

# PBA Welcomes 2018-19 Board Members

## James J. Ross, House of Delegates Chair

Beaver County Court of Common Pleas Judge James J. Ross began his second year of a two-year term as chair of the PBA House of Delegates at the conclusion of the PBA Annual Meeting, May 11, in Hershey.



Ross

Active in the organized bar for many years, Judge Ross is currently co-vice chair of the PBA Judicial Administration Committee and recently served a three-year term on the PBA Board of Governors as the unit county governor representing county bar associations.

Judge Ross is a past president of the Beaver County Bar Association and has chaired the association's Civil Rules and Charitable Giving committees. In 2008, he received the Judge James E. Rowley Service Award for outstanding commitment and dedication to the Beaver County Bar Association and to the legal profession.

Judge Ross served as a member of the Board of Governors for the Western Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association and the Pennsylvania Association for Justice.

Judge Ross was a member of the Civil Justice Advisory Group to the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, which advised the court on the efficient and cost-effective management of civil litigation. He was also appointed by the U.S. District Court to the Merit Selection Committee to review candidates and to recommend finalists to the court for the position of U.S. Magistrate Judge.

In November 2013, Judge Ross was elected to a 10-year term as a Beaver County Court of Common Pleas judge.

From 1991 to 2013, Judge Ross was a partner in the law firm of Bowers, Ross & Fawcett and litigated plaintiffs' personal injury claims and criminal defense cases.

Following law school graduation, Judge Ross was a law clerk in the U.S. Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania to Judge Alan N. Bloch from 1982 to 1984.

From 1984 to 1987, Judge Ross served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania prosecuting organized crime and narcotics cases in Pittsburgh, and from 1988 to 1991, he served as chief of the Western District's Erie Division.

Active in numerous civic and legal entities, he served on the Beaver County YMCA Endowment Committee and on the boards of directors for the Beaver County YMCA and Erie Special Olympics. He also served as president of One-to-One Citizen Advocacy.

Judge Ross earned an undergraduate degree from Baldwin Wallace College, a master's degree in public administration from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and a juris doctorate from Ohio Northern University. During his law school career, he served as editor-in-chief of the law school's law review.

## Kristen B. Hamilton, Zone 3 Governor

Kristen B. Hamilton of the Law Office of Eric J. Weisbrod PC, Chambersburg, began a three-year term as Zone 3 governor, representing Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry and York county lawyers.



Hamilton

Active at both the state and local levels of the organized bar, Hamilton has served in the PBA House of Delegates as a voting representative for Franklin County attorneys. She is a class of 2014-15 graduate of the PBA Bar Leadership Institute. She is a member of the PBA Children's Rights Committee, Commission on Women in the Profession and Membership Development Committee and a Life Fellow of the Pennsylvania

Bar Foundation.

Hamilton is the current president of the Franklin County Bar Association, chair of the association's Social Committee and a past chair of the association's Young Lawyers' Division. She serves as secretary of the Franklin County Bar Foundation.

Also active in her community, Hamilton provides pro bono services to qualifying families in need through Franklin County Legal Services, MidPenn Legal Services and Women in Need. She serves as secretary of the Local Children's Roundtable for Franklin and Fulton counties. In 2015, she was invited by Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Max Baer to serve on the Statewide Roundtable. Both initiatives strive to improve and positively impact the justice system for children and their families.

Hamilton assists with the Greencastle Antrim Baseball Softball Association. She is a member of Trinity Church, vice president of its consistory and rings in the church bell choir.

She is a graduate of the Anne Anstine Excellence in Public Service Series, a Pennsylvania leadership program for Republican women.

Hamilton received her undergraduate degree from Gettysburg College. She was a senior treatment clinical supervisor at Cornell Abraxas Youth Center before earning her juris doctorate from Widener University Commonwealth Law School in Harrisburg.

She served as a managing partner at two law firms before joining the Law Office of Eric J. Weisbrod PC.

## James T. Davis, Zone 6 Governor

James T. Davis, a founding partner of the law firm Davis and Davis, which maintains offices in Uniontown and Brownsville, began a three-year term as Zone 6 Governor repre-



Davis

sented Fayette, Greene, Washington and Westmoreland county lawyers.

Davis is a past president of the Fayette County Bar Association and the SWPA Trial Lawyers Association.

Also active in the community, Davis serves on the California University of Pennsylvania Council of Trustees. He is chair of the Fayette County Democratic Committee.

Davis is a National Board of Trial Advocacy-certified civil trial advocate and criminal trial advocate. Certification is earned by lawyers who have extensive experience in their specialty and who meet rigorous objective quality standards.

Davis holds an undergraduate degree from California University of Pennsylvania and a juris doctorate from Duquesne University School of Law.

## Michael P. Pierce, Zone 9 Governor

Michael P. Pierce, a partner in the law firm of Pierce and Hughes, Media, began a three-year term as Zone 9 Governor representing Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery county lawyers.



Pierce

Active in the organized bar at both the state and local levels, Pierce has been a voting member of the PBA House of Delegates since 2013.

Pierce served as the 2017-18 president of the Conference of County Bar Leaders. In addition, Pierce is a member of the PBA Family Law Section and the PBA Municipal Law Section.

At the local level, Pierce is the current president of the Delaware County Bar Foundation. He served as the 2010-11 president of the Delaware County Bar Association.

Also active in the community, Pierce serves on the Board of Directors for Saint Edmond's Academy in Wilming-

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ton, Delaware. Pierce previously served on the Chester Heights Borough Council for 18 years, 16 of those years as council president.

Pierce holds an undergraduate degree in international relations and Spanish and a certificate in Latin American studies from Saint Joseph's University. He earned his juris doctorate degree from Temple University School of Law.

### Jacqueline B. Martinez, Zone 12 Governor

Jacqueline B. Martinez, founder of Pittsburgh's JBM Legal LLC, Pittsburgh, began a three-year term as Zone 12 Governor representing Allegheny County lawyers. Martinez previously served as a PBA at-large governor representing minority lawyers from across the state.

Since 2016, Martinez has been chair of the PBA Membership Development Committee. She has served on the council of the PBA Solo and Small Firm Section since 2014.

A long-time member of the PBA Minority Bar Committee, Martinez is the committee's 2017-18 representative to the PBA Nominating Committee. She has previously served as co-chair and co-vice chair of the committee's executive council. She also has served on the PBA Minority Bar Committee's membership, newsletter, minority attorney conference, welcoming, community outreach and skills bank subcommittees. She has been a featured speaker and moderator at the PBA Minority Attorney Conference. Martinez is a member of the PBA Immigration Law Committee and served as its co-chair from 2015 to 2017.

Martinez is a member and former chair of the PBA Diversity Team, a member of the PBA Commission on Women in the Profession and the PBA Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee. In addition, Martinez has served on the



Martinez

PBA Law-Related Education Committee and the PBA Legal Services to the Public Committee.

Martinez served on the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Bar Institute.

A member of the Allegheny County Bar Association (ACBA), she currently serves on the Board of Governors and previously served as an education committee chair and council member for the ACBA Young Lawyers Division and as a council member for the ACBA Solo and Small Firm Committee.

Martinez served as chair of the Hispanic Bar Association of Western Pennsylvania. She also has served as chair of the Pittsburgh chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) and on the AILA National Board of Governors in 2005-2006. She served on a variety of AILA national committees and continues to be active with the Pittsburgh chapter.

Martinez served on the American Civil Liberties Union Board of Directors, Pittsburgh Chapter, and as a member of its legal, public education and diversity committees.

Martinez was a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) volunteer for three years and serves on the CASA Board.

She is a graduate of Cornell University and the Arizona State University College of Law.

### Nancy Conrad, At-large Governor

Nancy Conrad, a partner with White and Williams LLP and a resident in the Lehigh Valley, began a three-year term as a PBA at-large governor representing the interests of women lawyers in Pennsylvania.



Conrad

Conrad is currently a voting member of the PBA House of Delegates. She serves on the PBA Women in the Profession (WIP) Executive Council, the WIP Annual Conference Committee and the WIP Nominations Committee. She is co-vice chair

of the PBA Federal Practice Committee and immediate past chair and Executive Council member of the PBA Labor and Employment Law Section.

In addition to her commitment to the statewide organized bar, Conrad is a member of the Lehigh County Bar Association and a member of the Board of Directors. She is a member of the National Association of College and University Attorneys. She also serves as a Hearing Committee Member for the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in Disciplinary District II.

Also active in the community, Conrad is a member of the Women's Business Council of the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce, vice president of the board for the Lehigh Valley Women's 5K Classic, and a member of the Community Advisory Board of the Cancer-Care Community of Greater Lehigh Valley. She is an advocate and fundraiser for breast cancer research and awareness programs.

The Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce presented Conrad with its 2006 Athena Award, which honors women striving for the highest levels of professional accomplishment, excelling in their chosen field and devoting time and energy to their community. *Lehigh Valley Magazine* honored Conrad in 2008 as a "mover and shaper" in recognition of her contributions to the region. The Girl Scouts presented Conrad with its 2009 Take the Lead Award, which honors women whose professional and personal accomplishments exemplify the organization's mission to build girls who lead with courage, confidence and character. Lehigh Valley Business named Conrad a Woman of Influence in 2013 in recognition of her leadership and positive impact in the Lehigh Valley.

Conrad holds a bachelor's degree from Lycoming College, a master's degree from Penn State University and a juris doctorate from Temple University School of Law.

## Ethics Opinions for PBA Members

Ethics opinions are issued by the PBA Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility Committee.

The committee responds to requests from any PBA member concerning the impact of the provisions of the Pennsylvania Rules of Professional Conduct upon the member's prospective conduct. The committee does not address questions about a lawyer's past conduct, disciplinary matters, matters in litigation or questions of law.

Ethics opinions of the committee are advisory only and are not binding on the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania or any other court. An ethics opinion carries only such weight as an appropriate reviewing authority may choose to give it.

Many "formal" opinions (written by the full committee on global ethics issues) are available to search by the public at [www.pabar.org](http://www.pabar.org). For PBA members, hundreds of additional "informal" opinions (written by a member of the committee on specific ethics issues) are also available to search. After logging in, use the search box at the top of the page to access all (both formal and informal) ethics opinions.

### Contact Information

Any PBA member with an ethical question concerning his or her own prospective conduct may call the PBA Ethics Hotline at 800-932-0311, ext. 2214, or 717-238-6715. The PBA Ethics Hotline is not available to non-PBA members or members of the public.

Go to [www.pabar.org](http://www.pabar.org)