Pine Twp. Resident Lori E. McMaster Takes Over as President of Allegheny County Bar Association

**McMaster is Executive Director of Professional Development at Pitt Law**

PITTSBURGH – Pine Twp. attorney Lori E. McMaster will officially become the 111th President of the Allegheny County Bar Association on Monday, July 1. Her one-year term will end on June 30, 2020.

“I am so grateful for this opportunity to serve the Allegheny County Bar Association, and by extension, the legal profession,” McMaster said. “My husband Dave and I are both attorneys and met in law school. We have 25-year-old triplets, and I often reflect on the fact that I owe my personal and professional happiness to the law.”

McMaster is the Executive Director of the Professional Development Office at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. She was elected President-Elect of the nearly 6,000-member ACBA in 2018 and served in that capacity for the past year. She replaces Bryan Neft, who completed his term on June 30.

“Lori has great instincts on how to approach an issue,” Neft said. “She is deliberate, well-spoken and works with different constituencies to get things done. The Pittsburgh legal community is in good hands with Lori as president of the Allegheny County Bar Association.”

McMaster said that among her primary goals for her term as president is celebrating the 150th anniversary of the ACBA.

“The ACBA will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2020. That is quite a milestone for a tremendous organization that has had such a positive impact on Pittsburgh-area attorneys and the community overall for the past century-and-a-half,” McMaster said. “We want to celebrate this historic anniversary by organizing a variety of pro bono events and community service activities that will help the attorneys of Pittsburgh connect with and help the people of our region. We'll be developing family activities so that our members can tangibly contribute to their own communities, whether by cleaning up a local baseball field, volunteering at a local food bank, or engaging in another outreach effort that is dear to them.”

Among McMaster's other goals are helping to promote diversity within the legal profession, especially focusing on strategies to promote the retention of diverse law students in Pittsburgh after they graduate.

“We’re fortunate that Pittsburgh is home to two great law schools who have an established history of collaborating together around issues of central importance to the region,” she said. “I look forward to working with my colleagues at Pitt Law and my friends at Duquesne Law to explore ways to keep the wealth of talent represented by our diverse student bodies here in Pittsburgh.”

During her presidency, McMaster also will be overseeing the ACBA's efforts to renovate and "right-size" its downtown Pittsburgh office space.
About Lori McMaster

A Wilkinsburg native and prior resident of Oakmont and Belfast, Ireland, McMaster currently resides in Pine Twp. She earned a bachelor’s degree in Political Science from Allegheny College in 1981 and a juris doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law in 1986.

After law school, she practiced for nearly 20 years as a trial attorney in law firms in Pittsburgh and Cleveland. Her practice focused on complex corporate litigation involving breach of contract, civil rights, employment law, insurance law, personal injury defense, insurance bad faith, and products liability in state, federal and appellate courts. Following her law firm tenure, McMaster was a Senior Attorney Search Director with Special Counsel, handling direct hire attorney placement for law firms and corporate legal departments.

She returned to her alma mater and joined Pitt Law in 2011. In her current role, she serves with senior administration and is responsible for oversight of departmental and career services related functions on behalf of law students and alumni. She engages in employer outreach and supervises activities designed to increase employment opportunities in diverse geographic markets. She provides career counseling to students and alumni regarding job and internship opportunities in the private and public sectors, effective strategies for securing preferred positions, networking advice, cover letter and résumé review, mock interviews and more.

McMaster has been involved in numerous facets of the ACBA throughout her legal career. She currently or previously held positions on the bar association’s Board of Governors; Bench-Bar Conference Committee; Finance Committee; Committee on Law and Disability; Membership Committee; Nominating Committee; Nontraditional Attorneys Committee; Political Action Committee; Professional Conduct Ad Hoc Committee; and 150th Anniversary Committee.

As a former Chair and long-standing member of the ACBA’s Women in the Law Division, McMaster has been very involved in the ACBA efforts to promote gender equality in the legal profession, including participation on the Committee to Advance Professionalism and End Gender Bias; and Gender Equality Committee. She is a former recipient of the WLD’s Hon. Carol Los Mansmann Helping Hand Award. She’s a sustaining fellow with the Allegheny County Bar Foundation and is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association’s House of Delegates.

In addition to her legal work, McMaster serves as a Lector for Saints John and Paul Parish in Sewickley and previously chaired the parish’s Special Needs Awareness Committee. McMaster has advocated widely on behalf of children and adults on the Autism spectrum. She is a recipient of the Children’s Services Award of the Mental Health Association of Allegheny County, and the Community Champion Award of the Advisory Board on Autism and Related Disorders.

She and her husband Dave McMaster, who is a real estate attorney, are the proud parents of 25 year-old triplets.

Additional New Officers

In addition to McMaster serving as President, the Allegheny County Bar Association also announced the following officers for 2019-20: Elizabeth Hughes will serve as President-Elect; Nicola Henry-Taylor will serve as Secretary; and James R. Mall will serve as Treasurer.

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About the ACBA

Chartered in 1870 and headquartered in downtown Pittsburgh, the Allegheny County Bar Association is a professional organization with nearly 6,000 member attorneys, judges, district justices, legal administrators and paralegals.