Public Hearing: Protecting Pennsylvania - Accountablility and Justice in Second-Degree Murder Sentencing

The purpose of this hearing is to examine how Pennsylvania can establish a constitutional second-degree murder sentencing framework that holds offenders accountable, protects the public and gives victims' families a meaningful voice. Testifiers will discuss sentencing standards, parole eligibility and the safeguards needed to prevent dangerous offenders from returning to Pennsylvania communities.

August 13, 2026 | 1:00 p.m.

Hearing Overview

- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Welcome**
- **Opening Remarks**
  - Chairman David H. Rowe
  - State Representative Valerie Gaydos
- **Letters from Stella Getgen, wife of Todd Getgen, and Christine Hickman, sister of Todd Getgen**
- **Testimony from Invited Experts**
- **Member Discussion with Testifiers**
- **Closing Comments & Adjournment**

Testifiers

- **Matthew J. Brown**, CEM, CFPS, Chief, Department of Emergency Services, Allegheny County
- **Ronald M. Wabby**, Deputy District Attorney, Critical Case Review Unit, Appellate Division, Allegheny County
- **Nicole Ziccarelli**, Westmoreland County District Attorney
- **Robert (Bob) Manzi, Jr.**, Indiana County District Attorney

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About the Testifiers



Matthew J. Brown

Matthew J. Brown, CEM, CFPS is Chief of the Allegheny County Department of Emergency Services, a position he has held since 2015. He brings more than 39 years of experience in emergency services, emergency management, industrial safety, hazardous materials, security, investigations, and close protection. Prior to joining Allegheny County, Chief Brown served as Executive Director of the Pittsburgh Regional Business Coalition for Homeland Security and held several leadership positions during a 27-year career with U.S. Steel. A lifelong volunteer firefighter, he has served in numerous leadership roles, including Deputy Chief of the Munhall Bureau of Fire. Chief Brown holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Phoenix.



Ronald M. Wabby

Ronald M. Wabby serves as Deputy District Attorney with the Critical Case Review Unit of the Appellate Division. In this role, he provides legal analysis and oversight of complex and significant criminal cases, helping ensure that matters are thoroughly reviewed throughout the appellate process. With extensive experience in criminal law and prosecution, Mr. Wabby brings a strong understanding of courtroom proceedings, legal strategy, and the challenges involved in handling high-profile and critical cases. His work reflects a commitment to upholding the law, protecting the integrity of the criminal justice system, and pursuing fair and just outcomes.



Nicole Ziccarelli

Nicole W. Ziccarelli serves as District Attorney of Westmoreland County, a position she has held since January 2022 after being elected as the county's first female district attorney. She is a graduate of Penn State University and Penn State Dickinson School of Law. Prior to taking office, Ziccarelli gained experience in private practice and through legal and prosecutorial roles, including work with the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office and as a law clerk to former Pennsylvania Supreme Court Chief Justice Ralph J. Cappy. As District Attorney, she is focused on public safety, crime prevention, protecting victims, and pursuing justice throughout Westmoreland County.



Robert (Bob) Manzi, Jr.

Robert F. Manzi Jr. serves as District Attorney of Indiana County, Pennsylvania. He has extensive experience in Indiana County's legal system, including previously serving as solicitor for Indiana County Children & Youth Services, where he handled dependency hearings, termination proceedings, appeals, and related legal matters. As District Attorney, Manzi oversees the prosecution of criminal cases throughout the county and works with local law enforcement and community organizations to promote public safety and justice.