ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE NO. 177

This 12th day of May 2010,

IT APPEARS THAT:

(1) On October 5, 2009, the Governor of Delaware issued Executive Order No. 12, "Assuring Our State Government Creates an Open and Supportive Workplace for Victims of Domestic Violence," which stated that a statewide domestic violence policy for Executive Branch employees would be prepared and implemented, and encouraged the Judicial Branch to adopt a similar policy. On February 16, 2010, the Governor enacted a domestic violence policy for Executive Branch employees.

(2) The Judicial Branch is committed to promoting the health and safety of its employees and joins the Executive Branch in recognizing the critical role that employers, including the branches of state government, play in serving as resources to assist employees who are victims of domestic violence, through heightening awareness of domestic violence and providing guidance to employees in addressing the effects of domestic violence in the workplace.

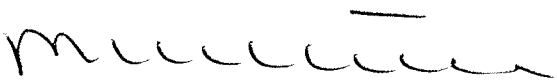
NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS DIRECTED, with the unanimous approval of the members of the Supreme Court, pursuant to Del. Const. Art. IV, §13(1), that:

(1) If they have not already done so, each Court and the Administrative Office of the Courts, including the non-judicial agencies, are strongly encouraged to adopt a policy addressing the effects of domestic violence on the workplace.

(2) A template setting forth a domestic violence policy is attached for their consideration, recognizing that the policy may need to be tailored to meet individual courts' and others' needs.

(3) Any policy adopted by the Courts, AOC or the non-judicial agencies should be consistent with applicable federal and Delaware law, Judicial Branch Personnel Rules, and the Merit Rules, as applicable.

BY THE COURT:



Chief Justice Myron T. Steele

c: The Honorable Jack A. Markell
The Honorable Randy J. Holland
The Honorable Carolyn Berger
The Honorable Jack B. Jacobs
The Honorable Henry duPont Ridgely
Members of the Judicial Conference
The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, III
The Honorable Brendan O'Neill
State Court Administrator
Court Administrators
Clerk of the Supreme Court
Counsel to the Governor
Chair Senate Judiciary Committee
Chair House Judiciary Committee