



**Press Clippings**  
**March 2017**  
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# Title: Middletown resident and Peirce College president announces retirement

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Date: March 2, 2017

## Montco judge: Kane received a fair trial

By MARGARET GIBBONS  
STAFF WRITER

The Montgomery County judge who presided over the trial of Kathleen Kane claims the state's former top law enforcement officer received a fair and impartial trial last summer.

"The verdict was just and the sentence should be affirmed," said Judge Wendy Demchick-Alloy in a 103-page written opinion defending various decisions she made during the trial. The opinion asks the state Superior Court to uphold both the jury verdict and

sentencing in the case. A county jury ruled that Kane, the first Democrat and first woman elected as state attorney general, illegally leaked secret grand jury information to get back at a political foe and then lied about it to another grand jury investigating the leaks.

Specifically, the jury in August 2016 found the 50-year-old Scranton-area resident guilty on two charges of perjury and seven misdemeanor charges ranging from abusing her power of office to obstructing justice. She resigned

from her state post within 48 hours of her conviction.

Demchick-Alloy in October sentenced Kane to 10 to 23 months in county prison and to another eight-year probation sentence. Kane is free on \$75,000 bail until she exhausts her appeals.

Defense attorney Joshua D. Lock, an attorney out of Harrisburg brought on board to represent Kane in her appeal, filed his appeal with the state Superior Court.

That court document filed by

Lock alleged nine different erroneous rulings by Demchick-Alloy in his effort to have the higher court toss out Kane's conviction and sentence.

For example, Lock cited Demchick-Alloy's dismissal of a defense motion asking that all of Montgomery County's 22 judges be barred from hearing the case based on the fact that county Judges William R. Carpenter, Carolyn T. Carlucci and Rita Verti Ferraro "were all directly or closely connected" to the case.

Another alleged error by Demchick-Alloy was her decision barring Kane from using the "pornography" defense, according to Lock.

Demchick-Alloy, in her written opinion, gives a detailed response to all of the issues raised by Lock in the appeal.

The next step in the appeal process is for the Superior Court to schedule oral argument on the appeal motion.

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## Peirce College president, a resident of Middletown, announces retirement

By CHRIS ENGLISH  
STAFF WRITER

Middletown resident James Mergioti, the president and CEO of Peirce College in Philadelphia since 2009 and a high-level administrator there for 20 years, has announced that he will retire June 30, 2018.

Mergioti, 63, said he made his intentions known more than a year in advance to give college officials plenty of time to find his successor.



Mergioti

Before becoming Peirce's top administrator, Mergioti was vice president of administration and vice president/chief operating officer for the college at 1420 Pine St. Prior to actually being a paid employee of the college, he was a member of the board of trustees for 10 years.

"I have had the extraordinary opportunity to work with an exceptional group of faculty, staff, trustees, partners and volunteers in support of the Peirce mission," said Mergioti, a 33-year Middletown resident. "We have accomplished a great deal on behalf of our students and alumni and will

do even more together over the next 16 months. At that point, it will be a perfect time to begin the third act of my life and for Peirce to move forward with new leadership and the rejuvenation that change will bring."

While open to all college students, 89 percent of Peirce's 2,225 students are 21 or older and the institution is especially geared toward preparing adults of all ages for the rapidly changing work environment, college officials said.

Under Mergioti's presidency, Peirce introduced graduate programs and greatly expanded its undergraduate offerings, officials said. He also introduced innovations like the option for students to "check out" by day whether to take a course online or attend in person, they said.

A certified public accountant, Mergioti also helped to greatly improve college finances, Peirce officials said. Under his leadership, the college's investment portfolio (separate account) more than doubled from \$11.7 million to \$23.6 million and net assets (total assets minus total liabilities) increased 23 percent, from \$2.9 million to \$28.2 million.

Before coming to Peirce, Mergioti was vice president of human resources and then vice president of finance for CoreStates Financial Group (now Wells Fargo) for 20 years.

"The Peirce board of trustees is so dedicated and charismatic leader go," said board Chairman Barbara Pritzman. "His leadership has inspired a culture of innovation and high touch service for the working adult students we serve. We are grateful that Jim has provided us significant time leading up to his retirement from Peirce to find his successor."

The board will hire an outside firm to conduct a

nationalwide search for Mergioti's successor, Pritzman said.

Mergioti said he will work hard during the next several months to leave Peirce in even better shape for his successor.

"Colleges and universities should be striving to create graduates with the exact skills and knowledge that are most in demand for the communities they serve," he said. "The future of Peirce College, and higher education as a whole, should be dedicated to understanding the evolving demands of the workforce and quickly adapting as necessary."

Mergioti lives in the Maple Point development of Middletown with his wife, Debbie. The couple raised one daughter, Diana.

In retirement, Mergioti said he's looking forward to spending more time with family and pursuing various volunteer opportunities with his wife.

"We both have a passion for fighting poverty," he said. Peirce has been guided by a man also with Bucks County connections for 26 straight years. Before Mergioti, Pennsylvania High School graduate Art Lendo was president and CEO for 18 years.

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