



The  
**DISCIPLINARY BOARD**  
of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

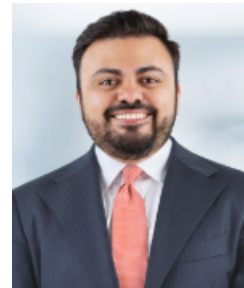
**April 2026**  
**Newsletter**



# *The Keystone Lex*

## *From the Chair*

For the past five years, I have had the privilege of serving as a Member of the Disciplinary Board — work I have found both meaningful and, at times, challenging. It is an honor to address you now as the 2026-2027 Board Chair. I am grateful to Chief Justice Debra Todd and the Justices of the Supreme Court for their confidence in me, and I look forward to working alongside Board Vice-Chair Laura E. Ellsworth and my fellow Members as we carry out the Board's important mission in service of the Commonwealth.



On behalf of the Board, I am also pleased to welcome our newest Members, Nancy Conrad and Joan Marie Wright, whose terms commenced on April 1, 2026. We are glad to have them, and I am confident they bring precisely the type of perspective and dedication this work demands.

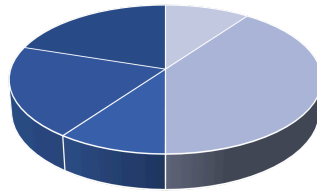
This month, we once again recognize the unique strengths, experiences, and needs of individuals on the autism spectrum. During this Autism Acceptance Month—and throughout the year—I encourage all readers to learn more about the Pennsylvania Courts' ongoing research and education efforts toward more fully supporting court users with autism. Under the leadership of Supreme Court Justice Kevin M. Dougherty, Pennsylvania's work in this sphere has become a national model of commitment to expanding access to justice for all.

With great appreciation,

Shohin H. Vance  
Board Chair

## *Discipline Imposed*

**March 2026**



- Informal Admonition - 1
- Private Reprimand - 4
- Public Reprimand - 0
- Public Censure - 0
- Disability Inactive - 0
- Temporary Suspension - 1
- Probation - 0
- Suspension - 2
- Disbarment - 2

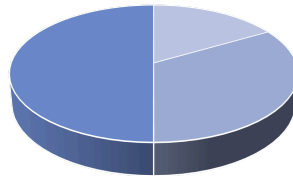
**Temporary Suspension**  
[Stanley J. Margle, III](#)

**Suspension**  
[Ronnie Louis Creazzo](#)  
[Larry Elliot Klayman](#)

**Disbarment**  
[Donald Bermudez](#)  
[Gary S. Pisner](#)

## *Reinstatements*

**March 2026**



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

**From Inactive**  
[Michael William Hussey](#)

**From Retired**  
[Sarah Whisenand McDowell](#)  
[Laura Lynne Orozco](#)

**From Administrative Suspension**  
[Melissa Lynn Hally](#)  
[Becky Lapidow Houser](#)  
[Rebecca Lynne Roman](#)

*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*

### **Supreme Court Adopts New Rule Governing Judicial Service**

By Order dated February 11, 2026, published at [56 Pa.B.1104 \(2/28/2026\)](#), the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania adopted Rule 222 of the Pennsylvania Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement, governing the commencement and conclusion of judicial service, and amended Rules 102, 201, and 219 of the Enforcement Rules.

[Rule 102](#), Definitions, is amended to add three new definitions. A "Former judicial officer" is "a judicial officer who is no longer engaged in judicial service." A "Judicial officer" is defined as "a justice, judge, or magisterial district judge in the Commonwealth, or the equivalent position in

another jurisdiction, who is an attorney admitted to the bar of this Commonwealth. This term includes a judicial officer who is on a senior status or is certified for recall service.” “Judicial service” consists of “service as a judicial officer.”

The amendment to [Rule 201](#), Jurisdiction, clarifies that the disciplinary jurisdiction of the Supreme Court and the Board under the Enforcement Rules extends to: (1) any former judicial officer with respect to acts that occurred while a judicial officer and that would have been grounds for lawyer discipline; and (2) any judicial officer with respect to acts during the practice of law that constitute the violation of ethical rules.

Former Rule 219(j), Annual Registration and Assessment, Judge Status, is deleted in its entirety and replaced by a new [Rule 222](#), Commencement and Conclusion of Judicial Service. The new rule applies to attorneys who are ascending the bench and to all jurists who are concluding their judicial service. The rule covers required notifications to the Attorney Registration Office, assignment to judge status, and procedures to allow eligible jurists to assume active, inactive or retired license status upon conclusion of judicial service. The new rule requires judicial officers concluding their judicial service to identify if they are the “subject of an adverse circumstance” at the conclusion of service. The rule defines “adverse circumstance” as any of the following: judicial suspension; removal from office by order, impeachment, or other form of adverse action; a pending investigation, prosecution, or removal proceedings for misconduct or disability.

## *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 court entities:**

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

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### **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](mailto:SCApplications@pacourts.us).

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

***Applications are due by Thursday, April 30, 2026.***

## *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.***

| <b>May</b>                              |  |                       |
|---|--|-----------------------|
| May 4                                   | Aaron Bell                                 | Disciplinary Hearing  |
| May 7                                   | David Charles Agresti                      | Reinstatement Hearing |
| May 11-13                               | Aaron Bell ( <i>cont.</i> )                | Disciplinary Hearing  |
| May 21                                  | Justin R. Przedziecki                      | Disciplinary Hearing  |
| <b>June</b>                             |  |                       |
| June 2-4                                | Joshua Paul Ward                           | Disciplinary Hearing  |
| June 8-9                                | Timothy Reitz                              | Disciplinary Hearing  |
| June 15-17                              | Travis Andrew Gordon                       | Disciplinary Hearing  |
| June 24-25                              | Marco di Prato ( <i>cont.</i> )            | Disciplinary Hearing  |
| June 29-30                              | Elissa Griffith Waldron                    | Reinstatement Hearing |
| <b>July</b>                             |  |                       |
| July 20-21                              | Dustin William Cole ( <i>cont.</i> )       | Disciplinary Hearing  |
| July 29-31                              | Phyllis Joan Rebecca Powers                | Disciplinary Hearing  |
| <b>August</b>                           |  |                       |
| August 4-5                              | Shahily Negron                             | Disciplinary Hearing  |
| August 12-13                            | J. Michael Considine, Jr.                  | Disciplinary Hearing  |
| August 17                               | Fred William Freitag, IV                   | Disciplinary Hearing  |
| August 31                               | J. Michael Considine, Jr. ( <i>cont.</i> ) | Disciplinary Hearing  |
| <b>September</b>                        |  |                       |
| September 30                            | Bruce K. Warren, Jr                        | Disciplinary Hearing  |
| <b>October</b>                          |  |                       |
| October 6                               | Martha Kim                                 | Disciplinary Hearing  |
| <b>To Be Scheduled</b>                  |  |                       |
| David Paul Clark – Disciplinary Hearing |  |                       |
| Scott Eric Diamond – Oral Argument      |  |                       |
| Thomas P. Sundmaker – Public Reprimand  |  |                       |
| Robert M. Tobia – Public Reprimand      |  |                       |

## *Articles of Interest*

### **Northampton Lawyer Suspended for Bad Behavior in Court, Disciplinary Proceedings**

A Northampton County lawyer has been suspended for two years after misconduct in a case including filing frivolous motions and disrespecting participants, exacerbated by outrageous misbehavior in disciplinary proceedings.

On March 13, 2026, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania entered an order adopting the recommendation of the Disciplinary Board and suspending [Ronnie Louis Creazzo](#) for two years.

Creazzo's problems arose from a divorce action in which he represented the husband. At one point, opposing counsel filed a Motion for Special Relief to Compel Discovery. The original motion filed with the Prothonotary was single-sided, as required by the rules, but the copy sent to Creazzo was printed double-sided to save paper.

Creazzo then filed a Motion for Special Relief requesting the court, *inter alia*, strike Defendant's Motion and impose sanctions on the Defendant in the divorce action. Opposing counsel then filed a countermotion for sanctions on the basis that Creazzo's filing was frivolous.

The Court held a hearing on both motions. During the hearing the Judge questioned Creazzo

about whether he had gone to the Prothonotary's office to confirm that the original filing was double-sided. He asserted he had no duty to do so and responded disrespectfully to the Court, saying, "Okay, and what was I supposed to do, Judge? Stand there and make copies?" The Judge commented, "I am going to be honest with you. This is the craziest, stupidest, most ridiculous issue I have ever heard in Motions Court."

Between the hearing and the issuance of a decision, Creazzo sent two emails to the Judge's secretary, raising additional issues and arguments and making disparaging comments about the integrity of opposing counsel. This was in violation of a policy of the court forbidding lawyers to send the Court unsolicited emails.

The Court then issued an Order denying Creazzo's motion and granting the Defendant's motion for sanctions. The Court commented, "The Motion for Special Relief filed by Attorney Creazzo should never have been presented to the court, as it was frivolous. Moreover, Attorney Creazzo's response to the court's legitimate question about whether he had checked the Prothonotary's file before making written allegations and oral representations about the Motion's alleged defectiveness was disrespectful and unprofessional."

Creazzo filed a Motion for Reconsideration and, when that was denied, an appeal which was also denied. He continued to send unsolicited emails to the Court.

The Judge filed a complaint with the Office of Disciplinary Counsel, based on the frivolous motion, disrespectful conduct, and unsolicited emails which the Judge considered to be *ex parte* communications.

Disciplinary Counsel sent Creazzo a DB-7 letter of inquiry. He refused to respond to the letter, stating in an email that he was invoking his Fifth Amendment privilege against testifying against himself. He also made scandalous allegations against the Judge.

Without a response from Creazzo, Disciplinary Counsel recommended that he be subject to an Informal Admonition, an outcome which was approved by a Hearing Committee Member. His problems could have ended there, but Creazzo exercised his right under Disciplinary Board Rule § 87.54 to request the institution of formal charges.

The Office of Disciplinary Counsel filed a Petition for Discipline in accordance with the rule. Creazzo did not respond to a request that he accept service, so an Investigator for the Office of Disciplinary Counsel went to Creazzo's house to serve him with the Petition for Discipline. Creazzo addressed the Investigator with threats and obscenities and then sent several emails to Disciplinary Counsel with threats that included, "If you send someone from your office to my personal property again, they will not live to tell about it."

Disciplinary Counsel filed a Petition to have Creazzo temporarily suspended. The petition was granted and Creazzo was temporarily suspended by [Order of the Supreme Court](#) dated December 30, 2024.

Eventually, Disciplinary Counsel obtained substituted service. Creazzo filed an Answer to the Petition for Discipline, refusing to respond to the allegations and asserting Fifth Amendment privilege. The matter went to a disciplinary hearing before a three-member Hearing Committee. During the penalty phase of the hearing, the Disciplinary Counsel who was the subject of Creazzo's email threats testified about those threats and Creazzo's generally uncooperative responses. During his cross-examination of the Disciplinary Counsel, the Hearing Committee Chair twice admonished Creazzo to stop yelling at the witness and, at one point, directed him to leave the hearing room and take a break to calm down.

In the briefing stage, Creazzo filed a brief which was sarcastic in tone and contained inflammatory and derogatory statements and insinuations about the judges on the Northampton County bench, the Northampton County Prothonotary, Disciplinary Counsel, and other ODC staff.

The Hearing Committee found that the evidence established Creazzo violated Rules of Professional Conduct [3.1](#) (Meritorious Claims and Contentions), [3.5\(a\)](#) (seeking to improperly influence a judge), [3.5\(b\)](#) (*ex parte* communications), and [Pa.R.D.E. 203\(b\)\(7\)](#) (failure without good cause to respond to a request for statement of position). The Committee found that Creazzo's underlying misconduct was "severely exacerbated" by "significant" aggravating factors including failure to accept responsibility, lack of respect and disdain for the disciplinary process, failure to appreciate the seriousness of his conduct, repeatedly making light of the ethical violations, and shifting blame to others. The Committee unanimously recommended a two-year suspension.

The Disciplinary Board independently reviewed the record and issued a Report that highlighted its finding that Creazzo displayed extreme unprofessionalism and utter contempt for the disciplinary proceedings. It unanimously recommended a two-year suspension to the Supreme Court. In its [Order](#), the Court imposed a two-year suspension.

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### **ABA Formal Opinion Addresses Lawyer's Obligation to Provide Information to Former Clients or Successor Counsel**

In its [Formal Opinion 520](#) (1/26/2026), the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility [discusses](#) what information a lawyer is obligated to share with former clients or successor counsel under the Rules of Professional Conduct.

The Opinion interprets the practical applications of the lawyer's duty under the [Model Rules of Professional Conduct Rule 1.16\(d\) \[Pennsylvania version\]](#). That rule states, "Upon termination of representation, a lawyer shall take steps to the extent reasonably practicable to protect a client's interests." Obviously, this requires providing the former client with the information in the lawyer's file on the matter. But how far in providing additional information must the lawyer go to meet this broad mandate?

The Committee calls the obligation under Rule 1.16(d) a "limited duty." Generally, it is satisfied by providing the client's file, but the Committee notes, "In certain areas of practice, however, lawyers who terminate a representation are expected to provide non-memorialized information to the client or successor counsel, although not necessarily as a matter of obligation under the rules of professional conduct."

One example cited by the Committee is the obligation of criminal trial counsel to provide information and assistance to appellate or postconviction counsel, which the Committee describes as "an explicit and affirmative professional norm in criminal defense practice to assist successor counsel, insofar as reasonably possible, in evaluating the client's matter in a criminal representation."

Another example arises from agency law. The Committee observes that the Restatement of Agency says, "If the agency terminates without the fault of the principal, the agent is under a duty thereafter to give the principal relevant information received by the agent when acting as such." In transactional representations, information may be needed to successfully complete negotiations or to understand the former client's obligations or those of its counterparty under a contract.

Other examples of information not memorialized which a lawyer may be required to share include: (a) factual information that could have been, and perhaps should have been, memorialized, regarding, for example, an interview with a client or material witness or what happened off the record in court or in settlement negotiations with opposing counsel; (b) the original lawyer's strategic or tactical reasons for actions taken in the course of representing the client; (c) that lawyer's impression of a witness's credibility; or (d) the lawyer's un-memorialized communications with the client.

The duty to share is not infinite. Examples of information the lawyer is not expected to provide to successor counsel include information that is readily accessible elsewhere or by other means such as information available from court system websites or information concerning a different matter in which the lawyer did not represent the former client. A lawyer who represented a client in a completed business transaction would not have an obligation to comply with a request for information to be used in a subsequent lawsuit between the parties to the transaction because that would be a new matter even though it grew out of the transaction in which the lawyer provided legal services.

A lawyer is also not required to provide additional advice or services to a client after the relationship is terminated. When the request comes from an unrepresented former client, the lawyer should be careful to explain that the lawyer no longer represents the former client and is not providing further legal representation.

The opinion goes on to provide examples of situations where a lawyer may be called upon to provide additional information.

In conclusion, the Committee states, "Rule 1.16(d) does not require a lawyer to take steps to acquire information, research and generate written responses, or provide further legal services to

the client in response to a request for information.”

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### AI Roundup: Precautionary Tales, New Risks, Prevention

It seems we could publish stories on the ethical implications of the growing use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the practice of law in every issue. This month presented a variety of cautionary cases and new developments in the response to the AI trend.

The United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit [issued](#) sanctions against two lawyers for a frivolous appeal in the case of [Whiting v. City of Athens](#) based on a finding that they had relied on over two dozen fictitious cases in a series of appeals. The Court imposed sanctions under both [Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 38](#), which allows award of just damages and single or double costs, and also under its inherent authority, which allows the court to impose additional fines in cases where a litigant has acted in bad faith or willfully abused the judicial process. The Court noted that the lawyers were appealing a lower court decision to impose sanctions for citing fictitious decisions in their arguments in the lower court and engaged in the same misconduct in their appeal. The Court stressed that lawyers should not file any document, however generated, containing citations that the lawyer has not personally read and verified.

A federal prosecutor in North Carolina resigned from his office after admitting that he made errors in a brief by using artificial intelligence. In a statement in court, [Assistant U.S. Attorney Rudy Renfer](#) told U.S. Magistrate Judge Robert T. Numbers II that he used AI to “catch up” on a draft filing and that the software had overwritten his original draft. He admitted it was “the worst decision [he had] ever made in my thirty-year career.” The Court was skeptical of his explanation, pulling up a slide deck which enumerated several errors in recent case filings. The U.S. Attorney’s Office announced it was taking steps to re-confirm policies about attorneys’ use of AI.

A U.S. judge in the Southern District of New York has [raised the risk factor](#) for use of AI in legal process with a [decision](#) that a client who ran his case through Claude, an AI engine, before presenting the results to his attorneys waived attorney-client privilege in those documents by doing so.

A [survey by Paragon Legal](#) finds widespread discomfort in the legal profession with the use of AI in legal research and drafting:

- Two-thirds of legal professionals have had to override or correct an AI-generated legal output.
- Nearly three in five legal professionals say they would not feel comfortable submitting an AI-drafted document to a regulator or court.
- Nearly half of legal professionals say AI automation has sparked internal conflict within their legal team.
- Only one in five legal professionals place high trust in AI-generated legal work.
- Forty-three percent of legal professionals expect increased AI use to result in reduced hiring or staffing needs due to automation.

For those lawyers who persist in using AI research tools in the drafting of legal documents, help may be on the way. AI company BriefCase is planning the release of [RealityCheck](#), software designed to catch and highlight hallucinated references in one’s (or one’s opponent’s) legal filings.

Or you could just have a human being look up the citations.

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### Legal Doublets: Once Is Not Enough

In a Facebook post, Merriam-Webster [offers](#) an interesting explanation of “legal doublets.” You know what they are, and you’ve used them:

- Cease and desist
- Null and void
- Aid and abet
- Free and clear
- Ways and means

Such constructions, Merriam-Webster explains, date back to 1066 and the Norman conquest of England. The Norman nobility spoke French, and the common people spoke English. The double constructions were intended to clearly communicate in words with origins in both languages. For

instance, “breaking and entering” arose from the English term “breaking” and the French “entering”; “will and testament” from the English “will” and French “testament.” In a similar vein, “attorney” has French origins while “lawyer” has roots in English.

Some may find this arbitrary and capricious, but we think it’s all well and good.

## *Attorney Well-Being*

### **2025/2026 Lawyer Mental Health and Well-Being Research Project Update**

Last year, Pennsylvania was one of 28 jurisdictions from around the country that participated in the nationwide [lawyer mental health research project](#) from Patrick Krill and the ABA Commission on Lawyer Assistance programs. A manuscript reporting the study’s primary findings is currently moving through the peer review process and the results are expected to be publicly available in the coming months.

The forthcoming study provides much needed updates to mental health and alcohol-related prevalence benchmarks, offers the first national estimate of work-related burnout among lawyers, and investigates how psychological distress, burnout, and drinking relate to practice environments and work demands in a large (36,000), nationally representative sample of U.S. lawyers. The research will also describe and discuss barriers to help-seeking, perceptions of available support resources, and practical implications for risk mitigation and prevention efforts. The data and analyses are expected to be highly useful and instructive; please stay tuned for additional publication updates!

Patrick R. Krill, Esq.  
Principal and Founder, Krill Strategies

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### **Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers to Host Webinar on Imposter Syndrome During Well-Being Week in Law**

During the first full week in May, the Institute for Well-Being in Law will once again lead a national [Well-Being Week in Law](#). In honor of this year’s observance, [Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers of Pennsylvania](#)’s Education and Outreach Coordinator, Brian S. Quinn, Esq., will host a [free virtual webinar](#) exploring imposter syndrome in the legal profession.

“I Don’t Belong: Imposter Syndrome in the Legal Profession” will be held at 12:00pm on Wednesday, May 6, 2026. For more information and to register for this program, visit the link [here](#).

## FREE VIRTUAL WEBINAR

# I Don't Belong: Imposter Syndrome in the Legal Profession



Wednesday, May 6, 2026  
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM EST

Speaker  
Brian S. Quinn, Esq.  
Education and Outreach  
Coordinator, Lawyers  
Concerned for Lawyers of PA

JOIN US DURING WELL-BEING WEEK IN LAW FOR AN ENGAGING CONVERSATION ON HOW TO RECOGNIZE, UNDERSTAND, AND OVERCOME IMPOSTER SYNDROME IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION.

"What am I doing here? I don't belong."  
"I'm a fraud, and sooner or later everyone will know."

Imposter syndrome can affect anyone in the legal field—from students to Big Law leaders. Living in fear of being "found out" often drives perfectionism, guilt, burnout, and a constant sense of falling short.

These feelings stem from deep self-doubt, but they can be intensified by environments where peers don't make space for you or imply you haven't earned your success. Gender bias and institutional racism can reinforce the belief that you don't belong, even when the signals are subtle or only perceived.

Our speaker shares how the sudden loss of his mentor—and the pressure to "fill his shoes"—consumed his life, leading to decades of coping and concealment through alcohol and drugs.

Use QR code to register



This program is not for CLE Credit

LAWYERS CONCERNED FOR LAWYERS  
PENNSYLVANIA  
www.lclpa.org



### Well-Being Week in Law Returns This May

The Institute for Well-Being in Law's (IWIL) annual [Well-Being Week in Law](#) is just around the corner, returning May 4th-6th. 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, "Tending Joy," promotes the cultivation of joy and building of resiliency even during times of adversity. **Each day of the observance, once again, will focus on a different dimension of well-being**, including physical, spiritual, career and intellectual, social, and emotional well-being.

In addition to Well-Being Week in Law, IWIL will also host a **thirty-one-day Mental Health Challenge** throughout May, Mental Health Awareness Month, which will promote a tangible goal or activity each day to promote strong mental health. Access the full challenge calendar [here](#).




# WELL-BEING WEEK IN LAW

MAY 4-8, 2026

## Explore the Disciplinary Board's Lawyer Well-Being Webpage


The Disciplinary Board's "[Lawyer 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 "Lawyer Well-Being" page, visit [padisciplinaryboard.org/for-attorneys/well-being](https://padisciplinaryboard.org/for-attorneys/well-being).

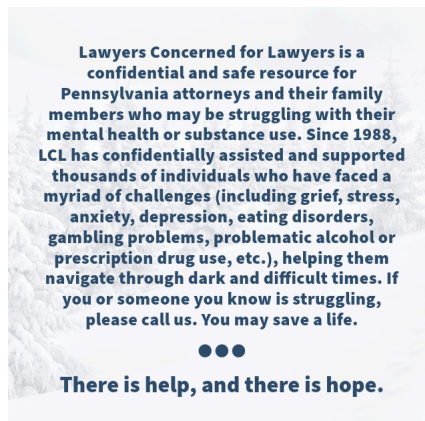


**LAWYER WELL-BEING**

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

*Digital resources*  
*Informative articles*  
*Upcoming events*  
*CLE opportunities*


 The DISCIPLINARY BOARD  
of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania



Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers 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 1988, LCL has confidentially assisted and supported thousands of individuals who have faced a myriad of 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 or someone you know is struggling, please call us. You may save a life.

● ● ●

**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*



### **Supporting Pennsylvania's Court Users on the Autism Spectrum**

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), about one in thirty-one children in the United States [has been identified](#) as being on the autism spectrum, and each April, the nation honors the unique experiences of those with autism spectrum disorder through Autism Acceptance Month.

In 2020, Pennsylvania Courts created the Autism and the Courts initiative focused on supporting court users on the autism spectrum. Since the inception of Autism and the Courts, the program's task force and partners have provided extensive training for judges, legal professionals, law enforcement, and government officials; developed a roadmap to services and support for court users and their families; created sensory rooms in multiple county courthouses; implemented the use of sensory kits in several counties across the state; and collaborated with states across the country on best practices, demonstrating PA's leadership in this work.

Visit the Unified Judicial System's ["Autism and the Courts" webpage](#) for resources and to learn about the robust efforts to better support court users with autism.



# AUTISM & THE COURTS

LISTEN. LEARN. EDUCATE.

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## **Pennsylvania Courts Publishes New Infographic Bringing Awareness to Distracted Driving Offenses in the Commonwealth**

In Pennsylvania, distracted driving can denote multiple offenses, including wearing or using headphones while driving, texting while driving, and using a handheld device while driving. The Administrative Office of PA Courts recently [released](#) a new infographic highlighting such offenses between 2021 and 2025 across the state. Over those five years, well over nine thousand distracted driving offenses were reported.

Read the full press release and access a high-resolution file of the graphic [here](#) on the Unified Judicial System's website.

## Distracted Driving Offenses in Pennsylvania



In Pennsylvania, distracted driving means:

- wearing or using headphones while driving
- texting while driving (includes sending, reading or writing a text-based message)
- using a handheld device while driving

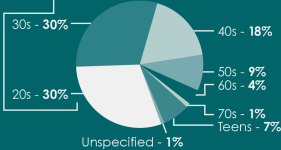
TEXTING WHILE DRIVING =  
**\$50 FINE\***  
plus court costs and fees

\*75 Pa.C.S. §3316

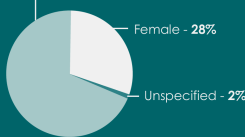


The greatest number of offenses are given between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

**60%** of offenders were in their 20s and 30s



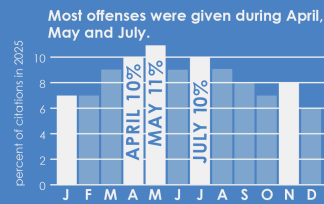
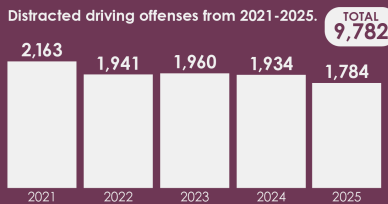
**70%** of offenders were male



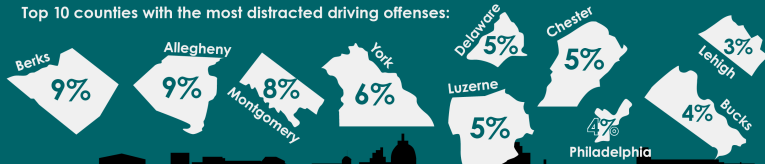
**50%** of offenses were issued by Pennsylvania State Police



**50%** of offenses were issued by Local Police



Top 10 counties with the most distracted driving offenses:



Data pulled from the MDJS case management system. Data provided represents percentages from 1/1/2021 - 12/31/2025 (unless noted) based on the following state law: 75 Pa.C.S. §§ 1621, 1622, 3314, 3316, and 3316.1



SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania Interest on  
Lawyers Trust Account Board

### Your Investment in Access to Justice

The Pennsylvania IOLTA Board provides annual grant funding to more than thirty legal aid organizations providing free civil legal representation to low-income individuals and victims of abuse.

One hundred percent of donations from private attorneys and law firms goes directly to fund civil legal aid across the Commonwealth. To see who donated last year and learn more about civil legal aid in PA, check out the PA IOLTA Board's [2025 Annual Report](#).

Contribute to civil legal aid when you complete your annual attorney registration or [anytime online](#). Your support makes it possible for IOLTA-funded civil legal aid organizations to serve more people in need.

*From the Pennsylvania Bar Association*



### April Is National Volunteer Month

This April, the Pennsylvania Bar Association is celebrating National Volunteer Month by highlighting meaningful ways attorneys can use their skills to expand access to justice across the commonwealth. From supporting first responders to educating young students, PBA members have countless opportunities to make a lasting impact.

**Wills for Heroes** - The Wills for Heroes program provides free wills and estate planning documents to PA's first responders, veterans, and their families. This long-standing initiative offers peace of mind to those who serve our communities every day. Members are encouraged to learn more or volunteer at an upcoming clinic. To volunteer, visit [pabar.org/site/For-the-Public/Wills-for-Heroes/Volunteer](http://pabar.org/site/For-the-Public/Wills-for-Heroes/Volunteer).

**PA Free Legal Answers** - Through PA Free Legal Answers, volunteer attorneys provide free online legal advice to qualified Pennsylvanians. Even answering a single question can help someone navigate a difficult moment. Attorneys interested in contributing can register to begin assisting one question at a time. To volunteer, visit [pabar.org/site/For-Lawyers/Pro-Bono-Services/Pennsylvania-Free-Legal-Answers](http://pabar.org/site/For-Lawyers/Pro-Bono-Services/Pennsylvania-Free-Legal-Answers).

**Estate Planning Clinics** - The PBA Real Property, Probate, and Trust (RPPT) Law Section partners with pro bono organizations to host estate planning clinics for seniors and low income individuals across the state. Volunteers do not need to be RPPT members to participate. Upcoming clinic dates are available for those who wish to get involved. For information on RPPT, visit [pabar.org/site/For-Lawyers/Sections/Real-Property-Probate-and-Trust-Law-Section](http://pabar.org/site/For-Lawyers/Sections/Real-Property-Probate-and-Trust-Law-Section).

**Volunteering with PBA Committees and Sections** - Committee and Section participation is a powerful way to share knowledge, support colleagues and strengthen the legal profession statewide. Committee membership is free, and Section membership is free for one year for first time joiners. Law students receive unlimited free Section memberships. To join, visit [pabar.org/site/Get-Involved/Join-Committees-and-Sections](http://pabar.org/site/Get-Involved/Join-Committees-and-Sections).

**Law Day Read Aloud** – For many events, the PBA partners with the Rendell Read Aloud Center for Civics and Civic Engagement to bring civics education to classrooms across Pennsylvania. Volunteers read to students and help introduce foundational concepts like the Constitution, justice, and the rule of law. It's a simple but meaningful way to inspire the next generation. Visit [rendellcenter.org/law-day](http://rendellcenter.org/law-day) for details.

**Not a PBA Member?** Join a statewide network of attorneys committed to professional excellence, connection, and advocacy. The PBA supports members' practice with cutting-edge CLEs, timely legal resources, leadership opportunities, and a strong collective voice for the profession. Join the PBA today and save 25% on 2026 membership!



National Volunteer Month

**Help Make  
Justice Accessible**

Volunteer with the Pennsylvania  
Bar Association Today!



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 [pabar.org](http://pabar.org) or follow on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

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## *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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