

JOSH PRINCE

Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania *for Justice*

Today, I am announcing my candidacy for judge of the Commonwealth Court. As some of you may be aware, at the end of this year, Judge Ellen Ceisler will be retiring and resultantly, an election for her position will occur in 2025. During my previous candidacy, I was extremely honored and blessed to receive an outpouring of support from numerous Pennsylvania House and Senate Members, Sheriffs, local elected officials, and pro-rights organizations, including even the Pennsylvania Sheriffs' Association – PAC. At the time, I was told that I received more endorsements than any political candidate had received in the history of the Commonwealth.

Whether that was accurate and if so, whether it still holds true, I have no idea; however, I believe my qualifications as a civil rights attorney – ardently and successfully defending the state and federal constitutions in the state and federal courts, with a significant portion of my practice being before the Commonwealth Court, both in its original and appellate jurisdiction – as well as, my unparalleled success before the Commonwealth Court, not only make me uniquely qualified but reflect the absolutely necessary aptitude for a judge on the Commonwealth Court.

For those of you who don't know anything about me, I've spent my entire career defending our constitutional rights in the state and federal courts. While I am extremely well known for my Second Amendment advocacy, I've handled numerous other constitutional issues, including freedom of speech, religious freedom, parental rights, due process, equal protection and a number matters involving the right of the people against unreasonable searches and seizures.

I was also at the tip of the spear in fighting the COVID mandates – including risking my law license by remaining open and successfully challenging Governor Wolf's mandate forcing the closure of law firms. How many of you knew that Governor Wolf forced the closure of law firms, so no one could challenge his mandate? It was only because of the challenge I brought before the PA Supreme Court that law firms were deemed essential and allowed to reopen. Think about the impact of that for a minute – the due process rights, parental custodial matters, and other constitutional issues that all would have gone unvindicated, if I hadn't stepped up. And my Firm and I didn't stop there. We went on to represent and advise small businesses across the Commonwealth that were being fined by the Wolf Administration, including Taste of Sicily, where we were successful in having close to \$100,000 in fines thrown out by a court of law.

For all of these reasons, I am announcing my campaign – Prince For Justice. In the very near future, you will be able to find the campaign website at PrinceForJustice.com, and on the homepage, for those of who I haven't had the fortune of meeting, you'll see [a podcast interview](#) from last election cycle. If you, your friends or family don't know anything about

me or want to learn more, I talk about everything from family, to ethics, to the civil rights cases I've litigated, to my judicial philosophy. While it is 47 minutes long, for far too long, I've heard voters in PA state that they never have an opportunity to learn about the judicial candidates, especially who they are as individuals. The voters deserve more and in my campaign, I intend to provide that to them. In that vein, you can find our Campaign social media accounts at the bottom of this announcement.

While a more formal announcement will be forthcoming, until then, I would be extremely appreciative if you would please let your fellow state committee members, friends, family and other loved ones know of my candidacy. The 2025 election cycle will be EXTREMELY important, as there will be one vacancy on the Commonwealth Court and two vacancies on the Superior Court. We must ensure that only the most qualified candidates, who will only *ever* uphold the law as written and the Constitution as intended, are elected. If you truly want to know whether a candidate is qualified, as a bellwether, look at the cases they've litigated, in what courts, and their rates of success. We'll be listing just a few of the cases I'm most proud of on the campaign website, in addition to those listed on my attached curriculum vitae; but quite honestly, for those of you who know me, those are just the tip of the iceberg.

For those of you who may be wondering, while I would not trade my past experience of running in the primary as the unendorsed candidate and learning about the true purpose of the direct primary system that our Party adopted in 1860 *for anything* in the world, this election cycle, I have decided, assuming the Party decides to endorse judicial candidates, that I will only run in the primary if I am the endorsed candidate for the Commonwealth Court.

Regardless, over the forthcoming months, I truly look forward to meeting and seeing all of you out on the campaign trail, as my wife, Jessica, and I go across the Commonwealth and once again, visit all 67 counties. When you see me at events, please do not hesitate to come up to me and ask the hard questions. Many candidates will duck behind the judicial canons and contend that they cannot answer the hard questions. While the canons, rightfully so, preclude a candidate from responding to how he or she would rule in a particular situation, your First Amendment rights guarantee you the right to ask me any question, and my First Amendment rights guarantee me the right to respond. As the late Justice Scalia wrote for the majority in relation to the Minnesota State Supreme Court's canon prohibiting judicial candidates from announcing their views on disputed legal and political issues:

debate on the qualifications of candidates is at the core of our electoral process and of the First Amendment freedoms, not at the edges. The role that elected officials play in our society makes it all the more imperative that they be allowed freely to express themselves on matters of current public importance. It is simply not the function of government to select which issues are worth discussing or debating in the course of a political campaign. We have never allowed the government to prohibit candidates from communicating relevant information to voters during an election. (internal quotations and citations omitted).

That being said, please understand that my political views get checked at the courthouse doors and I will never allow any political party to attempt to influence my independent reasoning. The oath I took to become an attorney and will again take, if so blessed, to be

sworn in as a judge on the Commonwealth Court requires that I first and foremost uphold and defend the Pennsylvania and U.S. Constitutions. Unlike others, I have a proven track record of doing just that and that will *never* change.

So let the campaign begin and the most qualified candidate be elected!

Joshua Prince, Esq.
2025 Judicial Candidate for Commonwealth Court
717-462-7474

www.PrinceForJustice.com

<https://www.facebook.com/PrinceForPA>

<https://www.instagram.com/PrinceForPA>

<https://x.com/PrinceForPA>

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BAR ADMISSIONS

State Admissions

Pennsylvania Supreme Court – October 13, 2009
Maryland Court of Appeals – June 12, 2017

Federal Admissions

U.S. Supreme Court – January 22, 2013
U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit – February 15, 2019
U.S. Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit – April 11, 2012
U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit – July 17, 2017
U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Pennsylvania – March 19, 2010
U.S. District Court, Middle District of Pennsylvania – February 10, 2012
U.S. District Court, Western District of Pennsylvania – December 20, 2012
U.S. District Court, District of Columbia – August 6, 2018 (Bar No. PA0081)
U.S. District Court, District of Maryland – March 5, 2020
U.S. District Court, District of Colorado – June 16, 2011

EDUCATION

McGill University, Montreal, Canada

- **Double Major in Political Science and World Religions**
- **Graduated Cum Laude**

Widener University of Law, Harrisburg, PA

2006 - 2009

- **Top 10% of class**
- **Member of the Widener Law Journal**
- **Graduated Cum Laude**

EMPLOYMENT

Prince Law Offices, P.C., Bechtelsville, PA

2009 - present

- Handling legal matters, including, but not limited to:

- Civil Rights deprivations at the state and federal level, including unlawful seizure, failure to provide procedural and substantive due process, and violations of equal rights;
- Class Actions;
- Mental Health Commitments under Pennsylvania’s Mental Health and Procedures Act;
- Criminal Law;
- School Law, including requirements to provide students with due process and the appointment of school law enforcement officers; and,
- Estate Planning and Administration.

Civil Rights Defense Firm, P.C., Bechtelsville, PA 2016 - present

- Handling legal matters, including, but not limited to:
 - All firearms law and Second Amendment issues at the state and federal level;
 - Civil Rights deprivations at the state and federal level, including unlawful seizure, failure to provide procedural and substantive due process, and violations of equal rights; and,
 - Class Actions.

SELECT MAJOR CASES

- *Suarez, et al. v. PSP Commissioner*, 1:21-cv-710, 2024 WL 3521517 (M.D. Pa. July 24, 2024) – Establishing that Pennsylvania’s state of emergency provision (18 Pa.C.S. § 6107) was facially unconstitutional in relation to the Second Amendment and its transportation law (18 Pa.C.S. § 6106) was partially, facially unconstitutional to the extent that it precluded the carrying of a loaded firearm in a vehicle without a license and imposed restrictions on the locations to and from that one may transport an unloaded firearm in the absence of a license.
- *Lara, et al. v. Commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police*, 91 F.4th 122 (3d Cir. 2024) – Establishing before the Third Circuit that Pennsylvania’s banning of 18-to-21-year-olds from carrying firearms outside of their homes during a state of emergency violates the Second Amendment.
- *John Doe, et al. v. Monroe County, et al*, Docket No. 6384 cv 2015, (Monroe County Court of Common Pleas) – Initially obtaining an injunction against the former Sheriff’s enforcement of unlawful license to carry firearm applicant requirements and thereafter, obtaining a class action settlement of \$4 million dollars for the Sheriff’s disclosure of confidential license to carry firearms applicant/licensee information through the use of un-enveloped postcards.
- *Commonwealth v. Hicks*, 652 Pa. 353 (2019) – Establishing before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, as an Amicus Curiae, that the mere open or

concealed carrying of a firearm does not, in and of itself, result in reasonable suspicion of a crime. More than 80% of the arguments I put forth were adopted by the Court.

- *Landmark Firearms LLC, et al. v. Col. Robert Evanchick*, 694 M.D. 2019 (Pa. Cmwlth. 2019) – Obtaining a preliminary injunction enjoining the Pennsylvania State Police’s from implementing and enforcing its “partially manufactured frames and receivers” policy, which was based upon Attorney General Josh Shapiro’s Legal Opinion of December 16, 2019.
- *Firearm Owners Against Crime, et al. v. City of Pittsburgh*, 276 A.3d 878 (Pa. Cmwlth. 2022) – Establishing, for the first time, firearm field preemption in the Commonwealth and obtaining declaratory relief, striking down all three ordinances and signage erected by the City of Pittsburgh, which regulated firearms and ammunition, including, *inter alia*, a ban on “assault rifles,” “high capacity magazines,” and an extreme risk protection order provision.
- *Alton Franklin v. Sessions, et al.*, 291 F.Supp.3d 705 (W.D. Pa. 2017) – Establishing for the first time in Pennsylvania that a 302 evaluation under Pennsylvania’s Mental Health and Procedures Act does not trigger a federal prohibition under 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(4), due to the lack of due process provided. *See also, Wilborn v. Barr*, 401 F. Supp. 3d 501 (E.D. Pa. 2019) – Establishing the same.
- *Commonwealth v. Goslin*, 2017 PA Super 38 (*en banc*) – Establishing that an individual is entitled to the defense found within 18 Pa.C.S. § 912(c), if he/she is in lawful possession of a weapon on school grounds, provided that it is possessed for a lawful purpose.
- *Michael Keyes, et al., v. Lynch, et al.*, 195 F.Supp.3d 702 (M.D. Pa. 2016) and 282 F.Supp.3d 858 (M.D. Pa. 2017) – Establishing for a first time in the Nation a right to relief under a Second Amendment *as-applied* challenge to a single-isolated involuntary mental health commitment. The court held that 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(4)’s prohibition, in perpetuity, was unconstitutional as applied. Thereafter, I was successful in reinstating Plaintiff Keyes’ claim and obtaining relief for him, as well.
- *John Doe, et al. v. Franklin County, et al.*, 139 A.3d 296 (Cmwlth. Ct. 2016) – Establishing that pursuant to 18 Pa.C.S. § 6111(i) that all license to carry firearms applicant information is confidential and not subject to disclosure, including through the use of un-enveloped postcards and thereafter, in docket no. 2014-cv-4623 (Franklin County Court of Common Pleas) obtaining a class action settlement of \$3 million dollars for the Sheriff’s disclosure of confidential license to carry firearms applicant/licensee information through the use of un-enveloped postcards.

- *Andrew Dissinger v. Manheim Township School District*, 72 A.3d 723 (Pa. Cmwlth. 2013) – Represented Mr. Dissinger in an action regarding violations of his due process rights, which the Commonwealth Court confirmed. Thereafter, represented Mr. Dissinger in a federal civil rights deprivation action, 5:14-cv-2741 in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, which resulted in a settlement.
- *Justin Dillon v. City of Erie*, 1038 C.D. 2013 (Pa. Cmwlth. 2013) – Establishing that state preemption precludes the City of Erie’s ordinance criminalizing the possession of firearms in city parks.
- *John Doe, et al. v. City of Philadelphia, et al.*, Docket No. 121203785, (Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas, 2012) – Class action lawsuit against the City of Philadelphia and several other defendants relating to their publication of statutorily confidential information, which resulted in a \$1.425 million dollar settlement.
- *Barbara Hensch, et al., v. Perry County Sheriff Carl Nace*, Docket No. 2014-454 (Perry County Court of Common Pleas, 2014) – Successfully represented Sheriff Nace, *pro-bono*, in an action by the Perry County Auditors to force him to disclose statutorily confidential information.
- *Caba v. Weaknecht*, 64 A.3d 39 (Pa. Cmwlth. 2012) – Before the Commonwealth Court, successfully established both a liberty and property interest, for procedural due process purposes, in an issued license.

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

Law Journal Publications

- Joshua G. Prince and Allen Thompson, *The Inalienable Right to Stand Your Ground*, St. Thomas Law Journal, 27 St. Thomas. L. Rev. 32 (2015)
- Joshua G. Prince, *Fee Disputes in Workers' Compensation Cases: The Hendricks/Weidner Headache*, Widener Law Journal, Vol. 18, No. 2 (2009)
- Joshua G. Prince, *Violating Due Process: Convictions Based on the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record when its "Files are Missing"*, Article awaiting publication in a Law Journal, *available at* https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2752028

Select Legal Publications

- Joshua Prince, *Standing Your Ground in Pennsylvania: The Constitutional and Statutory Right to Defend Oneself and Others* (PA ASSOC. OF CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEYS, FOR THE DEFENSE, Vol. 9, Issue 3, September 2024)

- *11th Annual Firearms Law: What Every Texas Lawyer Need to Know*, Chapter 9, *Legislation from the Bureaucracy*, Joshua G. Prince (TX. BAR ASSOC. 2022).
- *10th Annual Firearms Law: What Every Texas Lawyer Need to Know*, Chapter 7, *Firearm Rights Restoration*, Joshua G. Prince (TX. BAR ASSOC. 2021).
- *9th Annual Firearms Law: What Every Texas Lawyer Need to Know*, Chapter 3, *Firearm Rights Restoration*, Joshua G. Prince (TX. BAR ASSOC. 2020).
- *7th Annual Firearms Law: What Every Texas Lawyer Need to Know*, Chapter 11, *Firearm Rights Restoration*, Joshua G. Prince (TX. BAR ASSOC. 2018).
- Joshua G. Prince, *Weapons on School Grounds: The En Banc Goslin Decision* (PA BAR ASSOC. AT ISSUE, Spring 2017) available at <http://www.pabar.org/public/yld/pubs/atissue/At%20Issue%20Spring2017.pdf>.
- Joshua G. Prince, *Grandpop's Machine Gun in the Chest: Part II of II* (PA BAR ASSOC. AT ISSUE, Spring 2013) available at <http://www.pabar.org/public/yld/pubs/atissue/AtIssueSpring13.pdf>.
- Joshua G. Prince, *Grandpop's Machine Gun in the Chest: Part I of II* (PA BAR ASSOC. AT ISSUE, Fall 2012) available at <http://www.pabar.org/public/yld/pubs/atissue/AtIssue%20Fall%202012.pdf>.
- Joshua G. Prince, *Firearms Law 101: Knowing When Your Client Loses His/Her Second Amendment Rights*, (PA BAR ASSOC. AT ISSUE, Spring 2012) available at <http://www.pabar.org/public/yld/pubs/atissue/AISpring2012.pdf>.
- Joshua G. Prince, *I Bequeath My Machine Gun to...* (PA BAR ASSOC. NEWSLETTER, REAL PROPERTY, PROBATE AND TRUST LAW, Issue No. 64), Fall 2007 at 18-19.

SELECT LEGAL SEMINARS TAUGHT

- **Locked and Loaded: Firearms Laws and Bruen Case Analysis for Defense Counsel** – 2024 Joint Annual Conference, Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
- **7th, 9th, 10th, and 11th Annual Firearms Law: What Every Texas Lawyer Needs to Know** – Texas Bar Association – 2018, 2020, 2021, and 2022
- **Firearms Law 101: Types of Lawful Firearms and Individual Prohibitions on Gun Ownership** – Federal Bar Association – April 30, 2021

- **How to Navigate the Pennsylvania Legal System After a Self-Defense Incident** – United States Concealed Carry Association – June 10, 2021
- **Firearm Rights Restoration** – State Bar of Texas, 7th Annual □□□□□□□□
Law: What Every Texas Lawyer Needs to Know, September 20-21, 2018
- **Pennsylvania License to Carry Firearms Overview** – 96th Annual Pennsylvania Sheriffs' Association Conference – July 11, 2018
- **The 4473 and You** – Penn State Law School – April 5, 2018
- **Understanding the Second Amendment, Mental Health Prohibitors and Federal Firearms Right Restoration** – USCCA Expo – April 8, 2017.
- **Gun Law: Advanced Issues** – National Business Institute (NBI) – January 31, 2017
- **My Estate Has Firearms, Now What?** – 15th Annual Estate & Elder Law Symposium, PBI – Feb 12, 2014 and Feb. 20, 2014 and 20th Annual Estate Law Conference, PBI – November 14, 2013
- **Firearms and Real Estate in Estates** – Estate Planning Council of Lehigh Valley – February 13, 2013
- **2012 Firearms Law & The Second Amendment Symposium** – View from the Street: Firearms Law in Pennsylvania and New Jersey – NRA – October 13, 2012
- **Firearms Law for Every Practitioner** – Berks Bar Assc. – July 11, 2012
- **When the Primer Ignites No More** – 18th Annual Estate Law Conference, PBI – November 18, 2011
- **Pennsylvania Gun Crimes and Sentencing** – Montgomery Bar Assc. – Sept. 9, 2011
- **Firearms & Estates** – PBI – Apr. 7, 2011
- **Firearms Law 101 – What Every Practitioner Need to Know about Firearms Law** – Berks Bar Assc. – Aug. 18, 2011
- **Firearms in Estates and Trusts** – Berks, Cumberland, and Dauphin Bar Assc. 2008-2009.