

HONORABLE MAX BAER
Justice, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

Justice Max Baer was elected to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in November of 2003, assumed his duties on January 5, 2004 and was retained in 2013. Prior to his elevation to the Supreme Court, Justice Baer served on the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County from January of 1990 to December of 2003. He spent the first 9½ of those years in Family Division, and was the Administrative Judge of the Division for 5½ years. During his tenure, Justice Baer implemented far-reaching reforms to both Juvenile Court and Domestic Relations, earning him statewide and national recognition. Justice Baer eventually was assigned to the Civil Division, where he continued to distinguish himself until assuming his new duties on the Supreme Court.

In acknowledgement of his innovations in family court, in 1997, Justice Baer was named Pennsylvania's Adoption Advocate of the Year. In 1998, the Federal Department of Health and Human Services presented him with the Adoption 2002 Excellence Award for Judicial Innovation. He was honored for receipt of this award at a White House ceremony presided over by President and Mrs. Clinton. In 1998, the Domestic Relations Association of Pennsylvania honored Justice Baer for his years of dedicated service to Pennsylvania families, and in 2000, the Pennsylvania Bar Association named him Child Advocate of the Year. In 2003, the Justice accepted the Champion of Children's Award from the Homeless Children's Education Fund, and in 2004, was recognized as "most valuable peacemaker" by Pennsylvania's Council of Mediators. In 2005, he was awarded the Three Rivers Youth Nellie Award for Civic Leadership.

Justice Baer is the former Chairperson of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee, and an ex officio representative to the Juvenile Court Judges Commission. He has served on the Joint State Government Commissions on Adoption Law and Services to Children and Youth, and is the former chair of the Pennsylvania Conference of Trial Judges Family Law Section and a former member of the Conference's Education Committee. The Justice has served as a guest professor at Carnegie Mellon University over the years, and has been a frequent lecturer to professional and lay groups throughout Pennsylvania on various issues. He has also served on numerous Boards, including Family Services of Western Pennsylvania, Catholic Charities and the Consumer Credit Counseling Corporation.

Justice Baer was recognized for his leadership in helping dependent children find permanent, loving families in the Casey Family Program Report, “How are the Children? Inspiring Hope. Renewing Vision. Influencing Action.” (May 2010)

Judge Baer wrote two chapters for *The Judge’s Book*, a publication of the National Conference of State Trial Judges; authored “Custody Wars – The Creation of a New Weapon of Mass Destruction,” 21 PA Family Lawyer, Issue No. 4, 1999, and Family Law and Civility; Can They Coexist? 24 Family Lawyer, Issue No. 1, 2002; and was a guest columnist for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, commenting on the Elian Gonzales case.



Kevin Campbell is an internationally known youth permanency expert, founder of the Center for Family Finding and Youth Connectedness and developer of the Family Finding model, a set of strategies now utilized throughout the United States and Canada to establish lifelong supports for youth in foster care. Prior to developing Family Finding, Kevin was an administrator, director and vice president in the social service sector for over 28 years.

Kevin continues to develop strategies to address the epidemic levels of loneliness that youth in foster care experience while waiting for a chance to go home to their relatives or to be adopted. He has helped over 10,000 youth achieve permanency and continues to help up to 80 foster youth per week through his advanced permanency trainings and technical assistance with agencies nationwide. To date, he has worked with over 200 jurisdictions across over 40 states and Canada.

Kevin also played a major role in the passing of the *Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008*, one of the most significant pieces of child welfare legislation in the last 15 years. Kevin worked with Congressman Jim McDermott regarding the inclusion of *Family Finding* in the Federal bill. The bill passed the House of Representatives on September 17, 2008, and passed unanimously by the Senate on September 22, 2008. It was signed into law by President Bush on October 7, 2008. As part of this expansive child welfare reform bill, it is now required that every child entering foster care must receive Kevin's innovative *Family Finding* strategies. On September 29th, 2011, President Obama signed the *Children and Family Services Improvement and Innovations Act* which also included Family Finding as an innovative strategy crucial to improving America's child welfare system. *Family Finding* was also presented to the United States Supreme

Court by Judge Leonard Edwards, recipient of the prestigious William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence.

Kevin's work has been featured in dozens of national publications including being twice featured on CBS' 60 MINUTES with Lesley Stahl, as well as in the Wall Street Journal, New York Times, and Time Magazine. He is also featured in the award-winning documentary *From Place to Place*, a film on the realities of aging out of the foster care system. Kevin continues to speak on the issue of youth permanency throughout the United States and Canada and has published numerous articles on the subject.

Kevin collaborates with Seneca Family of Agencies, a non-profit California based agency that seeks to improve the lives of families and their children in the area education, mental health and child welfare. Together they work to provide training and technical assistance on the implementation of Family Finding

Sandra E. Moore, MSW
Director
Office of Children & Families in the Courts
Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania
sandra.moore@pacourts.us

Sandy assumed the position of Administrator for the Office of Children & Families in the Courts (OCFC), Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts in January 2008. In this role, Sandy works closely with the Honorable Max Baer, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania Justice overseeing the state's Dependency Court Improvement Project. This oversight includes providing leadership for Pennsylvania's Children's Roundtable Initiative, the overarching structure of the state's court improvement initiative. Additionally, the office coordinates specific court improvement activities including the creation of a Statewide Dependency Court Management/Data system, a Dependency Bench Book, the Dependency Mission/Guiding Principles, the Permanency Practice Initiative, a graduated educational curriculum for Dependency Judges, and training for Guardian ad Litem and Parent Attorneys. In partnership with the Office of Children, Youth & Families, OCFC is also planning Pennsylvania's 1st Annual Children's Roundtable Summit.

Prior to her current position, Sandy held the dual position of Dauphin County (home to the state's capitol, Harrisburg) Children & Youth Administrator/Human Services Director where she supervised a \$200 million budget and a workforce of 400. Beginning her career in the late 1980s as a social worker in the California Child Welfare system, Sandy has over 20 years of direct casework and administrative experience. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Social Welfare and a Master's of Social Work. She has presented at local, national and international conferences. Sandy has taught at various colleges and universities, including California State University at Fresno and Temple University.