

## **ITEMS OF INTEREST:**

### **PATHWAY TO THE BENCH**

Magisterial District Judge Lindy Sweeney, in addition to being highlighted in this issue of *The Journal*, has submitted her pathway to the bench in York County.

She began her career in the law as part of a two person litigation team in the position of a Senior Litigation Paralegal. In 2004, after working 22 years with Attorney Robert Lerman, she decided that she would like to change direction and become an MDJ. She attended certification school in Chambersburg in February, 2004. She passed the certification examination with the intention of running for the position held by MDJ Vera Heilman in District Court 19-3-04 for 18 years upon her retirement. Attorney Lerman approached her and asked her to delay her plans until he retired.

In August of 2012, she decided she could no longer wait for Attorney Lerman's retirement and she gave him notice of her retirement effective March, 2013. Again, she was persuaded to work an additional 2 years on a part-time basis. During this period Attorney Lerman was diagnosed with a terminal illness and passed away on December 31, 2016. She planned on staying retired and traveling and feeding her golf addiction.

A vacancy was created in District Court 19-3-04 and she was approached by a number of individuals about running for the position. After much thought and the realization that playing golf everyday does not ensure becoming a better golfer, she decided to seek the position. She recertified in 2016 and was nominated by both parties in the 2017 primary. She spent the remainder of 2017 observing other MDJs in their courts, attending York County Specialty Treatment Courts, and meeting with key personnel within the criminal justice system.

In more ways than one, her path to becoming an MDJ has come full circle. The tract of land where York County built the court facility for District Court 19-3-04 was once part of her family's farm. So now she sits as a judge in the building where, in her childhood, she rode tractors across the farm's fields with her grandfather.