

MESSAGE FROM THE STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

The 2018 Annual Report of the Delaware Judiciary

I am pleased to present the 2018 Annual Report of the Delaware Judicial Branch. Our theme this year is “Engaging our Community” to highlight the Delaware Judiciary’s work to establish consistent and effective problem-solving approaches to criminal cases, including the development of a Community Court in the City of Wilmington. That work is detailed in the Introduction that follows this short message. In addition, you will find information in this Report on the work of all of our Courts, highlights from the past year by our Presiding Judges, important information about our Branch, including financial and caseload statistics, and recognition our Judicial Branch employees received in 2018.

As for the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), we remain focused on our mission of providing administrative support for the Delaware Judiciary in general and for a number of court initiatives in particular, like the Community Court. In August 2018, the AOC organized a Community Resource Center Fair on the plaza of the Leonard L. Williams Justice Center to introduce Wilmington residents to the “Community Court” concept and to preview the Community Resource Center that is slated to open in the courthouse law library in 2019. The Community Court initiative received a significant boost with the announcement that the AOC was awarded a Center for Court Innovation grant in partnership with a Bureau of Justice Assistance Grant to help support the ongoing planning and implementation of the Community Court. In addition to providing grant funding, the Center for Court Innovation will assist in planning and implementation as part of the award. The AOC has also started work on transforming courthouse law libraries into self-help centers – a key recommendation of our Access to Justice Commission. The first phase of the project is focused on the Justice Center and will eventually include law libraries in the other two counties. The AOC also continued to assist the Judicial Branch with a number of initiatives designed to make the criminal justice system more equitable and improve public safety. These programs are all in addition to the AOC’s role in supporting the Court’s traditional — and central — role of serving the community as a place to fairly, equitably, and expeditiously resolve disputes, protect public safety, and uphold the law.

I hope you find this Report useful in understanding our Court System and our ongoing initiatives and I encourage you to visit our website at <http://courts.delaware.gov/> for the latest information about the Delaware Courts.

Sincerely,



Amy Arnott Quinlan, Esq.
State Court Administrator