



**JONATHAN L. WESNER '65**

### **Biographical Sketch**

Jonathan graduated from Penn State, University Park in 1965 (B.S., Zoology). Shortly thereafter, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He served four years active duty as a line officer aboard ship, followed by over 20 years in the active reserves, retiring as a Commander in the JAG Corps. After release from active service, he attended law school, served as an Editor on the *Law Review*, and received his J.D. Degree from Villanova University in 1972. He is a member of the Order of the Coif (Law equivalent of Phi Beta Kappa honorary society). In 1985, he received a Master of Laws Degree in Taxation from Villanova.

He ran a successful law practice for 22 years, representing individuals, families, estates/trusts, for- and not-for-profit companies and government institutions. In 1994, he was appointed a U.S. Administrative Law Judge in the Office of Disability Adjudication and Review. In his 18 years as a Judge, he has presided over 9,000 individual disability cases. This has given him extensive experience in analyzing and understanding data in complex fact patterns.

He was also an elected member of the Penn State Alumni Council from 1997-2003. As Co-Chairman of the communications committee, he was instrumental in initiating electronic balloting, thereby streamlining the voting process. He is married to Maria, a patissier. They have two children, both Penn State graduates: Victoria ('00), a litigation attorney, and Jonathan II ('03/'10 MBA), an investment banker.

### **Position Statement**

As a Lawyer and Judge, I am well acquainted with the importance of informed, well thought-out decision-making. In the case of the Trustees' ignominious firing of Joe Paterno, I believe he fell victim to the contrary. His generosity to the University is unparalleled as a coach. Phil Knight said it best: "Never once did he let me down. Not one time." Balancing what he gave Penn State over his lifetime, he did not deserve to be treated in such fashion. Moreover, this action did nothing whatsoever to enhance the School's reputation. It only served to demonstrate a callous disregard for the rights of all persons.

As Penn Staters, we can do better. If elected, my decision-making will follow a carefully reasoned approach, without yielding to any external pressure. For every decision made as board member, I will be fully informed, fair and unbiased, much as I am now, as a sitting Judge. I will consider all factors, and the interests of all parties in a given situation.

I want to restore the trust people once had in Penn State-trust in our outstanding institution of academic excellence-that existed before it was shaken to its very core. I am fully cognizant of the terrible wrongs that were done to the child victims. Not only do these wrongs demand just punishment, but a crisis such as this requires heightened vigilance and control by the Board of Trustees, so as to prevent reoccurrence. I promise to devote myself to this task.