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100 YEARS OF JUSTICE



**THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA'S FIRST CENTURY
1895-1995**

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NL

Being honored to serve as the 15th President Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania, and privileged to hold that position during the centennial anniversary of the Court's establishment, I proudly present, on behalf of all judges of the Court, the following brief history of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania during its first 100 years.

NO LOAN

James E. Rowley,
President Judge
Superior Court of Pennsylvania
March, 1995

T. F. JENKINS

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INTRODUCTION

The Superior Court of Pennsylvania is one of the oldest state intermediate appellate courts in the country, established 100 years ago in 1895. Its history, as discussed in the following pages, reveals a Court which has fulfilled an essential function within the framework of the society of which it has been a part and which it has served. While there have been some changes to the role, structure, and jurisdiction of the Pennsylvania Superior Court over the past 100 years, there have also been some elements which have remained relatively constant.

The history and development of the Court can best be put in perspective by not only looking back 100 years ago to the establishment of the Superior Court, but also by examining the judicial system in Pennsylvania which developed during the earliest days of European settlement in this region.

THE EARLY JUDICIAL SYSTEM OF PENNSYLVANIA

Prior to the founding of the colony of Pennsylvania, the settlers in the region, most of whom were Swedish and Dutch, had developed a justice system that consisted of two types of courts. There were local courts, the jurisdiction of which was final in all cases involving amounts of twenty pounds or less, and there was an appellate court, called the Court of Assizes. After the arrival in 1682 of William Penn, the Proprietor of the Pennsylvania colony, a Provincial Council was established. The Provincial Council was an elected body which exercised both executive and judicial functions. In its judicial capacity, the Council served both as a court of first impression (i.e., a court in which a case is first heard), as well as an appellate court. The Provincial Council heard judicial cases only in Philadelphia.

In 1684, because the Provincial Council's work load had become extremely heavy and litigants from all parts of the growing colony had to travel to Philadelphia to be heard, the legislature created a Provincial Court that gradually absorbed the judicial functions of the Provincial Council. The Provincial Court was composed of five judges appointed by the Governor.

The Court sat twice a year in Philadelphia to hear and decide cases. In addition, two of the judges of the Court traveled throughout the colony and heard cases, a practice called "riding the circuit." Local courts still existed, but the Provincial Court tried the more serious criminal cases, such as murder and manslaughter, and heard appeals from the local courts.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PENNSYLVANIA SUPREME COURT

In 1722, the colonial legislature passed a Judiciary Act which established the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. The new Supreme Court served the same function as, and replaced, the former Provincial Court. The early Supreme Court was composed of a Chief Justice and two Associate Justices. Sessions of the court were held twice a year, and the practice of riding the circuit continued. The Supreme Court became a constitutionally mandated court when it was reaffirmed in the Pennsylvania Constitution of 1776.

As Pennsylvania's population continued to grow and its commerce expanded, the Supreme Court's workload increased substantially. In the early 1800s, the Supreme Court justices discontinued the practice of riding the circuit. Various other plans were discussed to help alleviate the Court's increasing burden. The number of justices was gradually increased until, in the Constitution of 1874, the number was set at seven, which is still the present-day complement.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PENNSYLVANIA SUPERIOR COURT

Even with the increased number of justices, the caseload of the Supreme Court had become unbearably heavy by 1895. By the mid-1890s, the Supreme Court had more than 1,200 cases a year to hear and decide. Various plans were discussed to alleviate the Supreme Court's crushing caseload. One plan called for dividing the Supreme Court into two divisions of equal rank and jurisdiction. Another plan called for granting some appellate review power to certain

designated trial courts (Courts of Common Pleas) in the Commonwealth. Neither of these plans, which would only have modified the jurisdiction and/or structure of existing courts, was followed. Instead, an entirely new court was established to reduce the Supreme Court's caseload.

Under Article V, Section 1, of the Constitution of 1874, the legislature had been given the authority to establish new courts. Pursuant to this authority, several different bills were introduced into the Pennsylvania legislature in 1894 to establish an additional appellate court. From among this group of different bills, the legislature passed House Bill 130 which created a separate intermediate appellate court called the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. The bill was signed into law on June 24, 1895, by Governor Daniel H. Hastings. (Act of June 24, 1895, P.L. 217.) This new Superior Court Act provided that the Superior Court be composed of seven judges, learned in the law, who were to be elected for a term of ten years beginning on the first Monday in January. The Act further provided that wherever it was reasonably possible, the full bench of seven judges should sit, but that four judges were a quorum and could conduct the court's business if necessary.

Under this Act, the Superior Court was given no original jurisdiction but was given appellate jurisdiction in all civil actions, claims, and disputes where the amount in controversy was no greater than \$1,000. However, all appeals involving felonious homicide or the right to public office, or in which the Attorney General was officially involved, were to be appealed directly to the Supreme Court.

The Act permitted appeals from the Superior Court to the Supreme Court if the jurisdiction of the Superior Court was at issue. In addition, when matters of federal law or federal and state constitutional questions were presented, an appeal to the Supreme Court was a matter of right. An appeal could also be taken to the Supreme Court if it was specifically allowed by either the Superior Court or by a single Justice of the Supreme Court.

The Act also provided that if the parties to a case stipulated that the Superior Court's decision would be final, then no appeal to the Supreme Court would be permitted. In addition, the Act stated that litigants could, by simple agreement, bestow jurisdiction on the Superior Court over a case that would otherwise belong in the Supreme Court.

An important provision of the Act specified that the Superior Court must meet at least once a year in Philadelphia, "Pittsburg(h)," Harrisburg, Scranton, and Williamsport. This

provision was included as a result of the emphasis placed by the Court's proponents on the new Court's role as the "poor man's Supreme Court": a court which was readily accessible to the people, which sat in more locations around the Commonwealth, and in which a case could be speedily resolved. One of the sponsors of the Act, Representative Fow, speaking in the House in favor of the requirement that the Court sit in the five locations, stated, "If it was in order, I would move an amendment to the amendment providing that the court be furnished with a horse and wagon and stop at every town throughout the Commonwealth and dispense law." In fact, during the debates in the House of Representatives, Mr. Fow proposed an amendment to change the name of the Court from the Superior Court of Pennsylvania to the Court of Pied Poudre, the Dusty Feet Court. Mr. Fow explained that there was an ancient court in England called the Court of Pied Poudre, so named because the judges wore sandals and traveled from town to town on the dusty roads--thus, the court of dusty feet. The amendment was defeated.

The Superior Court Act took effect on July 1, 1895, the date from which the commissions of the first judges ran. Governor Hastings appointed the first seven judges to sit on the Court prior to the November 1895 election. Three of the first judges appointed by Governor Hastings were sitting judges: Howard James Reeder of Easton, Judge for the Third Judicial District; Charles Edmund Rice of Wilkes-Barre, President Judge of the Eleventh Judicial District; and John Jervis Wickham of Beaver, President Judge of the Thirty-Sixth Judicial District. The other four judges appointed were prominent lawyers from various parts of the commonwealth: Henry J. McCarthy of Philadelphia, the only Democrat; James Addams Beaver of Bellefonte, an ex-governor, a Civil War hero, and the person for whom Penn State's Beaver Stadium was named; Edward Newell Willard of Scranton, a prominent businessman and well-respected railroad and corporation lawyer; and George B. Orlady of Huntington County, a trained physician.

ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED SUPERIOR COURT

On June 28, 1895, the seven Superior Court judges assembled in Harrisburg to take the first steps toward organizing the new tribunal. During this and subsequent meetings

throughout the summer and early fall of 1895, the judges promulgated court rules based on those of the Supreme Court; arranged to share prothonotaries (court clerks) with the Supreme Court in Philadelphia, Harrisburg, and Pittsburgh; appointed their own prothonotaries in Williamsport and Scranton; and established a schedule for the first term of court. Judge Rice was designated President Judge of the new Court.

The first argument session of the new Court was held on November 4, 1895, at 11:00 a.m. in Philadelphia. The Court met in the Supreme Court's courtroom on the fourth floor of City Hall. The Pennsylvania Historical Society has a newspaper clipping (from an unknown newspaper) that was among some papers of an attorney of that day, J. T. Mitchell, describing the first Court session as follows:

When the seven members of the Bench of the Superior Court filed into the Supreme Court-room . . . , [t]hey stood by their chairs as the Crier in the most solemn manner opened the Court for the first time, and then in the usual formula called down the blessings of God on "this honorable Court."

On the desks before each of the new Judges were huge baskets of flowers sent by the Five O'clock Club as a token of the respect in which Judge Henry J. McCarthy, . . . one of its members, was held. . . . [T]hroughout the session of the Court the perfume from the roses, violets, and other sweet smelling flowers filled the air. . . .

President Judge Rice was naturally seated in the centre, while on his right were Judges Edward N. Willard, Howard J. Reeder, and Henry J. McCarthy, and on his left were Judges James A. Beaver, John J. Wickham, and George B. Orlady. They all wore the regulation black gowns and looked to be just what was expected of them, a fine and imposing body of men. They went to work at once, and the business of the day was transacted with a despatch that was note worthy.

This first session of the Court adjourned at 3 p.m. The Court continued to meet in Philadelphia from November 4, 1895, to December 20, 1895.

The Court next sat in Scranton from January 13, 1896, to January 22, 1896, meeting in the Federal Courtroom in the Post Office Building. The composition of the Court had

changed since all the appointed judges had been elected to the bench in November 1895 except for Judge McCarthy. Judge Peter Smith of Wayne County was elected to succeed Judge McCarthy.

In February 1896, in keeping with its legislative mandate, the Court sat from the 17th to the 20th in Williamsport, using the U.S. District Court's courtroom in the federal building. The Court then sat in Harrisburg from March 10 to March 19, and in Pittsburgh from April 6 to May 14, utilizing the Supreme Court's courtrooms in both locations. In that year the Court, true to its original purpose of being the poor man's accessible court, began its practice, which continues to the present day, of holding "special sessions" of court. The first special session of the Superior Court was held in Erie from May 19 to May 21 of 1896 to hear appeals from the local counties of Erie, Crawford, McKean, and Warren.

THE WORK OF THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED SUPERIOR COURT

In 1896, the Superior Court heard 483 appeals, or 42% of all the appeals filed in the Commonwealth. By 1899, the number of appeals filed in the Court was up to 608, or approximately 48% of all the appeals filed. This increased number of appeals being heard by the Superior Court was due to the action of the legislature which raised the jurisdictional monetary amount in civil cases. The legislature increased the Court's jurisdictional amount to \$1,500 in 1899 (Act of May 5, 1899, P.L. 248), to \$2,500 in 1923 (Act of March 2, 1923, P.L. 3), and finally to \$10,000 in 1963 (Act of August 14, 1963, P.L. 819). In addition, the Supreme Court transferred its equity jurisdiction to the Superior Court. These changes, and others, resulted in a round-robin effect, with increased jurisdiction leading to the filing of more appeals.

CHANGES TO THE SUPERIOR COURT

1968 TO PRESENT

Along with the ever-increasing number of appeals, the Superior Court experienced other major changes. This legislatively created court became a constitutionally mandated court when it was incorporated in the state Constitution of 1968. Under the 1968 Constitution, the state's judiciary was consolidated into a unified judicial system. Though now a constitutional court, the Superior Court basically had the same jurisdiction assigned to it by the 1895 Act and its subsequent amendments.

The present jurisdiction of the Superior Court was established by the Appellate Court Jurisdiction Act of 1970 and the Judicial Code of 1976, a reenactment of the 1970 Act. The Superior Court has no original jurisdiction except in cases of mandamus and prohibition to courts of inferior jurisdiction where such relief is ancillary to matters within its appellate jurisdiction. Also, Superior Court judges have full authority to issue writs of habeas corpus in a like manner.

In the 1970 and 1976 legislation, the Superior Court was given exclusive appellate jurisdiction of all appeals from final orders of the Courts of Common Pleas in all matters and amounts in controversy, the only exceptions being those appeals within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Supreme Court or the Commonwealth Court, another newly created intermediate appellate court. The former \$10,000 jurisdictional ceiling on civil cases appealed to the Superior Court was eliminated. While the Superior Court's former jurisdiction over appeals from commonwealth and local governmental agencies was transferred to the new Commonwealth Court, the Superior Court's jurisdiction was increased with the addition of more assumpsit and trespass cases when the Supreme Court was relieved of its prior jurisdiction over direct appeals in those areas.

Although statistical records have not been consistently maintained, the existing records show that the number of appeals have continually increased year by year. By 1975 there were 2,996 appeals filed. Owing to this ever-increasing and overwhelming number of appeals, Chief Justice Michael J. Eagen of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court issued an order on May 9, 1978, commanding the Superior Court to sit in three-judge panels "in view of exceedingly heavy volume

of appeals coming to the Superior Court, presently at the rate exceeding 3,000 per year, and the emergency created thereby."

However, while the creation of three-judge panels expedited the hearing of cases, the number of appeals mushroomed. In 1978, over 4,400 appeals were filed and each Superior Court judge averaged over 215 written decisions. Finally, in November 1979, the people of Pennsylvania approved a constitutional amendment which authorized the legislature to increase the number of Superior Court judges. Carrying out the voters' mandate, the Pennsylvania legislature passed Act 63, effective June 11, 1980, increasing the number of judges on the Superior Court from seven to fifteen, the present-day number of commissioned (i.e., elected) judges.

Still the caseload grew steadily. To combat it, senior judges, past the mandatory retirement age of 70, were specially appointed to sit on the Superior Court, increasing the number of judges to as many as twenty-two at one time.

By the mid-1980s, the Superior Court was not only facing an increasing number of new appeals but had also accumulated a backlog of over 8,500 cases. Through a series of accelerated docket programs and special panels consisting of two Superior Court judges and one common pleas judge, the backlog was virtually eliminated by 1985.

Although the backlog was slashed, the number of new appeals filed continued to grow yearly, reaching over 7,500 in 1994. To meet the challenge, the Court turned to high-tech automation, using computers to process the Court's work. The Court acquired its first Lexis terminal, for the accessing of legal databases, in 1979. In 1981, the Court acquired word processors. By 1982, the Court had developed a computerized docketing system to track appeals. By 1986, the Court had developed a comprehensive plan for total Court computerization, linking together all judges' chambers and administrative offices. Implementation of the plan was underway by the beginning of 1987.

THE SUPERIOR COURT IN 1995

Unfortunately, little is known about how the early Superior Court conducted its business. An early amendment to P.L. 212, passed in May 1899, permitted the Superior Court judges to employ stenographers, typewriters, or other clerks to help them. A later amendment in June 1919 authorized judges to employ briefers and investigators as well as stenographers, typewriters, and clerks.

The present-day Court is a statewide institution, with 15 elected judges and 5 senior judges. Each judge maintains a chambers in a location of his or her choosing. Each judge is authorized to employ a clerical staff consisting of two secretaries and a judicial staff consisting of four law clerks. The law clerks, who are law school graduates, and who frequently have also been admitted to the Bar, conduct legal research and write draft memoranda. Most law clerks serve from one to two years; thus, the judges have a rotating staff of clerks. In most chambers, one of the law clerks is a permanent employee who oversees the work of the chambers and co-ordinates the work of the clerks. All chambers are fully automated with electronic mail, word processing, and access to on-line legal databases.

The present-day Superior Court also includes a non-judicial support staff. The Court's Executive Administrator oversees the business and administrative operations of the entire Court. The Prothonotary maintains the Court's three filing offices, located in Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, and Philadelphia. Here appeals are docketed, files are maintained, and opinions and orders are processed. The attorneys on the Court's Central Legal Staff, directed by the Chief Staff Attorney, review appeals for jurisdictional issues and review the Court's decisions in an effort to prevent the issuance of conflicting opinions. Legal Systems is responsible for the Court's computer operations. The Recorder maintains all records pertaining to the judges' assignments and electronically sends the Court's opinions for publication and inclusion in the computerized legal databases.

The administrative head of the Court is the President Judge. He is one of the 15 commissioned judges, and he is elected to that position by the commissioned judges. The

President Judge not only serves as the administrative head of the Court, but he also represents the Court in dealings with the other branches of commonwealth government and at ceremonial functions. In addition, he coordinates the activities and responsibilities of the various departments of the Court.

Formerly, the commissioned judge with the longest continuous service automatically became President Judge, as mandated by Article V of the Pennsylvania Constitution. However, a 1979 amendment to Article V of the 1968 Constitution changed that requirement. It provided that the President Judge of the Superior Court would be the judge longest in continuous service only if the judge was a member of the Court on the first Monday of January, 1977. If there was no judge on the Court who had been a member of the Court on the first Monday of January, 1977 and who was willing to serve as President Judge, the President Judge would be elected by the commissioned judges of the Court. Upon the retirement of President Judge Spaeth, there no longer were any judges on the Court who had been members of the Court on the first Monday of 1977. His successor as President Judge, Judge Vincent A. Cirillo, who served as President Judge from January 1986 to January 1991, was the first President Judge of the Superior Court to be elected by his peers.

The term of the President Judge is five years. Prior to 1990, there was no limit on the number of consecutive terms of five years that a President Judge could serve. However, on May 8, 1990, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court issued an order stating that the President Judge of a court of more than eight judges could not succeed himself or herself after serving a full, elected term without an intervening term.

The current decision-making process of the Court is based upon a 3-judge panel system. The 15 commissioned and five senior judges are randomly assigned to ever-changing panels of three judges irrespective of any individual judge's chambers location. The 3-judge panels regularly sit to hear oral arguments in Philadelphia, Harrisburg, and Pittsburgh. In addition, 3-judge panels also consider cases submitted on briefs, without oral argument.

Several times a year, the commissioned judges of the Court sit "en banc" in panels of nine judges. These en banc panels hear selected cases, some of which have already been argued before a 3-judge panel which may, or may not, have filed a decision in the matter.

The number of cases considered by the en banc panels varies from year-to-year, but rarely exceeds 75.

In addition to its regular sessions in Philadelphia, Harrisburg, and Pittsburgh, the Court continues to hold "special sessions" in other locations, a practice begun with the very first court in 1896. A "special session" is held when a panel of the Court sits in any of Pennsylvania's 67 counties at the invitation of the local bar association and the local judiciary. Frequently there is one or more 3-judge panels hearing arguments during special sessions. Occasionally a Court en banc is convened at a special session. Additionally, while at special sessions the judges often take the opportunity to talk about the Court to high school and college students and civic organizations. On average, there are two or three such sessions each year.

In the Court's Centennial year, 1995, numerous special sessions will be held throughout the Commonwealth. These include sessions in each of the locations where the original Superior Court was directed to sit, including Scranton and Williamsport. In addition, although the Superior Court currently has its own courtroom in Philadelphia, during the Centennial year, the Court will hold a special session of Court in Philadelphia at the Supreme Court's courtroom in City Hall, where the first Superior Court held its Philadelphia session. The Court will also be holding special sessions of Court during the Centennial year in Mercer and Beaver Counties. In addition, special sessions will be held at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and the Temple University School of Law, both of which organizations are also celebrating their 100th anniversary in 1995.

Following argument of the cases either at regular sessions, special sessions, or en banc sessions, as well as following submission of cases on the briefs alone, the Court's final decisions are released as opinions published in the Pennsylvania Superior Court Reports and the Atlantic 2nd Reporter, or as unpublished memoranda and orders. In 1994, the Court filed 469 published opinions and 3,832 unpublished memoranda and/or orders. Because related appeals are consolidated, these 4,301 decisions disposed of 4,577 appeals. Superior Court judges each filed an average of 215 decisions in 1994. Furthermore, the mean time from the filing of an appeal to disposition was 9 to 10 months, and the Court's inventory was current.

THE ROLE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT TODAY

The Pennsylvania Superior Court, while only 100 years old, is one of the busiest intermediate appellate courts in the United States. In 1994, over 7,500 new appeals were filed in the Court. As a result of the expansion of the Court's jurisdiction over the last 100 years, its decisions now touch almost every aspect of life and commerce in the Commonwealth, including family matters such as child custody, visitation, adoption, divorce, and support; criminal matters ranging from summary offenses to non-capital homicides; wills and estates; property disputes; and cases involving personal injury or breach of contract.

The Superior Court is often the final arbiter of legal disputes in Pennsylvania. Although disappointed litigants petition the Pennsylvania Supreme Court for allowance of appeal in more than one-third of the cases decided by the Superior Court, the Commonwealth's highest court grants less than 10% of those petitions. Appeals allowed in the United States Supreme Court are even more infrequent. In addition, the Commonwealth's Judicial Code provides that the Superior Court's resolution of issues concerning the "discretionary aspects" (i.e., the length rather than the legality) of criminal sentences cannot be appealed.

CONCLUSION

Since the days of the first European settlers in Pennsylvania, there has always been an organization which has served the function of an appellate court: reviewing decisions made by a tribunal before which disputed legal matters had been presented. However, not until the Superior Court was created was there an intermediate appellate court.

Pennsylvania's Superior Court is one of only a few intermediate appellate courts whose jurisdiction is statewide, and that statewide jurisdiction is one of its strengths. Because judges are selected from throughout the Commonwealth, they are able to bring to the Court's

deliberations an understanding of the background, mores, customs, and traditions of all of the people of Pennsylvania. The Court's practice of having its members travel to various locations around the Commonwealth serves to maintain and increase such understanding. In addition, the fact that the Court's jurisdiction is not divided into districts, but instead extends over the entire Commonwealth, reduces the chance of conflicting results being imposed on the people of Pennsylvania. Statewide jurisdiction, in other words, enables the Court to fulfill the legislature's original plan of establishing an accessible people's court.

While the nature of the Superior Court, as an accessible people's court, has remained constant through the years, the size, jurisdiction, and organizational framework of the Court has undergone numerous changes necessitated by the evolution of the society which the Court has served. These dynamic elements of the Court, coupled with its accessibility, will carry it forward into its second century as an instrumental part of Pennsylvania's Judiciary.

JUDGES OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

Over the last 100 years, many excellent and honorable men and women have served on the Superior Court. Several of the earliest judges were Civil War heroes. While the list of honors bestowed on the Court's judges is too lengthy to enumerate, several outstanding achievements should be recognized.

Two Superior Court judges went on to become Governor of Pennsylvania: Arthur Horace James, who served on the Court from 1933 to 1939 and served as Governor from January 17, 1939, to January 19, 1943; and John S. Fine, who served on the Court from 1947 to 1950 and served as Governor from January 16, 1951, to January 18, 1955.

In addition, one former Governor, James Addams Beaver, was first appointed, and then elected, to the Superior Court. After serving as Governor from January 18, 1887, to January 20, 1891, he was appointed to the Court in 1895, was elected to a full term in November of that year, and served on the Court until his death on January 31, 1914.

Six Superior Court judges went on to serve on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court: John W. Kephart, William B. Linn, James B. Drew, William M. Parker, Israel Packel, and Frank J. Montemuro, Jr. Justices Kephart and Drew also served as Chief Justice.

A complete listing of all the men and women who have been elected or appointed to serve on the Superior Court follows, as well as a listing of all of the President Judges of the Court.

JUDGES OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

JUDGE	YEAR ASSUMED OFFICE
Charles E. Rice	1895
James A. Beaver	1895
Howard J. Reeder	1895
George B. Orlady	1895
John J. Wickham	1895
Edward N. Willard	1895
Henry J. McCarthy	1895
Peter P. Smith	1896
William W. Porter	1897
William D. Porter	1898
Dimner Beeber	1899
John I. Mitchell	1900
Thomas A. Morrison	1902
John J. Henderson	1903
John B. Head	1906
John W. Kephart	1914
Frank M. Trexler	1914
J. Henry Williams	1916
William H. Keller	1919
William B. Linn	1919
Robert S. Gawthrop	1922
Jesse E. B. Cunningham	1926
Thomas J. Baldrige	1929
J. Frank Graff	1930
John G. Whitmore	1930
James B. Drew	1931

JUDGES OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

JUDGE	YEAR ASSUMED OFFICE
Joseph Stadtfeld	1931
William M. Parker	1932
Arthur H. James	1933
Chester H. Rhodes	1935
William E. Hirt	1939
Charles E. Kenworthy	1941
Claude T. Reno	1942
F. Clair Ross	1945
W. Heber Dithrich	1945
John C. Arnold	1945
John S. Fine	1947
Blair F. Gunther	1950
J. Colvin Wright	1953
Robert E. Woodside	1953
Harold L. Ervin	1954
Philip O. Carr	1956
G. Harold Watkins	1957
Harry M. Montgomery	1960
Gerald F. Flood	1961
Robert Lee Jacobs	1965
J. Sydney Hoffman	1965
Theodore O. Spaulding	1966
John B. Hannum	1968
William Franklin Cercone	1969

JUDGES OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

JUDGE	YEAR ASSUMED OFFICE
Israel Packel	1971
Edmund B. Spaeth, Jr.	1973
Gwilym A. Price, Jr.	1974
Robert Van der Voort	1974
John P. Hester	1978
Donald E. Wieand	1978
James R. Cavanaugh	1979
John G. Brosky	1980
Richard B. Wickersham	1980
Richard DiSalle	1980
Justin M. Johnson	1980
Frank J. Montemuro, Jr.	1980
Zoran Popovich	1980
Perry J. Shertz	1980
Phyllis W. Beck	1981
Stephen J. McEwen, Jr.	1981
Vincent A. Cirillo	1982
James E. Rowley	1982
Peter Paul Olszewski	1984
Joseph A. Del Sole	1984
Patrick R. Tamilya	1984
John T. J. Kelly, Jr.	1986
James R. Melinson	1988
Joseph A. Hudock	1990
Kate Ford Elliott	1990
Thomas G. Saylor	1994

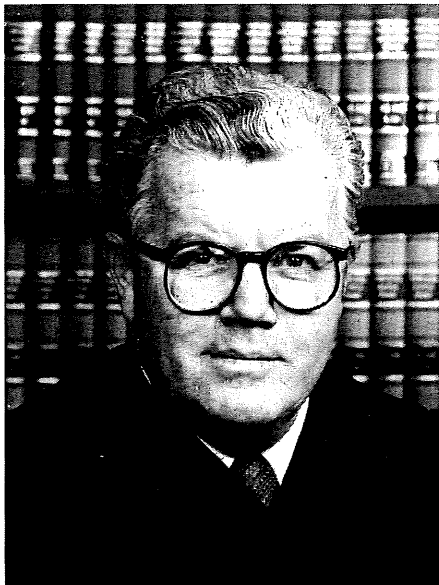
PRESIDENT JUDGES

Charles E. Rice	1895-1915
George B. Orlady	1915-1925
William D. Porter	1925-1930
Frank M. Trexler	1930-1935
William H. Keller	1935-1945
Thomas J. Baldrige	1945-1947
Chester H. Rhodes	1947-1965
Harold L. Ervin	1965-1967
J. Colvin Wright	1968-1974
G. Harold Watkins	1974-1978
Robert Lee Jacobs	1978-1979
William Franklin Cercone	1979-1983
Edmund B. Spaeth, Jr.	1983-1986
Vincent A. Cirillo	1986-1991
James E. Rowley	1991-

COMMISSIONED JUDGES - 1995



HONORABLE JAMES E. ROWLEY
PRESIDENT JUDGE
ASSUMED OFFICE 1982



HONORABLE JAMES R. CAVANAUGH
ASSUMED OFFICE 1979



HONORABLE DONALD E. WIEAND
ASSUMED OFFICE 1978

COMMISSIONED JUDGES - 1995



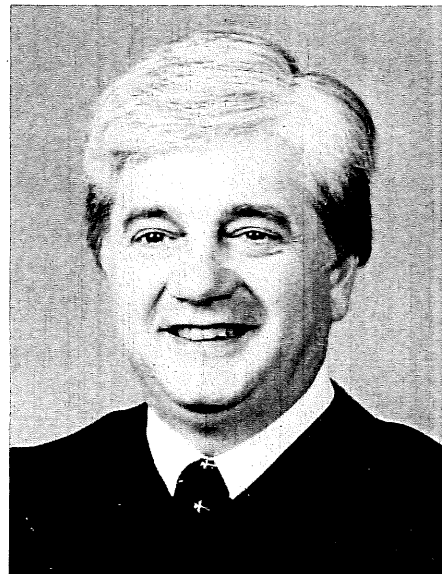
HONORABLE STEPHEN J. McEWEN
ASSUMED OFFICE 1981



HONORABLE VINCENT A. CIRILLO
ASSUMED OFFICE 1982



HONORABLE PETER PAUL OLSZEWSKI
ASSUMED OFFICE 1984



HONORABLE JOSEPH A. DEL SOLE
ASSUMED OFFICE 1984

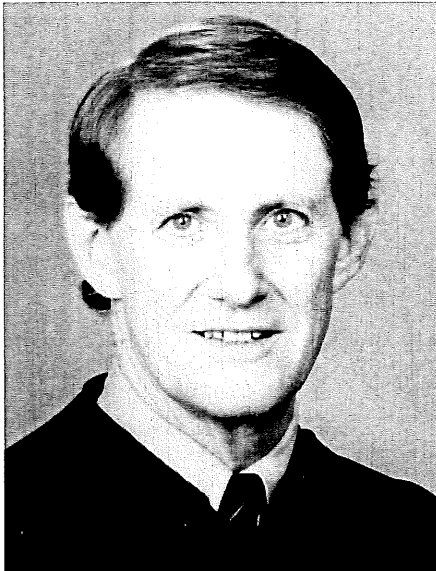
COMMISSIONED JUDGES - 1995



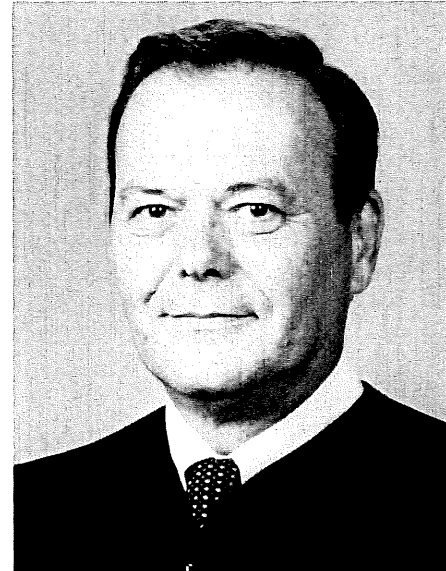
HONORABLE PHYLLIS W. BECK
ASSUMED OFFICE 1981



HONORABLE PATRICK R. TAMILIA
ASSUMED OFFICE 1984

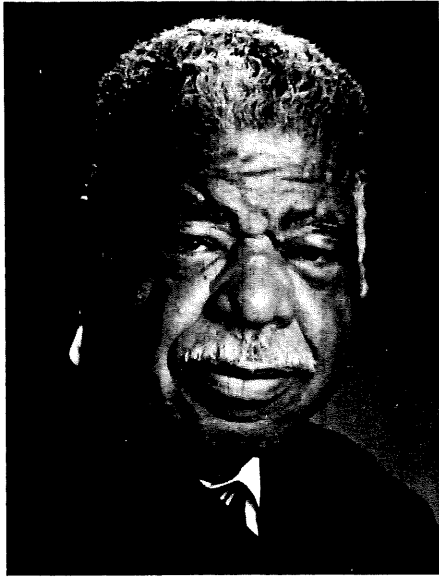


HONORABLE JOHN T. J. KELLY, JR.
ASSUMED OFFICE 1986

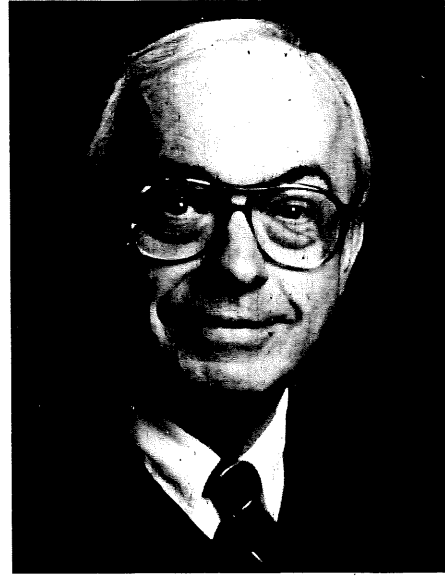


HONORABLE ZORAN POPOVICH
ASSUMED OFFICE 1980

COMMISSIONED JUDGES - 1995



HONORABLE JUSTIN M. JOHNSON
ASSUMED OFFICE 1980



HONORABLE JOSEPH A. HUDOCK
ASSUMED OFFICE 1990

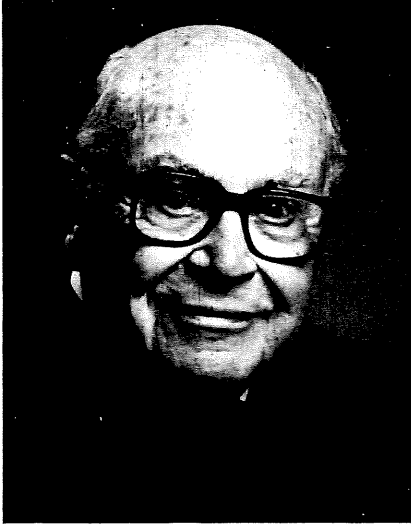


HONORABLE KATE FORD ELLIOTT
ASSUMED OFFICE 1990



HONORABLE THOMAS G. SAYLOR
ASSUMED OFFICE 1994

COMMISSIONED JUDGES - 1995



HONORABLE HARRY M. MONTGOMERY
ASSUMED OFFICE 1960



HONORABLE J. SYDNEY HOFFMAN
ASSUMED OFFICE 1965

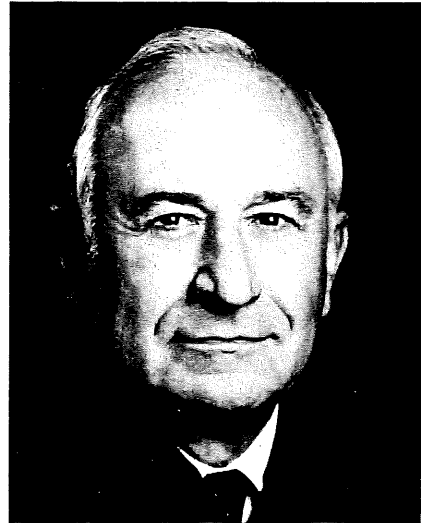


HONORABLE WILLIAM F. CERCONE
ASSUMED OFFICE 1969

SENIOR JUDGES - 1995



HONORABLE JOHN P. HESTER
ASSUMED OFFICE 1978



HONORABLE JOHN G. BROSKY
ASSUMED OFFICE 1980

SUPERIOR COURT IN 1995



(From L - R) Seated: Judge Kelly, Judge Beck, Judge McEwen, Judge Cavanaugh, President Judge Rowley, Judge Wieand, Judge Cirillo, Judge Tamilia, Judge Popovich. Standing: Senior Judge Hester, Senior Judge Hoffman, Judge Saylor, Judge Hudock, Judge Johnson, Senior Judge Montgomery, Judge Ford Elliott, Senior Judge Cercone, Senior Judge Brosky. Not pictured: Judge Olszewski, Judge Del Sole.