

<p>COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA</p> <p>JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD Pennsylvania Judicial Center 601 Commonwealth Ave., Suite 3500 P.O. Box 62525 Harrisburg, PA 17120-0901</p> <p>(717)-234-7911</p>		<p><b>OFFICIAL USE ONLY</b></p> <p>Rec'd: _____</p> <p>JCB No: _____</p> <p>County: _____</p>
<b>CONFIDENTIAL REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION</b>		
<p><b>INSTRUCTIONS:</b> Please type or print. If you wish to provide documents to support your allegations, please attach copies of those documents. <u>We cannot return documents.</u> The Board's jurisdiction extends only to Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justices, Superior and Commonwealth Court Judges, Common Pleas Court Judges, Philadelphia Municipal and Traffic Court Judges and Magisterial District Judges. Once completed, you must sign and return this form to the address above.</p> <p><b>NOTICE:</b> The Judicial Conduct Board has no authority to change a Judge's decisions or rulings. Our jurisdiction extends only to conduct that violates the Code of Judicial Conduct or the Rules Governing Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges, which may be found at our website at <a href="http://www.jcbpa.org">www.jcbpa.org</a>.</p>		
<p><b>Your Information:</b></p>		
<p>Name: Franklin D. Shaffer</p>		
<p>Address:</p>		<p>Telephone: (412) 320-0510 ( )</p>
<p>City: Frostburg</p>	<p>State: MD</p>	<p>Zip:</p>
<p><b>Judicial Officer's Information:</b></p>		
<p>Name: common pleas Judge Hugh F. McGough</p>		<p>Type of Judicial Officer:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Magisterial District Judge <input type="checkbox"/> Judge</p>
<p>County: Allegheny</p>		
<p><b>Case Information:</b> (If misconduct allegations relate to Court Proceedings.)</p>		<p><input type="checkbox"/> Case Has BeenAppealed</p>
<p>Case Name:</p>		<p>Case Docket Number: FD-16-00031</p>
<p><b>Your Attorney: Pro Se</b></p>		<p><b>Opposing Attorney:</b></p>
<p>Name: none</p>		<p>Name: Luke C. Kelly</p>
<p>Address:</p>		<p>Address:</p>
<p>Phone:</p>		<p>Phone:</p>
<p>I certify that I have read the information concerning the Judicial Conduct Board's function, jurisdiction, and procedures included in the accompanying brochure. I further swear (or affirm) that the above information is true and accurate. The statements in this complaint are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. C.S. § 4904 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities).</p>		
<p>Date: September 13, 2024</p>		
<p>Your Signature: _____</p>		

Please use this page to explain your complaint, providing as much detail as possible.  
Attach additional pages if needed.

Please note, it is not required that you present your grievance to the Board in person. Personal interviews are not required and are not usually necessary for our preliminary review, investigation, and understanding of grievances. If we need further information relative to your grievances, you will be contacted by phone or letter and arrangements will be made for an interview if deemed necessary.

**CONFIDENTIAL REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION  
OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY COMMON PLEAS JUDGE HUGH F. MCGOUGH**

**Dear Honorable Judges, Attorneys, and Citizens of the Judicial Conduct Board of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:**

My name is Franklin D. Shaffer. I was born in Morgantown, WV, on June 28, 1961.

I'm an engineer. I am not an attorney. I have no formal legal training.

I was a federal employee with the US Department of Energy for thirty-two years. I was stationed at the Pittsburgh site of the US Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL). I have a website about my background and federal service with the US Department of Energy, <http://FDShaffer.net>

In 2010, I was on the lead team (Flow Rate Technical Group of the National Incident Command) responding to the Deepwater Horizon oil leak crisis. I played an important role in stopping the damage being done to one thousand miles of US shoreline. I then played an important role in causing British Petroleum to be fined \$20.8 billion dollars. It is the largest fine of a single entity in US history. Those funds went to the fifty million people of five Gulf states to recover and rebuild.

The fine was ordered on October 5, 2015, by the Honorable US District Court Judge Carl J. Barbier for the Eastern District of Louisiana. The fine was based on a paper I wrote with Dr. Marcia McNutt: [\*Review of the Flow Rate Estimates of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Leak\*](#). We published our paper in the peer-reviewed journal, the Proceeding of the National Academy of Sciences.

At that time, Dr. McNutt was the Director of the US Geological Survey. She is now the President of the National Academy of Sciences.

I am also a civil rights activist. I worked for social justice and civil rights in Pittsburgh and at the USDOE NETL throughout my thirty-two years in Pittsburgh. A summary of my civil rights work is available on my website at this link: [http://FDShaffer.net/my\\_civil\\_rights\\_work.html](http://FDShaffer.net/my_civil_rights_work.html)

Much of my civil rights work was when I was a board member of the Thomas Merton Center (TMC) in Pittsburgh. I created and posted online the original Microsoft SharePoint team organizing website for the Thomas Merton Center for Peace and Justice in Pittsburgh.

**DOCKET FD-16-00031 IN THE COMMON PLEAS COURT OF ALLEGHENY  
COUNTY JUDGE HUGH F. MCGOUGH PRESIDING**

**Docket FD-16-00031 is purportedly a divorce case in the equitable distribution phase. It was opened on January 8, 2016.**

My wife and I were about the same age. We had no children. We made about the same annual income. We had about the same amount of retirement savings. We only needed to sell our house and split the profits/losses. That should have taken at most a year.

After eight years and nine months, FD-16-000031 is still open with no end in sight. I believe Docket FD-16-00031 in Allegheny County Court Records is a color-of-law retaliatory attack against me by Hugh F. McGough.

It is my understanding that only a “causal connection” is required to establish retaliation. In my case the causal connection is clear, but I can produce evidence to establish a direct connection for retaliation.

Below is a list of motives for Judge McGough’s illegal retaliation against me:

**MOTIVE 1 FOR JUDGE MCGOUGH’S RETALIATION AGAINST ME: MY CIVIL RIGHTS WORK WITH THE THOMAS MERTON CENTER IN PITTSBURGH**  
Ten days after Osama bin Laden attacked our country on September 11, 2001, I created and posted online the original Microsoft SharePoint team organizing website for the Thomas Merton Center for Peace and Justice in Pittsburgh. Our goal at that time was to help protect innocent Muslim and Sikh people from being attacked in the aftermath of 911.

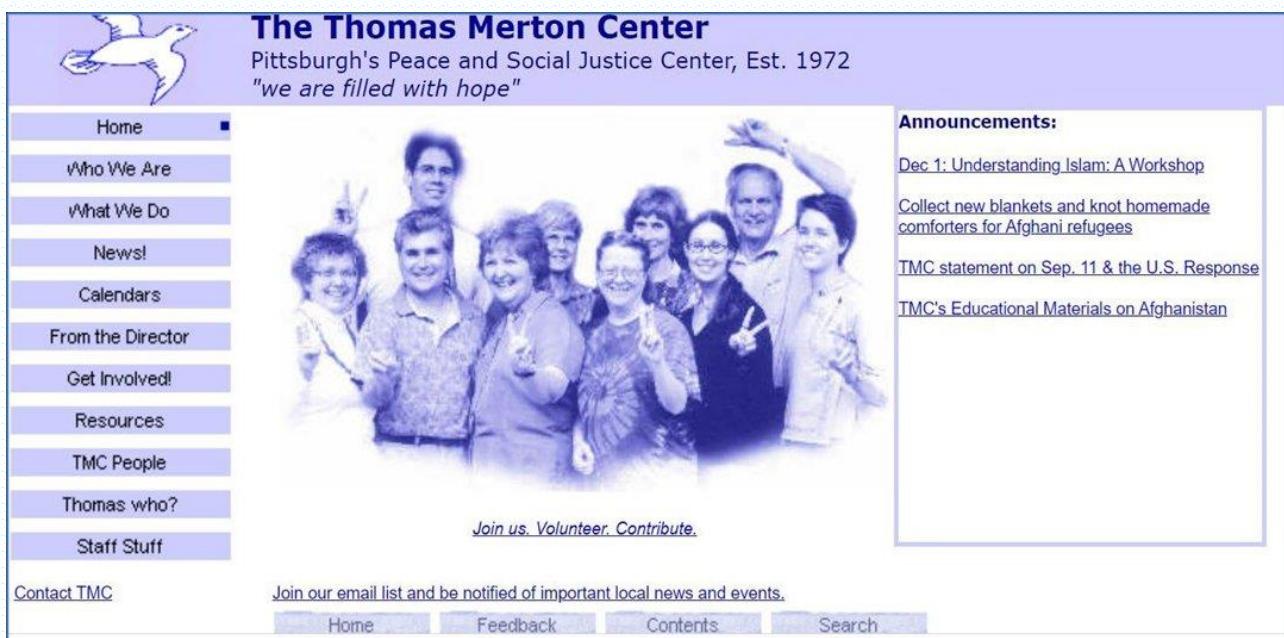
I registered the website using my name and home address. Here is a copy of my original registration for the TMC SharePoint website.

Registered with NetworkSolutions.com  
Domain Name: THOMASMERTONCENTER.ORG  
Registrant: Franklin Shaffer ([ZYXVFPDBVD](#))  
Administrative Contact, Billing Contact: Franklin Shaffer ([TIPPAYLFIO](#))  
6003 Squires Manor Lane, Library, PA 15129, 412-600-3842  
Record created on 21-Sep-2001.  
Domain server: NS2.PGHWEBSPINNERS.COM [216.91.111.209](#)

Below is a photo of the Board of Directors of the Thomas Merton Center in 2001.  
I am the tall guy on the left in the back row.



**Below is a screenshot of the original TMC.  
You can view a copy of my original TMC SharePoint on my website at:  
<http://FDShaffer.net/ThomasMertonCenter.org>**



The screenshot shows the homepage of The Thomas Merton Center. The header features a logo of a dove in flight and the text "The Thomas Merton Center" and "Pittsburgh's Peace and Social Justice Center, Est. 1972". Below the header is a banner with a group photo of people and the text "we are filled with hope". The left sidebar contains a vertical menu with links: Home, Who We Are, What We Do, News!, Calendars, From the Director, Get Involved!, Resources, TMC People, Thomas who?, Staff Stuff, and Contact TMC. The main content area includes a large photo of a group of people, a "Join us. Volunteer. Contribute." button, and an "Announcements" sidebar with links to "Dec 1: Understanding Islam: A Workshop", "Collect new blankets and knot homemade comforters for Afghani refugees", "TMC statement on Sep. 11 & the U.S. Response", and "TMC's Educational Materials on Afghanistan". At the bottom of the page are links for Home, Feedback, Contents, and Search.

We used our MS SharePoint tool to organize the civil rights and protest activities of the Thomas Merton Center.

In 2009, during the G20 Summit in Pittsburgh, the TMC SharePoint website was used to organize a peaceful protest, "The Peoples March," of more than 5000 people.

At that time, Hugh F. McGough was the Solicitor for the Citizen Police Review Board (CPRB). The CPRB was the subject of protests by the TMC because, as far as I know, the CPRB had never held one police officer accountable for unlawfully attacking peaceful protesters during the G20 Summit.

But the ACLU sued the City of Pittsburgh in federal court for illegal actions against peaceful protestors and bystanders during the G20 Summit in Pittsburgh. The City of Pittsburgh was forced to pay \$200,000 to settle two cases stemming from the illegal actions by City of Pittsburgh Police, including \$72,000 to Karen Piper, an innocent bystander, who suffered permanent hearing loss when Pittsburgh Police deployed a Long Range Acoustic Device (LRAD) against innocent citizens on a neighborhood street. LRAD was developed by the US Department of Defense for use in combat by the military. The use of LRAD had never before been used against US civilians.

## MOTIVE 2 FOR JUDGE MCGOUGH'S RETALIATION AGAINST ME: CAUSING BOB O'CONNER TO LOSE THE 2001 PITTSBURGH MAYORAL ELECTION

I first encountered Hugh F. McGough twenty-three years ago in the home of Attorney David Pollock on the eve of the 2001 Pittsburgh mayoral election. I respect Attorney Pollock. He has helped me and members of my family.

***Attorney Pollock is Judge McGough's Campaign Finance Manager.***

Dave and Rita Pollock have two sons, Adam and Josh. Adam is an attorney. Josh is a self-described “punk rocker” and civil rights activist. In 2000, I met Josh at a TMC event. Josh jokingly said he wanted to run for Mayor of Pittsburgh. I encouraged him to enter as a candidate for Mayor of Pittsburgh and told him I would support his mayoral campaign any way I could.

So I created a campaign website for Josh, [www.JoshforMayor.com](http://www.JoshforMayor.com). Not many took Josh seriously. But he got enough votes to change the results of the 2001 Mayoral election, causing Bob O'Connor to lose to Tom Murphy by 600 votes. Josh got 1100 votes. Below is a screenshot of the Josh for Mayor website. You can see the original [JoshforMayor.org](http://fdshaffer.net/JoshforMayor.org) website at this link: <http://fdshaffer.net/JoshforMayor.org>



**MOTIVE 3 FOR JUDGE MCGOUGH'S RETALIATION AGAINST ME: MY ROLE IN CAUSING THE LARGEST SINGLE FINE OF A SINGLE ENTITY IN US HISTORY**

In 2010, I was on the lead team responding to Deepwater Horizon oil leak crisis. I played an important role in stopping the damage being done to one-thousand miles of US shoreline and then in causing British Petroleum to be fined \$20.8 billion dollars. It is the largest single fine of a single entity in US history. Those funds went to the fifty million people of five Gulf states to recover and rebuild.

**The fine was ordered on October 5, 2015, by the Honorable US District Judge Carl J. Barbier for the Eastern District of Louisiana.**

Docket FD-16-000031 in Allegheny County Court Records was created on January 8, 2016 -- two months after the \$20.8 billion fine. FD-16-000031 is a color-of-law attack on me in retaliation for causing the \$20.8 billion fine. It is nothing but defamatory, inflammatory lies about me.

**MOTIVE 4 FOR JUDGE MCGOUGH'S RETALIATION AGAINST ME:  
ANTISEMETIC HOMOPHOBIC DEATH THREATS TO THE SON OF JUDGE  
MCGOUGH'S CAMPAIGN FINANCE MANAGER**

Josh created a group called the "Western PA Committee to Free Mumia." Josh also created a website for the group. Mumia abu Jamal was convicted of killing Philadelphia Police Officer Daniel Faulkner. Jamal was also shot several times. He was sentenced to death.

Josh and many others, including myself, believed Jamal's constitutional right to a fair trial was violated. We were asking for a fair retrial. His sentence was later changed to life in prison without chance of parole because a federal judge ruled that he did not get a fair trial.

Below is the registration for the website "Western PA Committee to Free Mumia" by Josh Pollock. The address 1204 Malvern Street, Pittsburgh, 15217 is the home of Dave and Rita Pollock, Josh's parents.

**Registrant:**

Western PA Committee to Free Mumia ([NZQWOMBVGD](#))  
1204 Malvern  
Pittsburgh, PA 15217  
US

Domain Name: **WPA4MUMIA.ORG**

**Administrative Contact, Billing Contact:**

Western PA Committee to Free Mumia ([MUGGMJTIOO](#))  
17seconds@runbox.com  
Western PA Committee to Free Mumia  
1204 Malvern  
Pittsburgh, PA 15217  
US  
412-682-1999 fax: 412-682-1999

**Technical Contact:**

Pittsburgh Web Spinners ([YFZJAEQZBO](#)) [WEBMASTER@WEB-SPINNERS.COM](mailto:WEBMASTER@WEB-SPINNERS.COM)  
Pittsburgh Web Spinners  
PO Box 17970  
Pittsburgh, PA 15235  
US  
412-798-4676 fax: 412-798-4676

After Josh started receiving death threats, I took over the WPA4MUMIA.org website because Josh was only 16 years old and I was concerned that he would be harmed. I was forty years old and a federal employee. It would be much more difficult to retaliate against me. Here is an example of one of the death threats Josh received:

"Your a faggot." (Date: 21 May 2001 22:39:52 -0700) "Homo bitch" (Date: 21 May 2001 22:40:15 -0700) "Someone needs to kill nigger lovin kike fags like you" (Date: 21 May 2001 22:40:51 -0700)

I immediately informed Josh's father and helped to identify the person who delivered the death threats. I believe the perpetrator was arrested.

Judge McGough is now presiding over my divorce case in the common pleas Court of Allegheny County.

I believe that Judge McGough is retaliating against me because he mistakenly thinks I almost got his Campaign Finance Manager's son killed.

**VIOLATION OF MY FIRST AND FOURTH AMENDMENT RIGHTS  
BY COMMON PLEAS JUDGE HUGH F. MCGOUGH**

**Judge McGough is retaliating against me for exercising my constitutionally protected First Amendment rights to:**

- **Freedom of speech: protests by the TMC**
- **Freedom of the press: the TMC website**
- **Freedom to peacefully assemble: the countless protests by the TMC, including the Peoples' March during the G20 Summit. The protests by the TMC were organized through the MS SharePoint website I created**
- **Freedom to petition the government for a redress of grievances without retaliation by the government**

**Judge McGough has now illegally taken from me almost everything I earned in thirty-two years of federal service to our country. He is violating my Fourth Amendment right which protects US citizens against unreasonable searches and seizures of their property.**

**Below is an example of the retaliation. Judge McGough gave power-of-attorney over me to a hostile opposing attorney.**

**On June 28, 2021, Judge McGough gave power-of-attorney over me, the Defendant, to a hostile opposing attorney, Mark B. Morrow. Morrow is an associate of the Plaintiff, Allegheny County Solicitor Luke C. Kelly. Below is a copy of the Order.**

2021 JUN 28 AM10:20

FILED

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY,  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**

DEPT. COURT RECORDS  
CIVIL / FAMILY DIVISION  
ALLEGHENY COUNTY PA

NANCY SHAFFER )  
Plaintiff, )  
v. ) No. FD 16-00031-(04)  
FRANKLIN SHAFFER, )  
Defendant

**ORDER OF COURT**

**AND NOW**, to-wit, this 28<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2021, it is hereby **ORDERED**,  
**ADJUDGED** and **DECREED** that upon consideration of the Court of Plaintiff's Motion  
for Special Relief, Mark B. Morrow is hereby appointed Power of Attorney for Franklin D.  
Shaffer and in order to secure a duplicate Title on Franklin D. Shaffer's behalf and to  
then transfer Title from Franklin D. Shaffer to Russell Turack and with respect to the  
1997 Ford F-350 with Vin Number 3FCMF53G4VJA22935 titled in Franklin D. Shaffer's  
name.

Russell Turack is hereby authorized to remove the 1997 Ford F-350 from the  
driveway at 2786 Tischler Road, Bethel Park, PA 15102 forthwith. All potential liability  
with respect to the removal shall be on Russell Turack or his designee.

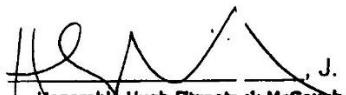
Counsel previously awarded in the amount of \$1,000 are deferred to Equitable  
Distribution. Further, counsel fees shall be measured and imposed on Defendant for  
the work related to this motion at Equitable Distribution.

**UNCONTESTED**

No response to the averments  
numbered 1 through 19 in Plaintiff's  
Petition for Special Relief dated

6-16-21 was received from Defendant, who declined services of  
Pro Se Department for help ~~in~~ preparing, filing a Response.

**BY THE COURT:**

  
Honorable Hugh Fitzpatrick McGough  
Court of Common Pleas  
Room 5069, Family Law Center  
440 Ross Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

In the RV that was illegally taken from me were UPS backup drives and hard  
drives that are property of the United States government. All of the drives have  
metal tags on them identifying that they were property of our United States

October 4, 2024

Government. The drives included state secret level information about nuclear weapons. All of the drives have disappeared.

Judge McGough handwrote the following on his Order: *"No response to the averments numbered 1 through 19 in Plaintiff's Petition for Special Relief dated 6-16-21 was received from the Defendant, who declined services of Pro Se Department for help preparing, filing for Response"*

That is not true, and I believe Judge McGough knows that. For over a month, I called and emailed the Pro Se Department. I submitted numerous requests for help and draft Motions to the Pro Se Department. For over a month, the Pro Se Department refused to reply to any of my numerous calls and emails.

#### REQUESTED REMEDY

I simply ask that Judge McGough be removed from my case in Allegheny County Common Pleas Court and be replaced with a different judge.

The next hearing is on October 7, 2024. I ask that the hearing be postponed so I can prepare as a Pro Se Defendant. Hopefully this time the Pro Se Department will help me prepare.

Thank you, respectfully I am,



Franklin D. Shaffer