



# Pittsburgh DtWT News Brief 2019 Year-in-Review

The Do the Write Thing Challenge (DtWT) is an initiative of the **National Campaign to Stop Violence**, which fosters discussion and literary expression from middle school students about violence. DtWT emphasizes personal responsibility and empowers students to work toward ending violence in their schools and communities.

In 2019, over 1,400 students from the Pittsburgh Public Schools, Woodland Hills School District, the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh, Penn Hills School District and Manchester Academic Charter School submitted writings addressing these three questions:

1. **How has violence affected my life?**
2. **What are the causes of youth violence?**
3. **What can I do to reduce youth violence?**

A thorough reading, review and ranking of all the student writings was conducted by volunteers from the *Duquesne University School of Law*, *University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work*, *Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield employees* and *CMU Delta Tau Delta Fraternity* to arrive at the best writings from each school based on the content of the writing. Ten finalists were then selected by notable Pittsburghers (see Black & Gold Committee below).



Pittsburgh and Philadelphia DtWT Ambassadors present book of their writings to Pennsylvania Senator Bob Casey.

### **Pittsburgh Co-chairs**

The Hon. Judge Dwayne D. Woodruff  
Mrs. Joy Maxberry Woodruff

### **Pittsburgh Co-coordinators**

Mr. Louis Ransom, Jr.  
Grace W. Orsatti, Esq. Ms. Nicole Cronin

### **Black & Gold Committee (Finalist Selection Committee)**

The Hon. Kim Berkeley Clark	.....	President Judge, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas
The Hon. Paul Cozza	.....	Judge, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas
The Hon. Stephen Zappala, Jr.	.....	District Attorney, Allegheny County
The Hon. Rich Fitzgerald	.....	County Executive, Allegheny County
Mr. Alex Matthews	.....	Sr. Community Affairs Analyst, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield
Mr. Mike Tomlin	.....	Head Coach, Pittsburgh Steelers
Ms. Esther Bush	.....	President & CEO, Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh
Ella A. Kwisnek, Esq.	.....	Assistant Dean, Duquesne University School of Law
Edwin L. Edwards, Jr., Esq.	.....	Attorney, Blank Rome LLP
Ms. Marcia Martin	.....	Vice President, Gateway Health Plan

### **Three Rivers Committee (Preliminary Selection Committee)**

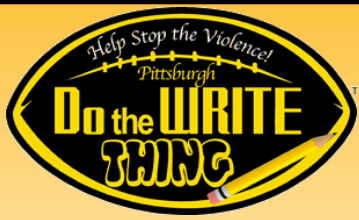
Duquesne Univ. School of Law	.....	Ms. Beth Anne Bauer
University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work	.....	Jaime M. Booth, Ph.D.
Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield	.....	Christina Wilds, Ph.D.
Delta Tau Delta Fraternity (Carnegie Mellon University)	.....	Mr. Jack Dunbar

### **Steel Town Committee**

Judge Kathryn Hens-Greco	Judge Kim Eaton	Judge Jennifer McCrady	Judge Guido DeAngelis
Cynthia Stoltz Esq.	Marsha Landers, Esq.	Carmen L. Robinson, Esq.	Carlena Lemon

### **Participating School Districts**

PITTSBURGH PUBLIC	WOODLAND HILLS	THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE
PENN HILLS	MANCHESTER ACADEMIC CHARTER	



# PITTSBURGH

## DO THE WRITE THING CHALLENGE

### NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO STOP VIOLENCE

## 2019 NATIONAL AMBASSADORS

	<i>Student</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Teacher</i>
<b>Girl</b>	<b>ALAINA BEAL</b>	St. Agnes Catholic	Sister Janelle Banko
<b>Boy</b>	<b>MALACHI STEVENSON</b>	Manchester Academic	Mrs. Carla Knight

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

KAYLA WIGGINS - Manchester Acad. Charter  
SHANE BIRKENFELD - Pittsburgh Colfax

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

ANNA WASKIEWICZ - Blessed Trinity  
KLAY KRAEUTER - St. Agnes Catholic



Judge Dwayne Woodruff with Malachi & teacher Mrs. Carla McKnight; Aliana & teacher Sister Janelle Banko.



Dinner at Ronald Reagan Center in Washington DC



Judges DeAngelis, Clark, Bush, Cozza, Regan, Hens-Greco, Eaton & Woodruff w/ Malachi & Teacher



DtWT Top 10 Finalists

### DtWT Sponsors

HIGHMARK Blue Cross Blue Shield  
Pittsburgh Steelers

Diehl Automotive Group  
Pittsburgh Pirates

UPMC  
Gateway Health Plan