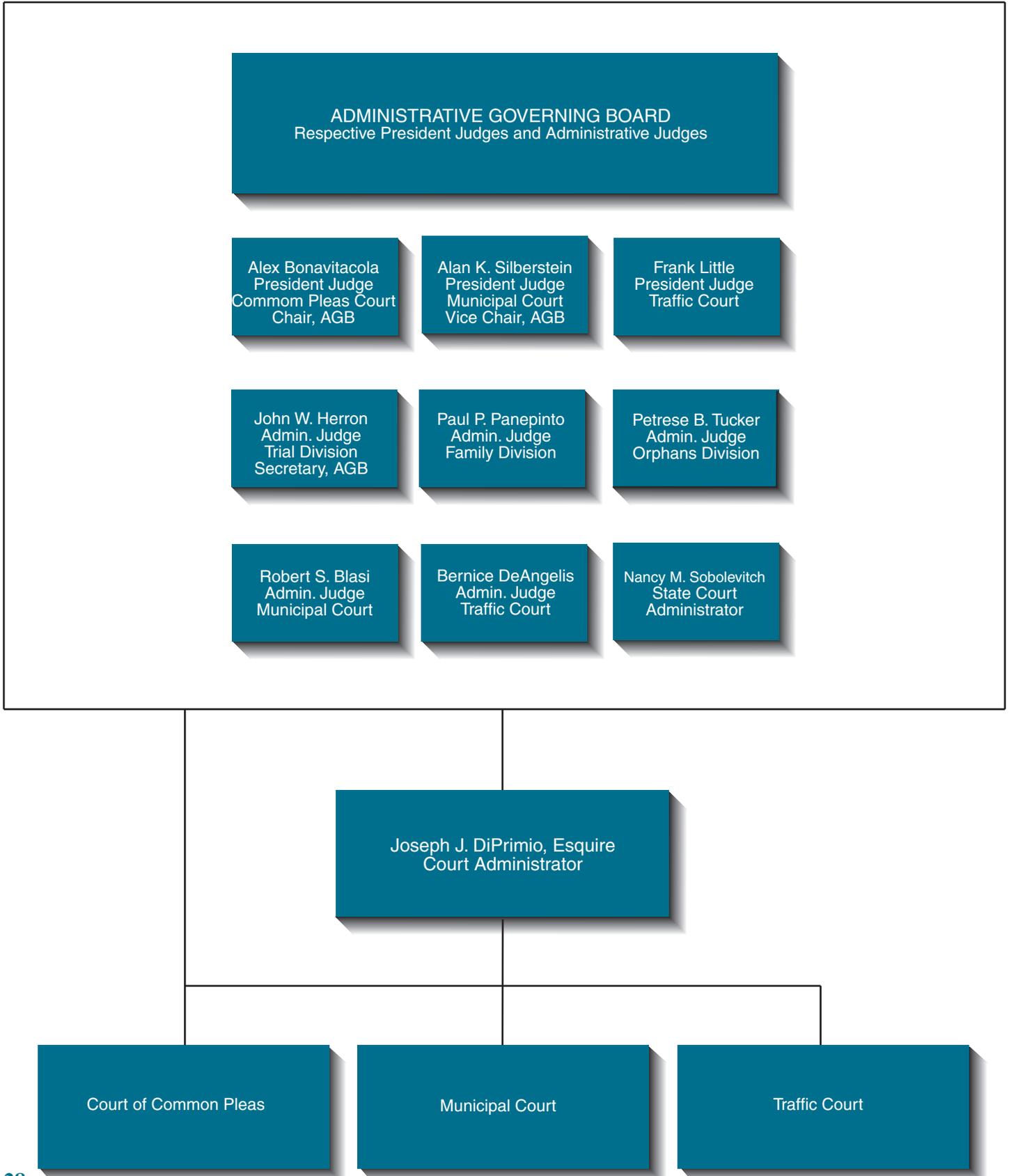

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OVERVIEW

The First Judicial District of Pennsylvania (FJD) was initially established in 1791 as one of an original five state court jurisdictions in Pennsylvania. Today, on the verge of the millennium, FJD judges and employees exemplify leadership in their commitment to providing equal justice before the law. The FJD is one of sixty dynamic and progressive judicial districts in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The organizational structure of the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania is founded on the three major Courts that comprise it: 1) the Court of Common Pleas; 2) the Philadelphia Municipal Court; and 3) the Philadelphia Traffic Court.

The Common Pleas Court, a Court of general jurisdiction, is subdivided into three divisions: 1) the Trial Division with Civil and Criminal Sections; 2) the Family Division with constituent Domestic Relations and Family Branches; and 3) the Orphans' Court Division.

The Philadelphia Municipal Court is a limited jurisdiction special Court of record that is further delineated into Civil and Criminal Sections that parallel and are linked to their counterpart divisional components in the Trial Division of Common Pleas Court through appellate processes and the criminal arraignment and preliminary hearing procedures.

The Philadelphia Traffic Court is a special Court with jurisdiction over violations of the Pennsylvania Motor Vehicle Code.

MANAGEMENT

The top echelon of FJD management is composed of Court leaders on the nine-member Administrative Governing Board (AGB) that was created by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in 1996. As described previously, the President Judges of the

three major courts and the administrative judges of those courts and their subdivisions, along with the State Court Administrator constitute the membership of the AGB.

In addition to the formation of the AGB, the Office of the Court Administrator of the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania was also established by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court on April 1, 1996. The Court Administrator, Joseph J. DiPrimio, Esquire, was appointed to that position in August, 1996. Reporting directly to the AGB, Mr. DiPrimio oversees an office with large responsibility centers with bearing across the FJD.

OPERATIONAL LINKAGES

Aside from the managerial links established through the AGB structure and augmented by the Office of the Court Administrator, several operational ties connect the three Courts. Criminal case arraignment and preliminary hearing processes conducted in Municipal Court lead to trial proceedings in the Common Pleas Court Trial Division Criminal Section. Common Pleas Court also entertains appeals arising from Municipal Court dispositions and Traffic Court decisions. When juvenile complainants are involved, felony preliminary hearings and misdemeanor trials are specially administered in the Juvenile Branch facility at 1801 Vine Street before Family Court Division judges. Further, the Family Division Domestic Relations Branch of the Common Pleas Court and the Municipal Court are joined through cooperative round-the-clock efforts to provide protection from abuse.

The district-wide influence of units in the Common Pleas Court President Judge's Office, and that of the Court Administrator, add to a network of connections spanning the FJD.

