



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE of PENNSYLVANIA COURTS

# MEDIA ADVISORY

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*PA Supreme Court Hosts Teachers Institute on the Judiciary*  
**Pittsburgh-Area Teachers to Learn about the Court System**

**HARRISBURG, March 25, 2010**—The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Commission on Judicial Independence and the Pennsylvania Coalition for Representative Democracy (PennCORD) will present a Teachers Institute on the Judiciary on Monday, March 29, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Room 303 in Hanley Hall, Duquesne University School of Law Pittsburgh. **Media coverage of the sessions is invited.**

Teachers from more than 30 schools (*see attached list*) are expected to attend an intensive and interactive day of learning and discussion about the state and federal courts and constitutions (*see attached schedule of events*). Opening remarks will be provided by Chief Justice of Pennsylvania Ronald D. Castille and Judge Marjorie O. Rendell, Third Circuit Court of Appeals and First Lady of Pennsylvania.

Conference highlights include a 1 p.m. mock Supreme Court argument that will include teachers in the roles of justices, sitting with Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Joan Orié Melvin, Commonwealth Court President Judge Bonnie Brigance Leadbetter, Allegheny County Common Pleas Court Judge Joseph M. James, Senior Superior Court Judge Robert E. Colville, and former Superior Court Judge Maureen E. Lally-Green.

Another feature will be a roundtable discussion at 9:45 a.m. titled, “Judges on Judging” with Pennsylvania Supreme Court Chief Justice Emeritus John P. Flaherty, Judge Rendell, Judge Leadbetter, Judge Lally-Green, Allegheny County Common Pleas Court Judge Kim Berkeley Clark and Allegheny County Magisterial District Judge Dennis R. Joyce.

The goal of the conference is to promote and encourage greater emphasis on civics education in the classroom and to foster a better understanding of the role of courts and the judiciary in a democratic society. The Institute is jointly sponsored by the Supreme Court’s Judicial Independence Commission, PennCORD and the Pennsylvania Bar Association with the support of Duquesne University School of Law.

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## **Schools Participating in The Conference on the Judiciary for Teachers**

Arin Intermediate Unit 28  
Belle Vernon Area School District  
Brentwood Borough School District  
Chester County Intermediate Unit 24  
Corry Area School District  
Diocese of Greensburg Mary Queen of Apostles School  
Diocese of Pittsburgh  
Forbes Road East Area Vocational Technical School  
Forest Hills School District  
Fort Cherry School District  
Gateway School District  
Glendale School District  
Hollidaysburg Area School District  
Indiana Area School District  
Mary Queen of Apostles Greensburg Diocese  
McKeesport Area School District  
Montour School District  
Mt Lebanon School District  
Norwin School District  
Pace School  
Penn-Trafford School District  
Peters Township School District  
Propel Andrew Street High School  
Purchase Line School District  
Saint Vitus School  
Seneca Valley School District  
Shaler Area School District  
Somerset Area School District  
South Allegheny School District  
West Allegheny School District  
Woodland Hills School District

### **Agenda**

8:30 a.m.	Registration and Pre-test
9:00 a.m.	Welcome and Introduction by Chief Justice Ronald Castille, Judge Marjorie Rendell and Chief Justice Emeritus John P. Flaherty
9:10 a.m.	Warm-Up Exercise
9:45 a.m.	Roundtable: Judges on Judging
11:00 a.m.	Changing Roles: The Old, Modern and Contemporary Courts and their Impact on Federalism
1:00 p.m.	Standard Aligned System Mock Pennsylvania Supreme Court Argument
2:45 p.m.	Evaluation and Post-test