FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 12, 2026

Michael Joanow Announces 2027 Judicial Candidacy in Mercer County

MERCER COUNTY, Pa. — Michael Joanow today announced his candidacy for judge of the Mercer County Court of Common Pleas in the 2027 election. He brings almost 40 years of courtroom experience, deep Mercer County roots, and a long record of community service.

A lifelong resident of Mercer County, Joanow has spent his legal career serving the people of the Shenango Valley and Mercer County. He currently serves as president of the Joanow Legal Group in Hermitage. Reflecting the respect he has earned throughout his legal career, Joanow has received bipartisan endorsements from two respected retired Mercer County Common Pleas judges, the Honorable Thomas R. Dobson and the Honorable John C. Reed.

Joanow stated, “I have devoted my life to practicing law in a professional manner. My experience handling a wide variety of legal matters has prepared me to serve as Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Mercer County.”

His years in the courtroom have reinforced his belief that justice requires accountability under the law, fair and appropriate sentences based on the facts and circumstances of each case, and respect for victims’ rights. He believes victims should be heard, treated with dignity, and afforded the protections provided by law.

His preparation for a career in law began with a bachelor’s degree from the University of Pittsburgh, followed by his Juris Doctor from the Ohio Northern University Claude W. Pettit College of Law. During law school, Joanow was appointed to the National Order of Barristers for his excellence in trial advocacy. Upon graduation, he served as a law clerk for the Honorable Francis J. Fornelli in the Mercer County Court of Common Pleas.

Following his clerkship, Joanow practiced law as an associate at Routman, Moore, Goldstone and Valentino in Sharon, Pennsylvania. He then partnered with the Douglas & Joseph firm in Hermitage. In 2007, he founded his own firm, the Joanow Legal Group. He has been recognized by the National Trial Lawyers Association as a Top 25 Motor Vehicle Trial Lawyer in Pennsylvania.

Reflecting on the experiences that have shaped his approach to the practice of law, “In my practice, I strive to emulate the ideals and skills I acquired as a judicial clerk, where I was faced with difficult issues needing resolution,” Joanow stated. “Throughout my career, I have focused on helping clients resolve disputes, navigate complex legal matters, and achieve practical and effective outcomes.”

Beyond his legal practice, Joanow has maintained a longstanding commitment to serving the Mercer County community. He currently serves as treasurer of the Mercer County Bar Association, where he previously served as secretary, and holds positions on the boards of the Mercer County Food Bank and the Mercer County District 2 Little League. He has also been a longtime board member of Annunciation Church in Farrell, Pennsylvania, serving for more than 20 years, including five years as president of the board.

Youth athletics have also been a longstanding part of his community involvement. He has coached numerous youth sports teams and serves as the voice of the Hornets for many Hickory High School sports teams. In addition to his longstanding service to the community, Joanow remains deeply committed to the personal values and principles that have guided his life. As a devout Christian, Joanow believes strongly in preserving the constitutional rights of every American citizen.

Mercer County is more than where Joanow practices law; it is where he and Laurie have built their life and raised their family. He and Laurie, his wife of 33 years, reside in Hermitage. A registered Republican, Joanow is seeking both the Republican and Democratic nominations for judge and will appear on both parties' primary ballots.

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