

addition, topics of interest are addressed regarding judges being highlighted and other information about our membership.

There are other committees which are also working diligently on behalf of the Association. Check out your county and district meetings to keep abreast of everything that is happening and then get involved. This is your Association and it needs you involved to be more effective and more representative. A group working towards a common goal is more effective than 500 individuals working toward the same goal separately. If you have concerns, let your district president or director know, so they can be addressed. In its history, the SCJAP has accomplished a lot, and we need to continue that legacy.

I have written frequently about the issue of bail and the movement to reform the current bail system. The *Judges Journal*, a publication of the ABA Judicial Division, devoted its entire Summer 2018 issue, Vol. 57, No. 3, to Bail Reform. Articles included The History of Bail; Pretrial Risk Assessment Guide; How Pretrial Incarceration Can Damage Courts; Challenging Money Bail and Bail Reform Successes. There is also an article titled "Do Bail-Setting Judges in America's State Courts Need secured Money Bond?" It makes for good reading and even if you do not agree with all of the premises, it is very thought provoking and gives a new perspective to the judicial duty of setting bail.

I hope everyone likes the new Journal. There have been a lot of favorable comments including from Jim Morgan, the founder and original Editor of *The Journal*. If you have any comments, please contact me and remember we are always looking for Judges to highlight or provide interesting articles. We are still looking for articles for the Pathways to the

Bench and for the Beyond the Bench series.

*Dennis R. Joyce, Solicitor
Special Court Judges Association of PA*

HIGHLIGHTING:

LINDY L. SWEENEY MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE YORK COUNTY DISTRICT COURT 19-3-04

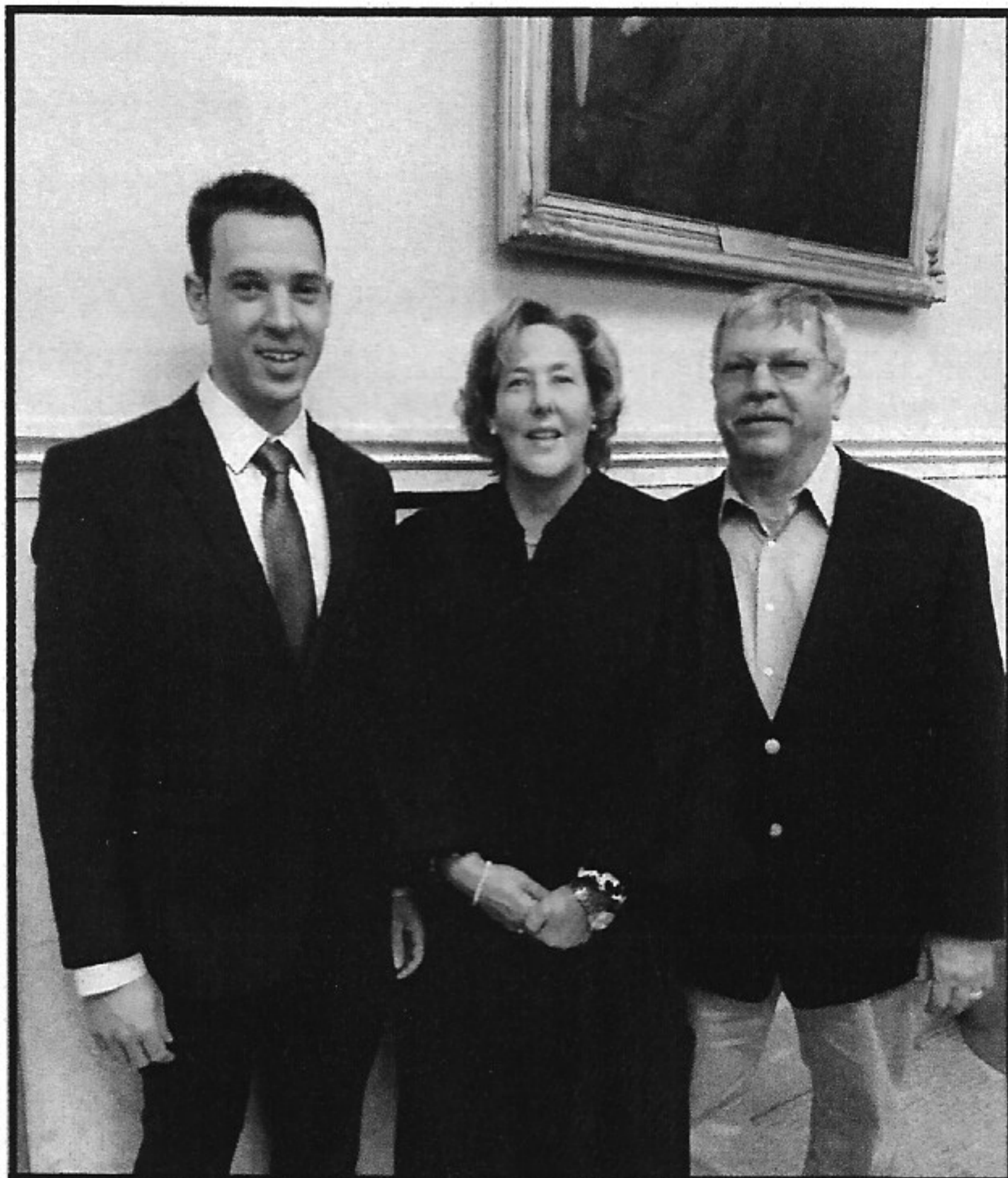
Magisterial District Judge Lindy L. Sweeney presides over the townships of Shrewsbury and Springfield and the boroughs of Jacobus, Loganville, Shrewsbury, New Freedom, Glen Rock and Railroad in the county of York. She was elected to office in November of 2017, filling the position previously occupied by Magisterial District Judge Jeffrey Joy.

Prior to being elected a Judge Sweeney worked in a private law firm in York, PA as a Senior Litigation Paralegal for 34 years. Before that, the Judge worked for a Baltimore County Maryland law firm, where she spent the first seven years of her career as a Paralegal, handling tax, estate and trust work, as well as, real estate. She retired from full time work in 2013 and from part-time work in 2015.

Judge Sweeney attended the York campus of Penn State and York College of Pennsylvania. She resides with her husband, Steven, who retired from his own tool and die business in 2001. They have a son, Joshua, who is a Class A, PGA Golf Professional and teaches golf full time at Reston National, Reston Virginia.

The Judge served on the Appeals Committee for Credentials with Keystone

Alliance of Paralegal Association. She achieved Certified Paralegal credentials in Pennsylvania. She is accredited by the State of Georgia to lecture for continuing education for liability claims personnel. In her prior employment, she frequently lectured for law firms' self-insured clients, insurance carriers and paralegal associations. Judge Sweeney has received various scouting leadership awards from the Boy Scouts of America. She is a member of the New Freedom Lions Club, SYC Rotary Club, New Freedom Heritage and works with Hospice. Her outside interests are golf and reading.



The Honorable Lindy L. Sweeny with her son, Josh and husband Steve

She is most rewarded in her MDJ role by learning that she has made a positive difference in someone's life and finds the most interesting facet of her position to be seeking creative solutions where circumstances warrant and the law permits. The most difficult thing for her is seeing the same people again and again and being helpless to get them on the right track and making better choices.

Judge Sweeney shares that "trusting myself in knowing I'm treating people fairly and equally; taking my duties and role seriously, but not myself. A sense of humor is the best stress reliever".

The Judge traveled on the Queen Elizabeth 2, but says her best trip so far was ten days in Ireland with the return trip on a Transatlantic crossing on the Queen Mary 2. In the future she wants a LONG trip on the Queen Victoria, so she can say "I've sailed on all three of the QUEENS".

There are two favorite quotes that come to the Judge's mind when asked. They were by Eleanor Roosevelt. "Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people" and, the second, "A woman is like a teabag – you can't tell how strong she is until you put her in hot water".

Judge Sweeney comments, "I am truly grateful and thankful for a most accomplished and professional administrative staff of team players. They have made my transition to the MDJ position smooth and I learn something from them every day."

BACK PAGE ALERT

Attention new Officers, District Presidents, District Directors. Please review the back page and advise us via e-mail – if there are any changes in officers, addresses, numbers, etc.

Paulina Patti Thomas, Assistant Editor
Paulina.Thomas@comcast.net

Thank you!

to have a meeting place and multiple communication methods so you can provide critical information to one another if you become separated. Pre-event planning will allow you to quickly process critical information in emergencies and help provide a more rapid reunification.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

PATHWAY TO THE BENCH

Magisterial District Judge Lindy Sweeney, in addition to being highlighted in this issue of *The Journal*, has submitted her pathway to the bench in York County.

She began her career in the law as part of a two person litigation team in the position of a Senior Litigation Paralegal. In 2004, after working 22 years with Attorney Robert Lerman, she decided that she would like to change direction and become an MDJ. She attended certification school in Chambersburg in February, 2004. She passed the certification examination with the intention of running for the position held by MDJ Vera Heilman in District Court 19-3-04 for 18 years upon her retirement. Attorney Lerman approached her and asked her to delay her plans until he retired.

In August of 2012, she decided she could no longer wait for Attorney Lerman's retirement and she gave him notice of her retirement effective March, 2013. Again, she was persuaded to work an additional 2 years on a part-time basis. During this period Attorney Lerman was diagnosed with a terminal illness and passed away on December 31, 2016. She planned on staying retired and traveling and feeding her golf addiction.

A vacancy was created in District Court 19-3-04 and she was approached by a number of individuals about running for

the position. After much thought and the realization that playing golf everyday does not ensure becoming a better golfer, she decided to seek the position. She recertified in 2016 and was nominated by both parties in the 2017 primary. She spent the remainder of 2017 observing other MDJs in their courts, attending York County Specialty Treatment Courts and meeting with key personnel within the criminal justice system.

In more ways than one, her path to becoming an MDJ has come full circle. The tract of land where York County built the court facility for District Court 19-3-04 was once part of her family's farm. So now she sits as a Judge in a building where, in her childhood, she rode tractors across the farm's fields with her grandfather.

RESIGNATION

Senior Magisterial District Judge John D. Whitesell, of Monroe County, has resigned from his position as a Senior Magisterial District Judge due to health reasons. Judge Whitesell served as a Magisterial District Judge for 24 years. In addition he has served as a Senior Magisterial District Judge for four and a half years working in Monroe County but also in Lackawanna and Carbon counties. *The Journal* thanks Judge Whitesell for his service and wishes him well in his retirement.

PA BAR ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY

Magisterial District Judge Steven F. Lachmen of Centre County has authored an article that appeared in the July 2018 edition of the Pennsylvania Bar Association Quarterly publication (Volume LXXXIX, No. 3). The article discusses areas of evidentiary practice that exist in magisterial district courts. The article