

FJD Management

The centralized management infrastructure of the District was largely defined by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in March of 1996 through an order made effective April 1, 1996 that established the Administrative Governing Board (AGB) — a group of judicial leaders with extensive responsibilities for overall management of the District. The board is aided by the FJD Court Administrator. The nine member AGB is made up of the three President and five Administrative Judges of the Common Pleas, Municipal, and Traffic Courts and the subdivisions that comprise them, with the ninth seat occupied by the State Court Administrator. Common Pleas and Municipal Court President Judges are elected by their peers and Administrative Judges are appointed by the Supreme Court. The President Judge of Traffic Court is appointed by the governor.

The Honorable Alex Bonavitacola, President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas was designated by the Supreme Court as chairperson of the AGB. The other members, and their respective positions are: 1) Municipal Court President Judge Alan K. Silberstein; 2) Traffic Court President Judge Frank Little; 3) Common Pleas Court Trial Division Administrative Judge John W. Herron; 4) Common Pleas Court Family Division Administrative Judge Paul P. Panepinto; 5) Common Pleas Court Orphans' Court Division Administrative Judge Petrese B. Tucker; 6) Municipal Court Administrative Judge Robert S. Blasi, 7) Traffic Court Administrative Judge Bernice DeAngelis, and 8) State Court Administrator Nancy Sobolevitch.

The Board meets regularly to consider, deliberate upon, and coordinate responses to broad management issues affecting all the FJD Courts. In addition, the AGB reviews data and entertains recommendations presented to initiate new projects to improve service delivery, including access to justice. This cross-court, District-wide arrangement facilitates collegiality and fosters communication among the component Courts and divisions of the District.



Alex Bonavitacola
President Judge, Court of Common Pleas
Chair, Administrative Governing Board

President Judge Alex Bonavitacola is a graduate of Temple University and Temple University School of Law (from which he earned his J.D. and LL.M. degrees). Judge Bonavitacola was elected Judge of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas in 1973, retained in 1983 and 1993. He has served in the Trial Division, the Family Court Division and the Orphans' Court Division. The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania appointed him Administrative Judge of the Trial Division of the First Judicial District July 1, 1992, until December 1995, when he was unanimously elected by his colleagues as President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County.

He is Past President of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges and served as Chairman of the Education Committee for three years.

During his tenure as Administrative Judge of the Trial Division, President Judge Bonavitacola implemented a novel and comprehensive civil case inventory reduction strategy (Day Backward/Day Forward Programs), which has received national recognition for the effective reduction of case backlog within the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County.

In late March, 1996, by order of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, President Judge Bonavitacola was appointed Chairman of the Governing Board of the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania. This Board is responsible for the day-to-day governance of Philadelphia's Common Pleas, Municipal and Traffic Courts.



Alan K. Silberstein
President Judge, Municipal Court

Honorable Alan K. Silberstein has held the position of President Judge of Philadelphia Municipal Court since April 1998. Prior to the immediately preceding two-year period when President Judge Silberstein occupied the same office as Acting President Judge, he presided from the Municipal Bench for ten years, beginning his long career as a jurist in January 1976. In addition to his more than 20 years on the bench, President Judge Silberstein was Special Assistant Attorney General for the Department of Transportation, and a partner on the Herman, Bayer and Silberstein law firm. He began his practice as a sole practitioner in 1964.

Rounding out his professional life, the President Judge has maintained his commitment to the community through his dedication to the Northeast Community Center for Mental Health/Mental Retardation, acting at various times as Vice-President of the Board of Directors (current), President of the Board of Directors, and as a Member of the Board of Directors since November 1974. In addition he is a former member of the Board of Directors of the National Hemophilia Foundation and an active member of the National Conference of Metropolitan Courts; the American Judge's Association; the American Trial Lawyers' Association; the Temple University Law Alumni Association; the Philadelphia and Pennsylvania Bar Associations; the B'nai Brith — Justice Lodge; the Pannonia Beneficial Association; the Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission; the Commission on Judicial Selection and Retention; the Pennsylvania Bar Institute as a Lecturer on Eminent Domain; and the Advisory Committee of the Jenkins Memorial Law Library.



Frank J. Little
President Judge, Traffic Court

President Judge Little took office on January 8, 1998. He began his judicial career December 21, 1989, serving as Educational Judge beginning in 1993 and Emergency Judge from 1997. A dedicated Public Official of Philadelphia, he presided as the Director of Archives 1985-1990, headed Warrant Departments at Traffic Court and conducted investigations at Municipal Court in Private Criminal Complaints. He was proprietor and C.E.O. of a Philadelphia based Contracting Company from 1965 to 1975. He is a graduate of Wilson Law College, Minor Judiciary Law Degree, Philadelphia Police Academy and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Constable Program. Recipient of numerous community and press awards, Judge Little serves on the Boards of the Community Mental Health and Retardation Center. He is President of the Olney Betterment Alliance, Secretary of Lions International, Life Member of The

Emerald Society and Board Member of the Korean-American Friendship Society.



John W. Herron

Administrative Judge, Trial Division

The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania designated Judge Herron as Administrative Judge of the Trial Division in January of 1996. Judge Herron was previously elected to the Court of Common Pleas in November 1986 and re-elected for a second ten year term in November 1997. He has served in the Criminal Division in the List Room Program and the Major Jury Program and thereafter was assigned to the Civil Division where he served as the Motion Court judge and one of the original team leaders in the Major Jury Day Backward Program.

Prior to his judicial service, Judge Herron practiced law for 18 years as a lawyer in private practice, as an Assistant District Attorney and subsequently Deputy District Attorney, and also as Chief Disciplinary Counsel for the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court. During his tenure as a judge,

he has served on numerous committees and chaired the Accountability Committee as well as the Civil Management Committee. In addition to his frequent appearances as a lecturer and panelist in various continuing legal education programs, he has for several years taught courses in law school in both Professional Responsibility and Trial Advocacy.



Paul P. Panepinto

Administrative Judge, Family Division

Administrative Judge Paul P. Panepinto attended Villanova University and received his B.A. in Political Science in 1971, and M.A. in Political Science in 1979; he received his J.D. in 1976 from Widener University School of Law. Before being appointed to the bench of the Court of Common Pleas in June 1990, and elected in his own right in 1991, Judge Panepinto served in the Family Court Division as a Probation Officer, Intake Unit Attorney, and as a Juvenile Master. A member of numerous professional associations, Judge Panepinto serves as a Board Member of the Alumni Association of the Widener University School of Law, and was presented the Widener University School of Law Outstanding Alumni of the Year Award in October, 1994.

In April 1996, Judge Panepinto was appointed by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania to serve in his current position as Administrative Judge of the Family Court Division. Also, in 1996, Judge Panepinto was appointed by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania to the Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee and appointed by Governor Thomas J. Ridge to the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission of Pennsylvania. In 1997, Judge Panepinto was appointed by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania to the Pennsylvania Futures Commission on Justice in the 21st Century and appointed Chairman for Community Resources Committee by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. Judge Panepinto is a member of the Roxborough Lodge Order of Sons of Italy and serves as a member of the Mayor's Cabinet for Children and Youth, as well as numerous other community groups and organizations.



Petrese B. Tucker

Administrative Judge, Orphans' Court

Appointed by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court as Administrative Judge of the Orphans' Court Division of the Court of Common Pleas in April 1996, the Honorable Petrese B. Tucker originally assumed office April 6, 1987, and was subsequently elected to a ten year term in 1989. During her tenure in the Common Pleas Court, she has also served in the Juvenile Court Branch of the Family Division and the Criminal and Civil Sections of the Trial Division.

Before her appointment to the Bench, Judge Tucker was Assistant Chief of the Rape Unit and Assistant Chief of the Child Abuse Unit of the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office. In addition, her prior work experience includes positions as Senior Trial Attorney for the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA), and Adjunct Professorships at the Great Lakes College Association and Trial Advocacy Courses at Temple University School of Law. Judge Tucker is a Member of the Barristers Association of Philadelphia, the Pennsylvania Confer-

ence of State Trial Judges, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association. As a member of the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, National, and American Bar Associations, Judge Tucker has chaired and worked on numerous committees. She has received many meritorious distinguished service awards for her significant contributions to the community.



Robert S. Blasi
Administrative Judge, Municipal Court

The Honorable Robert S. Blasi was appointed by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania to his current leadership position as Administrative Judge of the Philadelphia Municipal Court in October, 1997. He is concurrently qualified to preside as a Common Pleas Court Judge for Civil Appeals from Municipal Court decisions, having been vested with that power through appointment by the Common Pleas Court President Judge Alex Bonavita. Having been originally appointed as a Municipal Court Judge in January 1992, Administrative Judge Blasi was reelected to the bench in January 1998. The Administrative Judge's background includes positions with an engineering firm; Board Member, Vice Chairman, and Acting Chairman of the Philadelphia Zoning Board of Adjustment; and as a sole practitioner.

Judge Blasi adds dimension to his career as a lawyer and jurist through professional associations including his membership with the Philadelphia Bar Association and contributions to that institution through his work with the Real Property Committee, the Senior Citizens Judicare Project, the Lawyer Referral Service, and the Fee Disputes Committee. He is also a member of the Lawyer Club of Philadelphia, sits on the Board of Governors of the Justinian Society; and acts as the Director of the Widener University School of Law Alumni Association.

Judge Blasi's commitment to the community is reflected in his support of the Sons of Italy No. 2217 Greater Roxborough Lodge, where he has served as the President, Vice President, and Trustee. In addition, he has experience as the Past Director of the Rosary Federal Credit Union, a 4th Degree Member of the Knights of Columbus, a past member of the Pennsylvania Commission for Social Justice, Governor Casey's appointee to the Advisory Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse, a Guest Lecturer at Holy Family College, and a member of the Philadelphia Federal Credit Union Loan Review Committee. Finally, Administrative Judge Blasi has received numerous awards for his dedication and public service from the Sons of Italy, Widener University School of Law, the 21st Ward Veterans' Organizations, and the Sons of Italy in America.



Bernice A. DeAngelis
Administrative Judge, Traffic Court

The Honorable Bernice Ann DeAngelis was appointed by Supreme Court of Pennsylvania as Administrative Judge of the Philadelphia Traffic Court in May 1996. She began her career on the Traffic Court Bench after winning a 1991 City-wide election to that post, assuming office in January 1992.

Prior to her election, Administrative Judge DeAngelis was employed in a State Senatorial District Office for almost 15 years, providing valuable assistance to a Senator who served as Majority/Minority Chairman of the Transportation Committee, specializing in constituent services relative to the Department of Motor Vehicles. She is an Associate Member of the American Bar Association, and a Member of the Democratic Women of Philadelphia. Relying on her rich Polish heritage and deep ties with the Fairmount community, Judge DeAngelis has devoted much time and energy to the betterment

of Philadelphia. She has received numerous accolades for her dedication and hard work benefitting the City and its citizens, enhancing public safety, and improving the quality of life for the public.



Nancy M. Sobolevitch
Court Administrator of Pennsylvania

Nancy M. Sobolevitch was appointed State Court Administrator of Pennsylvania on March 31, 1986. Prior to beginning her service as State Court Administrator, Ms. Sobolevitch held positions that included a posting as Deputy Director of the Governors's Energy Council of Pennsylvania, and an assignment as Executive Assistant to the Speaker, in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

Augmenting her valuable previous experiences, and, along with myriad achievements during her career as State Court Administrator, Ms. Sobolevitch has maintained professional associations as a member and Immediate Past President of the Conference Of State Court Administrators (COSCA); Board of the National Center for State Courts; Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency; Pennsylvania Association of Court Management (PACM); COSCA Committee on Court Technology; National Association of Women

Judges; American Judges Association; Chairperson, COSCA Committee on State-Federal Issues; Secretary, Judicial Council of Pennsylvania; Chair of the Budget Committee, Judicial Council of Pennsylvania; and National Center for State Courts Governance and Nominations Committee.