

# DIVERSIFYING THE LEGAL PROFESSION IN PENNSYLVANIA

# VOLUNTARY DEMOGRAPHIC CHECK-OFF BOXES ON PA LAW LICENSE APPLICATIONS- 2024-25

After recommendations from the Pennsylvania Commission for Fairness & Justice, the Pennsylvania Bar Association, and other groups in the legal community, the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania included a voluntary race/ethnicity self-identification question on attorney registration forms beginning in 2018. On October 25, 2024, the Board reported the following results. Of 71,423 attorney registrants, 93.2 percent answered information regarding their race/ethnicity (the highest percentage to date). 99.95 percent of attorneys provided information regarding their gender.

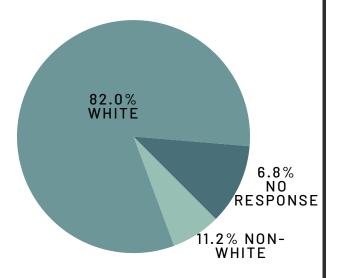
93.2% Race/Ethnicity

> 99.95% Gender

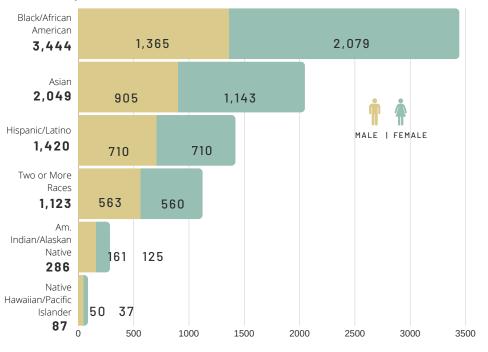
#### CURRENT DIVERSITY MAKE UP



60% OF LAWYERS IN PA IDENTIFY AS MALE. 40% IDENTIFY AS FEMALE.



### RACE/ETHNICITY OF NON-WHITE ATTORNEYS



#### PURPOSES:

- To establish a demographic baseline of all applicants for Pennsylvania law licenses
- To track changes in demographics of the profession for purposes of measuring progress in diversifying the profession
- To provide data to help inform appointing authorities of the availability of diverse attorneys for career-enhancing appointments

## BENEFITS



ENHANCED FUNCTIONING AND COMPETITIVENESS OF THE PROFESSION



INCREASED OPPORTUNITY
TO ATTRACT QUALIFIED
INDIVIDUALS



INCREASED PUBLIC TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM



INCREASED ACCESS
FOR HISTORICALLY
MARGINALIZED GROUPS