

The Administrative Office of the Courts hosts Court Security Training for 90 security officers.

On Oct. 29 and 30, the Administrative Office of the Courts hosted nearly 90 court security officers from across Delaware and three surrounding states for a two-day Court Security Training seminar in Dover.

The program was conducted by the Virginia-based National Sheriffs' Association and focused on such matters as courtroom security, defendant management, judicial threat management, professional awareness, emergency events and high profile cases.

Deputy State Court Administrator James Wright welcomed attendees, including Bailiffs, Court Security Officers and Constables from across Delaware's courts and Capitol Police, telling them that the Judicial Branch is now taking a more statewide approach to security training, rather than relying on a court-by-court and agency-by-agency training as had been done in the past. "This training provides everyone with the fundamentals they need to work together to keep our courthouses prepared, safe and secure," he said.

Lt. Michael Hertzfeld of the Capitol Police, in his welcome to attendees, said, "We all have to act as one when we work in court facilities."

The program, held at Dover Polytech's Adult Education facility, was conducted by two national court security professionals who each had been involved in courthouse security early in their careers: Thomas F. Lorito and Jim Ludolph.

Lorito, who is a senior consultant and instructor at the National Sheriffs' Association and serves on their Court and Judicial Security Advisory Board, brought a "big city" perspective to the seminar, having worked as the Chief Court Officer in Suffolk County, New York.

Ludolph, a senior consultant and instructor at the National Sheriffs' Association, brought a more rural, "small town" experience to the seminar, having been in charge of court security at the Peoria County Illinois Courthouse for many years.

In addition to the security officers from Delaware, court security officials from New Jersey, Maryland and Pennsylvania also attended the two-day training seminar.



Lt. Michael Hertzfeld (at front left), Deputy State Court Administrator James Wright (front, center) and Lt. Lee Clough (front right) address the audience at the start of a two-day Court Security Training seminar held in Dover on Oct. 29 and Oct. 30.



Deputy State Court Administrator James Wright addresses the audience of about 90 court security officers from Delaware and three other states at a two-day Court Security Training Seminar held in Dover in late October.