

HONORABLE DANIEL J. CLIFFORD



Judge 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 of the Norristown Office of the Philadelphia based firm of Weber Gallagher LLP and, before that, Wolf Block. He is a Fellow of the International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (IAML) and, in practice, received 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 was active in the leadership of the Pennsylvania and Montgomery Bar Associations. He served as Chair of the Pennsylvania Bar Association Family Law Section in 2013-2014. During his term as Chair, Judge Clifford's initiatives were the production of the 70-minute "*Judicial Interview of the Child*" video to educate judges, lawyers and parents on the custody process (available on YouTube), the passage of Act 102 to reduce the time period from two years to one year for contested divorces (ultimately signed into law by Governor Tom Wolf in October 2016) and the adoption of Rule 1915.11 by the Supreme Court for a parenting coordination program in Pennsylvania (effective March 2019). He also served on the PBA Diversity Task Force and is a Zone 9 Delegate to the PBA House of Delegates. Judge Clifford was appointed by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania as a Hearing Committee Member, serving the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania (2014-2016), and to the Supreme Court Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee for two terms (2015-2021). In March 2018, he was designated by the Supreme Court as Vice Chair of the Rules Committee. He also served on the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Bar Institute (PBI) (2016-2018). Active in his community, Judge Clifford previously served on the Board of Directors of Adoptions from the Heart, Equality Forum and the Advisory Board of the Children & Youth Services (by appointment of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners). He was Chair of the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board for 20 years. In 2009, 2011 and 2015, Judge Clifford received the coveted "highly recommended" rating from the Judiciary Committee of the Montgomery Bar Association. He had an AV Peer Review Rating from Martindale Hubbell and *Super Lawyers* magazine recognized him as being among the top 5 percent of family law practitioners (2009 – 2016). Judge Clifford was one of 20 attorneys across the Commonwealth honored as "Diverse Lawyer of the Year" by the *Legal Intelligencer* (2011) in recognition of his efforts in the area of diversity which includes being the co-founder of the Montgomery Bar Association's Summer IL Diversity Program (now in its 10th year). He was selected as one of the Top Lawyers in *Main Line Today* (2012), Best Lawyers in America (2015 and 2016), and *Suburbanlife* magazine's "Legal Eagles Suburban Life's Awesome Attorneys" (2013). Judge Clifford received the Pro Bono Award (2014) and a Special Achievement Award (2015) from the Pennsylvania Bar Association. Judge Clifford is a frequent speaker at PBA, PBI and the Montgomery Bar continuing legal education programs and guest lectures at Drexel, Temple, Penn State and Villanova law schools each year. 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 in formulating legislation relating to family law.