



The
DISCIPLINARY BOARD
of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

**April 2024
Newsletter**



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From the Chair

Over the course of my career, I have been fortunate to enjoy many rewarding challenges and privileges, and I count my tenure on the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania among the greatest of these. It is a veritable honor that, today, I greet you as the 2024-2025 Disciplinary Board Chair. Along with Vice-Chair Gretchen A. Mundorff and the other Members of the Disciplinary Board, I am grateful for the unique responsibilities and charge of this role. I would like to again thank Chief Justice Debra Todd and the Justices of the Supreme Court for this opportunity to uphold the Board's mission in service of the Commonwealth.



The Board would like to welcome its newest Members, Gaetan J. Alfano, Bryan S. Neft, Catherine R. O'Donnell, and Joshua F. Wilson, whose terms commenced on April 1, 2024. We look forward to their contributions to the Board's work in protecting the public, maintaining the integrity of the legal profession, and safeguarding the reputation of the courts. As a unified Board, we deeply revere our obligations of service to both Pennsylvania's public and its legal community.

As we honor the diversity within our communities throughout the calendar year, April's Autism Acceptance Month recognizes the strengths, experiences, and needs of individuals on the autism spectrum. Pennsylvanians with autism are valued members of our profession, workplaces, schools, and families. Led by Justice Kevin M. Dougherty, the Pennsylvania Courts have dedicated much research, planning, and education toward better supporting court users with autism, further increasing access to justice. I encourage all to visit the Unified Judicial System's "Autism and the Courts" [webpage](#) to learn more about this important work.

Acknowledging the critical role well-being plays in attorney ethics, next month, the Board will increase efforts toward raising awareness about mental health amongst legal professionals as we celebrate Well-Being Week in Law and Mental Health Awareness Month.

With sincere gratitude,

Annual Attorney Registration

Online Registration Coming Soon!

Upcoming Registration Cycle Information

Online registration is NOT currently available but will open in early May. As always, email reminders will commence once registration is available on the UJS Portal. Please ensure that your [contact information](#) is up to date with the Board.

This year, there are a few noteworthy changes to the UJS Portal and registration form. Please see the detailed information below so that you may prepare as necessary for the upcoming registration deadline of July 1st.

UJS Portal Service Fee Change

This change is regarding all credit card payments made on the UJS Portal. Please see the message below regarding the fee change.

*Effective April 1, 2024, the \$2.75 flat fee per online transaction has changed to a **2.75% fee based on the total cost of each online transaction.** This change applies to all online payments made via the PAePay ecommerce platform. This includes payments related to fines, costs, restitution, bail, **Annual Attorney Registration** and Bar Applications, PACFile, state probation and parole fees, and the Guardianship Tracking System.*

Please note that the option to “Pay by Mail” for Annual Registration remains.

Professional Liability Insurance (PLI) Section Change

The response options in the PLI section have been updated to better reflect the language in [Pa.R.P.C. 1.4\(c\)](#) and there are now four response options. Another change is that if an “I maintain...” option is selected, the **Insurance Carrier Name must also be provided** pursuant to [Pa.R.D.E. 219\(c\)\(1\)\(vi\)](#).

New Law Firm Size Question

A question regarding law firm size has been added to the registration form. If you are currently employed by a law firm/office, you will be asked to provide how many attorneys are employed by the firm (including yourself and ALL office locations). Ranges will be provided as possible responses.

Voucher Processing Reminder

The Board encourages users to “Pay Online” with a credit card for immediate confirmation of a completed registration once a credit card confirmation number is received. However, for those who choose to “Pay by Mail” when submitting the online registration form(s), please remember that the unique voucher that is created must be submitted to the Attorney Registration Office

directly. **Please ensure that your records reflect that voucher payments should be sent to:**

**Attorney Registration
Attn: Voucher Payment
601 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 5600
PO Box 62625
Harrisburg, PA 17106-2625**

Please note that the formerly utilized PO Boxes (Lancaster and Hazelton) are NOT valid and will result in returned mail by USPS.

The Evolving Role of the Attorney Registration Office

Overview

The Attorney Registration Office is the administrative division of the Disciplinary Board which oversees the annual registration of every attorney admitted to the Pennsylvania Bar, with the exception of attorneys admitted pro hac vice under [Pa.B.A.R. 301](#).

The Attorney Registration Office receives and maintains all attorney registration records and annual registration forms filed pursuant to Rule 219 of the Pennsylvania Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement. In addition, the Attorney Registration Office:

- Manages the preparation and implementation of the annual registration process;
- Processes license status changes and other information updates;
- Distributes attorney license cards;
- Assesses non-waivable late payment penalties;
- Distributes notices of administrative suspension for non-compliance with annual registration or Continuing Legal Education requirements;
- Coordinates with the PA Lawyers Fund for Client Security and PA IOLTA Board regarding Approved Financial Institutions; and
- Supervises and maintains the attorney database – from which certain data is shared with other Court agencies.

History of Attorney Registration

From 1973 until 1986, the Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA), which is a voluntary membership organization, maintained the database of all attorneys admitted to the Pennsylvania Bar and those who were also PBA members. PBA was responsible for PBA Membership, overseeing the mailing of the attorney registration forms and license cards, processing attorney registration payments, and assigning Attorney ID Numbers to newly-admitted attorneys.

If any attorney failed to register, PBA would provide a list of those attorneys to the Disciplinary Board for action. The Disciplinary Board would then send a copy of the Supreme Court Order and delinquency notice to the attorney by certified mail for a chance to clear their delinquencies before the effective date of the Order. Those who did not comply were "Transferred to Inactive Status by Supreme Court Order". Only active attorneys were placed on this status as there was no annual assessment for voluntary inactive status at the time.

On May 15, 1987, the Disciplinary Board assumed all Attorney Registration functions. At that time, all processing happened on paper. The Attorney Registration Office printed and mailed registration forms and license cards, manually processed the forms and payments, and then filed

all records appropriately.

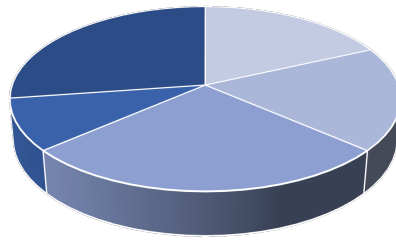
An increase in the attorney population led the Disciplinary Board to seek to improve efficiency. In 2009, a lockbox provider was engaged to process the annual registration forms and payments. In 2010, following a coordinated effort between the Disciplinary Board and the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC), attorneys were able to submit their registration form and payment online utilizing the Court's Unified Judicial System Web Portal. In 2016, online registration became mandatory for all attorneys.

A Timeline of Registration Highlights

- **May 16, 1973** - The PA Supreme Court issues its first Order regarding delinquent attorneys for non-payment.
- **April 30, 1982** - The Supreme Court establishes a separate fund to be known as the Pennsylvania Lawyers Fund for Client Security. A portion of the annual fee is transferred to the Fund to aid in the recovery of losses incurred by clients due to actions of the attorney.
- **1987** - The Disciplinary Board assumes Attorney Registration functions.
- **January 7, 1992** - The Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board is established.
- **1992** - Attorney license cards are issued as a flexible plastic card. Previously, they had been printed on 3.5"x5" postcard stock.
- **October 15, 1992** - The first Final Notice of Non-payment of the Annual Fee is mailed. This included the first late fee assessed on October 12, 1992.
- **January 31, 1994** - The first Supreme Court Order for CLE non-compliance is issued.
- **September 22, 1995** - The Supreme Court issues an Order approving the first list of financial institutions as depositories of fiduciary accounts.
- **1997** - The reporting requirements for financial data now include bank code, address, account number, and account type.
- **2002** - License statuses now include: Active, Inactive, and Retired. Until now, attorneys could only register as Active or Inactive.
- **September 19, 2005** - The Supreme Court issued an Order permitting attorneys displaced due to Hurricane Katrina to practice law in facilities in Pennsylvania for nine months to provide legal services for their clients in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.
- **April 2, 2009** - Supreme Court Order amends Pa.R.P.C. 1.15 to include an additional annual fee to be collected for use by the PA IOLTA Board.
- **2010** - Online registration becomes available through the Unified Judicial System Web Portal. The registration form also now includes a question as to whether or not an attorney is covered by Professional Liability Insurance.
- **September 1, 2010** - The terminology "Transferred to Inactive Status by Supreme Court Order" for non-payment or non-compliance becomes "administrative suspension". Within the year prior to this date, attorneys were permitted to clear up delinquencies and assume a voluntary status.
- **2016** - Attorneys are now required to complete their registration form online. However, payment may be made online with a credit card or with a printed payment voucher and check. Attorneys with good cause may request an exemption from online registration.
- **2017** - Changes to contact information are able to be submitted electronically through the Disciplinary Board's website.
- **2019** - A question of whether or not each attorney has a succession plan is added to the registration form. At this time, maintaining a succession plan is not a requirement.
- **2024** - The Professional Liability Insurance carrier name is now required to be provided. A survey question regarding law firm size is also added to the registration form.

Discipline Imposed

March 2024



- Informal Admonition - 2
- Private Reprimand - 2
- Public Reprimand - 3
- Public Censure - 0
- Disability Inactive - 0
- Temporary Suspension - 1
- Suspension - 0
- Disbarment - 3

Public Reprimand

[Craig Thomas Hosay](#)
[Brian Frederick Levine](#)
[Michael J. O'Neill](#)

Temporary Suspension

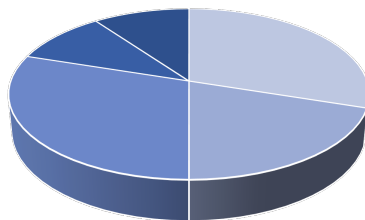
[Todd Andrew Goodman](#)

Disbarment

[James Charles Bailey](#)
[Scott Ronald Gallant](#)
[John R. Parroccini](#)

Reinstatements

March 2024



- From Inactive - 3
- From Retired - 2
- From Administrative Suspension - 3
- From Disability Inactive - 0
- From Suspension - 1
- From Disbarment - 1
- Reinstatement Denied - 0

From Inactive

[Gregory Anthony Koory](#)
[Alison R. Lazerwitz](#)
[Lisa Evans Lewis](#)

From Retired

[Frederic M. Krieger](#)
[Richard Allen Monahan](#)

From Administrative Suspension

[Lauren Estee Bishow](#)
[Ralph Thomas Borrello](#)
[Kevin Timothy Bright](#)

From Suspension
[Pearlette Vivian Toussant](#)

From Disbarment
[Kenneth Andrew Rubin](#)

Note: The above-listed granted reinstatement matters reflect only those granted by Supreme Court Order. An attorney listed as reinstatement granted, but whose current license status does not reflect reinstatement, has yet to submit the fees necessary to finalize reinstatement.

Rules

Disciplinary Board Proposes Succession Planning Rule Changes

The Disciplinary Board seeks comments on proposed amendments to the Rules of Professional Conduct to require that every active lawyer in private practice in Pennsylvania maintain a written succession plan. The proposal was published at [54 Pa. B. 1041](#) (3/2/2024).

Under the proposal, a new Rule 1.20 would be added to the Pennsylvania Rules of Professional Conduct. The new rule, titled Lawyer Succession Planning, would require that every active lawyer in private practice in Pennsylvania have a written succession plan, either alone or as part of a law firm plan, specifying the steps to be taken in the event of the lawyer's extended incapacity from practicing law, disability, or death. The proposal requires a lawyer to identify an "assisting lawyer" who has consented to carry out the terms of the succession plan, and to notify clients of the existence of the succession plan. The text of the rule and the comments contain additional guidance as to what the succession plan must address and what options for its execution are available. Comment 3 to the proposed rule clarifies that if a lawyer is a member of a firm with other Pennsylvania-admitted lawyers, the firm may be designated as the assisting lawyer.

The proposal would also amend [Rule 87.7\(b\)](#) of the Disciplinary Board Rules and Procedures to provide that the DB-7 letter by which Disciplinary Counsel notifies a respondent-attorney of a complaint may also inquire as to the respondent-attorney's compliance with RPC 1.20 and request that the respondent-attorney produce a copy of the succession plan.

Written comments, suggestions or objections may be submitted to the Executive Office of the Disciplinary Board by interested persons are invited to submit *written* comments *on or before May 1, 2024* by mail, email, or fax to the Executive Office of the Disciplinary Board.

The Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania
601 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 5600
PO Box 62625
Harrisburg, PA 17106-2625
Fax: (717) 231-3381
Email: DBoard.Comments@pacourts.us

Upcoming Public Proceedings

We encourage you to observe our public disciplinary and reinstatement hearings, oral arguments, and public reprimands on the [Board's YouTube channel](#). You can also view "Upcoming Public

Proceedings” at the bottom of the Board’s [home page](#).

Scheduled proceedings begin at 9:30 am unless otherwise noted.

<i>April</i>		
April 22 April 23	John Patrick Sanderson, III	Disciplinary Hearing
<i>May</i>		
May 1 May 2 May 3	Richard Joseph Silverberg	Disciplinary Hearing
May 8 May 9	Kimberly Ann Furmanek	Disciplinary Hearing
May 15 May 16	Andrew Scott Ziegler	Disciplinary Hearing
May 21 May 22	Maqsood Hamid Mir	Reinstatement Hearing
May 30	Tancredi William Calabrese	Disciplinary Hearing
<i>June</i>		
June 5 June 6 June 7	Scott Eric Diamond	Disciplinary Hearing
June 20	Stephen William Dotts	Disciplinary Hearing
June 25 June 26 June 27	J. Conor Corcoran	Disciplinary Hearing
<i>July</i>		
July 1 July 2	Christopher Nicholas Urbano	Disciplinary Hearing
July 29 July 30 July 31	Patrick C. Carey	Disciplinary Hearing
<i>September</i>		
September 16 September 18	Daryl Alan Yount	Disciplinary Hearing
<i>To Be Scheduled</i>		
Jonathan C. Dunsmoor - Public Reprimand		
Brian Christopher Eves - Public Reprimand		
Emeka Igwe - Public Reprimand		
Richard P. Kimmins - Public Reprimand		
Timothy M. Kolman - Public Reprimand		
Ivan Erik Lee - Public Reprimand		
David Edward Mulock - Public Reprimand		
Scott Richard Sanderson - Public Reprimand		
Andrew B. Shaw - Public Reprimand		

Vacancies

The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania is aided by select boards, committees, commissions, and councils consisting of more than 180 appointed volunteers – most, but not all, are lawyers and judges. The panels have a wide range of responsibilities and functions. Some make recommendations to the Court for amendments, revisions, or simplification of court procedural rules. Others regulate the practice of law, oversee continuing legal education for lawyers, and administer funds to assist individuals unable to pay for legal services. Still others advise on keeping the courts free of bias and discrimination and on long-range planning.

There are currently vacancies on the following panels:

[Civil Procedural Rules Committee](#) – Applicants should be knowledgeable about the Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure and experienced in state civil practice in Pennsylvania.

[Minor Judiciary Education Board](#) – Applicants should be knowledgeable about the practice and procedure in the magisterial district courts, as well as the curriculum and coursework that is required of the four-week certifying program for prospective minor court judges.

Application Instructions

If you would like to be considered to serve on a board, committee, advisory group, or related independent entity, email the application, cover letter, resume, and other pertinent information expressing your reasons of interest to SCApplications@pacourts.us.

More information may be found on the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania [website](#).

Applications are due by Tuesday, April 30, 2024.

Articles of Interest

Lawyer Gives Up License After Stealing Ambulance

We have all heard stories of lawyers being labeled as “ambulance chasers,” but a Chicago lawyer turned that on its head after he stole a Chicago Fire Department ambulance and led authorities on an hour-long pursuit.

Chicago lawyer Benjamin Herrington was arrested after stealing an ambulance and driving it 55 miles as police pursued him. He was [convicted](#) of Criminal Trespass to Vehicle, a misdemeanor, and sentenced to two years of conditional discharge (180 days in county jail already served) and fined \$7000. He also was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$7,833.44, obtain a drug, alcohol, and mental health evaluation, and complete any recommended treatment.

Disciplinary charges were brought against Herrington, and he elected to [move](#) that his name be stricken from the list of lawyers although the Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission indicated that the conduct did not warrant disbarment.

In an [email to the ABA Journal](#), Herrington stated that he had concluded continuing in the practice of law was not in his interest, and that he is pursuing a career as a writer. He added that he was “grateful, daily, to be alive, healthy and on the road to recovery from the significant injuries I suffered in connection with my arrest and during my time in jail”.

ABA Opinion Addresses Use of Information by Former and Current Government Lawyers

The American Bar Association’s Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility has issued [Formal Opinion No. 509](#) which [provides](#) extensive guidance on the use of confidential governmental information by current and former government lawyers, under the provisions of [Rule 1.11 of the Model Rules of Professional Conduct \(Pennsylvania version\)](#). The opinion is essential reading for any lawyer who enters private practice after government service, who continues to represent private clients while serving in a part-time governmental role, or who serves as a public lawyer called upon to consider information obtained by other governmental agencies.

The Committee notes that the purpose of Rule 1.11 is to protect individuals from the misuse of information that an entity of government used its authority to acquire. The opinion focuses in particular on Rule 1.11(c). This section states that a lawyer having confidential government information about a person acquired when the lawyer was a public officer or employee may not represent a private client with adverse interests in a matter in which the information could be used to the material disadvantage of that person. “Confidential government information” is defined as information obtained under governmental authority, which the government is prohibited by law from disclosing to the public, has a legal privilege not to disclose, or which is not otherwise available to the public.

The Committee notes that Rule 1.11(c) differs from the other provisions of Rule 1.11, which deal only with lawyers who have left public employment for private practice, in that it applies to both former and current government lawyers even if they did not acquire the information in a representative capacity. It cites examples of police officers, legislators, public executives, and others who also have a part-time legal practice. Such part-time public officers are prohibited from representing a private client in a matter where confidential information they learned about an adverse party in their public role could be used to the disadvantage of that person.

The Committee points out that this prohibition does not apply to all public information, but only to that information the agency is prohibited from revealing to the public or holds a privilege to. This provision is broader than the prohibition of [Rule 1.6](#) on use of confidential information acquired in the course of a representation. A “private client” for these purposes may include a different government agency that does not have a legal right of access to the protected information.

In conclusion, the Committee states:

Model Rule of Professional Conduct 1.11(c) applies to a lawyer who acquired confidential government information while the lawyer was employed by or an official of the government, regardless of whether the lawyer seeking to represent the private client has now left government employ or office or maintains a private law practice (e.g., a part-time practice) while still in government employ or office.

Avoiding Disqualification Due to Prospective Client Conflicts: ABA Formal Opinion

The American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility has issued [Formal Opinion No. 510](#) which [provides guidance](#) for steps lawyers and law firms must take to avoid disqualification due to information received from prospective clients.

The opinion examines the issue of whether attorneys and firms will be disqualified based on information gathered from prospective clients under [Rule 1.18 of the Model Rules of Professional Conduct \(Pennsylvania version\)](#). The Committee notes that under section (c), a lawyer may not represent a client adverse to a prospective client in the same or a substantially related matter if the lawyer received information from the prospective client that could be significantly harmful to that prospective client. The second sentence of the section provides a safe harbor: the lawyer and their firm will not be disqualified if the lawyer "took reasonable measures to avoid exposure to more disqualifying information than was reasonably necessary to determine whether to represent the prospective client".

[Formal Opinion 492](#) (2020) discussed what kinds of information could be disqualifying, such as views on the potential resolution options, personal accounts of relevant events, sensitive personal information, and strategies. Formal Opinion 510 addresses at length what might be "reasonable measures" to avoid exposure to disqualifying information. The Opinion states that lawyers must exercise discretion throughout the initial communications with prospective clients and limit the information sought to that which is necessary to decide whether to enter into representation. The Committee recommends that the lawyer should also warn the prospective client that the lawyer has not yet agreed to take on the matter and cautioned them not to volunteer information pertaining to the matter until after the lawyer has determined whether to undertake the representation. The Committee notes that the lawyer may choose to collect more information to attempt to persuade the client that the lawyer's services are a good fit but should recognize that this approach runs the risk of disqualification from representing adverse parties if the prospective client decides to go elsewhere.

If the lawyer learns disqualifying information and failed to take reasonable measures to avoid receiving more information than necessary to determine whether to accept the representation, the lawyer's conflict will be imputed to the lawyer's firm, and the entire firm may be disqualified from representing any party whose interests are materially adverse to those of the prospective client.

Bad Romance: Rock Star Loses When Lawyer Files Opponent's Brief

All is not well with the classic rock band The Romantics. While the lineup is apparently still intact, lead singer Walter Palamarchuk, professionally known as Wally Palmar, and the band's management group, Master Beat, Inc., have [sued](#) bassist and guitarist Mike Skill, claiming that Skill diverted royalties which should have gone to the company for distribution.

The case took a surprising turn during motions regarding summary disposition. After the plaintiffs filed a motion for summary disposition, a new attorney entered her appearance on behalf of Skill. On the same day, the trial court issued a scheduling order setting a date for Skill's response to the motion and his request to seal the record. On the due date listed in the scheduling order, Skill's new attorney filed a brief in opposition to the motion for summary disposition. However, the body of the brief was a verbatim copy of the plaintiffs' brief in support of summary disposition, even including in the prayer for relief a request that the plaintiffs' motion be granted. The next day, counsel for Skill attempted to file a corrected brief, but the court refused to allow it. Counsel contended that she was hampered by tight timelines and personal illness, and that a paralegal

filed a copy of the plaintiffs' brief instead of the one she wrote. The court noted that defendant was given two opportunities to respond to plaintiffs' motion for summary disposition, and the only timely filed response concurred in plaintiffs' requested relief and awarded judgment for treble damages.

On appeal, the [Michigan Court of Appeals affirmed](#), noting that Skill's attorney's signature on the brief constituted a certification that she had read the document, and that the document was "well grounded in fact and . . . warranted by existing law". The Court of Appeals held that Skills was bound by his attorney's action in concurring with the relief requested in the plaintiffs' motion.

It is unlikely that Skill is singing "[What I Like About You](#)" to his attorney these days.

Despite their name, The Romantics are no strangers to the courts, having engaged in litigation with their former management company and filed an [unsuccessful suit](#) against Activision for the use of "What I Like About You" in the Guitar Hero game *Rocks the 80s*.

Attorney Well-Being

Institute for Well-Being in Law to Host Virtual Session on the Problem of Alcohol in the Legal Profession

On Wednesday, April 17th, the Institute for Well-Being in Law will host "[Is Being 'Functional' Enough? Science & Story on Reframing Alcohol](#)", a virtual event and part of its current speaker series.

This session will address the growing problem of alcohol within the legal profession, personal experiences with alcohol, the latest research on how alcohol impacts the brain and body, and tips and resources for making change. Learn more and register [here](#).

THE PATH TO WELLBEING:



Speaker Series

Is Being "Functional" Enough?

SCIENCE & STORY ON REFRAMING ALCOHOL

Join Amy and Khadi for a discussion of their personal challenges with alcohol use and science-based tips and resources for making positive change in your own lives.



Khadi A. Oluwatoyin, JD



Amy Guldner, JD

April 17, 2024
1:00-2:30 pm ET

Register Today

Well-Being Week in Law 2024 Theme Announced

The Institute for Well-Being in Law's annual [Well-Being Week in Law](#) returns May 6-10, 2024, aligning with Mental Health Awareness Month. The goal of the celebration is to "raise awareness about mental health and encourage action and innovation across the profession to improve well-being". Any individual, law firm, corporate legal department, government entity, bar association, law school, or other legal organization is invited to participate.

This year's theme, "[Well-Being Reboot](#)", embodies two key concepts: (1) a clean slate to restart (or start) well-being action plans and (2) behavior changes working toward greater well-being. Learn more and access **a free celebration guide and digital resources** at lawyerwellbeing.net/well-being-week-in-law!

WELL BEING reboot

A Fresh Start for Positive Change.

Explore the Disciplinary Board's Lawyer Well-Being Webpage

The Disciplinary Board's "[Lawyer Well-Being](https://padisciplinaryboard.org/for-attorneys/well-being)" webpage connects Pennsylvania attorneys with pertinent resources, [articles](#), events, and CLE opportunities to better understand and support their mental health and well-being. To access the Board's new "Lawyer Well-Being" page, visit padisciplinaryboard.org/for-attorneys/well-being.

LAWYER WELL-BEING

Connect to available resources to better understand and support mental health and well-being, particularly as they relate to the legal profession.

padisciplinaryboard.org/for-attorneys/well-being

The DISCIPLINARY BOARD of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

FOR ATTORNEYS FOR THE PUBLIC CASES

Lawyer Well-Being

To connect Pennsylvania attorneys with available health and well-being, particularly as they relate to the legal profession.

Digital resources
Informative articles
Upcoming events
CLE opportunities

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING WITHIN THE LEGAL PROFESSION

RESOURCES

LCLPA General Lawyer BIPOC & LGBTQ2

Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers (LCL) is a confidential and safe resource for Pennsylvania attorneys and their family members who may be struggling with their mental health or substance use. Since 1986, LCL has confidentially assisted and supported thousands of individuals who have faced myriad challenges (including grief, stress, anxiety, depression, eating disorders, gambling problems, problematic alcohol or prescription drug use, etc.), helping them navigate through dark and difficult times. If you are or someone you know is

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There is help, and there is hope.



LAWYERS CONCERNED FOR LAWYERS
PENNSYLVANIA

lclpa.org | 1-888-999-1941

**Evaluation by a
healthcare professional
Information and literature
Peer and staff support
Assistance with interventions
Recovery meetings
Online resources and CLE**

Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers is a confidential assistance program for the Pennsylvania legal community and their family members. LCL may not report information about a subject attorney back to the Disciplinary Board.

Confidential 24/7 Helpline: 1-888-999-1941

Last year, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania adopted amendments to the Pennsylvania Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement (Pa.R.D.E.) relating to confidentiality of proceedings, providing for three exceptions to the requirement of confidentiality under [Pa.R.D.E. 402\(d\)](#). Included in these exceptions is the allowance for Disciplinary Counsel to make a referral of an attorney to [Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers of Pennsylvania](#) (LCL) and share information as part of the referral. *However*, it is crucial to note that LCL may *not* report information about a subject attorney back to the Disciplinary Board. LCL is a **confidential** assistance program for the Pennsylvania legal community and their family members.

Around the Court



Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts Appoints New Deputy Chief Counsel

Andrea Tuominen, Pennsylvania State Court Administrator, recently announced the appointment of Sean Concannon as the new Deputy Chief Counsel for the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC).

Concannon previously served as Deputy General Counsel for the Governor's Office of General Counsel and also as Deputy General Counsel for Milton Hershey School. He holds a Juris Doctor from the Dickinson School of Law, Penn State University.

Regarding the appointment, Tuominen affirmed, "We are thrilled to welcome Mr. Concannon to the AOPC and are confident that his experience and fresh perspective will be invaluable to the courts, further strengthening our commitment to justice for all Pennsylvanians."

Read the full press release [here](#).

April Is Autism Acceptance Month

Pennsylvanians on the Autism Spectrum are integral members of our Commonwealth communities, and each April, their unique achievements and experiences are honored.

In a recent [press release](#), Justice Kevin Dougherty, who has championed several initiatives assisting court users with autism, asserted, "Pennsylvania has a unique story to tell. Four years ago, we started ground-breaking conversations to identify where we could make lasting and impactful change within our court system for those with an [Autism Spectrum Disorder]. Those conversations were driven by judges, community partners, court staff, and self-advocates who were ready to work together to create a sensory-friendly court experience for those in need."

Throughout the month of April, the Courts will share information about autism and resources, services, and support available statewide through its social media channels. Visit the Unified Judicial System's ["Autism and the Courts" webpage](#) to learn about PA Courts' robust efforts to better support court users with autism.



AUTISM
& THE COURTS
LISTEN. LEARN. EDUCATE.

Pennsylvania Courts Releases New Infographic During Child Abuse Awareness Month

The Unified Judicial System recently [released](#) a new infographic highlighting key data and demographics concerning child abuse cases in Pennsylvania. From 2019 through 2023, over 32,000 defendants were charged in cases of child abuse, resulting in over ten thousand convictions. The most commonly cited charge regards endangering the welfare of children.

Access the full UJS press release and county data details [here](#).

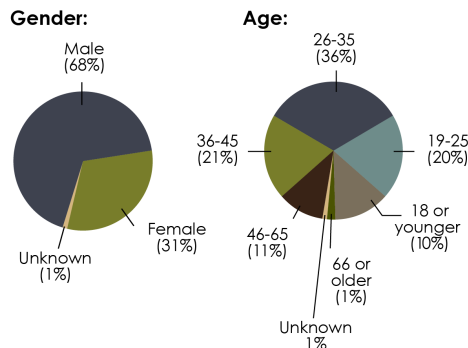
Child Abuse in Pennsylvania



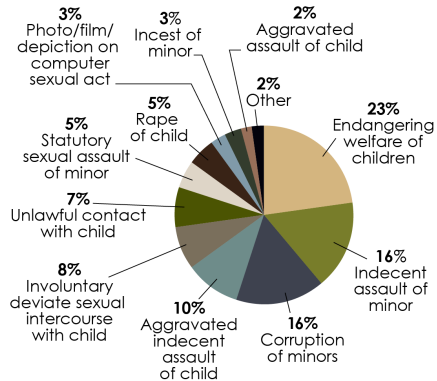
Child abuse is when an individual acts or fails to prevent something that causes harm or a high likelihood of harm to a child under the age of 18. This harm can take many forms, such as bodily injury, serious mental injury or sexual abuse or exploitation.

Between 1/1/2019 - 12/31/2023:
32,075 child abuse defendants were charged in
36,386 cases with
10,915 convictions.

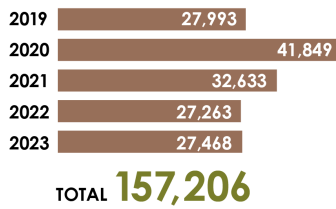
Defendant demographics for child abuse cases in Pa:



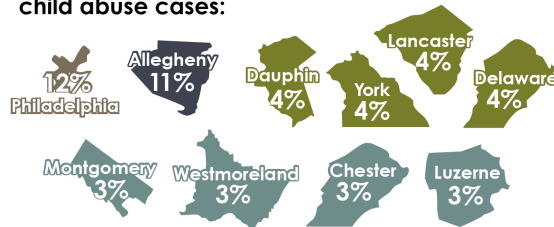
Statewide percentage of child abuse offenses:



Statewide number of offenses by year:



Counties with the highest percentage of child abuse cases:



Statewide data pulled from the Magisterial District Judge System and Common Pleas Case Management System from 1/1/2019 through 12/31/2023 for child abuse offenses as defined by Title 18 sections 2702, 2709, 2901, 2902, 2903, 3011, 3121, 3122.1, 3123, 3124, 3125, 3126, 4302, 4304, 5902, 5903, 6301, 6312, 6318 and 6320.



From the Pennsylvania Bar Association



Law Day Returns May 1, 2024

Since 1958, May 1st has been set aside as a day to reflect on our “respect for and adherence to law as one of the most ingrained traits of an American”. The Pennsylvania Bar Association invites you to learn more about the history of Law Day and why it matters to continue to acknowledge the significance of the Rule of Law as well as to reflect on the oath that PA lawyers take to “support, obey, and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this Commonwealth”.

On May 1st – and throughout the month of May – lawyers and judges will participate in local, state, and national bar association programs in recognition of Law Day. Contact local bar associations to learn more about specific Law Day programs and how members can get involved. Explore the American Bar Association’s 2024 Law Day theme and programming at americanbar.org/groups/public_education/law-day.

For those who have not yet registered for the [PBA Annual Meeting](#), May 8th-10th in Hershey, PBA invites you to join fellow PA lawyers for in-person CLE programs, opportunities to meet and talk with attorneys from across the Commonwealth, celebration of new leaders, and recognition of the outstanding service of fellow lawyers. Learn more through the [2024 Annual Meeting brochure](#).

Please note that the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA) are separate organizations. For more information about PBA, visit their [website](#).

We Want To Hear From You...

We are always on the lookout for stories of interest relating to legal ethics, new issues in the practice of law, lawyer wellness, and funny or just plain weird stories about the legal profession. If you come across something you think might be enlightening, educational, or entertaining to our readers or social media followers, [pass it along](#). If you are our original source, there may be a hat tip in it for you.

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