Upper St. Clair’s Melaine Shannon Rothey Elected 
President of the Allegheny County Bar Association

Rothey Practices Family Law with Jones, Gregg, Creehan and Gerace

PITTSBURGH – Attorney Melaine Shannon Rothey has been elected the 108th President of the Allegheny County Bar Association. Her one-year term officially begins July 1 and will end on June 30, 2017.

“I am honored to begin my term as President of the Allegheny County Bar Association,” said Rothey, who has been practicing law for 32 years. “Attorneys play an invaluable role in society as we work to ensure the fair administration of justice and protect the rights of all individuals. I am excited about taking on the challenges that come with leading this historic organization and serving the members, my fellow Pittsburgh-area lawyers.”

Rothey is a Senior Attorney at Jones, Gregg, Creehan & Gerace, LLP and heads the firm’s Domestic Relations Department, where she concentrates her practice in all aspects of family law, including divorce, child custody and support.

Rothey was elected President-Elect of the 6,000-member ACBA in 2015 and served in that capacity for the past year. She replaces Mark A. Martini, who completed his term on June 30.

“Melaine will do an outstanding job in her role as president,” said Martini. “She is very passionate about advancing the legal profession. Her knowledge, experience and enthusiasm will benefit not only the lawyers practicing law in Allegheny County and beyond, but also the overall Western Pennsylvania community.”

Rothey said that promoting mentoring for young attorneys and “melding together” the various generations of lawyers currently practicing in Western Pennsylvania are among her primary goals for her term as president.

“This is such an interesting time in the legal profession, as we have attorneys from four different generations currently practicing,” said Rothey. “One of my primary goals as president is increasing the interaction of attorneys from within each of these generations so that we can all learn from one another.”

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Promoting diversity within the legal community and working to ensure equal treatment of those in the profession are additional goals for Rothey, who is the first openly gay president in ACBA history. Additionally, she hopes to encourage attorneys to serve the community through pro bono legal work and other charitable pursuits.

About Melaine Rothey

Rothey obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree from Marquette University in Milwaukee in 1979 and her Juris Doctor degree from the Duquesne University School of Law in 1984. She is admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

Rothey began her career in 1984 with the Allegheny County Public Defender’s Office, where she primarily represented clients before the Pennsylvania appellate courts. She later worked as a shareholder at a Pittsburgh-area boutique firm specializing in family law. She joined Jones, Gregg, Creehan and Gerace in 2007.

Rothey has been an active member of the ACBA since 1984 and is a member of the association’s Family Law Section and Women in the Law Division. Rothey has regularly served on seminar panels for the ACBA and the Pennsylvania Bar Institute in the areas of custody, support and equitable distribution. She is a Fellow in the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.

Rothey is also heavily involved in the Allegheny County Bar Foundation and the Neighborhood Legal Services Association, organizations that focus on the charitable pursuits of the Pittsburgh-area legal community, such as providing free legal services to low-income individuals. Rothey frequently works as a pro bono attorney assisting individuals with protection from abuse actions. She is currently on the board of directors of the NLSA and is a former member of the Board of Trustees of the ACBF. Rothey received the 2006 Pennsylvania Bar Association Legal Services to the Public Committee Pro Bono Award and the 2006 ACBA Individual Pro Bono Award.

Rothey is a native of Penn Hills and grew up in Chicago and Milwaukee. She currently lives in Upper St. Clair with her wife, Gretchen Schumacher. She has three children: Andrew Rothey, an attorney with Rosen, Louik and Perry; Amanda Bundy, a high school history teacher in Columbus, Ohio; and Aaron Rothey, who will enter law school at Ohio State University this fall.

Additional New Officers

In addition to Rothey serving as President, the Allegheny County Bar Association also announced the following officers for 2016-2017: Hal D. Coffey will serve as President-Elect, Mark A. Martini will serve as Immediate Past-President, 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 approximately 6,000 member attorneys, judges, district justices, legal administrators and paralegals.
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