

# Laser Fax

Modification 5  
Modification 5.10  
January 27, 2005

## **MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE**

As stated in Informational Laser Fax 5.15, the DJS is being programmed to reflect the name change from District Justice to Magisterial District Judge on screens, forms, and reports. This change is effective January 29.

In order to roll out the program changes, the DJS will be down from 12:00 am until approximately 2:00 am on Saturday. We anticipate the downtime to be 2 hours, but if you receive a sign on screen prior 2:00 am, the system is available and you may sign on to the DJS.



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE of PENNSYLVANIA COURTS

# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
[www.courts.state.pa.us](http://www.courts.state.pa.us)

## *Supreme Court integrates title change* **District Justices to Become Magisterial District Judges**

**HARRISBURG, January 6, 2005** — Pennsylvania’s minor court jurists, who preside over the lion’s share of cases entering the state court system, are getting new titles to better reflect their responsibilities.

On Jan. 29, 2005 Pennsylvania’s District Justices officially will be known as Magisterial District judges.

An administrative order issued today by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court formally recognizes the name change, which overwhelmingly was adopted by the General Assembly last year and signed into law by Gov. Edward G. Rendell as Act 207 of 2004. The duties of the Commonwealth’s 555 district judges will remain the same.

**Importantly, the administrative order makes the name change effective in all references in court documents, automated systems and court rules. The order also authorizes the continued use of existing forms, documents and citations containing the title “district justice” to facilitate the transition of resources and materials and curb replacement costs.**

“Regardless of their title, the Commonwealth’s 555 Magisterial District judges remain the court of first impression of most Pennsylvanians — the most frequent point of contact between Pennsylvanians and the state judicial system,” Chief Justice of Pennsylvania Ralph J. Cappy said. “Their new title reflects the nature of their office as judges, eliminates confusion by the public as to their role in the judicial system, and fully recognizes their important contribution to that system.

“Today’s Supreme Court order ensures that implementation of the Act will be seamless and not require unnecessary expense by government or the private sector during the transition from the previous title.”

Each Magisterial District judge presides over a geographic boundary known as a magisterial district and has jurisdiction over misdemeanor criminal cases and civil claims involving \$8,000 or less. Magisterial District judges also hear traffic-related charges and hold arraignments and preliminary hearings for those charged with more serious crimes.

(The court’s order is on the Pennsylvania Judiciary Web site at: [www.courts.state.pa.us](http://www.courts.state.pa.us))

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**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

IN RE: ACT 207-2004

: No. 269 Judicial Administration Docket No. 1

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**ORDER**

**PER CURIAM**

**AND NOW**, this 6th day of January, 2005, in accordance with Act 207 of 2004 which changes the title of “district justice” to “magisterial district judge”, it is hereby ORDERED: Pursuant to the authority set forth by Article V, Section 10(c) of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and the general supervisory and administrative authority of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania set forth by 42 Pa.C.S. Section 1701, et seq., (Judicial Code), that all references in any court rule, court order, court form (including citation), automated statewide court case management system (i.e. PACMS, CPCMS and DJS) or any other legal authority, except as provided for in Act 207, to “district justice” shall be deemed a reference to “magisterial district judge.” **This Order is effective January 29, 2005.**