

The General Assembly of Pennsylvania



MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120

February 2, 2009

Zygmunt Pines, Esq.  
Court Administrator of Pennsylvania  
Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts  
Suite 1414, 1515 Market Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Dear Mr. Pines:

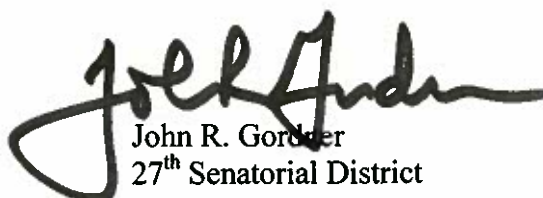
We write with a great sense of shock over the recent allegations regarding certain judicial actions at the Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas. In order to restore our citizens' trust and reliance in the remaining jurists with this court, we request a full investigation of the processes and procedures related to the administration of the juvenile courts and sentences, the powers and discretions of the Office of the President Judge and the assignment of caseloads for the Common Pleas Judges of Luzerne County.

The citizens of this Commonwealth should be confident that all are equal under the law. In order to ensure that the blind scales of justice treat all in a fair and evenhanded manner, we must seek to restore the fundamental credence that our courts are above reproach. In the midst of a federal criminal investigation and several civil actions which will attempt to make the victims of this broken system whole, we understand the delicacy of this situation and do not wish to impede such actions. Nevertheless, the system must be scrutinized to assure all will be guaranteed their full constitutional rights in judicial proceedings resulting in impartial adjudications absent of any outside influence on the court or its officers.

It is unfortunate that we must write to request such actions be taken, but we cannot allow the shameful dealings of a few to tarnish the integrity of the justice system in this Commonwealth. We thank you for your attention to this matter and look forward to working with you to make certain that the public trust is restored in Luzerne County and that our citizens are truly afforded equal justice under law.

Very truly yours,

  
Lisa Baker  
20<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District

  
John R. Gordon  
27<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District