

NEWS RELEASE

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Delaware State Court Administrator to receive Distinguished Service Award Patricia Griffin has dedicated countless hours to language access in the courts

Williamsburg, VA (September 26, 2012) - Delaware State Court Administrator Patricia Griffin is the recipient of the National Center for State Courts 2012 Distinguished Service Award, one of the highest awards presented by the organization. The Distinguished Service Award is presented annually to those who have made significant contributions to the justice system and who have supported the mission of the NCSC. Mary McQueen, NCSC President, will present the award to Griffin during the National Summit on Language Access in the Courts in Houston, Texas, October 1-3, 2012.

"Patricia Griffin is considered a national leader in improving language access in the courts for those with limited English proficiency," McQueen said. "She has devoted countless hours working with the court community to improve interpreter testing and to ensure that all people with language barriers understand what is taking place in the courtroom."

Griffin has long been committed to improving access to the courts. She has served on the national advisory committee for the Consortium for Language Access in the Courts and has worked closely with the NCSC on ensuring the adequacy of interpreter testing and advancing other initiatives promoting language access in the courts.

Prior to becoming Delaware state court administrator in 2005, Griffin served as Chief Magistrate of the Justice of the Peace Court in Delaware from 1993, where she established the Court's successful Truancy Court. As Chief Magistrate, she also focused on improving the professionalism of the Justice of the Peace Court system by developing a formal legal education program for new justices of the peace, as well as re-drafting court rules to bring them more closely into line with those of the other courts.

The National Center for State Courts, headquartered in Williamsburg, Va., is a nonprofit court reform organization dedicated to improving the administration of justice by providing leadership and service to the state courts. Founded in 1971 by the Conference of Chief Justices and Chief Justice of the United States Warren E. Burger, NCSC provides education, training, technology, management, and research services to the nation's state courts.