

PENNSYLVANIANS
FOR MODERN COURTS

JUDICIAL *Independence* BENEFIT

November 17, 2026 | Philadelphia

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 champion 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

PMC Shares

Presenters & Partners Needed!



If you are interested in volunteering as a PMC Shares presenter or know of any community groups that could benefit from this programing, **please contact jfedorko@pmconline.org**

Events needing presenters:

- February 10: Black Excellence: Legal Mentorship Session
- February 24: Use Your Voice: Mock Trial

PMC Shares

Highlights from 2026



Criminal Court Workshop, Veterans Multi-Service Center



A Constitutional Celebration: How the U.S. and PA Constitutions Shape Us, The Free Library of Philadelphia



Judging Juries Documentary Screening and Community Discussion, The Free Library of Philadelphia

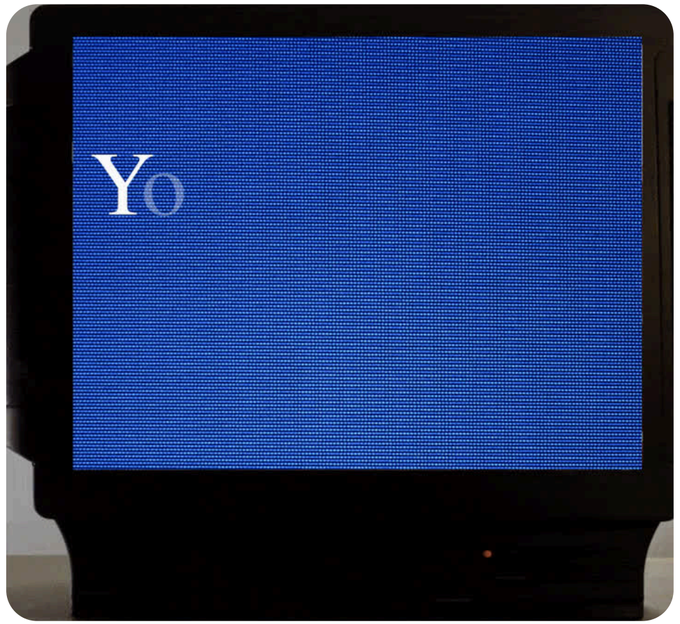
Championing Reforms

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

- Merit selection of Appellate Court Judges through an independent judicial nominating commission
- Required Civics Education Curriculum for PA's students
- Improved juror pay and benefits, including paid time off
- Expansion of qualification for jury service, including individuals who have served their sentences

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
- A screening of the documentary *Judging Juries* with post-film discussion
- CLE programming for local attorneys
- Juror Appreciation Day in Spring 2026/Spring 2027

One Day Law School for Journalists

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



This year's topics included:

- Sentencing 101
- Appellate Courts 101
- Judicial Conduct and Speech
- Law v. Reality: What Are Journalists' Rights?

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 4th year!
- Partnering with 14 schools
- Includes a Courthouse Fieldtrip
- Expanding to Harrisburg and Pittsburgh

PMC Civics Curriculum

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



- The Three Branches of Government
- The Judicial Systems
- Judicial Elections and Selection
- Jury Service
- First Amendment Rights
- Juvenile Justice
- Youth Advocacy
- Criminal Trials and Processes

PMC Civics

Presenters Needed!



PMC Civcs is a great way for the legal community to connect with young people and collaborate with one another. If you're interested in volunteering as a presenter, **email swarren@pmconline.org.**

See the PMC Civics calendar board for available timeslots.

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, and superior courts, as well as federal court
- Visit the U.S. Attorney's Office
- Meet with judges behind the bench
- Tour various law firms and speak with lawyers about their careers

Support Behind the Bench!

Funding supports:

- Stipends for students
- Transportation for students
- Meals for students
- Entrance fees to Philadelphia's musesums and institutions

PMC Watches

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



Now observing Preliminary Hearings at the Juanita Kidd Stout Center for Criminal Justice

Know anyone who might be interested in becoming a volunteer court watcher?
Email staff@pmconline.org



Sarah Koenig

Keynote Speaker

Sarah Koenig is the host and co-creator of the award-winning podcast Serial. Launched in 2014, Serial is credited with bringing mainstream attention to podcasting. Episode downloads of the show number in the hundreds of millions, making Serial the most listened-to podcast in the history of the form.

Among other honors, Serial won the 2014 Peabody Award, the first time the award was given to a podcast. In 2015 Koenig was named one of Time magazine's "The 100 Most Influential People."



Nicholas E. Chimicles

Judge Edmund B. Spaeth Jr. Award Recipient

For more than 30 years, Nick Chimicles has been a leading trial counsel in high-stakes complex litigation, representing plaintiffs in major antitrust, securities fraud, and breach of fiduciary duty cases.

He is the founder and senior partner of Chimicles Schwartz Kriner & Donaldson- Smith LLP, and a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Virginia School of Law. Chimicles has served as a member of the board of directors of numerous nonprofit organizations that serve the underrepresented and underprivileged.

Congratulations

Judge Gary Glazer (ret.)

and

Alan Promer,Esq.

PMC's Inaugural Volunteer Award Recipients



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CSKD Proudly Joins PMC in Recognizing and Honoring

Our Partner, Nick Chimicles, recipient of the Judge Edmund B. Spaeth, Jr. Award

- and-

Judge Gary Glazer (ret'd) & Alan Promer, Esquire, the Volunteer Award Honorees

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William Shotzbarger, Board of Directors, Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts
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in celebrating its
2026 Judicial Independence Benefit.
Congratulations to all the honorees!
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Nick Chimicles

Recipient of the

Judge Edmund B. Spaeth Jr. Award

Huntington Bank congratulates Nick Chimicles on this well-deserved recognition and celebrates his distinguished contributions to Pennsylvania's courts and the legal community.

With appreciation for your leadership, service, and enduring commitment to justice.

Huntington Bank

Internal Use

Proud to Support Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts and Judicial Independence Benefit 2026

Ballard Spahr is a proud supporter of PMC, its mission of educating all Commonwealth citizens about the court system and how to navigate it, and its commitment to strengthening the relationship between the judiciary and the press.

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Ballard Spahr LLP

Saul Ewing's litigators practice in every corner of Pennsylvania's state courts and at every level – from trials in Common Pleas courts to impactful arguments in Pennsylvania's appellate courts.

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.

Joshua W. B. Richards
Vice Chair, Litigation Department



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Michael J. Heller
Chairman & CEO
(215) 665-4141
mheller@cozen.com

Vincent R. McGuinness
President & Managing Partner
(215) 665-2097
vmcguinness@cozen.com

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DECHERT

Dechert is a proud sponsor of Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts' **Judicial Independence Benefit 2026**. Congratulations to this year's distinguished honoree:

Nicholas E. Chimicles

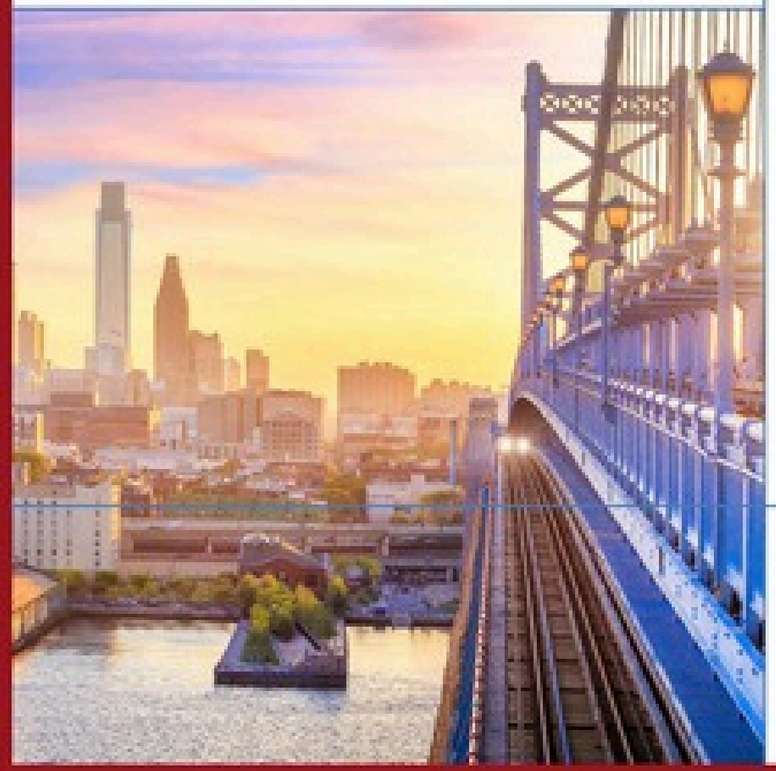
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Thank you to Debbie Gross and PMC for all the wonderful work that they do to educate, advocate and promote civic engagement in the community!

Ellen Farber

Fisher Phillips



PROUD TO BE A SPONSOR OF THE PENNSYLVANIANS FOR MODERN COURTS JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE BENEFIT 2026

Fisher Phillips is committed to PMC's work as advocate, community educator, and proponent for equal access to justice in the Commonwealth. Congratulations to this year's honoree, **Nicholas E. Chimicles** and the Pennsylvania courts, legal community and volunteers who work tirelessly to drive this mission forward.

Fisher Phillips is an international labor and employment law firm representing businesses in Pennsylvania and around the globe.

Congratulations to Tonight's Honoree:

Nick Chimicles, Esq.

1000 lawyers coast to coast with one priority: You.



Thank You to all who work tirelessly for civic engagement at PMC and congratulations to Nicholas Chimicles, Judge Gary Glazer, and Alan Promer.

Allan and Justice Jane Greenspan

We are so proud of the work done by Debbie and Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts.

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Angeion Group proudly supports Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts in advancing judicial independence and access to justice.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

NICK CHIMICLES

2026 Judge Edmund B. Spaeth Jr. Award Honoree

In recognition of his distinguished contributions to Pennsylvania's courts and legal community.

Together, we can make a lasting difference.

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Congratulations to our dear friend, Debbie Gross, for her stellar leadership of Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts at this critical time in our country's history.

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We proudly support Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts and its advocacy for a fair, accessible and respectful judicial system.

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Congratulations

Nick Chimicles, Esq., -
Judge Edmund B. Spaeth Jr.
Award
&
Judge Gary Glazer and
Alan Promer, Esq. -
Inaugural Volunteer Award

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Congratulations to all of tonight's honorees!

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Congratulations to Debbie Gross and PMC for protecting judicial independence and the rule of law!

Alan Feldman

Congratulations to Nick Chimicles on a very distinguished career and his many valuable contributions to the legal community. Congratulations as well for PMC, which has been a tireless and effective advocate for judicial reform and has long educated the public on the importance of ensuring that our judicial system is comprised of fair and highly qualified judges.

Roberta Liebenberg

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Proudly Supports the 2026 Judicial Independence Benefit

We applaud the contributions of

The Honorable Gary Glazer (Ret.), **Alan Promer, Esq.**, and **Nicholas Chimicles, Esq.**

and recognize the vital work of

Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts

in advancing judicial independence, civic education, and access to justice.

Congratulations to Nick Chimicles and to PMC for its important work. PMC's mission is more consequential than ever.

Lynn A. Marks

PENNSYLVANIANS
FOR MODERN COURTS

Thank You to Everyone for Joining Us This Evening!