

**Minor**

**Judiciary**

**Education**

**Board**

**2002 Membership:**

Honorable Daniel B. Garber, *Chairman*  
Honorable James J. Dwyer, III, *Vice Chairman*  
Terry R. Marolt, *Secretary*  
Honorable Catherine M. Hummel, *Treasurer*  
Gregory E. Dunlap, Esq.  
Jerry J. Russo, Esq.  
Honorable Robert E. Simpson, Jr.

**Staff:**

Robert E. Hessler, *Executive Director*

**Legal Authorization:**

Pa. Constitution, Article V, § 12  
42 Pa. C.S., § 31  
42 Pa. C.S., § 2131  
42 Pa. C.S., § 3118

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## History/Background

Article V, §12 of the Pennsylvania Constitution requires that district justices and judges of the Philadelphia Traffic Court either be members of the bar of the Supreme Court or, before taking office, complete a course and pass an examination in the duties of their respective offices.

It is the responsibility of the Minor Judiciary Education Board (MJEB) to instruct and certify individuals wishing to become district justices, Philadelphia Traffic Court judges or Philadelphia Bail Commissioners. The board approves the curriculum, appoints and evaluates instructors, establishes course content, reviews all tests, and issues certificates to successful program participants.

In addition, the board conducts continuing education for district justices, senior district justices, Philadelphia Traffic Court judges, senior Philadelphia Traffic Court judges, Philadelphia Bail Commissioners and for those individuals who wish to maintain a current certification in one or more of these areas. It also conducts a one-week practicum, or orientation course, for newly elected or appointed district justices.

The board has seven members, who are appointed by the governor with a two-thirds approval by the Senate.

## 2002 Curriculum

During this past year approved subjects for the four-week certifying course included:

- criminal law and procedure
- civil law and procedure
- Rules of Evidence
- judicial ethics
- motor vehicle law
- arrest/search and seizure
- Pennsylvania Drug/Device and Cosmetics Act
- Pennsylvania crimes code

Continuing education for the Commonwealth's district justices and Philadelphia Bail Commissioners is mandated by the Judicial Code (42 Pa. C.S., § 3118). This year during the 16 scheduled weeks the following courses made up the 32 required course hours for district justices:

- review and update of civil and criminal procedure
- Motor Vehicle Code
- legal writing & research
- civil update
- Pennsylvania dog law & related issues
- Pennsylvania's Right to Know
- use & abuse of power

The one-week mandatory continuing education course for Philadelphia Bail Commissioners included:

- domestic violence
- crimes code
- search & seizure
- Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape
- use & abuse of power

The orientation course for new district justices included:

- sexual assault
- ethics
- district justice practices
- National Alliance for the Mentally Ill
- office administration
- human behavior

The Minor Judiciary Education Board approved a continuing education program for Philadelphia Traffic Court judges in compliance with Rule 22. That program included:

- use & abuse of power
- Philadelphia Traffic Court Procedures
- Pennsylvania Motor Vehicle Code review and update

The Minor Judiciary Education Board provided continuing education to 623 district justices and senior district justices, continuing

legal education credits to 115 attorney district justices; and certification classes to 88 prospective district justices and an additional 15 students who were not certified. The board also certified one prospective Philadelphia Bail Commissioner and one prospective Philadelphia Traffic Court judge.

### **Other Activities**

In addition to conducting educational courses at its facility in Chambersburg, the Minor Judiciary Education Board provided staff

assistance to the minor judiciary, court administrators, president judges and related court agencies in answering questions pertaining to the board, the minor courts system and the board's courses of instruction.

### **Contact Person**

Robert E. Hessler serves as Executive Director of the MJEB and may be contacted at (717) 263-0691 or by writing to 3301 Black Gap Road, Suite 108; Chambersburg, PA 17201. AOPC