



Lawrence "Guido" Gurrera

A&S '05, LAW '09

Director at Large

Biography

I grew up in Hermitage, Pennsylvania, approximately 80 miles north of Pittsburgh, however, I currently live in Shady Side, only a few miles from campus, and work downtown. I arrived at Pitt as a freshman in 2001, originally studying chemistry and biology. I realized that I found government, law, and politics more interesting and changed my major to political science. I graduated from the School of Arts and Sciences *cum laude* in 2005. I also focused on Latin American studies and am proficient in speaking Spanish. When I was not studying, I was involved in intramural sports, the Sigma Chi Fraternity, the Red Cross Club, the University Society for the Finer Things, and a student government board sub-committee focused on environmental issues. I spent my summers in college working as a counselor at a camp for children with severe physical and mental disabilities.

I then attended Pitt's law school, earning my Juris Doctorate in 2009. While in law school I received the Robert Berkley Harper Scholarship; the W. Edward Sell and Cordelia F. Sell Scholarship; participated in moot court; and was the recipient of the Frederick Schulz, Jr. legal history award. I also had the distinct opportunity to work in the office of the Honorable Ralph J. Cappy, a fellow Pitt alumni and then-Chief Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. Furthermore, I participated actively in the Phi Alpha Delta legal fraternity and represented my class on the Student Bar Association (student government).

I currently work as an attorney in the Pittsburgh-based law firm of Edgar Snyder & Associates, focusing my practice on the areas of personal injury, products liability, premises liability, and insurance coverage matters. I am a certified trial attorney through the National Institute of Trial Advocacy. I handle all matters at my firm pertaining to Spanish-speaking clients. I coordinate my law firm's *pro bono* efforts

and actively participate in two projects through the Pittsburgh Pro Bono Partnership. The first project helps low-income couples obtain consensual divorces. The second project helps individuals with minor criminal offenses obtain expungements of their criminal records so that they can get jobs or qualify for housing.

I am a member of the Allegheny County Bar Association and serve as a board member on its Committee on Law and Disability. I am on the Board of Governors of the Pennsylvania Association for Justice, which is a state-wide trial lawyers association. This organization advocates for the rights and protections of individuals in the civil system. I also serve on the Board of Governors of Western Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association.

I have always enjoyed teaching and regularly present Continuing Legal Education topics to other attorneys around the state through the Pennsylvania Bar Institute. Furthermore, I have guest-lectured in master's level classes through Westminster University and to undergraduates at the California University of Pennsylvania.

I really enjoy working with Pitt's undergraduate and law students and continue to do so in several capacities. I am presently the advisor to Pitt's undergraduate pre-law society, Phi Alpha Delta. I also served for more than seven years as the advisor to the undergraduate chapter of the Sigma Chi fraternity which allowed me to work closely with approximately 70 undergraduates on areas such as scholarship, mentoring, career development, and community service. I continue to remain active with that organization as a member of its Housing Corporation, a non-profit board that oversees the chapter's finances and serves as a de facto alumni association for the members of the fraternity at Pitt. The Sigma Chi Fraternity has been on Pitt's campus continually since 1909, and I have been the editor or a tri-annual newsletter and website for its alumni. I also have organized numerous gatherings of alumni for golf outings, game watches, happy hours, and tailgates before football games.

Over the past several years, I have co-hosted dinners with 12 Panthers, volunteered at events sponsored by the University's Office of Career Development, such as an etiquette dinner and an alumni panel addressing incoming freshmen. I am a Life Member of the Pitt Alumni Association, a Pitt Advocate and participate in events sponsored by the Young Alumni Council.

My personal hobbies include running, golfing, cooking (and eating!), and traveling with my wife, Susie. I also follow Pitt's basketball, football, and other sports teams.