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ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE of PENNSYLVANIA COURTS

## NEWS RELEASE

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**CONTACT:**

[Stuart Ditzen](#), Assistant for Communications  
215-560-6300

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Public Defenders, Ethics Experts, Victims' Advocate and Others to Testify Before Commission on Juvenile Justice**

**HARRISBURG, PA, January 28, 2010** - The Interbranch Commission on Juvenile Justice which is investigating failures in the juvenile justice system in Luzerne County will hold hearings on Monday and Tuesday, February 1 and 2, at the Pennsylvania Judicial Center.

The hearings will begin at 10 a.m. on Monday and 9 a.m. on Tuesday and will be held in the Council Room on the first floor of the Judicial Center, 601 Commonwealth Avenue, Harrisburg.

Witnesses on Monday are to include Mary Ann Scali, deputy director of the National Juvenile Defender Center; Bernadette M. Bianchi, executive director of the Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth and Family Services; George Kuhlman, ethics counsel, the American Bar Association, and Carol L. Lavery, Office of Victim Advocate, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Witnesses on Tuesday are to include Clifford E. Haines, president of the Pennsylvania Bar Association; retired Superior Court Judge Phyllis W. Beck, appearing with Lynn A. Marks, executive director of Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts; John R. Cellucci, chairman of the Pennsylvania Judicial Conduct Board; Edwin L. Klett, conduct board member, and Francis J. Puskas 2d, deputy chief counsel to the conduct board.

An agenda for next week's hearings is attached below. The agenda will be posted on the Web site of Pennsylvania's Unified Judicial System. (See link at the bottom of this release.)

TV and radio stations can pick up a live feed of the hearings transmitted to an audio/video mult box from pool cameras provided by PCN. Still photography of the hearings is permitted **without the use of a flash**.

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The Interbranch Commission on Juvenile Justice is conducting a noncriminal investigation into the circumstances that led to failures in the juvenile justice system in Luzerne County. The commission's purpose is to determine the causes of the failures, to restore public confidence in the administration of justice and to make recommendations to prevent a recurrence of a similar situation.

The commission previously held hearings in Harrisburg on October 14, in Wilkes-Barre on November 9 and 10 and December 7 and 8, and in Harrisburg on January 21 and 22. A final hearing is scheduled in Wilkes-Barre on February 25.

Superior Court Judge John M. Cleland, chairman of the commission, will be available to the media to answer questions during breaks and at the conclusion of next week's hearings.

Transcripts of the commission's proceedings and other information about the commission are available at:

<http://www.pacourts.us/Links/Public/InterbranchCommissionJuvenileJustice.htm>



FEBRUARY HEARING  
PENNSYLVANIA JUDICIAL CENTER - HARRISBURG, PA

Monday, February 1<sup>st</sup>

10:00 – 12:00

**Defenders Association**

Mary Ann Scali, Deputy Director  
National Juvenile Defender Center

Joseph Ehmann, First Assistant State Public Defender  
Madison Appellate Office of Wisconsin State Public Defender

Eileen Hirsh, Assistant State Public Defender  
Madison Appellate Office of Wisconsin State Public Defender

Barbara Lee Krier  
Treasurer, Juvenile Defenders Association of PA (JDAP)

Cait Clarke, Director, Public Interest Law Opportunities -  
Equal Justice Works

1:00 - 3:00

**Ethics**

Bernadette M. Bianchi, Executive Director  
Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth and Family Services

George Kuhlman, Ethics Counsel, American Bar Association

3:00 - 4:00

**Victim Advocate**

Carol L. Lavery, Office of Victim Advocate, Commonwealth of  
Pennsylvania

4:00

**Victim / Parent testimony**



FEBRUARY HEARING  
PENNSYLVANIA JUDICIAL CENTER - HARRISBURG, PA

Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>

9:00 - 10:00

**Pennsylvania Bar Association**

Clifford E. Haines, Esquire , President

10:15 – 11:00

**Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts**

Honorable Phyllis W. Beck  
[Retired] Superior Court of Pennsylvania

Lynn A. Marks, Executive Director

Shira Goodman, Deputy Director

11:15 – 12:15

**Pennsylvania Judicial Conduct Board**

Mr. John R. Cellucci - Chairman

Mr. Edwin L. Klett

Francis J. Puskas, II, Esquire  
Deputy Chief Counsel

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