





## *Principle Authors*

**The Honorable Jack A. Panella**  
Superior Court of Pennsylvania

**Leeme Kahng-Sofer, Esquire**  
Former Deputy Chief  
Sex Crimes Prosecution Unit  
Manhattan District Attorney's Office

## *Project Manager*

**Lynn Carson**  
Judicial Project Specialist  
PCAR

## *Introduction*

This, the first edition of the Benchbook on Crimes of Sexual Violence in Pennsylvania, has been prepared under the supervision of Lynn Carson, Judicial Project Specialist for the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape. The Benchbook was funded by a grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

Section One of the Benchbook, ***Understanding Sexual Violence***, provides an in-depth discussion of the history and development of laws criminalizing sexually violent behavior, and is intended to provide a comprehensive understanding of Pennsylvania's current sexual offense laws. Special emphasis is given to the resultant physical and psychological effects of a sexual assault on a victim, as well as victim's rights and programs. Section Two, ***The Process of a Sex Offense Case***, addresses the procedural and practical steps of a sex offense case, from pre-trial issues to appellate review. The appendices to Chapter 8 include useful tools for sentencing preparation, clarifying the oftentimes complex guideline factors and mandatory penalties which apply to a convicted sex offender.

The Benchbook continues with Section Three, ***Life After Megan's Law***, which reviews and compares collateral ramifications of a sexual offense conviction, including sex offender registration laws. The appendix to Chapter 10 is a summary of the sometimes voluminous sections of Megan's Law. Section Three also examines CODIS (which stands for Combined DNA Index System, an electronic database that allows nationwide access to DNA profiles and profiling), as well as DNA data retention and testing laws. Chapter 10 concludes with the process of civil commitment of juvenile sex offenders. Lastly, Section Four, ***Resources***, lists victims' service providers in Pennsylvania and programs designed to assist in sexual abuse prevention, detection and prosecution.

Updates for the benchbook will appear on the PCAR webpage, <http://www.pcar.org/benchbook.pdf>, for downloading and printing

## *Acknowledgements*

The Benchbook was primarily written by the Honorable Jack A. Panella, of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania, and Leemie Kahng Sofer, Esq., former Deputy Chief of the Sex Crimes Prosecution Unit, Manhattan District Attorney's Office. The extraordinary talents of many individuals contributed to the production of the book. Principal among them is Teresa Scalzo, Esq. who contributed significantly to the production of the book.

The following also provided research and writing: Lynn Carson, Judicial Project Specialist, PCAR; William Clements, Esq.; Angela Coxe, Esq.; Stewart John Greenleaf, Jr., Esq.; Christopher Nace, Esq.; Janet Hay Subers, Esq.; Benjamin Kohler, Esq.; Deepak Sharma; Alicia Zito, Esq.; and Jeanne L. Rensberger, Esq. and Mary Graybill, Esq., of Central Legal Staff, Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

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Our gratitude is extended to Delilah Rumburg, Executive Director of PCAR, whose commitment to the prevention of sexual violence made this Benchbook possible.

## *Benchbook Advisory Committee*

**Honorable Correale F. Stevens**

Superior Court of Pennsylvania  
300 Laurel Professional Center  
121 Airport Road  
Hazelton, PA 18202

**Honorable Mary Jane Bowes**

Superior Court of Pennsylvania  
2600 Grant Building  
330 Grant Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

**Honorable Paul Panepinto**

Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas  
1403 Criminal Justice Center  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

**Honorable Carol K. McGinley**

Lehigh County Court of Common Pleas  
455 W. Hamilton Street  
Allentown, PA 18101-1614

**Honorable Joseph M. Augello**

Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas  
200 N. River Street  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711

**Honorable Edward D. Reibman**

Lehigh County Court of Common Pleas  
455 W. Hamilton Street  
Allentown, PA 18101-1614

**Honorable Terrence R. Nealon**

Lackawanna County  
Court of Common Pleas  
200 N. Washington Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18503

**Honorable Stephen A. Zappala, Jr.**

District Attorney, Allegheny County  
436 Grant Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

**Honorable John M. Morganelli**

District Attorney, Northampton County  
669 Washington Street  
Easton, PA 18042

**Steve N. Goudsouzian, Esquire**

Suite 301  
2925 William Penn Highway  
Easton, PA 18042

**George A. Heitzman, Esquire**

18 East Market Street  
P.O. Box 1446  
Bethlehem, PA 18016-5500

**Gary Neil Asteak, Esquire**

726 Walnut Street  
Easton, PA 18402

## *From the Desk of .....*

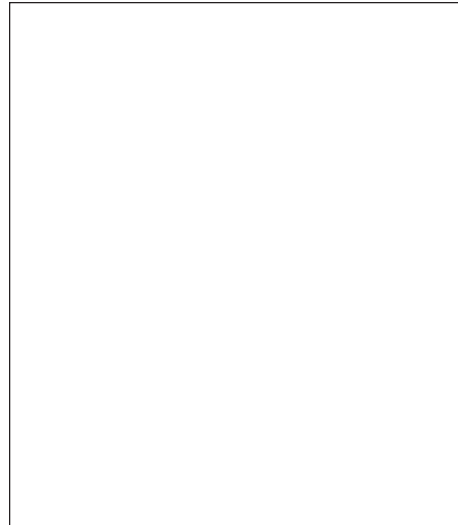
**Delilah Rumburg**  
**Executive Director, Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape**

*It is with great pleasure that I present the first edition of the Benchbook on Crimes of Sexual Violence in Pennsylvania. This much anticipated document will serve as a valuable resource to all those involved in Pennsylvania's judicial system.*

*I am awed by the collaboration of judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, researchers, and practitioners who provided their valuable expertise in the development of this benchbook.*

*Because of the dedication of these individuals, Pennsylvania will be prepared to address the ever-changing criminal justice issues surrounding sexual violence.*

*Ultimately, this benchbook will provide a framework to address the serious impact of sexual violence on victims while holding offenders accountable for their actions.*



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