

The First Judicial District has been graced over its long and productive history with a Bench composed of members whose abilities, enthusiasm, intellect, and compassion have largely defined the District's successes. Unfortunately, several judicial leaders departed this life during the 1996-1997 Biennium. The brief summaries included below are intended merely to invoke the memory of these fine individuals. Their contributions are too numerous to list, and of incalculable value. In a very real sense, a large share of the Court's achievements, past, present, and future, are a part of the legacy of the people listed herein.

Judge Ethan Allen Doty

Senior Judge Ethan Allen Doty retired from the Common Pleas Court bench in the fall of 1996. At the time of his retirement, Judge Doty presided over mass tort litigation at the Complex Litigation Center. He was appointed to the bench in 1958, nominated without opposition in 1959, and reelected in 1969. Judge Doty was elected Administrative Judge of the Trial Division in 1968 and reelected in 1974. Judge Doty graduated from Temple University and Temple University Law School.

Judge Charles Klein

Senior Judge Charles Klein served for 56 years as a judge in Orphans' Court. Judge Klein, who served as a judge for longer than anyone in Philadelphia's history, served as President Judge of the Orphans' Court and as Administrative Judge of the Orphans' Court Division of the Court of Common Pleas for over twenty years. Judge Klein graduated from Temple University School of Law.

Judge Berel Caesar

Senior Judge Berel Caesar presided over mass tort litigation at the Complex Litigation Center until the time of his death on October 9, 1997. Judge Caesar graduated from West Philadelphia High School in 1945, Swarthmore College in 1948 and the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1954. Judge Caesar was appointed to the bench in 1974, elected in 1977 and reelected in 1987.

Judge Edward Rosenwald

Senior Judge Edward Rosenwald presided over mass tort litigation at the Complex Litigation Center until the time of his retirement from the bench in 1995. Judge Rosenwald graduated from Southern High School, the Wharton School, and the University of Pennsylvania Law School. He prided himself on being able to effectuate settlement of personal injury claims that came to his court for disposition.

Judge Frank M. Jackson

Senior Judge Frank Jackson presided over mass tort litigation at the Complex Litigation Center until the time of his death on March 12, 1997. Judge Jackson was appointed to the Court of Common Pleas in October 1984 and elected November 1985. Judge Jackson graduated from St. Joseph's University and the University of Pennsylvania Law School. Prior to his attaining senior status, Judge Jackson presided in the Family Division of the Court of Common Pleas.

Judge Edward J. Blake

Judge Edward Blake was the first Court Administrator of the Court of Common Pleas serving under former President Judge Vincent Carroll. He was appointed to the bench in December 1971, elected in 1973, and retained in 1983. In 1986 Judge Blake was appointed by the Supreme Court to serve as Administrative Judge of the Trial Division. Judge Blake served as Administrative Judge until his election as President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas by the Board of Judges on December 18, 1990. Judge Blake graduated from St. Joseph's College and the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

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Joseph J. DiPrimio, Esquire
*Chairman
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Editor in Chief*

Genesis

gen´e·sis (jèn´î-sîs), *noun*, [Latin, from Greek *genesis*, from the root of *gignesthai* to be born; akin to Latin *gignere*, toward: to cause to be born] The origination or coming into being of anything; natural development into being; process or mode of originating, especially by growth or evolution; as, the *genesis* of the mind or of ideas; also, a theory or account of the genesis of anything.

Consistent with the advantages and the spirit of the reorganization of the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania, and, pursuant to the direction of the Administrative Governing Board (AGB)¹, First Judicial District Court Administrator Joseph J. DiPrimio, Esq., recognized the benefits inherent in the publication of a report that would, for the first time in the more than 300 year-old history of the Court, describe in one place the foundation, organization and accomplishments of all the Court's judges and staff from throughout the District. Never before had such a single comprehensive report been presented, combining organizational information and performance-related descriptions concerning every Court of the First Judicial District - the oldest in the nation.

Essentially, the outlined plan included: 1) gathering creative and knowledgeable individuals from each of the constituent Courts and Divisions; 2) creating a cohesive theme; 3) assigning responsibilities and forming a subcommittee and Editorial Board structure; and 4) pledging and providing his support, reinforcing confidence in the membership's commitment, skill and ability to bring the project to fruition. The reasoning here was that the component Courts could be best explained by those people working in them, and importantly, that collegiality would be fostered through collaborative work on the project, culminating with publication of the report. Later, participants' submissions were compiled and edited for consistency of style, the editors being mindful of the importance of the preservation of the informational content. A list of participants is provided below.

Following this vision, and beginning in late 1997, the First Judicial District Court Administrator, with the support of the Administrative Governing Board, began to organize representatives from all the constituent components comprising the Philadelphia Court System. After considerable discussion during intense brainstorming sessions among the participants, agreement was achieved establishing a report theme relating modern-day access to justice initiatives and commitments as presented within the context of the rich history of the District. Potential readership was discussed, and the format and number of reports required were determined as a result. Subcommittees were formed to address questions concerning statistics,



James M. Clark
Co-Editor



Leonard A. Hacking
Co-Editor

¹ The centralized management infrastructure of the District was largely defined by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in March of 1996 through an order made effective April 1, 1996 that established the Administrative Governing Board (AGB) — a group of judicial leaders with extensive responsibilities for overall management of the District. The board is aided by the FJD Court Administrator.

photography, format, and timetables. Because of the historical nature of this endeavor - such a report had never been organized before — an expert in graphics presentation, Image IV Advertising Design/Marketing Communications, was retained.

Paramount to the development of the report, a thematic thread winds through every section: Access to Justice. Relatedly, the group concentrated on the concept of accountability. Internally, accountability is often manifested by the Court’s responsibilities to adhere to and continue to set higher standards for performance. In the expanded sense, Judges, administrators and staff also hold themselves accountable to the public whom they serve, and serve well.

This report is the product of the hard work of the contributors with the support of the judiciary and other Court leaders. It is especially noteworthy that during operations, following clear direction from the Administrative Governing Board, the Court Administrator and others, the the day-to-day accomplishments of the judges and employees of the First Judicial District represent the essence of the report. While the cooperative publication of the First Judicial District Special 1996-1997 Biennial Report is a laudable achievement in and of itself, it merely reflects what the thousands of employees do every day: provide the highest caliber of justice to the citizens of Philadelphia.



Donald A. Varley, Jr.
Graphics/Technology

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Note: Judges’ portraits are arranged according to 1998 assignments.

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The FJD Annual Report Committee also wishes to acknowledge the following resources for their contribution to the 1996-97 Biennial Report:

Birch, W., BIRCH'S VIEWS OF PHILADELPHIA, (1982)
Collins, Herman LeRoy, PHILADELPHIA-A STORY OF PROGRESS, (1941)
Eastman, Frank M., COURTS AND LAWYERS-PENNSYLVANIA, (1922)
Konkle, Burton Alva, BENJAMIN CHEW, (1932)
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Webster, Noah, WEBSTER'S NEW INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY
The City Tavern
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The Free Library of Philadelphia
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Brainstorming session.