a former director of the Berks County Bar Association. She has been teaching classes in various legal topics at Alvernia Seniors' College, as well as various other senior citizen groups throughout Berks County.

**Andrew N. Howe, Esquire**, concentrates his practice in labor and employment matters as well as commercial litigation at the Philadelphia law firm Spruce Law. Prior to joining Spruce Law, he was a founding partner and shareholder of Hartman, Howe, Allerton & Shurr in Wyomissing. Mr. Howe counsels a diverse corporate client base ranging from 20 to over 8,000 employees, both in union and non-union settings on a local, national, and international level. He regularly provides on-site training to his clients on a wide variety of issues, such as discrimination in the workplace, avoidance of labor disputes and liability, among other topics relevant to his clients' businesses. In his practice, Mr. Howe regularly appears in Federal and State Court on a wide variety of commercial and employment cases, predominantly in the U.S. Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. He earned a Juris Doctor from the Dickinson School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Richmond where he was a member of the Aereopagus English Honor Society and Academic Debate Team.

**Honorable M. Theresa Johnson** was elected to the bench in 2013. She is currently assigned to the Criminal Division, including DUI/drug/mental health/veterans' treatment and IPP courts. Attorney Johnson grew up in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Following High School she attended Penn State University where she was a member of the women's Varsity Swim Team and Captain her senior year. After graduation she returned to North Carolina and then worked for several years in Washington, D.C. before attending law school. During law school, she joined the Berks County District Attorney's Office in 1993 as an intern and then as an Assistant District Attorney upon

graduation. As an Assistant District Attorney she practiced in all areas of the DA's office, including appeals, child abuse, drug cases and homicides. In 1998 she was promoted to Chief of Trials. She left the District Attorney's Office and entered private practice practicing in the area of civil law with the law firm of Rhoda Stoudt and Bradley which then merged to become Kozloff Stoudt. In 2000 Attorney Johnson re-joined the District Attorney's Office as the Supervising Attorney assigned to work with the Reading Area Violent Crimes Task Force and the Project Safe Neighborhoods Program. In January 2004, Attorney Johnson and members of the Weed and Seed Program were selected by the Department of Justice along with six other cities to attend a conference in Washington, DC to discuss the success of Task Force and the Weed and Seed program. In October 2006 Attorney Johnson joined the law practice of Linton, Distasio, Adams & Edwards where she practiced family law. In January 2008, following the election of District Attorney John Adams she re-joined the District Attorney's office and served as the First Assistant District Attorney until her election as Judge of the Court of Common Pleas.

**Molly Kleinfelter** began her legal career as the first law clerk for the Honorable Scott E. Lash of Berks County. In 2003, she began working in private practice with a focus on family law. She then began to work as a Custody/Support hearing officer in Berks County and worked part time in private practice. Two years ago, she was offered the opportunity to give up private practice and work as a Custody Conciliator in Montgomery County. She happily splits her time between the two courthouses. Molly is the mother of three children, two dogs, one cat and is happily married. She is an avid reader and crochets every day.

**Joan E. London, Esquire**, is a Shareholder with the Wyomissing firm of Kozloff Stoudt where her practice is concentrated in municipal law, land use, appellate practice and employment law. Born in Philadelphia, she is a graduate of Villanova University, with a B.A. and M.A. in Political Science, and earned a J.D. from The Dickinson School of Law. She is a member of the Berks County and Pennsylvania Bar Associations (PBA). She is past Chair of the Municipal Law Section of the PBA, and served as a member of the PBA House of Delegates. Joan is the Immediate Past President of the Berks County Bar Association (2018), served as its Treasurer from 2003 to 2006, and previously served as Chair of its Municipal/Education/Environmental/Real Estate Section.

Joan has planned and taught seminars offered by the Pennsylvania Bar Institute, the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs, the Albright College Center for Excellence in Local Government, the Berks County Bar Association, the Society for Human Resources Management, and the Pennsylvania Housing Alliance. These programs have addressed topics including validity challenges to land use ordinances, zoning for agricultural preservation, the Sunshine Act, the Right to Know Law, wage and hour law, employment discrimination, and blighted property remediation. Joan authored the chapter titled "Meetings and Records" for the Solicitor's Handbook published by the Governor's Center for Local Government Services of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, and co-authored a cover article for the May-June 2013 issue of The Pennsylvania Lawyer magazine titled "Emerging from the Red: What to do About Municipalities In Financial Trouble."

**Brandon Miller** is the Director of Production for Prime Wellness. He brings significant depth and breadth of knowledge, along with management expertise, to the medical marijuana space, based on nearly a decade dedicated to cultivation and breeding

of the plant. Previously, Brandon served as the director of cultivation operations for Colorado Product Services, whose 44,000-square-foot indoor grow facility produces all of the product for the Mountain Flower, Double Black Extracts, and Mountain High Edibles brands. He also was the Director of Cultivation at Bedford Grow, where he was responsible for oversight and development of all production operations for the 80,000-square-foot cultivation and processing facility. Brandon gained commercial experience early in his career in Colorado serving as a grow manager for VIP Cannabis's 25,000 square-foot facility and as a breeder and cultivator at Mindful's 40,000 square-foot facility. The former owner and operator of two hydroponic supply stores, Brandon has consulted on the construction and operation of many commercial cultivations throughout the state of Colorado specializing in custom fertilizer programs and applications with a deep understanding of operating in a regulated environment. As the Co-founder and Owner of B&B Grow Solutions, he is currently contracted with the state of Ohio as a subject matter expert in the field of marijuana cultivation.

**Alexandra T. Milspaw** is a licensed professional counselor and AASECT-Certified Sex Therapist in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. She earned her PhD in Human Sexuality at Widener University and her Masters of Education in Counseling Psychology at Lehigh University. She is a Certified Consulting Hypnotist, Master Neuro-Linguistic Programmer, Certified Clinical Trauma Professional, and Certified Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction Trainer. She is on the faculty and co-chair of the Clinical Foundations Course for the International Pelvic Pain Society and is nominated to be on the Board of the American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors and Therapists (AASECT). Dr. Milspaw owns a group private practice named 4Directions Counseling specializing in sexual health, chronic pain and illness, and trauma.

**William Morgan, CPA/PFS**, is an Advisory Team Leader at Buckingham Strategic Wealth where he works with a team of other professionals to monitor, update and execute wealth management strategies in pursuit of his clients' wealth transfer, retirement and tax objectives. Bill served as president of Herbein Wealth Management in Wyomissing until the firm's merger with Buckingham Strategic Wealth in 2016. Before founding Herbein Wealth Management in 2000, Bill spent more than two decades as a practicing CPA with Herbein + Company Inc. For 15 of those years, he was the partner in charge of the firm's tax department. A graduate of Susquehanna University, Bill earned his bachelor's degree in accounting in 1976. He also holds the CPA/PFS professional designations. Bill has been a member of the Berks County Estate Planning Council since 1981 and in the past served as its president. He is also a past president and a past member of the board of directors for Berkshire County Club and is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Law Foundation of Berks County. A native of Honesdale, Pennsylvania, Bill now lives in Sinking Spring. He has two adult daughters.

**Honorable J. Benjamin Nevius** grew up in Rockland Township, graduating from Brandywine Heights High School in 1997. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Elizabethtown College in 2001, and his Juris Doctor degree from Villanova University School of Law in 2004. Judge Nevius began his legal career as Law Clerk to the Honorable Jeffrey L. Schmehl of the Berks County Court of Common Pleas. After completing his clerkship, Judge Nevius worked for a regional insurance firm, a small general practice firm, and a multinational insurance company before joining AmLaw 100 law firm, Fox Rothschild LLP, in 2010. At Fox Rothschild, Judge Nevius became partner and worked as a litigator until his election in 2017. In private practice, Judge

Nevius was a member of a busy civil litigation practice representing individuals, families, and businesses of all stripes in a wide range of complex civil/commercial litigation matters before federal and state courts, administrative bodies, and appellate courts. In addition to his litigation practice, Judge Nevius represented public school districts and municipalities. Judge Nevius maintains an active presence in his community. He and his wife, Jennifer, reside in Oley Township with their two daughters. He enjoys playing guitar and piano at open mic nights, hiking, camping in his 17' travel trailer, and playing ice hockey in a local 35-and-over league

**Honorable Thomas G. Parisi** is a graduate of Holy Name High School. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Villanova University in 1980 and his JD from the Villanova University School of Law 1983. He was admitted to the Berks County Court of Common Pleas (1983); The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania (1983); The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania (1983); The United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit (1988); and The United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania (1989). He was a Berks County Assistant District Attorney from 1984 to 1987, before joining the Law Offices of O'Pake, Malsnee & Orwig, later O'Pake, Malsnee & Parisi as a general practitioner. Judge Parisi was elected to the Bench in November of 2001 and retained in 2011. He became President Judge of the Berks County Court of Common Pleas in January of 2018. Judge Parisi has been married to the former Danelle Ciervo since 1981 and they have six children.

**Gabriela (Gabby) Raful, Esquire**, is a Partner at Galfand Berger, LLP, where she represents injured clients in the areas of workers' compensation, personal injury, and products liability. She practices law in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Gabby is active with the Berks County Bar Association, where she sits on the Board of Directors and serves as Chair of the Minority Law Section. The section's purpose is to promote full and equal participation of minorities in the justice system. Because of her contribution to community, and her extensive pro bono work, the Berks County Bar Association awarded Gabby its 2017 Presidential Award of Merit. In 2017, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court appointed Gabby to the AOPC's Monitoring and Evaluation Team to implement and evaluate the Language Access Plan for the Unified Judicial System. In their role, the group makes certain that the courts remain open to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing or people who speak other languages. In 2018, the Pennsylvania Bar Association selected Gabby for the Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA) Leadership Institute Class of 2018- 19. Gabby is one of only 11 attorneys chosen for this class. In addition, she is the first attorney from Berks County honored with this selection. Gabby is also a frequent lecturer on workplace and personal injuries and is a contributing author. She is originally from Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic and thus, speaks Spanish. Gabby Graduated from Kutztown University magna cum laude and obtained her Juris Doctor degree from Widener University School of Law.

**Sonia Schlamowitz** is the Chief Court Interpreter and Language Access Coordinator for the County of Berks. Sonia is a seasoned interpreter with 20 years of experience as a staff interpreter for Berks County. She attained the State Certification when it first became available in Pennsylvania in 2009. As the Language Access Coordinator, she is the contact person for the public, court staff, and the AOPC concerning language access, and as the chief court interpreter, she oversees interpreter operations for the judicial courtrooms and provides assistance for a wide range of judicial departments. Sonia is

always seeking opportunities to advance her profession in order to improve upon the coordination of services provided to the LEPs in her district. Sonia is an active member of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and is currently working on her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration at Alvernia University, with plans to seek a Master's Degree in Linguistics. Sonia holds her certification as an ESL instructor, volunteering teaching ESL classes to adult learners. She is also involved with the Berks County Chamber of Commerce *Mujer a Mujer* organization, a forum for strategically advancing Latina professional women with the goal of creating more female leaders, and the Greater Reading Immigration Project.

**Latisha Bernard Schuenemann, Esquire**, is a shareholder at the law firm Leisawitz Heller in Spring Township. Latisha's practice focuses on a wide variety of estate and trust law topics, including estate planning, estate administration, special needs planning, and fiduciary litigation. She routinely handles guardianship cases throughout eastern Pennsylvania. She also works extensively with families and corporate fiduciaries to establish first party special needs trusts and third party supplemental needs trusts.

**Samuel C. Stretton, Esquire**, is a solo practitioner in West Chester with almost forty-five years of experience. His practice includes criminal defense, including having been involved in many capital cases. As a former disciplinary counsel, he has represented many judges and attorneys in disciplinary matters. Mr. Stretton is a graduate of The Dickinson School of Law.

**Stuart B. Suss, Esquire**, is now retired after 18 years as a Deputy District Attorney in Chester County and after 8 years as a Senior Deputy Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He is the primary drafter of a bench book for the Pennsylvania Judiciary regarding the prevention of witness intimidation in Pennsylvania courtrooms. The bench book was published by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. He is the co-author of "Mandatory Sentencing: A Different Perspective", "The Pennsylvania Bar Association Quarterly, issue of January 1987. He has taught at the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges, the Pennsylvania Bar Institute's Criminal Law Symposium and at numerous other CLE certified criminal law courses. He has briefed or argued more than 250 cases, either as lead counsel or as *Amicus Curiae*, before the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, the Superior Court of Pennsylvania and the United States Court of Appeals. Mr. Suss was appointed by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania to serve on the Criminal Procedural Rules Committee from 1996 to 2002. He served from 2005 to 2015 on the PBI committee responsible for drafting the Suggested Standard Criminal Jury Instructions. Mr. Suss currently serves on the Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Commission course development committee, and he is an instructor for the Pennsylvania Minor Judiciary Education Board. Mr. Suss received his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Pennsylvania.

**Paul C. Troy, Esquire**, is a shareholder in the Norristown firm of Kane, Pugh, Knoell, Troy & Kramer, LLP, where his practice focuses on professional liability; commercial, auto and general liability; and medical malpractice litigation. Mr. Troy has taught well over 100 seminars in professional liability risk management. Most of these seminars have been for attorneys, physicians, nurses, and other professionals. He served as president of the Pennsylvania Bar Institute and is past chair of the Pennsylvania Bar

Association's House of Delegates, of which he remains a member. He had also served as chair of the PBA Young Lawyers Division, as well as serving several terms on the PBA's Board of Governors. He is presently Chair of the PBA Leadership Development and Recruitment Committee. Mr. Troy served as President of the Montgomery Bar Association in 2013. He is a past President of the Montgomery County Trial Lawyers Association, and received the distinguished James P. Fox Trial Lawyer of The Year Award for professionalism in the art of trial advocacy from the Montgomery County Trial Lawyers Association in 2011. He is a former chair of Gaudeamus Music Ministry, Inc. and is on the Board of Trustees of the Wissahickon Valley Public Library. A 1987 graduate of Lehigh University and 1990 graduate of the Dickinson School of Law, Mr. Troy and his wife, Liz, and three daughters live in Blue Bell.

**Mary Keane Vilter, Esquire**, serves as Coordinator for Court Access at AOPC. Mary leads the efforts of the Unified Judicial System in complying with Title VI of the federal Civil Rights Act and the Pennsylvania Interpreter Act. Mary coordinated the Language Access Advisory Group appointed by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to write a Language Access Plan for the UJS, and now assists the Monitoring and Evaluation Team charged with implementing the Plan. In addition, Mary regularly presents continuing education programs for judges, court administrators, attorneys, and interpreters. Mary previously worked in the AOPC's Legal Department for almost 9 years, from 1992-2000, representing the courts and judges of the Commonwealth in federal civil rights and employment law matters. Mary has significant background in Americans with Disabilities Act and Limited English Proficiency issues. She served as the first full time executive director of the Legal Clinic for the Disabled in Philadelphia and later as a board member and board chair. She worked with deaf and hard of hearing consumers at the Center on Hearing and Deafness in Chester County, and volunteered for several years with the Volunteer English Program of Chester County. Mary worked in private practice with Ubel Velez, Esq., representing the Latino community in Chester County in workers compensation, immigration, and criminal defense matters. Mary graduated from Tufts University magna cum laude and obtained her Juris Doctor degree from the Washington College of Law, American University.

**Glenn D. Welsh, Esquire**, has been Berks County's Chief Public Defender since 1998. In that position he supervises a staff of thirty-four, including twenty-four Assistant Public Defenders. Previously, he had served four years as a Berks County Assistant Public Defender. Mr. Welsh is a graduate of The Pennsylvania State University and the Widener University School of Law. He is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Public Defender Association & co- chair of the Berks County Bar Association Criminal Defense section.

**Victoria White, Esquire**, is Ethics Counsel for the Pennsylvania Bar Association. As ethics counsel, Ms. White responds to Ethics Hotline inquiries from PBA members who have questions concerning the impact of the provisions of the Pennsylvania Rules of Professional Conduct upon their own prospective conduct. Ms. White also assists the PBA's Committee on Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility, which issues written ethics opinions and reviews and recommends proposals for changes to the Pennsylvania Rules of Professional Conduct. In addition to staffing the Ethics Committee, Ms. White serves as the liaison between the PBA and the PBA Task Force on the Code of Judicial Conduct. Prior to joining the PBA, Ms. White served as assistant counsel for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania State Ethics Commission, practiced for several years in

the private sector, and was a staff attorney in the solicitor's office for a local municipality. Ms. White has been an adjunct instructor for Duquesne University and Harrisburg Area Community College. She is a frequent panelist on ethics-related topics for continuing legal education courses. Ms. White received her B.A. from Franklin & Marshall College and her J.D. from American University, Washington College of Law.

**Thomas G. Wilkinson, Jr., Esquire**, is an attorney at the firm Cozen O'Connor in Philadelphia. He concentrates his practice in the areas of business litigation, business torts, appellate, complex insurance coverage and professional responsibility matters. He also has substantial experience in advising lawyers and law firms on risk management and professional liability issues. Tom has been retained and accepted as an expert witness in attorney professional liability cases in state and federal courts, and has been appointed as a neutral mediator and discovery master. He is the co-editor of the Pennsylvania Ethics Handbook, a comprehensive review of the rules of conduct governing lawyers, with extensive citations to case decisions and ethics opinions addressing all aspects of lawyer-client relationship. He is co-author of the chapter on "Conflicts of Interest" in the Pennsylvania Ethics Handbook. Tom has testified as an expert witness in state and federal proceedings concerning lawyer professional liability, standard of care and professional responsibility matters. Tom is a past president of the Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA), and a past president of the Pennsylvania Bar Institute. He is a master of the Villanova Law J. Willard O'Brien American Inn of Court and has been a lecturer in law on professional responsibility at Villanova University School of Law. He is a member of the American Bar Association's House of Delegates and has been appointed by the ABA President to serve a three-year term on the ABA Standing Committee on Professionalism. He also has served on the ABA Task Force on International Trade in Legal Services and as co-chair of the conflicts of interest subcommittee for the Section of Litigation's Ethics and Professionalism Committee. Tom is a past member of the Philadelphia Bar Association Board of Governors and past co-chair of its State Civil Litigation Section and Rules and Procedure Committee. He is also the editor of the DRI Lawyers Professionalism and Ethics Committee newsletter. He is a frequent author and lecturer on civil litigation and professional responsibility topics. He is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of New Hampshire in 1978 and received his law degree in 1981 from Villanova University Law School, where he was managing editor of the Villanova Law Review.

**Honorable Paul M. Yatron** has been a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Berks County since 2006 and its President Judge from 2013 through 2017. Prior to joining the bench, he was in private practice as a partner in the Reading law firm Mogel, Speidel, Bobb & Kershner, beginning in 1996. He previously served as First Deputy Attorney General and Director of Attorney General's Criminal Division for former Pennsylvania Attorney General LeRoy S. Zimmerman, and as Chief Legal Counsel to Pennsylvania Auditor General Barbara Hafer. He is a graduate of Dickinson College (B.A. 1973) and Creighton University School of Law (J.D. 1976). Judge Yatron is married to the former Susan E. Potteiger, and resides in Heidelberg Township.

**Mark E. Zimmer, Esquire**, is a shareholder with the law firm of Mogel, Speidel, Bobb & Kershner where he has practiced since graduating from law school. His primary area of practice is family law. However, he is also a Court-appointed Guardian ad litem for children, as well as a Court-appointed arbitrator in civil litigation matters. Mark earned his Juris Doctor Degree from Rutgers University School of Law in Camden, New

Jersey. He graduated from Cabrini College with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology and Temple University with a Masters of Education Degree in Counseling Psychology. While in graduate school at Temple University, Mark was an intern at the Horsham Clinic. He was also an intern with the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office while he was in law school, during which time he was granted permission by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to litigate cases on behalf of the Commonwealth. Mark is a member of the Berks County Bar Association, the Pennsylvania Bar Association and is admitted before the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. He is the former Chair of the Berks County Bar Association Family Law Section and has presented numerous Continuing Education Seminars in that role. Mark is also the former President of the Berks County Chapter of the American Inns of Court. He has presented on numerous occasions to the Berks County Area Psychological Society and he has been a guest speaker at Penn State University Berks County Campus. And Mark was the legal editor for a published book entitled "Battered Woman Syndrome as a Legal Defense".