



PENNSYLVANIANS
FOR MODERN COURTS

Spring into Action Benefit

May 11, 2026



PENNSYLVANIANS
FOR MODERN COURTS

Envisioning a Pennsylvania judicial system in which everyone who participates is assured impartiality, fairness, accessibility and respect.

Our Mission

PMC works to educate all Pennsylvanians about our courts and how to navigate them with confidence, provide resources to make that possible for all residents of the Commonwealth, and advocate for judicial reforms that promote inclusion and access to justice. We engage in a wide variety of initiatives to accomplish these goals and are constantly developing new programming based on community feedback.

PMC Shares

*Free, nonpartisan court literacy programming
taught by judges and lawyers*



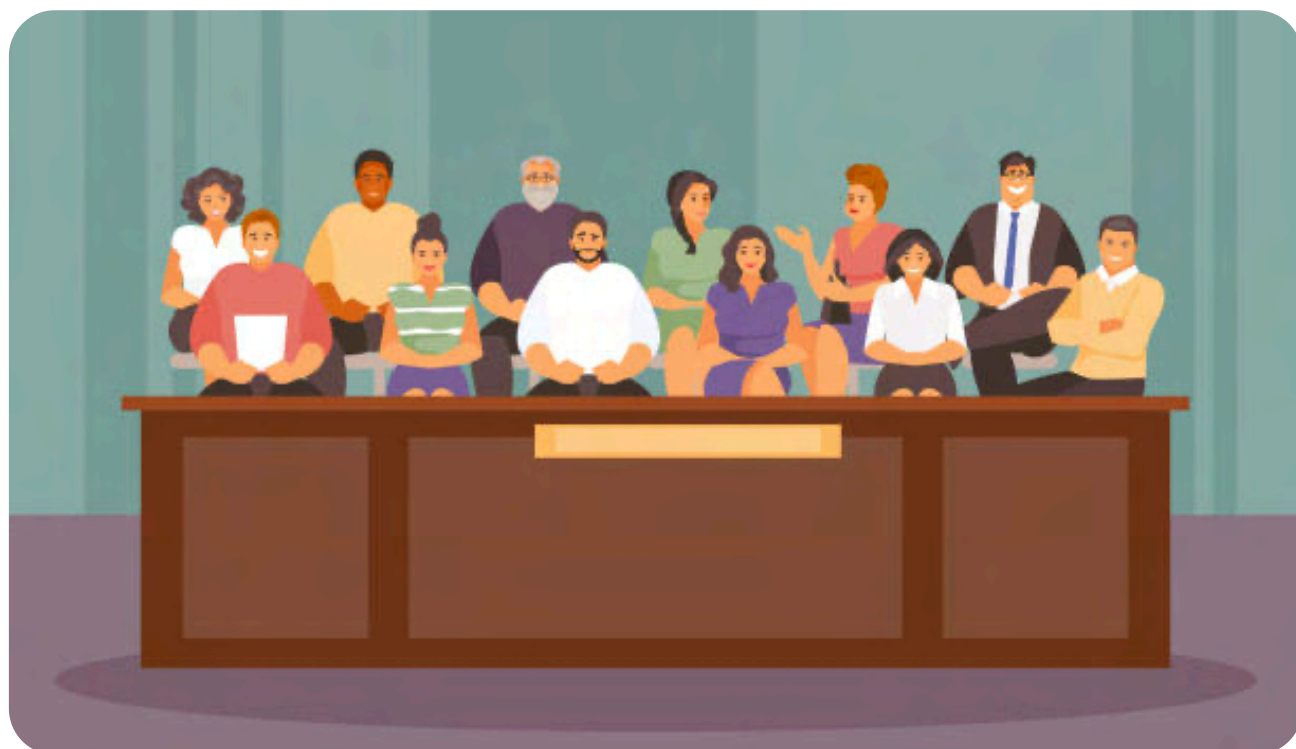
Workshop topics include:

- The Nuts and Bolts of Small Claims Court
- Landlord-Tenant Disputes
- Protection from Abuse Orders
- You've Been Served – Jury Service Basics
- How to Administer an Estate
- Expungement of Records and Clean Slate
- Threats to the Independence of PA's Judiciary



Advocacy

PMC is dedicated to advancing policies that make Pennsylvania's courts more representative, transparent, and accessible to all.



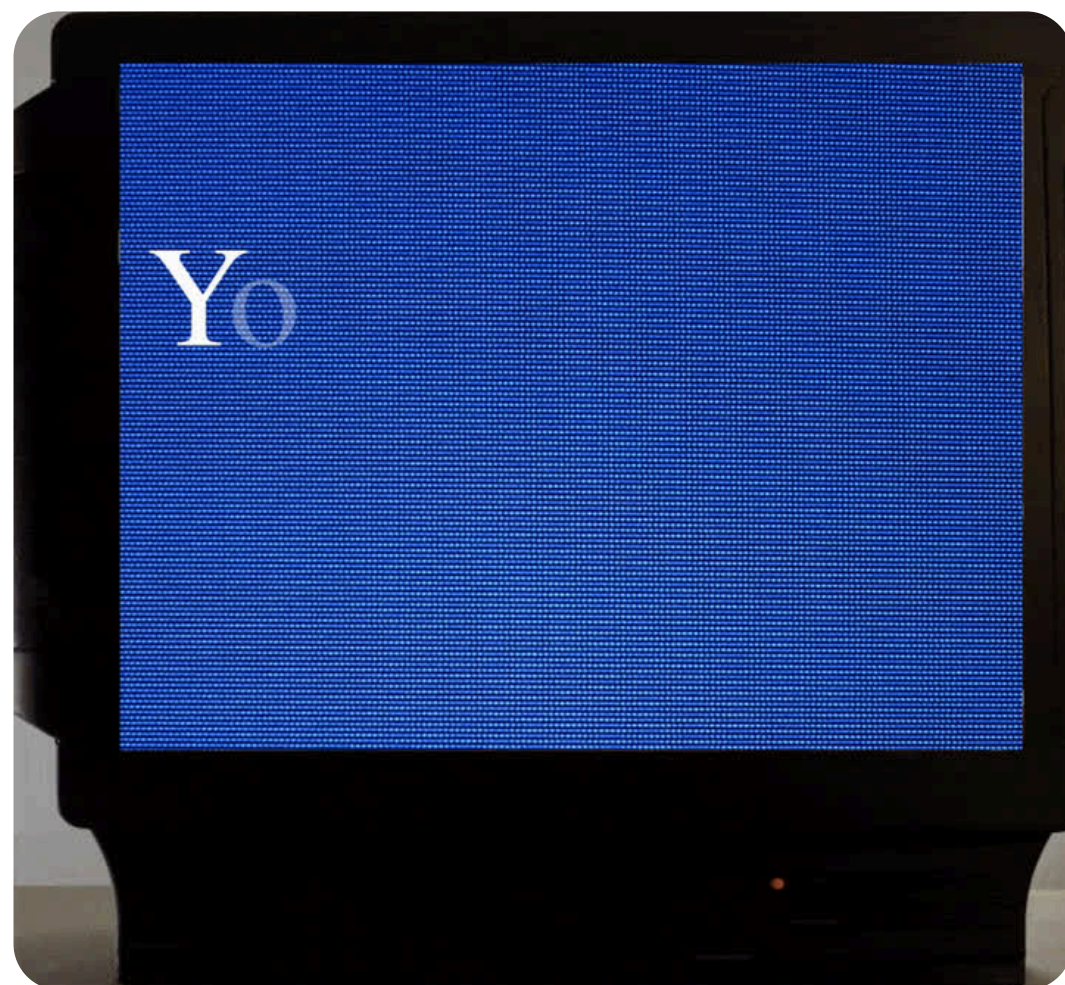
We're particularly focused on:

- Merit selection of Appellate Court Judges through an independent judicial nominating commission
- Inclusion of convicted felons in jury pools
- Increased juror pay and benefits



Jury Service Initiative

Aiming to strengthen civic engagement, remove barriers to jury service, and ensure fair, diverse representation in Pennsylvania's juries.



This collaborative initiative includes:

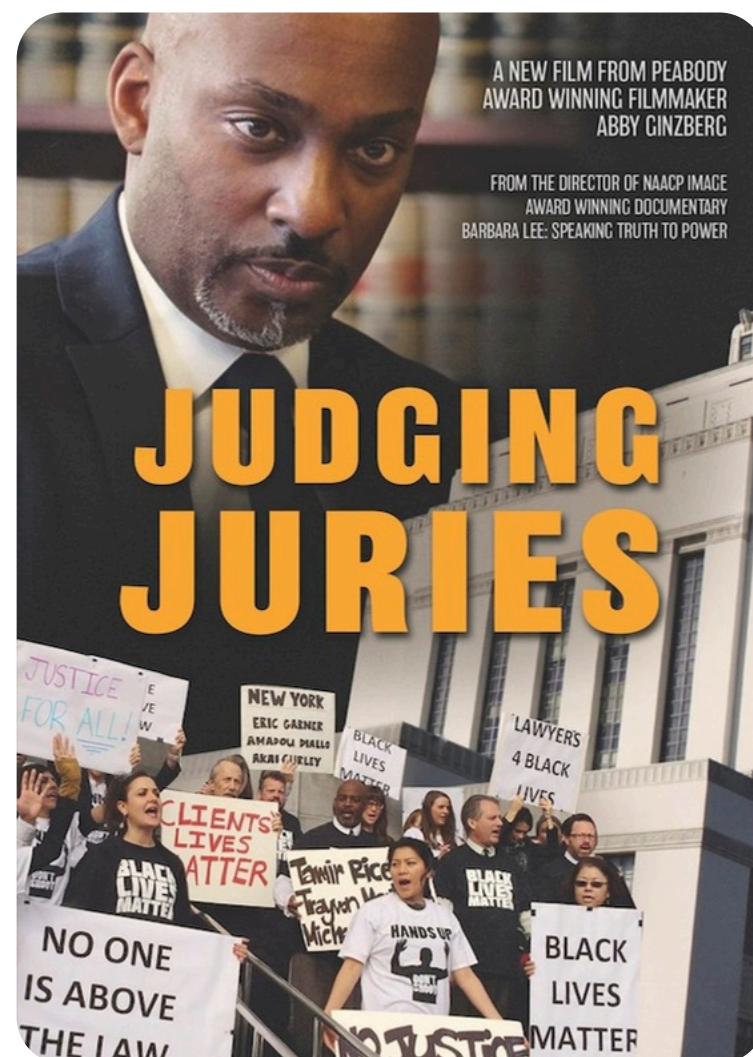
- An awareness campaign utilizing print, digital, and social media
- Statewide screening of the documentary *Judging Juries* with post-film discussion
- CLE programming for local attorneys

pmconline.org



Judging Juries

Documentary screening and a community conversation about the meaning of a jury of one's peers and its vital role in our democracy.



Programs in Allegheny, Berks, Chester, Philadelphia, and Montgomery counties so far ***Interested in bringing this program to your community? Let us know!***

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PENNSYLVANIANS
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First 100 Days on the Bench

May 12, 2026 - 5:30pm | Carnegie Library



Join us for a timely and engaging program highlighting the experiences of newly elected judges, Judge Rudzki, Judge Green Hawkins, and Judge Miller, as they reflect on their first 100 days on the bench.

Register Online at pmconline.org/events

One Day Law School for Journalists

July 27th, 2026 | Zoom

A free, intensive webinar designed to support journalists and media professionals who face the challenge of reporting on the court system without a law degree



PMC Civics

A hands-on, eight-month civics education program where judges and lawyers teach civics lessons to students in grades 6–12 at PA's Title I schools.



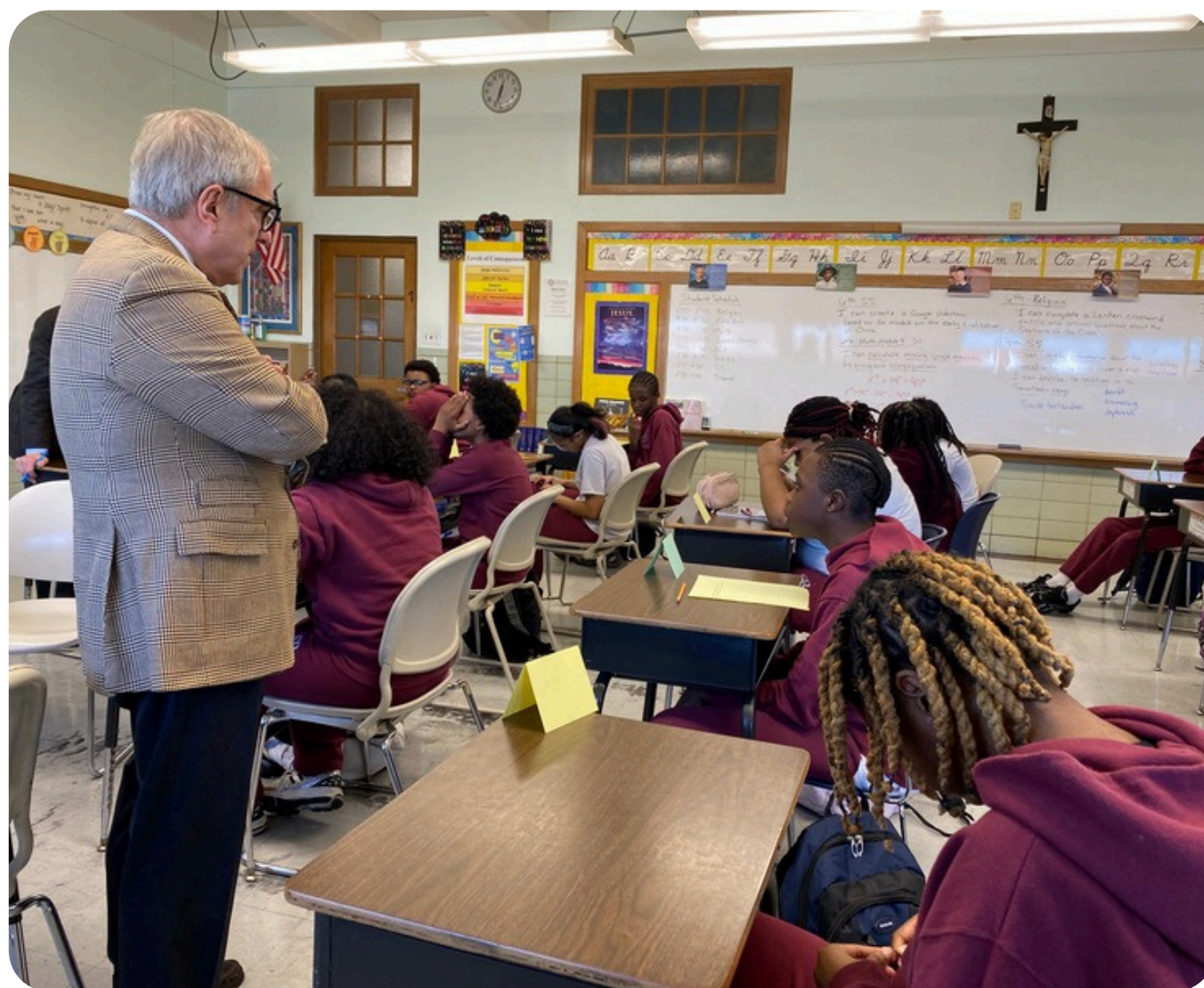
- Now in its third year
- Reached 600+ students last year
- Partnered with 17 schools
- Expanding to Harrisburg and Pittsburgh

Seeking volunteer instructors!



PMC Civics Curriculum

Over the course of 8 months, students in PMC Civics learn about:



- The Three Branches of Government
- Pennsylvania Court Basics
- Judicial Elections and Selection
- Jury Service
- First Amendment Rights
- Juvenile Justice
- Criminal Trials and Processes

Filling critical gaps in Pennsylvania's underfunded civics curriculum

Behind the Bench

An immersive 4-week summer program helping students explore legal careers through real courtroom experiences.



Students this summer were able to:

- Observe court proceedings in state civil, criminal, family, orphans, superior, and federal courts
- Visit the U.S. Attorney's Office
- Meet with judges behind the bench
- Tour various law firms and speak with lawyers about their careers

Now offering stipends, courtesy of the American Bar Endowment!

“Getting to learn directly from judges and lawyers has been incredible. They bring a wealth of experience that makes the justice system feel real and relevant to us. Some of the judges we’ve met grew up in neighborhoods right in our backyard here in Philadelphia, which makes it even more inspiring. For many of us, this experience is motivating us to explore careers in law and criminal justice.”

– *Student, Franklin Towne Charter High School*



PMC Watches

A community-driven court watch program promoting transparency, accountability, and fairness in Pennsylvania's judicial system.





Ken Gormley

Keynote Speaker

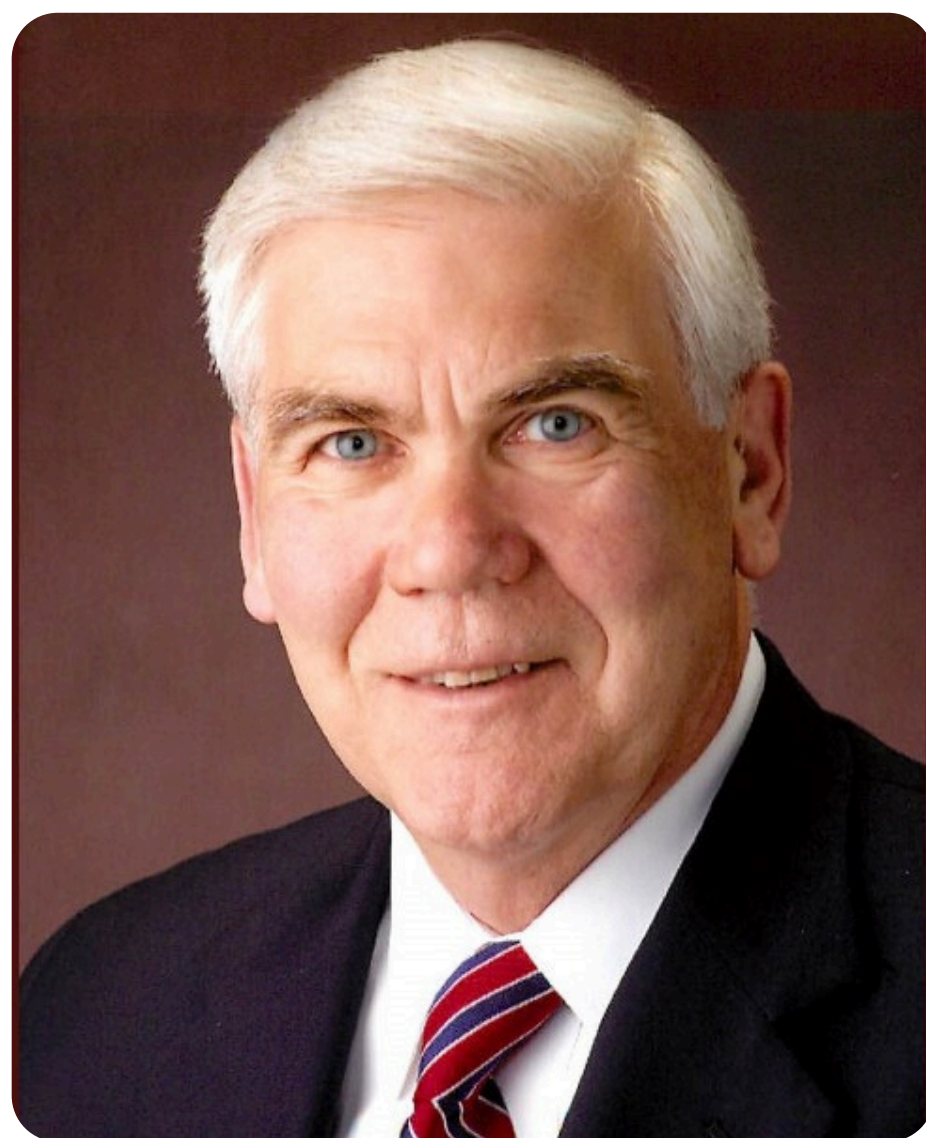


Ken Gormley is President and Professor of Law at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. He previously served for seven years as Dean of the Thomas R. Kline School of Law at Duquesne University. He received his J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1980.

A presidential historian, constitutional scholar and author of books on Watergate and the American presidency, he is also a member of the Pennsylvania Commission on Judicial Independence.

Hon. Robert J. Cindrich (Ret.)

Judge Justin Johnson Award Recipient



Judge Cindrich served as District Judge for the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. Before becoming a district judge, Cindrich served as an assistant public defender and assistant district attorney in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

Judge Cindrich has also held positions on various boards, including Mylan's board of directors, the Heinz History Center, and currently serves as a Pennsylvania Advisory Council member to Keep our Republic.



Congratulations to PMC's
Writing Competition Winner!

Noah Manalo
University of Pittsburgh School of Law
“Let Justice Be Bought?”



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Congratulations to the Hon. Robert J. Cindrich

*With appreciation to
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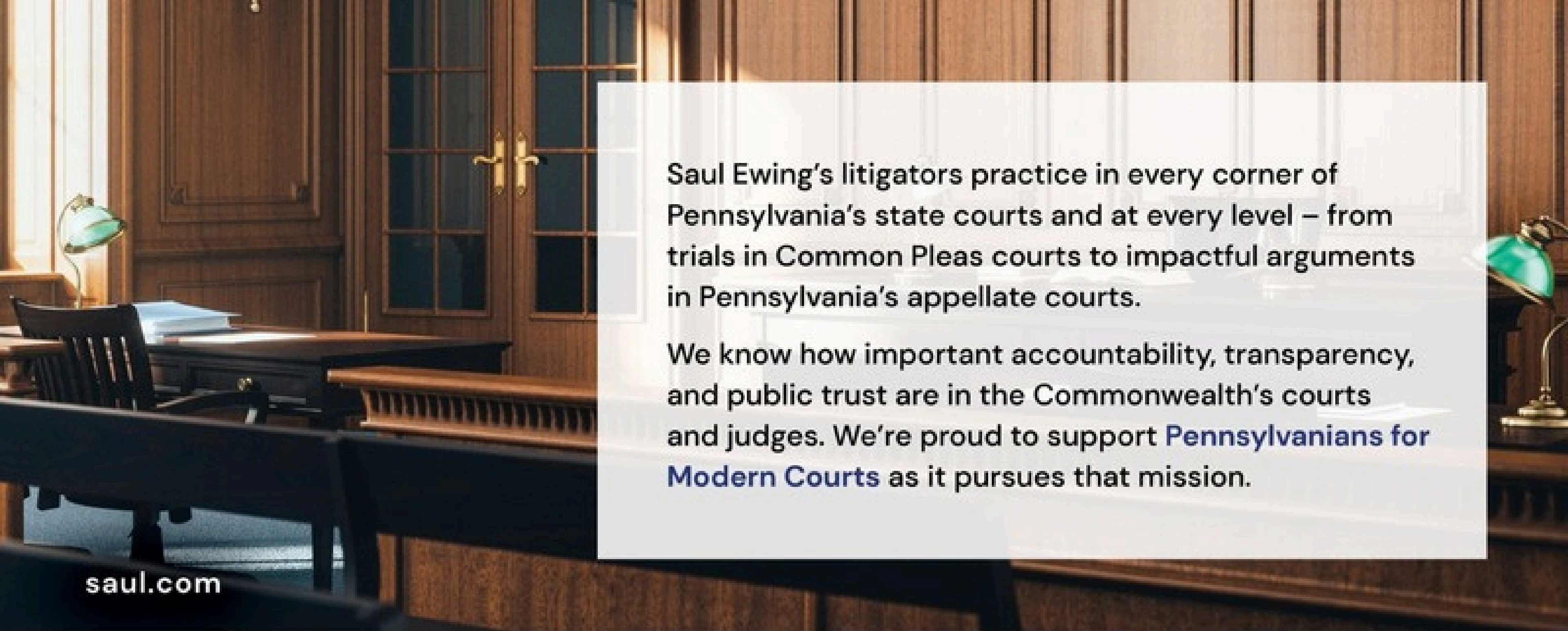


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We know how important accountability, transparency, and public trust are in the Commonwealth's courts and judges. We're proud to support **Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts** as it pursues that mission.

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Joshua W. B. Richards
Vice Chair,
Litigation Department

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**Robert Heim and Eileen Kennedy Heim
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Supporting the Mission

Jones Day proudly supports Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts (PMC) and its Spring into Action Benefit. We salute PMC's efforts to educate and provide guidance to Pennsylvanians on the court system and applaud PMC's role in advocating for impartiality, fairness, and accessibility for all.



Pietragallo is proud to support **Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts**
and the 2026 Judicial Independence Benefit.

We join in honoring **Retired Judge Robert J. Cindrlich** for his distinguished
career and lasting contributions to the bench and legal community.



www.Pietragallo.com

Pennsylvania — New Jersey — West Virginia

Thank you to PMC for all of your great work promoting an independent and fair judiciary, and congratulations to the Judge Justin Johnson Award Recipient honoree, Judge Robert J. Cindrich



Communities thrive on people they can count on.

A community is only as brilliant as its most dedicated and responsible neighbors. Thank you, Robert J. Cindrich, Retired U.S. District Court Judge for the Western District of PA, for helping Pittsburgh thrive.



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**Congratulations to the
Hon. Robert J. Cindrich and
Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts!**

-The Gitchell Dorfman Family

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The logo for Burns White, featuring the company name in a dark blue serif font inside a white rounded rectangular box with dark blue corner brackets.

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A large promotional message in gold text. The top line is in a cursive script, and the bottom two lines are in a tall, condensed serif font. The background features a dark blue gradient with a faint image of a judge and a woman in a courtroom, and a diagonal gold and brown stripe.

Burns White Proudly Supports
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In memory of Michael J. Revness, Esquire, Kurtz and Partners P.C. is proud to be a sponsor for the PMC's Spring into Action Benefit. Michael was a founding partner of the firm before stepping away from the firm in 2023. Michael graduated first in his class from Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University, and we are thrilled that this amazing event is being held at his alma mater. Michael's practice focused on litigation and security alarm matters. He earned a national reputation in the security alarm and life safety industry. Michael is truly missed as a partner and friend.

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Proud to support Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts Judicial Independence Benefit.

We share PMC's vision of a court system that assures
impartiality, fairness, accessibility, and respect.



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Dentons is proud to support
Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts and its vision
for a strong Pennsylvania judicial system.

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**Congratulations to Hon. Robert Cindrich
on receiving the
Judge Justin Johnson award.**

-Hon. Patricia McInerney

FREDERICK W. THIEMAN
ATTORNEY AT LAW

**Robert Cindrich. Judge, Hero,
Anchor, Mentor, Friend.
Congratulations.**

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