



## DEDICATION

*Editing and updating a Benchbook is a monumental task concerning any area of the law. A Dependency Benchbook is even a greater challenge as the law, educational requirements, philosophies, and society's norms and challenges, along with best practices, are attempted to be woven into the final product. As the Chairperson of this Benchbook Committee, I am extremely grateful for the hard work of my fellow jurists who comprised this Benchbook Committee and the staff from the Office of Children and Families in the Court.*

*One cannot discuss this edition of the Benchbook without mentioning Judge Michael H. Sholley of Snyder and Union Counties, who was a driving force not only on this Benchbook Committee but in the various taskforces and workgroups in which Mike participated throughout his years on the Bench which included:*

- *The Autism and the Dependency Courts Taskforce;*
- *The Congregate Care Workgroup (Tri-Chairperson);*
- *The Kinship Care Taskforce;*
- *The Transitional Youth Workgroup (Co-Chairperson); and*
- *The State Roundtable*

*Unfortunately, Mike passed away on September 28, 2024. Just days prior to his death, Mike forwarded several submissions that he had recently volunteered to complete for inclusion in the Benchbook.*

*Acknowledging Mike's dedication, commitment, and immense impact on this Benchbook edition and the development of best practices in dependency jurisprudence, this Benchbook Committee dedicates this 4th Edition of the Dependency Benchbook in memory of the Honorable Michael H. Sholley.*

*The loss of Mike leaves a void in leadership and direction among the jurists who preside in Dependency Courts throughout this Commonwealth. Mike was indeed an advocate for children and families throughout this Commonwealth.*

*His spirit will live on through his accomplishments and actions, which centered professionally in the area of Dependency Law and will assist Judges, children, and their families throughout this Commonwealth for years to come. May he rest in peace, knowing that his actions, efforts, and determination helped better the lives of many children and their families in this Commonwealth.*

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