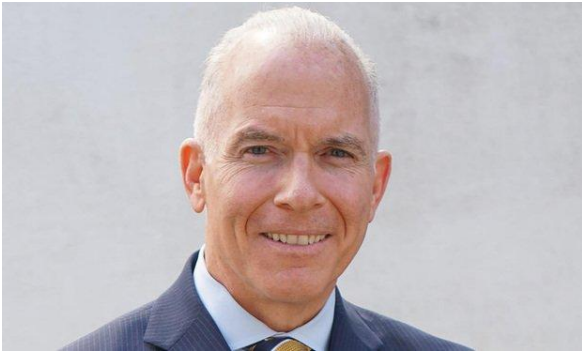


# 2023 PA STATE-WIDE JUDICIAL CANDIDATES

## PA SUPREME COURT CANDIDATES

(VOTE FOR ONE)

### **Daniel McCaffery (Endorsed by PA Dems State Committee)**



**PA BAR RATING - HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:** Judge McCaffery's service to his country, community, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania began long before his legal career. Judge McCaffery is a proud military veteran. At the age of 18, he joined the United States Army and was one of a few select soldiers chosen to attend the prestigious United States Military Academy at West Point Prep School. Judge McCaffery is currently the only military veteran serving on the Pennsylvania Appellate Courts. After receiving an honorable

discharge from the Army, Judge McCaffery attended Temple University and Temple University Law School on a veteran's scholarship.

In 2013 McCaffery was the top vote-getter in the election for Judge of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. Assigned to one of the busiest trial divisions in Pennsylvania, Judge McCaffery presided over one hundred jury trials and thousands of bench trials. In 2019 McCaffery again was the top vote-getter, this time in the statewide election for Judge of the Pennsylvania Superior Court. McCaffery is currently the supervising judge for wiretaps and was selected by the Supreme Court to serve on the Court of Judicial Discipline.

Judge McCaffery's work ethic and commitment to service were instilled in him by his parents. Dan is the youngest of seven children born to Irish Catholic immigrants who fled violence in Ireland and came to the United States to build a better life for their family. Born and raised in Northeast Philadelphia, Judge McCaffery's father Seamus was a union organizer and printer, and his mother Margaret was a custodial worker for the School District of Philadelphia.

In addition to his service in the courtroom and in the U.S. Armed Forces, Judge McCaffery has been an active member of the Democratic Party, standing up for the values we all share. Prior to taking the bench in 2013, Dan spent decades volunteering for the Democratic Party. Dan served as a Democratic State Committee member, and as a member of the Philadelphia Democratic City Committee, where he also used his experience and expertise as an attorney to serve as legal counsel to the committee. Over the years Dan has worked on at least 50 campaigns at every level. Whether it's managing campaigns, fundraising, or knocking on doors for our candidates, Dan has stepped up to serve.

Judge McCaffery resides in Philadelphia. He is the father of two talented and successful daughters, Madison & Mairead, and the proud grandfather of his 2 grandsons, Stephen & Jack Daniel Jenkins.

## Debbie Kunselman



Judge Debbie Kunselman has 30 years of legal experience. and in 2005, was the first woman elected to the Court of Common Pleas in Beaver County. Judge Debbie Kunselman has the most experience of any candidate for the Supreme Court with 17 years as a judge. She has developed expertise in Civil, Family, Juvenile, and Criminal court. She has the best track record of any candidate running for the Supreme Court.

Debbie received her Juris Doctor in 1992 from the University of Notre Dame Law School where she graduated magnum cum laude.

Debbie's Pennsylvania values and roots run deep. She has been happily married for 28 years and is the mother of 3 adult children. Her father is a Vietnam Veteran, disabled by agent orange.

## PA SUPERIOR COURT CANDIDATES

(VOTE FOR TWO)

### **Jill Beck (Endorsed by PA Dems State Committee)**



**PA BAR RATING - HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:** Raised in Pittsburgh, Jill knew from a young age that she wanted to be an advocate for the underserved. While pursuing her undergraduate degree in criminal justice from George Washington University, she served as a counselor at a residential facility for adjudicated delinquent girls and later as an assistant forensic interviewer at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh's Child Advocacy Center. After graduating with honors, she served as an AmeriCorps Fellow working with adolescents on probation. These experiences fueled her passion for protecting those without a voice and drew her to the practice of law.

After graduating at the top of her class from Duquesne University School of Law, Jill chose to work for the nonprofit organization KidsVoice, where she represented abused and neglected children. Jill represented up to 225 children at a given time before magisterial district judges, the Court of Common Pleas, and the Pennsylvania Superior Court. KidsVoice honored her for her advocacy and the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Allegheny County gave her their Children's Voice Award.

Jill's experience advocating for children led her to want to serve from the other side of the bench. She spent the next 10 years in public service as a law clerk under the Honorable Christine Donohue on the Superior and

Supreme Courts of Pennsylvania. Jill drafted decisions for criminal, civil, family, juvenile, and orphans' court cases and achieved substantial justice for individuals, families, and businesses across the Commonwealth.

In the fall of 2019 Jill became a civil litigator at Blank Rome, a law firm she selected because of its commitment to providing free legal services to those who cannot afford them. Jill also served as chair of Blank Rome Pittsburgh's Pro Bono Coordinating Committee, has been involved in the firm's work to address systemic criminal justice reforms, civil rights, and voter protection issues, and co-chaired a pro bono group aimed at protecting an individual's right to protest.

Jill currently resides with her husband, two children, and rescue dog in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood of Pittsburgh, where she is an active volunteer in her children's classrooms and in her community.

Jill knows firsthand that justice is served only when every person – regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability or income – has fair and equal access to the courts. She is running for the Pennsylvania Superior Court to ensure that justice in Pennsylvania truly is for ALL.

## **Judge Timika Lane (Endorsed by PA Dems State Committee)**



### **PA BAR RATING - HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:**

Born and raised in West Philadelphia. After graduating from Howard University, she took on the challenge of teaching social studies to middle school students.

Following a successful teaching career, she decided to pursue a career in law and in 2002 received her Juris Doctor degree from Rutgers-Camden School of Law. She has represented clients in family law, from support to custody issues, and represented indigent families. She went on to work as a major trial attorney for the Defender Association of Philadelphia and then as Chief Legal

Counsel for State Senator Anthony H. Williams and as the Democratic Executive Director for the Pennsylvania State Senate State Government Committee, where she challenged Pennsylvania's restrictive Photo ID law, assessed the constitutionality of proposed and existing legislation, and provided legal advice and guidance regarding the legal implications of legislation, regulations, and administrative policies. In 2013, she decided to pursue a seat on the Court of Common Pleas and despite seemingly insurmountable odds was elected.

## Judge Patrick Dugan



Judge Dugan has served 15 years on the Municipal Bench since being appointed in 2007 by Governor Ed Rendel. His meritorious service to the court earned the respect of his peers and Dugan was elected President Judge in 2019. As one of the country's busiest courts, Philadelphia Municipal Court has thrived under Judge Dugan's tenure and has led the nation in diversion, innovation, and reform initiatives. Viewed as a fair and experienced arbiter of justice, Judge Dugan was selected by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to be one of nine judges appointed to the newly instituted Judicial Ethics Advisory Board.

Judge Dugan has made a lifelong commitment to public service. Dugan served in the U.S. Army and Army Reserve as an enlisted airborne infantryman, civil affairs soldier, and Jag Officer. After his first tour of honorable service, he returned home to Philadelphia and used his GI Benefits to work his way through Rutgers Law School. Dugan left his law practice and returned to service after a 14 years break to serve alongside the Iraqi

Coalition Provisional Authority as an Army Political Administration Officer and then as a JAG officer.

Dugan is a lifelong resident of Pennsylvania where alongside his wife Nancy they have a blended family of six children and have been blessed with nine grandchildren. His campaign committee includes Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters President Bill Hamilton who will serve as Campaign Chair and Shawn Murphy as Campaign Treasurer.

Judge Dugan will continue the fight for all Pennsylvanians to ensure transparency, fairness, and justice is upheld across the Commonwealth on the Superior Court.

## **PA COMMONWEALTH COURT CANDIDATES (no endorsed candidate)**

(VOTE FOR ONE)

### **Bryan Neft**



Brian's family settled in Pittsburgh more than 100 years ago. Throughout his 30-year career in the law, he carried the lessons of his parents and grandparents with him and infused his work with fairness, equity, and the drive to make sure all his clients were well represented and got the fair shot they deserved.

Brian attended the University of Pennsylvania, then went on to law school, and later private practice in counties throughout the Commonwealth. Early in his career as an attorney, he served as a clerk for a President Judge Emeritus of the Superior Court where he saw the great variety of cases that come before the Court.



He served for nearly 15 years in a leadership role on the Allegheny County Bar Association's Board of Governors and as its president where he championed issues affecting women, people of color, and LGBTQ+ members of the legal profession. During his tenure on the board, we promoted changes to the rules of professional conduct to prohibit bias, and I chaired the committee responsible for drafting the ACBA's Code of Professionalism for the Bar Association, which is still in use today.

That work led to The Pennsylvania Supreme Court appointing him as a member, and later as chair, of its charitable arm, the IOLTA Board, which oversees funding of legal service agencies across the Commonwealth that provide legal services to those who cannot afford them.

Being a Judge on the Commonwealth Court requires quickly diagnosing the issue at hand and dealing with a very large caseload. Brian's long career in the law has prepared him well for these tasks, and the values of hard work and fairness guide him to this day, help keep him grounded, and serve as a constant reminder of what's important.

Brian lives in Mt. Lebanon with his wife Julie, an accomplished novelist, and has three children: Simon, a chemical engineer; Justin, a college junior studying video game design, and Zoe who is a senior at Mt Lebanon High School. They're also joined by a recent addition to their family, a rescue German Shepherd named Elsa.

## **Matt Wolf**



Judge Matt Wolf is the Supervising Civil Judge of the Philadelphia Municipal Court. As Supervising Judge, he guided the court through the pandemic, he started the heralded eviction diversion program, and he has focused the court on equity and access to justice.

Judge Wolf is currently in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. He is a drilling enlisted Cavalry Scout soldier in Alpha Troop, 1st Squadron, 104th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 28th Infantry Division. He successfully completed his Cavalry Scout MOS qualification in September 2020.

Since 2021, Judge Wolf has been working with the National Center for State Courts through a grant from the Pew Charitable Trusts. He is the only Judge for Commonwealth Court in this election. Judge Wolf spent 25 years with a law practice focused on civil rights. He understands fairness and equity. He is ready to represent all citizens of Pennsylvania.