

**21<sup>st</sup> 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**  
Middletown Superior Court of Connecticut

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Vice President of Business Strategy  
General BioDiesel, Seattle, Washington

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Superior Court of Rhode Island

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District of Columbia Courts

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Mississippi Supreme Court

**Judge Frederick P. Horn**  
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Supreme Court of Georgia

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Washington State Minority & Justice Commission

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Minority Affairs Officer  
Office of Minority Affairs  
Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts

**L. Dew Kaneshiro, Esq.**  
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.**  
Executive Director

**Carey Cummings, Esq.**  
Staff Attorney

**Christine M. Kalinik**  
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

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**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 \_\_\_\_\_