

JUDGES AND JOURNALISTS: ACCURACY AND ACCESS

Participant Biographical Information

Honorable D. Michael Fisher, Moderator/Facilitator

Judge Fisher is a Circuit Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. He was nominated by President George W. Bush, confirmed unanimously by the U.S. Senate in December 2003 and assumed Senior Status in 2017. Prior to becoming a judge, served as Attorney General of Pennsylvania having been elected in 1996 and re-elected in 2000. Judge Fisher personally argued major cases in state and federal appellate courts and in March 1998, he successfully argued before the United States Supreme Court a precedent-setting case ensuring that paroled criminals meet the conditions of their release. Before his election as Attorney General, Judge Fisher was in the Pennsylvania General Assembly, serving six years in the State House and 16 years as a member of the State Senate. He began his legal career as an Assistant DA in his hometown of Pittsburgh following his graduation from Georgetown University and its Law Center. He continued to practice law during his career in the General Assembly and was a shareholder or partner in various firms, including Houston Harbaugh, where he practiced from 1984 to 1997. Judge Fisher served for six years on the Budget Committee of the U.S. Judicial Conference, now serves on the Committee on Federal-State Jurisdiction, and is a Board member of the Federal Judges Association. Judge Fisher currently chairs the PBA's Federal Practice Committee, the Third Circuit Attorney Disciplinary Committee and was named as the Initial Distinguished Jurist in Residence at the University of Pittsburgh in the School of Law, where he was an Adjunct Professor for 12 years, and now teaches both Federal Courts and Federal Appellate Advocacy in the fall semester. Judge Fisher has also been an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown Law Center and The West Virginia College of Law.

Honorable D. Brooks Smith

D. Brooks Smith is the Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. He has served on the Third Circuit since 2002 and was elevated to Chief Judge on October 1, 2016. Judge Smith has the longest tenure of all Article III judges within the Third Circuit who are in active service, and he is the only judge in the history of the Circuit to have served as both a chief district judge and chief circuit judge. Judge Smith has served by appointment of the Chief Justice of the United States on the Judicial Conference of the United States (JCUS) Space and Facilities Committee, concluding a three-year term as chair on September 30, 2016. In the 1990's, he served on the JCUS Advisory Committee on Criminal Rules. Prior to his elevation to the Third Circuit, Judge Smith was the Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. He joined the District Court in 1988. While on the federal bench, he has participated in various rule of law programs for the judiciary in a number of Eastern European Countries. Judge Smith also serves as an adjunct professor at Penn State Law, where he teaches a seminar on class actions. In 2016, the law school presented Judge Smith its first "Leadership Award." Prior to his appointment to the federal bench, Judge Smith was a judge on the Court of Common Pleas of Blair County, Pennsylvania; District Attorney of Blair County, Pennsylvania; and the managing partner in the law firm of Jubelirer, Carothers, Krier, Halpern and Smith. He resides in Altoona, PA, with his wife of 40 years, Karen.

George Freeman, Keynote Speaker

George Freeman is Executive Director of the Media Law Resource Center, a non-profit trade association supporting the media in legal matters and counting as members 125 media companies from ABC to Yahoo! and 200 law firms working in the media law space. Before that he was Of Counsel to the law firm of Jenner & Block.

For 31 years, he was the chief First Amendment lawyer in the Legal Department of The New York Times, leaving as Vice President and Assistant General Counsel in 2012. At the Times, he was primarily responsible for the newspaper's and company's litigations, and was at the forefront of numerous high-profile First Amendment cases, including Judy Miller's resistance to a subpoena in the prosecution of Scooter Libby and the defense of The Times in a libel case brought by quarterback Ken Stabler.

George is a well-known speaker on media and First Amendment issues. He is the William J. Brennan Visiting Professor at the Columbia Journalism School and also teaches at New York University and CUNY's Graduate School of Journalism. He has been Chair of ABA and NYS Bar Association media law committees and is the founder and longtime Co-chair of the American Bar Association's Forum on Communications Law annual conference. He is a graduate of Amherst and the Harvard Law School, and is an avid tennis player.

Panel #1: Primer on the Court System and the Media

Honorable Nora Barry Fischer, Moderator

The Honorable Nora Barry Fischer has served as a District Judge for the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania since April of 2007. Judge Fischer is a graduate of St. Mary's College and Notre Dame Law School. Prior to being appointed to the Bench, Judge Fischer engaged in private practice for thirty years, including as a partner at the law firms of Meyer Darragh Buckler Bebenek & Eck and Pietragallo Bosick & Gordon.

Judge Fischer is a designated patent judge under the Patent Pilot Program. In addition, Judge Fischer sits as the Chair of the Court subcommittee which planned and developed the Court's E-Discovery Special Master and E-Mediation Programs. This program has been touted as the first of its kind nationally and assists the Court's management of ESI issues in complex cases, including patent litigation.

Judge Fischer was named the recipient of the 2006 Professionalism Award by the Civil Litigation Section of the Allegheny County Bar Association for her "faithful adherence to the highest standards of legal professionalism." In 2004, the Pennsylvania Bar Association honored her for her work as a co-chair of the Task Force on Health Care Delivery in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. She was also honored by the PBA as the recipient of the 2001 Anne X. Alpern Award, given by its Commission on Women in the Profession. Additionally, she has been recognized as a women's business leader by the Athena Foundation. In 2012, the Women's Bar Association conferred on her the Susan B. Anthony Award which recognizes her mentoring efforts directed to less experienced attorneys. More recently, she was honored by the Mediation

Council of Western Pennsylvania with its 2015 Conflict Resolution Day Award and as an honorary member of the Local Chapter of the Federal Bar Association in 2016.

Honorable Cathy Bissoon

Judge Cathy Bissoon was born in 1968 in Brooklyn, New York. She graduated summa cum laude from Alfred University in 1990 and received her law degree from Harvard Law School in 1993.

Following law school, Judge Bissoon joined Reed Smith's Pittsburgh office as an associate. In 1994, she took a year-long "sabbatical" from private practice, during which she clerked for the Honorable Gary L. Lancaster of this Court. In 1995, Judge Bissoon returned to Reed Smith where she ultimately became a partner and the firm-wide head of the Employment Group.

Judge Bissoon also served as Reed Smith's Director of Diversity for six years, earning various accolades for her efforts to increase diversity within the legal profession. Most notably, Judge Bissoon was recognized for her many efforts in the area of diversity with the Honorable Thurgood Marshall award from Minorities in Business Magazine during its 2006 Multicultural Prism Awards ceremony.

In 2007, Judge Bissoon joined the Pittsburgh law firm of Cohen & Grigsby, where she was a director and served as the head of the Labor & Employment Group.

Shortly thereafter, Judge Bissoon was selected by the Board of Judges of the Western District of Pennsylvania to serve as a United States Magistrate Judge. She was sworn in on August 1, 2008. Judge Bissoon, who is both Hispanic and Indian, became the first woman of color to sit on the federal bench in Pittsburgh, and the first woman of South Asian descent to sit on a federal bench in the United States.

On November 17, 2010, Judge Bissoon was nominated to the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania by President Barack Obama, and was confirmed by the Senate on October 17, 2011. She received her commission on October 19, 2011, and was sworn in as a district judge on October 20, 2011. With her appointment, Judge Bissoon became the first Hispanic female Article III judge in Pennsylvania, the first Asian American Article III judge in Pennsylvania and the first South Asian American female Article III judge in the United States.

Judge Bissoon also sits as one of the Court's designated patent judges and is one of the founding members of the Q. Todd Dickinson Intellectual Property American Inn of Court. The Dickinson Inn provides a unique opportunity for members to hone their legal skills in a social setting with no agenda other than collegiality and with a shared interest in professionalism and excellence. It also provides an opportunity for younger lawyer and student members to gain experience and insight from member judges and experienced lawyers from among the best of the Pittsburgh IP community. In 2012, Judge Bissoon was elected the first president of Dickinson Inn, and she continues to serve on the Inn's Executive Committee. Judge Bissoon also was a recipient of the 2017 Linn Alliance Distinguished Service Medal for her work with the Dickinson Inn.

Over the course of her years in private practice, Judge Bissoon was named a Fellow of the Litigation Council of America; listed multiple years in the Best Lawyers in America; named a “Pennsylvania Super Lawyer” by Philadelphia Magazine; listed in Chambers USA America’s Leading Lawyers; and was recognized as one of the top 50 lawyers in Pennsylvania under the age of 40 by Pennsylvania Law Weekly. Additionally, she served on both the Lawyers Advisory Committee for the Third Judicial Circuit as well as the Local Rules Advisory Committee for the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

During her time in private practice, Judge Bissoon also had the honor of serving, upon appointment by the Chief Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, as an original member of Pennsylvania’s Interbranch Commission for Gender, Racial and Ethnic Fairness. The Commission is charged with promoting the equal application of the law for all citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and increasing public confidence in the fairness of all three branches of state government. The Commission evaluates and recommends measures to reduce or eliminate bias or invidious discrimination within all branches of government and within the legal profession.

Judge Bissoon was honored as one of five finalists for the 2010 Athena Award. The award honors female leaders in the region who demonstrate excellence, creativity and initiative in business, who provide time and energy to improve the quality of life of others and who actively assist other women in realizing their full leadership potential.

In 2010, Judge Bissoon also was honored by Pittsburgh Professional Women as one of their 2010 Women of Integrity. The award is given to women who have distinguished themselves as leaders who balance career and civic responsibilities, while sharing their success by mentoring others and supporting their communities.

In 2014, Judge Bissoon was named a “Legal Champion” by the Allegheny County Bar Association for her work in paving the way to a more inclusive bench through her advocacy on behalf of and mentoring of historically underrepresented attorneys.

Judge Bissoon has served on the boards of the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium, the Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, the Girl Scouts of Western Pennsylvania and the Mt. Lebanon Teen Center. For many years, she was a proud Girl Scout troop leader. Judge Bissoon also holds a Third Degree Black Belt and serves as a Training Instructor in the Korean martial art of Tang Soo Do.

Honorable Lisa Lenihan

Magistrate Judge Lisa Pupo Lenihan was born in Kulpmont, Pennsylvania to Albert and Vilma Pupo. She graduated cum laude from the University of Pittsburgh in 1980 and magna cum laude from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law in 1983, where she was a member of the Law Review.

She worked as an associate with the law firm of Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote from 1983 until 1986. In 1987 she was one of five founding partners of the law firm Burns, White & Hickton and became managing partner of the firm in 1997. In 2000 she joined the University of

Pittsburgh Medical Center as Corporate Secretary and Assistant Counsel. She was appointed to the bench on April 2, 2004.

From 1998 to 2004 she served on the Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners, appointed by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court as board chairperson from 2002 to 2004. Magistrate Judge Lenihan is a member of the Board of Visitors for the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and is past president, and current member, of the Law Alumni Association's Board of Governors. She served as Co-chair of the PBA's Commission on Women in the Profession in 1998. Lenihan was also a member of the Pennsylvania Commission on Judicial Independence.

She currently serves on the board of the UPMC Health Plan, and UPMC Altoona, served on the board of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (2005 to 2014) and the Parental Stress Center (2002-2012) and has served on various other non-profit boards in the Pittsburgh area. She has lectured for PBI and published numerous articles in various legal journals. She is a member of the ACBA Gender Equality Task Force and emeritus member of the Executive Council of the Women in the Law Division of the ACBA. She is a past member of the ACBA Judiciary Committee, along with various other ACBA sections.

Magistrate Judge Lenihan was named an ATHENA finalist in 2015, received the Mediation Council of Western Pennsylvania 2013 Conflict Resolution Day Award; ACBA Women in the Law Division Carol Los Mannsman Helping Hands Award 2007; "Susan B. Anthony Award" given by the Women's Bar Association of Western Pennsylvania in 2004; the University of Pittsburgh School of Law Women's Association "Woman of the Year" award in 1999 and the Carlow College "Woman of Spirit" award in 1998.

Perhaps most importantly, she is the proud mother of Patrick, Alexandra and Christopher Lenihan.

Douglas Heuck

A graduate of Kenyon College, Douglas Heuck has been a Pittsburgh journalist since 1985. He spent 20 years at the Pittsburgh Press and Post-Gazette, with most of that time as an investigative reporter. He penned 13 newspaper series, ranging from living on the streets disguised as a homeless man to the last in-depth interview of polio pioneer Dr. Jonas Salk. His newspaper series received several national awards and three Keystone Distinguished Writing Awards, given annually for the best journalism in Pennsylvania. His series on the homeless was cited in the landmark media law case "Food Lion vs. ABC News."

In 1995, order to provide the best possible information to spur Pittsburgh's recovery, Heuck created PG Benchmarks, a newspaper project which compared Pittsburgh with 14 other metro areas in 75 measures. He left the newspaper in 2005 and founded Pittsburgh Quarterly magazine, judged the region's best magazine every year since it began publishing in 2006 by the Press Club of Western Pennsylvania. Pittsburgh Quarterly also has won a prestigious Folio Eddie Award, the global magazine industry's biggest context for editorial excellence.

Heuck is also director of PittsburghToday, the successor to the benchmarking project, which is funded by local philanthropic foundations. PittsburghToday compares Greater

Pittsburgh with 14 other regions in some 500 categories and produces in-depth journalistic reports on key regional issues. The project's work can be viewed at Pittsburghtoday.org

Panel #2: Courts and the Media: A Dialogue

Honorable Mark R. Hornak, Moderator

Prior to his appointment as a District Judge by President Obama in 2011, Judge Hornak practiced law for nearly 30 years at the Pittsburgh office of Buchanan, Ingersoll & Rooney, PC. He had a general civil practice of law, focusing on labor and employment law and civil litigation, along with the representation of government officials. For about 20 of those years, he also represented broadcasters, print journalists and authors nationally and locally in media and publishing related matters. Judge Hornak also held local elective public office for 10 years. He is an honors graduate of the University of Pittsburgh and its School of Law, and later clerked for Judge James Sprouse of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. He was previously an adjunct faculty member at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, and is a faculty member of the National Trial Advocacy College at the University of Virginia.

Hon. Joy Flowers Conti

Judge Conti is the Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. Prior to her appointment, she was a shareholder with the Pittsburgh office of Buchanan Ingersoll, Professional Corporation, now Buchanan Ingersoll Rooney ("Buchanan"), and prior to joining Buchanan she was a partner with Kirkpatrick, Lockhart, Johnson & Hutchison, now known as K&L Gates LLP. Judge Conti was a Professor of Law at Duquesne University and taught courses on civil procedure, corporations, corporate finance, corporate reorganizations and bankruptcy. She authored several articles and chapters in treatises dealing with bankruptcy and corporate law and was a frequent lecturer at seminars on those matters. Judge Conti is a former President of the Allegheny County Bar Association (1993), is listed in *Who's Who in America* and *Who's Who in American Law*, and while practicing law was listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*. She is a member of the prestigious American Law Institute and the American College of Bankruptcy. She also was Governor-at-Large of the Pennsylvania Bar Association ("PBA"), was the Chair of the PBA's Business Law Section, and received the PBA's 1995 Anne X. Alpern Award, which annually recognizes one outstanding woman lawyer. She was the President of the Third Circuit Historical Society. Judge Conti is a *summa cum laude* graduate of the Duquesne University School of Law, where she served as Editor-in-Chief of the *Duquesne Law Review*. Judge Conti was a member of the Judicial Conference of the United States, and is the former Chair of the Judicial Conference Committee on the Administration of the Bankruptcy System. She served as the Chair of the Local Rules Committee for the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania from 2003 to September 2010 and as the Chair of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee for the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania from September 2010 until September 2013. Judge Conti is Chair of the Western District of Pennsylvania's U.S. Probation Job Development & Educational Services Advisory Committee. She also received the American Inns of Court 2009 Professionalism Award for the Third Circuit and the W. Edward Sell Business Lawyer Award on November 15, 2016.

James C. Duff

As Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, Mr. Duff is the chief administrative officer of the federal courts, which covers 2,400 judicial officers and over 29,000 employees. He reports directly to, and works closely with, Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. He is a *magna cum laude* graduate of the University of Kentucky, where he was a member of both the Wildcat basketball team and *Phi Beta Kappa*, before graduating from the Georgetown Law Center and serving as an assistant to Chief Justice Warren E. Burger. Mr. Duff previously served as the CEO of the Newseum in Washington, D.C.

Joseph Sabino Mistick

Mr. Mistick is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, and the Duquesne University School of Law, where he serves as an Associate Professor of Law after many years of private law practice, and government service at the highest levels, including as Executive Secretary to Pittsburgh Mayor Sophie Masloff. He helped create the “Weed & Seed Program” in conjunction with the United States Attorney’s Office for the Western District of Pennsylvania. He is a regular columnist for the Tribune-Review newspaper, and has appeared on *CBS Sunday Morning*, the PBS *NewsHour* and on numerous radio and television stations.

Richard Lord

Mr. Lord is a special projects reporter with the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. He has recently reported on issues as diverse as the culpability of rogue physicians in the opioid epidemic, the power of nonprofit institutions in Pittsburgh and Alcoa's role in the South American country of Suriname. He covered federal court in Pittsburgh from 2010 through 2014, during a period highlighted by a federal investigation into city government, aggressive prosecution of mortgage industry professionals and ongoing civil rights issues in the areas of policing and incarceration. Prior to that, Rich handled the city government beat for the Post-Gazette. In 2004, Common Courage Press published his book *American Nightmare: Predatory Lending and the Foreclosure of the American Dream*. He is a graduate of the George Washington University and South Park High School.

James Parsons

Mr. Parsons is the News Director at WTAE-TV, Pittsburgh’s ABC-affiliated television station owned and operated by The Hearst Corporation. His work as a front-line investigative news reporter was recognized by his receiving the George Foster Peabody Award from the University of Georgia in 2008 for a series of news stories on public access to governmental records in Pennsylvania, and under his leadership, WTAE was awarded a second Peabody Award in 2016 for a series of news stories related to fire protection services in Western Pennsylvania communities. He worked as an investigative news reporter for nearly 20 years, after graduating from the University of Dayton with his Bachelor’s degree in Broadcast Journalism. He has served on the PBA's Bar/Press Committee and is a founding director of the Pennsylvania Freedom of Information Coalition. Jim notes that the Bar/Press Committee's mission is to “promote and increase cooperation and dialogue among the press, the bar and the bench; promote a better informed citizenry; and speak out on the First and Sixth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States throughout Pennsylvania.”

Panel #3: Changes in the Media and Media Law

Honorable Thomas M. Hardiman, Moderator

Judge Hardiman was nominated by President George W. Bush to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit on January 9, 2007 and was confirmed by the Senate (95-0) on March 15, 2007. Prior to becoming an appellate judge, he served as a trial judge on the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania as of November 1, 2003. Before taking the bench, Judge Hardiman was in private practice in Washington, D.C. from 1990-1992 and in Pittsburgh from 1992-2003.

In 2008, Chief Justice John Roberts appointed Judge Hardiman to the Information Technology Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States. Judge Hardiman was appointed Chairman of the IT Committee in 2013, and he continues to serve in that capacity. A member of the American Law Institute, Judge Hardiman teaches a seminar on Advanced Constitutional Law at Duquesne University School of Law. He is a 1987 graduate of the University of Notre Dame and a 1990 graduate of the Georgetown University Law Center, where he served as a Notes and Comments Editor of the *Georgetown Law Journal*. Judge Hardiman's chambers are in Pittsburgh, where he resides with his wife and three children.

Howard J. Bashman, Esq.

Howard J. Bashman is a nationally-known appellate lawyer based in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania. He frequently works on cases before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and Pennsylvania's state appellate courts. Bashman has been profiled by The Associated Press, The ABA Journal, Legal Times of Washington D.C., and The Daily Journal, a California-based legal newspaper. As an appellate commentator, he has been quoted or mentioned by The New York Times, The Boston Globe, The Detroit News, The Seattle Times, The Christian Science Monitor, Wired News, Salon, and Reuters. And he has published appellate-related essays in the Journal of Appellate Practice and Process, The Los Angeles Times, online at Slate, and in the Appellate Issues publication of the ABA Council of Appellate Lawyers.

In addition to practicing appellate law, Bashman is the author of the "How Appealing" blog, a daily collection of links to appellate-related legal news and interesting new appellate rulings. That blog is read by thousands of lawyers and judges each day and is hosted by Breaking Media online at howappealing.abovethelaw.com. Bashman also writes a monthly column on appellate issues for The Legal Intelligencer, Philadelphia's daily newspaper for lawyers. Before opening his own appellate boutique in 2004, Bashman headed the appellate litigation practice at one of Pennsylvania's largest law firms.

Jeremy Boren

Jeremy Boren is the digital managing editor of TribLIVE.com <<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Ftriblive.com&data=01%7C01%7Cjoshua.sallmen%40pitt.edu%7Cbdc254e077140761d7408d51fbfb771%7C9ef9f489e0a04eeb87cc3a526112fd0d%7C1&sd=0yWtXim%2BhhFDT%2FISRPJhFzdDt6XSWmIaEk783yGxGEs%3D&reserved=0>>. Boren joined the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review in December 2004 as a suburban news reporter and later became the Trib's city hall bureau reporter. He covered three mayoral administrations, Pittsburgh City Council and state and local politics before becoming a

general assignment reporter and later an assistant metro editor in mid-2013 at the Trib, where he worked closely with a talented team of reporters covering government, transportation and special, investigative projects. Boren has worked over the past year to help manage, train and grow the Pittsburgh Trib's all-digital news team.

Honorable Jeremy D. Fogel

B. A., Stanford University, 1971 (religious studies). J. D., Harvard Law School, 1974. Admitted to practice in California, 1974.

Private practice of law in San Jose, 1974-78. Founder and Directing Attorney, Mental Health Advocacy Project, Law Foundation of Silicon Valley, 1978-81. Judge, California State Courts, 1981-98. Judge, United States District Court, Northern District of California, 1998-2011. Director, Federal Judicial Center, 2011-present.

Executive Board, California Judges Association, 1988-91 (Vice-President, 1990-91); Chair, Judicial Ethics Committee, 1987-88; Chair, Planning Committee, Continuing Judicial Studies Program, 1995-97. Faculty, Continuing Judicial Studies Program and California Judicial College (ADR, psychology of decision-making, ethics, family law), 1987-present. Faculty, Federal Judicial Center (mediation, psychology of decision-making and patent law), 2002-present. Lecturer, Stanford Law School (psychology of litigation), 2003-2011.

President's Award for Outstanding Service to the California Judiciary, California Judges Association, 1997; Judge of the Year, Santa Clara County Trial Lawyers Association, 1997, 2005 and 2011; "LACY Honors" Award, Legal Advocates for Children and Youth, Law Foundation of Silicon Valley, 1997. Special Award for Exemplifying Highest Standards of Professionalism in the Judiciary, Santa Clara County Bar Association, 2002. Judge of the Year, San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association, 2007. Named as one of 100 most influential lawyers in California, Los Angeles and San Francisco Daily Journal, 2007.

David A. Strassburger

Mr. Strassburger is a Shareholder with the Pittsburgh office of the law firm of Strassburger McKenna Gutnick & Gefsky. He practices civil litigation exclusively. During his career, Mr. Strassburger has successfully tried cases for plaintiffs and defendants, individuals and businesses, in state and federal court. His trial work has included such diverse matters as claims for unfair competition, employee benefits, employment discrimination, faulty building design and construction, legal malpractice, and personal injury. Mr. Strassburger is a member of the Civil Jury Instructions Subcommittee of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Committee for Suggested Standard Jury Instructions. He also frequently lectures for the Pennsylvania Bar Institute on the topics of defamation and legal ethics. He has received an AV Preeminent Peer Review Rating from Martindale-Hubbell (Litigation, Insurance and General Practice), recognition as a Pennsylvania Super Lawyer (General Litigation) and a Top 50 Pittsburgh Super Lawyer, and is listed in Best Lawyers in America in the category of First Amendment and Media Law. Mr. Strassburger is a member of the Academy of Trial Lawyers of Allegheny County and a fellow of Litigation Counsel of America. He serves as a member of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania Local Rules Advisory Committee. From 1996 to 1998, Mr. Strassburger was law clerk to the Honorable Joseph F. Weis, Jr., of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. He is a past Chairman of the Board of the Western Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.