



ALLEGHENY COUNTY

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Twelve New Public Defenders Sworn-In as Attorneys *Newest Employees Joined the Office in August as Law Clerks*

PITTSBURGH – The Office of the Public Defender last week celebrated the swearing-in of its 12 newest attorneys as every single member of its 2022 Law Clerk class passed the bar exam administered in July.

The clerkship program provides incoming attorneys the training and experience they need to practice as Public Defenders in Allegheny County. Shortly after taking the Pennsylvania Bar Exam, clerks begin a 12-week intensive training program. This program has two major components: (1) a classroom portion where the training is focused on Allegheny County's criminal justice system; and, (2) a mentorship program where incoming clerks are paired with attorneys and are able to observe and participate in court proceedings.

"The clerkship program has been one of the most successful initiatives in the history of the Office of the Public Defender," said Chief Public Defender Matt Dugan. "Over the last six years, we've been able to recruit the best, most talented attorneys from across the country and bring them to Allegheny County. Our office is as strong and as vibrant as its ever been thanks to these folks. We're tremendously excited to have these 12 attorneys on our team."

The newest attorneys are:

Isabella (Bella) Bedard is from Sewickley and attended Duquesne University School of Law. She holds a BA in Hispanic literature and a minor in performing arts and social justice from the University of San Francisco.

Amanda Brash is from Plum and attended Duquesne University School of Law. She earned her undergraduate degree at Slippery Rock University.

Jennifer Buono is from Ambler, PA, just outside of Philadelphia. She attended Temple University School of Law and earned her undergraduate degree from Villanova University.

Molly Campbell grew up in Edgewood. She earned her law degree from the Duquesne University School of Law and attended the College of Wooster for her undergraduate degree.

Kyle Donovan is from Shaler and attended Duquesne University School of Law. He majored in history and minored in computer science at Saint Vincent College.

Jamie Frohm grew up in Carlisle, PA and went to Temple University, majoring in political science and criminal justice. She attended Duquesne University School of Law.

Sarah Hampton is from Pottstown, PA. She earned her undergraduate degree from International Affairs & Spanish at The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. and then returned to Pennsylvania to attend Temple University School of Law.

Shannon Haupt went to Kalamazoo College in Michigan for undergrad and lived in Detroit between undergrad and law school. They attended the City University of New York School of Law.

Courtney King attended Widener University Commonwealth Law School. She earned her bachelor's degree from West Virginia University and is from Ambler, PA, a small town outside of Philadelphia.

Anne Parsons is from Pittsburgh and attended the University of Pittsburgh for both her undergraduate and law degree.

Annelise Peters is from Louisville, Kentucky and earned her undergraduate degree from The Ohio State University. She attended the University of Pittsburgh School of Law.

Hunter Sheffler is from Mechanicsburg, PA. He attended Temple University for his undergrad degree before going to Temple University School of Law.

The attorneys were sworn-in last Friday during a ceremony in the Gold Room of the Courthouse with friends, family and new co-workers in attendance. The Honorable Kim Berkeley Clark, President Judge of the Fifth Judicial District, administered the oath of office. County Executive Rich Fitzgerald also offered congratulatory remarks to the county's newest attorneys.

#

J. Matthew Dugan, Esq., Chief Public Defender

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