

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Delaware Courts receive award for statistical reporting excellence
from national state court organizations**

The Administrative Office of the Delaware Courts has been honored nationally for improving the quality of the caseload data it gathers and reports.

Delaware was one of only six states to receive the Reporting Excellence Award for 2016 for the Court Statistics Project, a joint effort of the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA) and the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). In addition, Delaware was the only court system cited this year for its improvement in both trial court statistics and appellate court statistics. The award was announced last month at a meeting of COSCA in Naples, Florida and marks the first time Delaware has received this honor.

“We are gratified to receive this award and I want to highlight the efforts of our Research and Planning Coordinator Patti Mattson for her hard work on this project along with the invaluable cooperation the Administrative Office of the Courts received from Superior Court, the Family Court and the Justice of the Peace Court,” said State Court Administrator Patricia W. Griffin.

This award demonstrates the Delaware Judiciary’s ongoing commitment to improve its data collection efforts in order to better inform policy decisions of both the Delaware Courts and our Justice system partners, she said. “We expect to realize even greater strides in statistics and data collection in the coming years as we continue work on the stated goal of Chief Justice Leo E. Strine Jr. to convert all of our courts to a single e-filing system,” Griffin said.

The Delaware Courts worked closely with the Court Statistics Project over the past year to better understand how to compile and structure Delaware statistics into a format that would fit into the national model and allow for an “apples to apples” comparison with other states. In terms of providing usable data for the national project, Delaware increased from 25 percent to 75 percent over the past year for information from courts of general jurisdiction and increased from 14 percent to 100 percent for court-of-last-resort appellate court information.

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