

Press Release



Pennsylvania Commission for Fairness & Justice Celebrates Wins, Recognizes Challenges at December Meeting

Harrisburg, PA — The Pennsylvania Commission for Fairness & Justice (PCFJ) virtually convened its last quarterly meeting of the year on Friday, December 12, 2025, continuing its mission to ensure that justice is accessible, impartial, and grounded in the dignity and humanity of every individual.

The meeting featured an engaging presentation from Frank Miles, Esq., an award-winning Pennsylvania attorney, speaker, and author. The presentation explored the contours of and myths surrounding Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) work, including its ability to facilitate PCFJ's mission of reducing bias and discrimination.

"Attorney Miles' presentation underscored an essential truth: that in the face of uncertainty precipitated by shifting priorities and efforts to redefine core concepts, it is all the more important for PCFJ to boldly narrate its vision for a Commonwealth that treats fairness and justice not only as foundational values, but daily realities for all people," said Maraleen Shields, Executive Director of the Commission.

In addition, the quarterly meeting highlighted robust updates from all seven standing committees, showcasing progress on initiatives such as juror mental health, implicit bias, and LGBTQIA+-focused programming. Members also voted unanimously to advance key organizational reforms, adopting updated bylaws that strengthen the Commission's infrastructure, elucidate its core purpose and mission, and modernize its practices consistent with the needs and challenges of our current landscape.

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Commissioners also received the Executive Director's report, which featured a recap of 2025 Commission composition and activities by the numbers, including:

- Twenty-four (24) Commissioners, representing thirteen (13) unique counties and a full complement of Commission members for the first time in recent years;
- Four (4) interns since 2024, allowing PCFJ to expand its work and offer meaningful opportunities to students interested in improving our Commonwealth;
- Ten (10) external speaking engagements to raise awareness of PCFJ's work;
- Five (5) community engagements to increase public confidence in our government; and
- Seven (7) workgroups to investigate and develop recommendations to promote fairness and justice in Pennsylvania.

"As the end of the year approaches, the Commission turns its focus to its annual newsletter, a vibrant document featuring contributions from our Commissioners and others that speaks to the continued importance of PCFJ's work. In the face of fiscal uncertainty and other challenges, the breadth of the newsletter's contents serves as a galvanizing reminder of the progress we've made and the opportunities ripe for action in the new year," Shields added.

PCFJ's next quarterly meeting is scheduled for March 27, 2026.

About the Pennsylvania Commission for Fairness & Justice

PCFJ was established in 2005 by the three branches of Pennsylvania government and is dedicated to promoting fairness and justice in the Commonwealth through collaborative policy development, research, advocacy, and community engagement.

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