



THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA
JUSTICE'S CHAMBERS

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NEWS RELEASE

The Supreme Court has appointed Justice Correale Stevens (Luzerne County) as Court liaison to the Magisterial District Judges Association.

"The administration of justice is best served when there are lines of communication among members of the Judiciary," Stevens said.

"As liaison I will be in regular contact with Magisterial District Judge, Thomas Miller, Allegheny County, the President of the Association."

"Also, I have an open door policy that any district judge can contact me at any time with issues involving the administration of justice."

Magisterial District Courts divide their jurisdiction by geographical location and most districts include several municipalities.

They have limited jurisdiction and handle small civil claims up to \$12,000, summary offenses, violations of municipal ordinances and hold preliminary hearings and arraignments in misdemeanor and felony cases.

Magisterial district judges are elected, do not have to be lawyers but are required to complete a certification course prior to serving. They are supervised by the president judge of the court of common pleas of the judicial district in which they are located.

"It is the magisterial district judges who provide the most local of all judicial services and are considered the 'neighborhood judge.' They are an important part of our legal system," Stevens added.

"I encourage our citizens to access the Unified Judicial System website at www.pacourts.us for more information about our courts. I am always available to visit community groups to discuss how our court system works," Stevens concluded.

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