

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Judicial Branch launches Judicial Fellows Program
with the University of Delaware**

The State of Delaware Judicial Branch and the University of Delaware are pleased to announce the launch of the Judicial Fellows Program.

The Judicial Fellows Program represents another important step in the ongoing collaboration and cooperation between the Delaware State Courts and the University of Delaware. In 2014, the Delaware Judicial Branch entered into a 10-year partnership with the Alfred Lerner College of Business and Economics to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of court operations by applying proven private sector process improvement management techniques. Administrative leaders, high level managers and others in the courts and partner agencies were trained in Lean Six Sigma process improvement techniques and student teams have worked side-by-side with court staff on a variety of specific process improvement projects. In its first year, that program saved the Judicial Branch, and partner agencies, more than 4,250 staff hours and ongoing projects continue to streamline and modernize Court procedures, saving time and taxpayer dollars. Following in that tradition, the Judicial Fellows Program (<http://www.ipa.udel.edu/judicial/>) is being launched in cooperation with the University of Delaware's Institute for Public Administration (IPA) and is modeled on the Legislative Fellows Program (<http://www.ipa.udel.edu/legfellows/>), IPA's successful partnership of over 35 years with the Delaware General Assembly.

Alumni of the Legislative Fellows Program, which was established in 1982, have gone on to highly successful careers – both in the public and private sectors – and include Delaware Governor John Carney.

“Just as the Legislative Fellows Program gives promising students interested in public policy and politics a hands-on experience in the Delaware legislature, often inspiring them to go on to a life in public service, we hope the Judicial Fellows Program will do the same for promising students interested in public policy and the law,” said Chief Justice Leo E. Strine, Jr.

Dr. Jerome R. Lewis of the University of Delaware's Institute for Public Administration said the Judicial Fellows Program will offer students a new and different opportunity in public administration. “I'm pleased this partnership will open the eyes of our students to the important work of the courts, and the career opportunities available in the court system,” he said.

The Judicial Fellows Program involves two graduate-level students joining the Administrative Office of the Courts researching some of the court system's most pressing business and policy issues. The brainpower of the University of Delaware graduate students (and, as important, their faculty mentors) will help court administrators drive initiatives to further improve efficiency and production.

The two inaugural Fellows are Josh Berkowitz, 23, of Woodcliff Lake, NJ, and Alexander Burns, 23, of Landenberg, Pa., both Master of Public Administration (MPA) students in the School of Public Policy and Administration. Both students heard about the Judicial Fellows Program through the school and Burns

said he immediately applied because the program fit with his interests and academic focus. "I'm interested in the role of law in bringing about positive social change," he said. Berkowitz cited his interest in matters like national incarceration rates and the role of minimum mandatory sentences as what attracted him to the program. "I think this is a great opportunity to work on ways to improve the criminal justice system," he said. The Fellows started their work with the Delaware Courts in January 2017 and will continue through the end of May.

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