

PETER W. SCHMEHL

Peter W. Schmehl is a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in Berks County, Pennsylvania. He was commissioned in 1992 and retained for an additional term in 2002. He has been the Administrative Head of the Berks County Orphans' Court Division since 1994. In addition to Orphans' Court, he presides over Family Court matters, including divorce, custody, support and protection from abuse. He also presides over Juvenile Court and Mental Health cases. He has been presiding over DUI Treatment Court since July 1, 2003 and Drug/Mental Health Treatment Court since January 3, 2005.

Prior to taking the bench, Judge Schmehl was in private practice for eighteen years where he specialized in domestic law, real estate, probate, and municipal work. He was appointed by the Board of Judges of Berks County in 1985 as special master to handle all matters of divorce, alimony, equitable distribution, counsel fees, costs, etc.

Judge Schmehl received his B.A. in English from the University of Pennsylvania in 1964 and his J.D. from Villanova University School of Law in 1973.

Judge Schmehl served in the military from 1965-1969. He was a navigator of a C-130 transport for "Operation Deepfreeze." He was an instructor in Advanced Training Command at Corpus Christi Naval Air Station, Corpus Christi, Texas from 1968-1969. He departed active military service in the United States Navy Reserves as a Lieutenant Commander.

He was the recipient of the Berks County Prison Society's W. Richard Eshelman Award on April 30, 2004 and the 2005 Caron Foundation Legal/Law Enforcement Professional Award on June 7, 2005.