



Founded in 2005, the Pennsylvania Commission on Judicial Independence seeks to inform the public about the work of the judicial branch and promote the value of an independent judiciary within our constitutional system.

The Commission is committed to educating students, voters, and concerned citizens about the vital role that independent courts play in our society. Today, the need to support judicial independence is more necessary than ever before. Social media and instantaneous communication enable unwarranted attacks on judges and the judicial function to spread like wildfire, with little to challenge or check them. Such attacks can shake confidence in the rule of law. They can lead to violence that corrodes the essence of our democracy.

As we provide a voice to the judicial branch, the Commission also will support the fundamentals of our democracy and our constitutional form of government. Through educational programs, panel discussions, community events, public television, and social media, we will promote, preserve, and protect judicial independence in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Judge Mary Jane Bowes, a member of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania, serves as Chair, and Charles (Chip) Becker, a member of the law firm of Kline & Specter PC, is Vice Chair. The Commission comprises judges, attorneys, university presidents, and law school deans.