

## **The Honorable Kevin M. Dougherty**



*Justice Kevin M. Dougherty* graduated from Temple University, and then attended Antioch School of Law in Washington, DC. Following that he started his legal career as an assistant district attorney in Philadelphia, and later went into private practice.

In 2001, Dougherty was appointed to the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, and he won election to a full 10-year term later that year. Justice Dougherty requested to be assigned to Family Court because he felt that he could influence the lives of our most vulnerable citizens and help mold troubled youth into happy, healthy and productive members of society.

In recognition of his administrative skills and commitment to reforming the juvenile justice system, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court appointed Justice Dougherty to be Administrative Judge of the Philadelphia Family Court in 2005 eventually serving as the longest Administrative Judge in Philadelphia history. In this capacity, Justice Dougherty initiated numerous diversionary programs benefiting the most at-risk and vulnerable children in Philadelphia including the Cross-Over Program, the Adolescent Medicine Initiative, and the Expungement Initiative.

In 2014, Justice Dougherty was reassigned as the Administrative Judge of the Trial Division, First Judicial District, as such ran the largest court system in Pennsylvania while serving as Chair of the Administrative Governing Board.

Justice Dougherty was elected to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania on November 3rd, 2015. With a passion for issues facing children and families, Justice Dougherty alongside his fellow Justices has taken a keen interest in making the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania a model for the country when it comes to issues such as access to justice, alternative sentencing, transparency within the court system, and most importantly keeping an open dialogue between the various stakeholders within the judicial branch of government. In addition, he proudly represents the Supreme Court on both the Statewide Dependency Court Improvement Program, the Autism and the Courts Initiative, and the new Court Mental Health Initiative.

### **Laval Miller-Wilson**

Laval Miller-Wilson joined the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) on March 13, 2023, as the Deputy Secretary for the Office of Children Youth and Families (OCYF), which supervises the county-operated child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Mr. Miller-Wilson, an attorney, is deeply committed and passionate about ensuring that vulnerable populations get the care they need and deserve.

Prior to joining OCYF, Miller-Wilson had been the Executive Director of the [Pennsylvania Health Law Project](#) (PHLP), a non-profit that protects and advances health care rights through free legal services, community education, and systems advocacy. At PHLP he worked to make the health industry and policymakers more attuned to what people want and need—and more accountable for making it happen. He was lead counsel for Medicaid enrollees on Pennsylvania’s Medical Assistance (Medicaid) Advisory Committee, which advises the Commonwealth on the impact of current and proposed Medicaid policies and practices. He delivered consumer-informed perspective about the state’s implementation of the Affordable Care Act, performance of Medicaid managed care plans, and determinants of health.

Prior to joining PHLP, Miller-Wilson worked for 14 years at [Juvenile Law Center](#) (JLC) representing children in the child welfare, juvenile and criminal justice systems. At JLC he led their 2008 petition to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to ensure accused youth in Luzerne County had the right to counsel (subsequently known as the “Kids for Cash” scandal), and federal litigation to improve the delivery of basic and special education to children in the criminal justice system. He was also the lead author of a [2003 assessment](#) of children’s access to counsel and the quality of representation they receive in Pennsylvania’s juvenile justice system that required surveying and visiting juvenile courts across the Commonwealth.

## **Sandra Moore, MSW**

Sandy assumed the position of Director for the Office of Children & Families in the Courts (OCFC), Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts in January 2008. In this role, Sandy works closely with the Honorable Kevin Dougherty, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania Justice overseeing the state's Dependency Court Improvement Program. This oversight includes providing leadership for Pennsylvania's Children's Roundtable Initiative, the overarching structure of the state's court improvement initiative. Additionally, the office coordinates specific court improvement activities including the creation of a Dependency Bench Book, the Dependency Mission/Guiding Principles, the Family Engagement Initiative, a graduated educational curriculum for Dependency Judges, and educational sessions for Hearing Officers, Guardians ad Litem, Parent Attorneys, and Solicitors.

Prior to her current position, Sandy held the dual position of Dauphin County Children & Youth Administrator/Human Services Director where she supervised a \$200 million budget and a workforce of 400. Beginning her career in the mid-1980s as a social worker in the California Child Welfare system, Sandy has over 30 years of direct casework and administrative experience. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Social Welfare and a Master's of Social Work. She has presented at local, national and international conferences. Sandy has taught at various colleges and universities, including California State University at Fresno and Temple University.

## **The Honorable John F. Cherry**

Born April 14, 1951, in DuBois, PA. Graduate of DuBois High School, Gannon University, and Dickinson School of Law. Served as teacher, coach, and high school administrator at Elk County Christian High School, St. Mary's, PA. Dauphin County Deputy and Chief Deputy District Attorney; Deputy Attorney General, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; partner at Goldberg, Katzman & Shipman. Appointed District Attorney in December 1993; elected District Attorney of Dauphin County 1996-99. **Elected to the Dauphin County bench November 1999. Retained November 2009 and 2019.** Currently serving as Civil and Administrative Dependency Judge.

## **Jennifer Napp Evans, Psy.D., M.Ed**

Jennifer Napp Evans, Psy.D., M.Ed., is a licensed behavior specialist with the Pennsylvania State Board of Medicine. She recently completed her Doctorate in Psychology in Grief Counseling. Jennifer has more than 23 years of experience in the child welfare and behavioral health fields. She has been the Administrator of Snyder County's Children and Youth Services for the past seven years. Jennifer is a servant leader who has been honored to serve on many state-level workgroups and task forces and has presented at various conferences. Several workgroups and task forces she has volunteered for that

are of note are the OCFC State Roundtable's Congregate Care Workgroup, Autism Task Force, and Mental Health Task Force. Jennifer has presented at the PDE Positive Behavior Intensive Supports Conference, Family Engagement Initiative Meetings, and Family Group Decision-Making Conference. She is a proud co-chair of the Chief Justice Max Baer Children's Summit and Leadership 8 Roundtable and Co-chair of the AOPC MDJ Ops. Mental Health Task Force. Jennifer resides in Central PA and enjoys spending time with her husband and children. She is a proud mother to three teens and four golden retrievers, one of whom is the Snyder County Dependency court therapy dog. She is passionate about maximizing early points of prevention and intervention, enhancing family engagement through natural supports, and capturing community connections to strengthen families and reduce child maltreatment.