

**ACBA NOMINATION APPLICATION FORM**

**To be completed by all individuals seeking nomination as an ACBA officer or member of the Board of Governors or the Judiciary Committee.**

**Return to the Nominating Committee, c/o David A. Blaner, Executive Director, ACBA, 400 Koppers Building, 436 Seventh Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15219 or to dblaner@acba.org.**

**Attach a copy of your current resume.**

**Deadline for submission is Thursday, February 17, 2022 by 4:00 p.m.**

Name:           Nina Martinelli          

Employer/Place of Business:   DeRiso, DeRiso & Jeffries, LLC.  

Address:           429 4<sup>th</sup> Ave #2100 Pittsburgh, PA 15219          

Telephone Number:   724-963-3105           Email Address:   nmartinelli@ddslawfirm.com          

Year you became a member of the ACBA: 2016 and again in 2020  
Year of Bar Admission: 2016           

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Step 1: Identify any positions for which you would like to be considered by the Nominating Committee. If you would like to be considered for more than one position, please state your preference in numerical order (i.e., 1, 2, 3, 4).

**President-Elect**            **Treasurer**            **Board of Governors**           

**Judiciary Committee**   X

Step 2: (For Judiciary Committee Applicants Only) Please state your preference in numerical order (i.e., 1, 2, 3, 4) for any seats for which you are interested in holding and/or for which you are qualified to hold.

**At-Large Seats**        3   Two (2) seats available

**Court Seats**                      (Five (5) seats available)

Appellate Court                    

Civil Court                            

Criminal Court                1  

Family Court                            

Elder Law and

Probate & Trust                    

**Diverse Seats**                     Three (3) seats available\*

**Young Lawyer**        2   One (1) seat available  
(0 to 10 years of practice experience)

\* If applying for a Diverse Seat on the Judiciary Committee, your signature on page 3 of the application shall serve as verification that you have read and understand the term “diverse” as set forth in Section 1.3 of the ABCA By-Laws and confirm that you identify under one of the characteristics enumerated in the definition as outlined below.

ACBA By-laws - Section 1.3

“Diverse.” A person will be considered diverse for purposes of the diverse seats on the judiciary committee and for participation in the Allegheny County Bar Association Summer Clerkship Program, if they self-identify as one or more of the following:

American Indian or Alaska Native. A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America) and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.

Asian. A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Black or African American. A person having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa. Hispanic or Latinx. A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.

Middle Eastern or North African. A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Middle East or North Africa including, for example, Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel,

Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.

LGBTQ+. A person who is lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (or questioning), plus. The "plus" is inclusive of the gender identities and sexual orientations that are not specifically covered by the other five initials.

An individual with a disability as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

This definition may be amended by resolution of the Board of Governors from time to time as needed.

## ACBA Nominating Committee Application

Practice Areas/Courts in which you practice:

Criminal Law

State court & federal court (Western District of PA)

Please describe your involvement in ACBA Committees, Divisions/Sections, or activities over the last five (5) years:

I'm a member of the ACBA—Criminal Division. Before I was a member (right after graduating law school) I attended meetings with Attorney Tom Farrell (employer at the time). I attend the monthly meetings and am a council member. I am also in a subcommittee for the ACBA that was recently formed. The goal is take a critical look at court appointment fees and if there is a correlation between the current rates and its effect on the representation of indigent defendants and propose solutions to make the criminal system more fair for all defendants.

If you are applying for nomination to the Judiciary Committee, please describe experience, other than or in addition to litigation experience that makes you particularly able to evaluate candidates for judicial office:

I've been an attorney for a little over 5 years and worked in the Public Defender's Office in Allegheny County for 3 of those years. I've practiced before every magistrate in Allegheny County and every Judge in the Court of Common Pleas (criminal) for all types of proceedings—preliminary hearings to homicide trials. I also have practiced before numerous Family/Juvenile Judges. I was also involved with various judicial campaigns this past election cycle. My experience as a trial attorney and representing indigent citizens and listening to their concerns about the criminal justice system helps me to evaluate candidates for judicial office.

Signature



Date

2-15-22

NOTE: Please submit this form with a copy of your current resume.

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2021

**Nina Martinelli**

605 W. Sutter Rd.  
Glenshaw, PA 15116

nina.martinelli@outlook.com  
724-963-3105

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**Experience**

**DeRiso, DeRiso & Jeffries, LLC.**

September 2020-present

Pittsburgh, PA

Associate/Criminal Defense

- Experience representing clients in criminal matters from pre-arrest, Preliminary Hearing through Trial
- Sole attorney at the firm practicing only criminal law representing clients at the state and federal levels
- Time management skills to manage administrative duties as well as case preparation

**Allegheny County Office of the Public Defender**

July 2017 – September 2020

Pittsburgh, PA

*Assistant Public Defender*

- Experience representing clients who are indigent, suffer from mental illness, and/or suffer from addiction issues at all stages of court proceedings, including preliminary hearings, trial, and juvenile matters
- Sole attorney responsible for overseeing 250 plus clients in the Drug Court Diversion Program supervised by the Honorable Lester G. Nauhaus
- Participated in writing numerous bond motions and petitions to lift detainer in a successful effort to release hundreds of inmates from the Allegheny County Jail during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Research complex legal issues to prepare for pre-trial motions and trials
- Work independently, but also collaborate with co-workers and peers to brainstorm solutions for clients
- Experience with juggling a high caseload, with deadlines, and managing high pressure situations

**Thomas N. Farrell & Associates**

August 2016 - March 2017

Pittsburgh, PA

*Law Clerk/Associate*

- As a newly admitted lawyer to the PA Bar, second sat Attorney Farrell in a child rape and homicide cases
- Assisted Attorney Farrell with juvenile criminal matters
- Experience representing clients in preliminary hearings, pre-trial motions, trials, pleas, sentencing, probation revocations, and appeals
- Represented a client in an expedited argument before the PA Superior Court
- Argued motions in Family Division
- General office duties, including, but not limited to: filing motions at the Court of Common Pleas, PA Superior Court and PA Supreme Court, taking calls from prospective clients, meeting with prospective clients at the office and Allegheny County Jail, requesting and organizing discovery, requesting transcripts, etc.

**The Law Office of Nicola Henry-Taylor, LLC.**

October 2014 to May 2016

Pittsburgh, PA

*Criminal Law Clerk*

- As a law student, managed criminal (both state and federal), family, dependency and delinquency cases by drafting client letters, overseeing due dates on calendar, and filing
- Sole law clerk responsible for drafting motions and conducting legal research, such as: discovery requests, entry of appearance, bond reduction, competency evaluations, voluntary termination of parental rights contracts (Act 101), sentencing memorandums, positions with respect to sentencing factors, furlough, direct and cross examination

- Acted as a liaison for attorney by communicating with clients, Assistant United States Attorneys, District Attorneys, the Attorney General's Office judicial law clerks and various court administrators in Allegheny, Butler and Westmoreland counties
- Observed courtroom proceedings, such as: Status Conference (state), Permanency Review Hearings, Change of Plea Hearing (federal), Sentencing (federal), and Presentence Investigation Interviews
- Interviewed potential employees with Office Manager and Attorney and assisted with training
- Participated in redesigning the company website and managed edits to the website and blog posts

**The Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, Family Division**

Spring 2015

The Honorable Judge Kim D. Eaton

Pittsburgh, PA

*Law Clerk*

- Participated in a judicial externship for academic credit through the Duquesne University School of Law Tribone Center
- Observed courtroom proceedings, including: divorce, custody, support, delinquency and dependency hearings involving Children, Youth and Family Services, protection from abuse orders, consent decrees, etcetera
- Witnessed conciliations with family attorneys and Judge Eaton conducted in chambers
- Performed legal research

**Duquesne University Office of Human Resource Management**

2011-2015

Pittsburgh, PA

*Student Aide*

- Worked closely with the student employment recruiter to manage hundreds of students with a financial need to obtain a work-study position. This involved quickly assessing and resolving students and parents' questions regarding student employment. The volume and urgency from students and parents to quickly resolve an issue developed skills of efficiency, stress-management, time-management, quick-learning, independent and team work in an office setting
- Proficient in PowerPoint, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Outlook

**Education**

**Duquesne University School of Law**

June 2016

Pittsburgh, PA

*Juris Doctor*

*Major Concentration in Criminal Law*

- CALI Excellence for the Future Award in Appellate Practice and Procedure
- Co-organizer: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Immigration Rights Panel
- "Seminar poses workplace scenarios on race, gender, sexual orientation" published in the Lawyers Journal, May 2016.
- Participant in Duquesne's Ireland Study Abroad Program during the Summer of 2014 Completed courses in Human Rights, taught at Queens University in Belfast, International Arbitration and Law of the European Union, taught at University College Dublin & Student Leader Ireland Summer Study Abroad Program in the Summer of 2015

**Duquesne University**

May 2013

Pittsburgh, PA

*Bachelor of Arts degrees in Political Science and Sociology*

- Graduated Cum Laude