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**Pennsylvania Supreme Court Names Washington, Pa. Native
Barbara Griffin Chair of Lawyers Fund for Client Security**

Griffin Becomes the First Woman, African-American to be Named to the Position

PITTSBURGH – The Pennsylvania Supreme Court has named attorney Barbara Griffin the new chair of the Pennsylvania Lawyers Fund for Client Security Board. The Washington, Pa. native and current Squirrel Hill resident is the Director of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation’s Pro Bono Center. She is the first woman and the first African-American to be named to the position.

“I’m honored to do this work on behalf of the citizens of Pennsylvania,” Griffin said. “The Lawyers Fund for Client Security is crucial part of our legal system that helps protect those who have been wronged by attorneys they trusted to represent them.”

Griffin was originally nominated for a position on the board by Pa. Supreme Court Justice Debra Todd.

“As Director of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation’s Pro Bono Center since 2007, Barbara Griffin has established an impeccable reputation for integrity and public service,” Justice Todd said. “This is why I was happy to nominate her in 2018 for appointment to the Pennsylvania Lawyers’ Fund for Client Security Board. Based on her outstanding commitment and performance as a member and Vice Chair of that Board, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court has now appointed her as the incoming Chair. I am confident that this important board will accomplish great things under her stewardship.

Created in 1982, the fund reimburses clients who have suffered losses as the result of misappropriation of funds by Pennsylvania attorneys. Examples of such instances include an attorney accepting a retainer from a client, then not doing any work or returning it, or an attorney representing a client, reaching a settlement, then keeping the money rather than giving it to the client.

The fund seeks to preserve the integrity of the legal profession, while also building public confidence in the justice system. It is funded from Pennsylvania attorneys as part of a mandatory assessment. It consists of a seven-member volunteer board, composed of five lawyers and two non-lawyers. Board members are appointed by the Supreme Court and hold three-year terms and may serve for a maximum of six years. Griffin as named to the board in 2018, then appointed Chair on Jan. 19. For more on the Pennsylvania Lawyers Fund for Client Security, visit www.PaLawFund.com.

About Barbara Griffin

Barbara Griffin is the Director of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation’s Pro Bono Center where she creates, manages and supports programs that provide free legal services to individuals and families with low incomes facing legal issues that threaten their basic human needs.

Although she began her career in private practice at both large and small law firms, Griffin has mostly been a public interest lawyer. She served as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Texas, where she provided general counsel to the agency and wrote advisory opinions on a wide range of issues. She worked for the Texas House of Representatives writing reports and summaries of legislative developments on public policy issues for state legislators. She also served as a law clerk to the Hon. Eugene Strassburger in the Civil Division of the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas. Griffin is an Associate Professor at Duquesne University School of Law, teaching the Civil Rights Clinic.

In 2018, she was named the Tanya Niemen Pro Bono Professional of the Year by the National Association of Pro Bono Professionals. The Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network, Inc., named Griffin winner of the 2017 Excellence Award, which recognizes exceptional individuals who have demonstrated excellence in their efforts to expand access to justice for those who have nowhere else to turn for help when facing critical legal problems.

Griffin is a member of the Allegheny County Bar Association and the Pennsylvania Bar Association. She is a member of the Pennsylvania Civil Legal Justice Coalition and served on the 2011 PBA Task Force on the Interbranch Juvenile Justice.

Griffin earned her J.D. from the University of Texas School of Law in 1991, where she was as an Executive Editor of the *Texas Law Review*. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Foreign Service from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

A native of Washington, Pa., Griffin now lives in the Squirrel Hill section of Pittsburgh with her husband, Jeff Mukogosi. She has three children, Joan, Josphat and Kira.

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