2013 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DELAWARE JUDICIARY



ON THE FRONT COVER:

Courtroom #1 was originally constructed in 1874 as part of the Kent County Courthouse. Currently, this Courtroom is used by the Superior Court, although the Court of Chancery and the Court of Common Pleas also may use Courtroom #1 for trials. In 2012-13, this Courtroom was carefully remodeled to incorporate modern trial technology needs while maintaining the historical significance of Courtroom #1. The renovations included returning the Colonial revival style paint to this Courtroom and retaining the wooden tipstaffs on the dock. The tipstaffs are painted white on one side and red on the other. Historically, the tip staffs would be turned to the white or red sides depending upon whether the defendant was found guilty or innocent.



The AOC would like to offer special thanks to Richard K. Herrmann, Esquire, for his photographic expertise and assistance with the cover page of this Annual Report.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ENHANCING SECURITY: ENSURING JUSTICE

Message from the Chief Justice	1
Message from the State Court Administrator	4
Legislation	9
Fiscal Overview	10
Introduction to the Delaware Courts	14
Supreme Court	16
Court of Chancery	19
Superior Court	22
Family Court	26
Court of Common Pleas	29
Justice of the Peace Court	33



This banner was hung in the New Castle County Courthouse on February 13, 2013, the first day the courthouse was open following the shootings at the New Castle County Courthouse on February 11, 2013.