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PA Supreme Court Appoints Judge McEwen to Chair Legislative Reapportionment Commission

HARRISBURG, PA, April 19, 2011— President Judge Emeritus Stephen J McEwen, Jr., of Pennsylvania’s Superior Court has been appointed by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania to chair the Legislative Reapportionment Commission, the Court announced today.

Judge McEwen began service on Superior Court in 1981 and served a five-year term as that court’s President Judge. He was named President Judge Emeritus in 2001 and has been a Superior Court senior judge since 2003.

“My colleagues and I have acted with expedition in making this appointment so that the reapportionment process may move forward,” said Chief Justice of Pennsylvania Ronald D. Castille. “Judge McEwen is widely respected throughout Pennsylvania and the United States and has served the Commonwealth with high distinction throughout his career. This Court has full confidence in his ability to lead the reapportionment commission with fairness, lending to the forthcoming task his superb problem-solving skills and keen ability to mediate differences.”

The Supreme Court’s appointment authority is derived from Article II, Section 17(b), of the Pennsylvania Constitution which vests with the Court the responsibility to appoint a chair should the four other Commission members be unable to reach consensus in naming a chair. During his period of service as Commission Chair, Judge McEwen’s service as a senior judge will be suspended.

Chief Justice Castille noted that this is the second, consecutive time that a jurist from the Superior Court has been appointed to chair the Reapportionment Commission. In 1991, Superior Court Senior Judge Frank J. Montemuro, Jr., was appointed to that post by the Supreme Court.

A copy of Judge McEwen’s biography is attached, as is a copy of the appointing Order.

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President Judge Emeritus McEwen



**Honorable Stephen
J. McEwen Jr.**

Education

St. Joseph's College
University of Pennsylvania Law School
University of Virginia School of Law (Master of Laws)

Professional Experience

Private law practice, 23 years as a trial lawyer
Elected District Attorney, Delaware County, 1967-76
General Counsel for Pennsylvania District Attorneys'
Association, 1976-1979
Villanova University Law School, former Professor of
Trial Advocacy
Elected a judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania,
1981
President Judge, Superior Court of Pennsylvania, 1996-
2001
Pennsylvania Court of Judicial Discipline, former
President Judge

Memberships and Associations

Pennsylvania Judicial Independence Commission,
former Co-chair
Council of Chief Judges of the State Courts of Appeal,
Past President
American Bar Association, United Nations
Development Programme, Board of Advisors American
Law Institute
USAID, lecturer in Bulgaria, 2000-02

Awards and Honors

DeSales University (Honorary Doctorate), 1999
Widener University Law School (Honorary Doctorate),
2000
University of Scranton (Honorary Doctorate), 2000
Republic of Bulgaria, Honorary Consul, 2004


IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: APPOINTMENT OF THE : No. 364
CHAIRMAN OF THE LEGISLATIVE :
REAPPORTIONMENT COMMISSION : Judicial Administration Docket
:
PETITION OF: CAROL AICHELE, :
ACTING SECRETARY OF THE :
COMMONWEALTH :

ORDER

PER CURIAM

AND NOW, this 19th day of April, 2011, pursuant to Article II, Section 17(b), of the Pennsylvania Constitution, the Honorable Stephen J. McEwen, Jr., is hereby appointed as Chairman of the Pennsylvania Legislative Reapportionment Commission.

A true copy John A. Vaskov, Esquire
As of: April 19, 2011
Attest: 
Deputy Prothonotary
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania