

**21st Annual Meeting
of the
NATIONAL CONSORTIUM ON RACIAL AND ETHNIC
FAIRNESS IN THE COURTS**



Building Bridges to Justice

May 6 - 9, 2009

**Omni William Penn Hotel
530 William Penn Place
Pittsburgh, PA 15219**

**Hosted by
The Pennsylvania Interbranch Commission
for Gender, Racial and Ethnic Fairness
and
The Allegheny County Bar Association**



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Board of Directors

Judge Clarence J. Jones, President/Moderator
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General BioDiesel, Seattle, Washington

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Co-Chairperson
Washington State Minority & Justice Commission

Priscilla Johnson, Esq.
Minority Affairs Officer
Office of Minority Affairs
Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts

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LDK Consulting, Hawaii

Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly
Past Moderator (2006-2008)
Michigan Supreme Court

Justice James R. Lambden
California Court of Appeal

Justice Yvonne Lewis
Supreme Court of New York, Kings County

Yolande P. Marlow, Ph.D.
Past Coordinator (1990-2004)
Manager, Minority Concerns Unit
Administrative Office of the Courts
New Jersey Supreme Court

Justice Alex J. Martinez
Colorado Supreme Court

Judge Veronica Simmons McBeth (retired)

Lisette M. McCormick, Esq.
Pennsylvania Interbranch Commission for Gender,
Racial and Ethnic Fairness

Chief Justice Ronald T. Y. Moon
Supreme Court of Hawaii

Elizabeth Neeley, Ph.D.
Minority and Justice Implementation Committee
University of Nebraska Public Policy Center

Justice Patricio M. Serna
Past Moderator (2003-2005)
Supreme Court of New Mexico

Justice Charles Z. Smith (retired)
Moderator Emeritus (1990-1999)
Co-Chairperson
Washington State Minority & Justice Commission

Judge Max N. Tobias, Jr.
Past Moderator (2005-2006)/Assistant Secretary
Court of Appeal, Fourth Circuit



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Pennsylvania Interbranch Commission for Gender, Racial & Ethnic Fairness

Burrell A. Brown, Esq.
Pittsburgh, PA

Helen E. Casale, Esq.
Philadelphia, PA

Honorable Ida K. Chen
Philadelphia, PA

Samuel Tyrone Cooper, III, Esq.
Harrisburg, PA

Honorable Pedro A. Cortés
Harrisburg, PA

Jacqueline D'Angelo, Esq.
Philadelphia, PA

Khadija T. Diggs-Terry, Esq.
Pittsburgh, PA

Honorable Elizabeth Doyle
Hollidaysburg, PA

Lazar H. Kleit
Philadelphia, PA

Honorable Ted V. Kondrich
Pittsburgh, PA

Roberta D. Liebenberg, Esq.
Philadelphia, PA

Lynn Marks, Esq.
Philadelphia, PA

Lucille Marsh, Esq.
Scranton, PA

Gladys Miller-Russell
Pittsburgh, PA

Burton D. Morris, Esq.
Harrisburg, PA

Honorable Doris A. Smith-Ribner
Philadelphia, PA

Leonard J. Rivera, Esq.
Kennett Square, PA

Kathleen D. Wilkinson, Esq.
Philadelphia, PA

Nora Winkelman, Esq.
Harrisburg, PA

Samuel S. Yun, Esq.
Harrisburg, PA

STAFF

Lisette M. McCormick, Esq.
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Carey Cummings, Esq.
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Paralegal

Allegheny County Bar Association

Jay A. Blechman, Esq.
President

David Blaner
Executive Director



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Pennsylvania Interbranch Commission for Gender, Racial and Ethnic Fairness

The Interbranch Commission grew out of a study by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Committee on Racial and Gender Bias in the Justice System in Pennsylvania. After an intensive three-year effort concluding in 2003, the Supreme Court Committee presented the Supreme Court with a report of its findings. Entitled the "Final Report on Racial, Ethnic, and Gender Bias in the Justice System," it contained fourteen chapters, each devoted to a specific topic of study, and 173 recommendations designed to address inequities within the system.

Determined to ensure that its work not be consigned to a remote shelf within the Court's archives, the Committee urged the Court to appoint a commission to advance the work of the Committee to the next phase: implementation of the recommendations set forth in the Final Report. Less than two years later, the Court announced the establishment of a permanent Commission whose mission was to be the implementation of the Committee's recommendations. Referred to as the Interbranch Commission for Gender, Racial, and Ethnic Fairness, the Commission is a unique fusion of all three branches of government in a joint mission to address these issues. It is considered a model among states who have undertaken similar efforts.

The Commission consists of 24 members whose appointments are divided equally among the three branches of government. Drawn from around the Commonwealth, the members are racially and ethnically diverse and include judges, attorneys, legislators, and community advocates. The bylaws provide each of the three branches of government with an opportunity to direct the work of the Commission through the power of appointing Commission officers on a rotating basis. Relying on the considerable research already completed by the Supreme Court Committee as a basis for its work, the key function of the Commission is to review and select recommendations for implementation from the Supreme Court Committee's study. The Commission's secondary goals are to raise awareness of the impact of gender, race, and ethnicity on the fair delivery of justice in Pennsylvania; increase public confidence in the fairness of state government; and to investigate and implement new initiatives not addressed by the study.

Allegheny County Bar Association

The Allegheny County Bar Association (ACBA) is an organization of legal professionals committed to serving its members by: providing education, advocacy, and professional services; promoting equality and diversity among its membership; fostering collegiality; advancing the public image of the profession and the highest standards of professional ethics; supporting and advocating for a fair and effective judicial system that is accessible to every individual regardless of economic status; and exercising leadership on a local, state and national level so as to further these goals. The ACBA was chartered in 1870 and has more than 6,600 members including lawyers, judges, district justices, legal administrators, and paralegals.



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TENTATIVE AGENDA

Wednesday, May 6, 2009

4:00 PM Registration
5:00 PM Board of Directors Meeting
6:00 PM Welcome Reception

Thursday, May 7, 2009

8:00 AM Continental Breakfast
8:30 AM Welcome
9:00 AM Plenary Session
9:45 AM Concurrent Breakout
11:00 AM Concurrent Breakout
12:00 PM LUNCH - Keynote Speech
2:00 PM Concurrent Breakout
3:30 PM Concurrent Breakout
4:30 PM State Reports
6:30 PM RECEPTION
Senator John Heinz
History Center and
Western PA Sports
Museum

Friday, May 8, 2009

8:00 AM Continental Breakfast
8:30 AM Plenary Session
9:45 AM Concurrent Breakout
11:00 AM Concurrent Breakout
12:15 PM LUNCH - Keynote Speech
2:00 PM Concurrent Breakout
3:30 PM State Reports
6:00 PM COCKTAIL RECEPTION,
BANQUET AND
ENTERTAINMENT

Saturday, May 9, 2009

8:00 AM Continental Breakfast
8:30 AM Closing Plenary Session
10:30 AM Board of Directors Meeting

Topics of Plenary Sessions and Concurrent Breakout Sessions

Developing an Interpreter Certification Program in Pennsylvania; Social Psychology and How Racism and Discrimination Become "Normalized;" Racial Profiling; Achieving Diversity on Pennsylvania Juries; Fairness Issues in Immigration Courts; Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Imposition of the Death Penalty in Pennsylvania; Cultural Considerations in Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Cases; Improving Indigent Defense in Pennsylvania; Fostering Diversity Through Bar Associations; Fostering Diversity through Law Firms, Corporations and Government; Fostering Diversity in Law Schools; Juvenile Justice In Pennsylvania; Intersection of Race and Gender; Innovations in Allegheny County Courts; Implicit Bias; and The Impact of Race on Judicial Decision-Making.



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SPEAKERS

Juan Williams, NPR Senior Correspondent; Justice Debra Todd, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania; Hon. Pedro A. Cortes, Secretary of the Commonwealth; Osvaldo Aviles, Pennsylvania Court Interpreters Program Administrator; Judge Ida Chen and Judge Renee Cardwell Hughes, Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas; Robert Dunham, Federal Community Defender Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania; Marc Mauer, The Sentencing Project; Hon. Jay Costa, Pennsylvania State Senator; G. Thomas Munsterman, National Center for State Courts; Hon. Doris Smith-Ribner, Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court; Dr. Sujata Warrier, NYC Office for Prevention of Domestic Violence; University of Pittsburgh School of Law Faculty Members - Dean Mary Crossley, Professor Lu-in Wang, Professor David Harris, Professor Pat Chew, Professor Deborah Brake; Acting Dean Ken Gormley, Duquesne University Law School; Paul Uyehara, U.S. Department of Justice; Peggy O'Neil, Widener University Legal Education Institute; Lynn Marks, Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts; Raymond Billotte, Allegheny County Court Administrator; Roger Gordon, Philadelphia County Court Administrator; Professor John Rago, Pennsylvania Commission Investigating Wrongful Convictions; Gene Harris, Diversity Coordinator, Allegheny County Bar Association; Sean Lincoln, Director of Diversity, Philadelphia Bar Association; Kay Kyungsun Yu, Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Pennsylvania; Hinton Lucas, Associate General Counsel, E.I. DuPont Nemours; Hon. Cathy Bissoon, U.S. Magistrate Judge; Marsha Levick, Juvenile Law Center; Robert Listenbee, Philadelphia Defenders Association; Professor Phoebe Haddon, Temple University School of Law; Hon. Stephen Zappala, Allegheny County District Attorney; Michael Machen, Allegheny County Public Defender; Judge John Zottola and Judge Michael McCarthy, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas; Jacqueline Martinez, Esq.; Roberta Liebenberg, Esq.; and Karen Vaughn, Esq..

ENTERTAINMENT

During the course of the conference, there will be an evening reception at the Senator John Heinz History Center and Western PA Sports Museum, and a final banquet, including a performance by the Kuntu Repertory Theatre, followed by live music and dancing. If you are thinking about flying in early or staying late in the beautiful city of Pittsburgh, or just want something to do in the evening after the meeting events, there is a wonderful website that lists all of the exciting events and functions going on in the city. Check out the website <http://www.visitpittsburgh.com/>. There also will be a listing in your meeting packet with additional information.

CONTINUAL UPDATES REGARDING THE MEETING

We will be updating the National Consortium website continually with new information about the meeting. Please visit: <http://www.consortiumonline.net/annualmeeting.html>

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Please contact the Omni William Penn directly at (412) 281-7100, indicating your attendance at the 21st Annual Meeting of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts, May 6-9, 2009. The conference rate is \$169.00 plus tax per night, single or double occupancy. To ensure the conference rate, you must make your reservation **by April 17, 2009.**

TRANSPORTATION TO/FROM PITTSBURGH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT & OMNI WILLIAM PENN

The airport has many different transportation methods to downtown Pittsburgh, including bus, taxi, limo and rental cars. Please go to the airport website for a listing of the options at <http://www.pitairport.com/>



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REGISTRATION OPTIONS

1. **Online at:** <http://www.consortiumonline.net/annualmeeting.html>

or

2. **Complete both pages and either fax or mail to:**

National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts
c/o National Center for State Courts
300 Newport Avenue
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185
(757) 259-1841 Phone
(800) 616-6165 toll-free
(757) 259-1520 FAX

Prefix _____ First _____ MI _____ Last _____

Name on Badge _____

Guest/Spouse(s) _____

Court/Company _____

Title _____

Department _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Email Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Last name on registration _____

Admission to all events is included in the registration fee for participants:

_____ Registration Fee (if received BY April 1, 2009) -----\$300.00

_____ Registration Fee (if received AFTER April 1, 2009) -----\$300.00

_____ Guest Fee -----\$200.00

_____ Attorneys for CLE Credits ----- \$150.00
(Only includes plenary and workshop sessions – pricing for meals listed below)

Individual meal prices for participants not paying a registration fee or guest fee:

_____ Wednesday Lunch ----- \$50.00

_____ Thursday Lunch ----- \$50.00

_____ Thursday Reception ----- \$50.00

_____ Friday Lunch ----- \$50.00

_____ Friday Cocktail Reception and Banquet ----- \$100.00

Special Dietary Needs: _____ Kosher _____ Vegetarian

CANCELLATIONS and REFUNDS

If you find that you must cancel your registration, please send written verification of cancellation via fax by 5:00 P.M. one week prior to the event. A refund, minus a fifty (\$50) processing charge, will be issued.

Payment Information:

I am sending a check to NCREFC in the amount of \$_____

Please charge \$_____ to my MasterCard.

Please charge \$_____ to my Visa.

Card Number: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ exp. date ____/____

CCV # _____

(Credit Card Verification Number, the 3 digit number on back of card)

Name of Card Holder _____