

If you don't like the status quo, vote "NO"!

As you are likely aware from your rising liability premiums, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court unilaterally rescinded venue reform in medical malpractice cases with a single-page order, effective January 1, 2023. The effect of venue reform recission was immediate and sustained: Lawsuits filed against healthcare providers in the city of Philadelphia have more than doubled on an annual basis compared to the number of filings in 2022, and are significantly higher than the filings in any of the six years before 2022. As a result, Pennsylvania's Supreme Court has perched atop the American Tort Reform Association's annual list of American Judicial Hellholes for two years running.

A thorough examination of all medical malpractice cases filed in Philadelphia in 2023 and 2024, reveals that 41% and 47% of all those cases - or nearly half - had care at issue that originated OUTSIDE the city; in other words, plaintiffs' lawyers wouldn't have been able to drag the defendant healthcare providers into Philadelphia-filed lawsuits before venue reform was thrown out.

We won't know the full impact of rolling back venue reform until new cases—most of which have no real connection to Philadelphia—go to trial and juries reach their verdicts. However, the results will likely be negative.

Ready to take action as a Pennsylvania Physician who is concerned about your ability to continue to practice and care for your patients?

Mark your calendar for November 4th—that's when you can vote in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court judicial retention election. Three PA Supreme Court justices who ended venue reform are on the ballot for a "yes" or "no" retention vote. Make sure that your staff, family, and patients make time to vote and understand this issue.

Make sure your voice is heard and VOTE in this and every election, including the Spring primaries. Politicians know who active voters are and regard their opinions accordingly.

Join PAMPAC to lend muscle to the thoughtful voices of your physician colleagues to effect positive change for your patients and your practice.

Learn the issues that affect your daily care and the positions of those on the ballot. We encourage you to research the justices up for retention. Because finding clear guidance on judicial candidates can be tough, we want to help. When you head to the polls on November 4th, here's our straightforward recommendation: If you're unhappy with how the current justices on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court rolled back venue reform and want to see change in Pennsylvania's medical malpractice environment, vote "NO" to not retain the three justices on the ballot.

We recognize and respect that you may have any number of personal or professional reasons that lead to how you vote. If venue reform is at the top of your list, we hope you find this information helpful. Please take the time to vote on November 4th, encourage your healthcare colleagues to do the same, and feel free to share this email with them.

For additional details regarding PA venue reform and recommended consent forms to engage your patients, visit <u>curi.com.</u> <u>PAMPAC</u> also has information on Pennsylvania physician advocacy.

Thank you for your commitment to excellent care to our Pennsylvania patients.

Regards,

John Pagan, MD MBA FACS

Chair and CEO PA Clinical Network

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