

Orphans'

Court

Procedural

Rules

Committee

2002 Membership:

Honorable John M. Cascio, *Chair*
Mary Jane Barrett, Esq.**
Richard E. Flannery, Esq.*
Kenneth E. Lewis, Esq.
Edward S. McKenna, Esq.
Honorable Joseph D. O'Keefe
Honorable Eunice L. Ross
Carolyn Crandall Thompson, Esq., *ex officio*

Staff:

Dean R. Phillips, Esq., *Counsel*
Rebecca M. Darr, Esq., *Deputy Counsel*

* Effective 5-31-02

** Effective 10-28-03

Legal Authorization:

Pa. Constitution, Article V, § 10(c)
42 Pa. C.S., § 1722

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History/Background

The Orphans' Court Procedural Rules Committee was established under Article V, § 10(c) of the 1968 Pennsylvania Constitution and 42 Pa. C.S., § 1772. It responds to developments in orphans' court procedure and reviews current rules governing statewide practice and procedure in the orphans' court, recommending new rules as necessary. The committee also responds to questions and comments received from the judiciary, lawyers, the public and various agencies.

2002 Activities

As a result of meetings and work sessions in 2002, the committee has

- undertaken a statewide standardized forms project for orphans' court practice in the Commonwealth
- begun discussions and research regarding the possibility of electronic filing of orphans' court documents
- begun a comprehensive review of the adoption rules
- discussed citation practice in the orphans' court
- monitored the 2001 amendments to Rule 7.1, making exceptions optional with the aggrieved party and the 2001 amendment to Pa.R.A.P. 342 regarding appeals from orders determining an interest in realty, personalty or individual rights.

In the fall of 2002, the committee added its first part-time deputy counsel, Rebecca Darr,

Esq. Ms. Darr also serves as deputy counsel to the Appellate Court Procedural Rules Committee.

2003 Plans

Among the subjects of the committee's agenda for 2003 are

- completion of the above-named projects
- implementation of a Web site on the home page of the Unified Judicial System. Included on this site will be recent and proposed amendments and new rules regulating the practice and procedure of the orphans' courts of this Commonwealth.

Contact Persons

Questions about the committee and its work may be directed to either of the following individuals:

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