



Inside this Issue:

Judicial Branch Employee of the Year	2
Supreme Court Criminal Justice/Mental Health Task Force	3
Superior Court Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Program	4
COTS Civil System Goes Statewide in Superior Court	5
Justice of the Peace Court's New Consolidated Facility	5
Superior Court Implements Online Trade Names Database	6
Middle School Students Learn About Justice System	7
Miracle on 34th Street	7
New Teen Conflict Resolution Program	8
Russian Justices of the Peace Visit Delaware	9
Delaware Judiciary Recognized	10
Filing and Payment Center Revamps Operations	11
Filing and Payment Center Volunteer	12

DELAWARE COURTS: FAIRNESS FOR ALL TASK FORCE ISSUES REPORT

In Delaware, as throughout the nation, more and more individuals in civil cases are representing themselves without the assistance of an attorney. A report on this issue in Delaware was submitted to the Delaware Supreme Court in September 2009 by its Delaware Courts: Fairness for All Task Force. The report describes the challenges facing self-represented litigants, the court system, and others, and makes recommendations for addressing these challenges, as well as furthering procedural fairness, and the public's perception of such fairness, in the courts. The Task Force based its findings and recommendations on the results of surveys and public hearings conducted statewide.

Among the Report's recommendations is the creation of a Bench Bar Committee to consider whether to clarify rules permitting attorneys to provide limited services to clients in litigation so that those who could otherwise not afford an attorney

can obtain help with certain aspects of their cases. Another recommendation is to form a judicial committee on self-represented litigants. Chief Justice Myron T. Steele has appointed members to both committees and they are slated to begin meeting in the near future.

Other recommendations include the development of interactive court forms for court web sites. These forms ask litigants questions and place their responses into the official form to be filed with the court, making the process simpler for self-represented litigants. The Administrative Office of the Courts is currently working with the Justice of the Peace Court to automate

the Court's complaint form for summary possession cases. Some of the other recommendations include creating a video on preparing for court and providing officially sanctioned guide-

“AMERICA's courts are built on a system of rules and procedures that assume that almost everyone who comes to court has a lawyer. Unfortunately, the reality is quite different. An increasing number of civil cases go forward without lawyers. Litigants who cannot afford a lawyer, and either do not qualify or are unable to have a lawyer assigned to them because of dwindling budgets, are on their own – pro se. . . . As the economy has worsened, the ranks of the self-represented poor have expanded. . . . Unrepresented litigants now also include many in the middle class and small-business owners who unexpectedly find themselves in distress and without sufficient resources to pay for the legal assistance they need.”

Excerpt from an editorial entitled “A Nation of Do-It-Yourself Lawyers,” by New Hampshire Chief Justice John T. Broderick, Jr., and California Chief Justice Ronald M. George, New York Times, January 1, 2010

lines for court staff in distinguishing legal information from legal advice, as well as training on those guidelines. Preliminary work on these recommendations has also begun.

The work of the Delaware Courts: Fairness for All Task Force is especially timely, given the rising number of litigants who are self-represented, due to the current economic situation. Delaware Courts, like other state courts, are renewing their focus on ensuring access to justice and fairness for all those using court services.

Co-chaired by Chief Magistrate Alan G. Davis and State Court Administrator Patricia W. Griffin, the Delaware Courts: Fairness for All Task Force's membership includes representatives from the Judicial, Legislative, and Executive branches, as well as others familiar with the court system and issues faced by self-represented litigants.

A copy of the report can be obtained from the Judicial Branch web site at <http://courts.delaware.gov/?fairnessfinalreport.pdf>

For further information contact Christine Sudell by e-mail at chris.sudell@state.de.us or by phone at 302-255-0098.

KAREN BOUNDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC GUARDIAN NAMED JUDICIAL BRANCH EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Chief Justice Myron T. Steele has announced that Karen Bounds, a case manager for the Office of the Public Guardian, was named the Judicial Branch Employee of the Year for 2009. Ms. Bounds was chosen for the care, concern, expertise and dedication she has shown in serving the needs of the wards of the Public Guardian over the 27 years she has been with the Office. As a case manager, she has been responsible for making difficult decisions on behalf of the wards, ranging from whether they should have a flu shot to whether they should receive extreme life saving procedures when they have a terminal condition.

During the past year, she served as the Acting Public Guardian during a time when the Office was particularly short staffed, having lost not only the Public Guardian but also the Deputy Public Guardian and, temporarily, another case manager, out of five professional staff positions. Ms. Bounds stepped up to the challenge created by the severe staff shortage and continued to carry her own case load as well as fulfilling the many administrative responsibilities of the Public Guardian. In addition to getting the job done, she kept up office morale and oversaw the implementation of a new case management system. Ms. Bounds is a magna cum laude graduate of McDaniel College and has been a Regis-

tered Guardian with the National Guardianship Association since 2004.

The other employees nominated for this award, and who will be honored as the Employee of the Year for their respective courts, were: Rebecca Manchester, Judicial Case Manager II, Superior Court; Wanda Brown, Judicial Case Processor Supervisor, Family Court; Shelly Swafford, Judicial Case Management Supervisor, Court of Common Pleas; Denise Baker, Judicial Case Processor III, Justice of the Peace Court; and Don Hudgins, Manager of the Data Center, Administrative Office of the Courts.



Karen Bounds, Office of the Public Guardian, Judicial Branch Employee of the Year for 2009.

SUPREME COURT CRIMINAL JUSTICE/MENTAL HEALTH TASK FORCE COMPLETING STRATEGIC PLAN

For more than a year, the Delaware Supreme Court Task Force on Criminal Justice and Mental Health, chaired by Supreme Court Justice Henry duPont Ridgely, has been gathering information on issues faced by people with mental illnesses and exploring ways to both help individuals with mental illnesses avoid contact with the criminal justice system and to improve outcomes for people with mental illnesses already engaged with the system. To help them accomplish these goals, the Task Force undertook two major projects this fall.

In mid-October, the Task Force held a series of three public forums, one in each county. Through these forums, the Task Force reached out to the community to gather concerns and observations about the criminal justice system's handling of individuals with mental health issues. Representatives from the courts as well as other agencies including the Department of Justice, the Department of Correction, law enforcement and treatment providers were on hand not only to gather information but also to answer questions.

On October 30th, the Task Force met for a full day strategic planning session. Using the information gained from the public forums and by the Task Force subcommittees over the past year, the Task Force began work on a strategic plan that encourages inter-agency cooperation as well as community and government partnerships. Assisted by the Council of State Governments and Tim Murray, Executive Director of the Pre-Trial Justice Institute, the Task Force used the Sequential Intercept Model to identify a number of intercept points in the criminal justice system that are opportunities for linking people to appropriate services and preventing further penetration into the system.

The Task Force and its subcommittees recently finalized the strategic plan which is designed to provide a comprehensive blueprint for both diverting individuals with mental illnesses, when appropriate, and improving outcomes for those with mental illnesses who have already come into contact with the criminal justice system. The plan seeks the cooperation of the courts, law enforcement, state agencies and community service providers in working together to identify individuals with mental illnesses so that they can better ensure that the appropriate treatment is received either in the community, or where diversion is not appropriate, in the criminal justice system.

When individuals with mental illnesses do not receive proper treatment, they are more likely to cycle in and out of the criminal justice system. Diverting appropriate individuals and ensuring that those with mental illnesses receive effective treatment can not only reduce crime and increase public safety, but can also reduce costs to the State as well as to communities and families. The work of the Task Force is only the first step in addressing these critical issues. The ongoing efforts of the courts, law enforcement, state agencies and community service providers are all needed to improve outcomes for persons with mental illness.

For further information contact Stephanie Symons, Administrative Office of the Courts, by e-mail at Stephanie.symons@state.de.us or by phone at (302) 255-2475.

SUPERIOR COURT LAUNCHES RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE MEDIATION PROGRAM

Homeowners facing foreclosure now have the opportunity to try to avoid this outcome through a court mediation process with their lender thanks to a joint State and Superior Court program in cooperation with Community Legal Aid, lenders, bankers, advocates, housing counselors, and others. To ensure that homeowners are aware of the program, the procedures, which were instituted through an Administrative Directive issued by President Judge James T. Vaughn Jr., require that a flyer mentioning the availability of the program and referral information must be included in the documents initiating a mortgage foreclosure action on a primary residence.

For homeowners who elect to enter it, the Mediation Program provides a chance to meet, along with a HUD certified housing counselor, with the attorney for the lender to try to negotiate a payment plan for the mortgage. If they are not able to reach an agreement through this process, a volunteer attorney mediator will work with both parties to try to come up with a plan that is acceptable to both. If the case is not resolved at mediation, it is still possible to place it on the mortgage foreclosure dormant docket for further discussion, if agreed to by the parties.

For information on participating in the program, contact the Attorney General's Foreclosure Hotline at 800-220-5424.

"This program is the direct result of.....coming together to find creative ways to help Delaware's families keep their homes. So many families facing foreclosure did everything right. They played by the rules, they worked hard, but fell victim to the national recession. Helping them stay in their homes is good for our economy and good for Delaware's families. Delaware is a state of neighbors. When we see a problem, we come together to solve it."

Governor Jack Markell



President James T. Vaughn Jr. discussing the new Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Program. He is joined by State Representative John Kowalko on the left, and to the right, Governor Jack Markell, Christopher W. White, Esquire, of Community Legal Aid Society, and John Olsen from the Delaware Bankers Association.

COTS CIVIL SYSTEM GOES STATEWIDE IN SUPERIOR COURT

The COTS civil system was implemented statewide in Superior Court on October 5, 2009 when New Castle and Kent Counties went live, joining Sussex County Superior Court which went live in 2008. This transition also included the successful downloading of information from the existing Lexis Nexis e-filing system into the COTS Contexte system. This means that information that is e-filed is automatically entered into the case management system. This reduces time and effort for Superior Court staff who, prior to the introduction of COTS, had to manually enter this data. Because of time savings for both court staff and users (who no longer have to come to the courthouse to file a case), the use of e-filing has continued to expand, with the Superior Court extending e-filing to all judgment cases filed with the Prothonotary in all counties, as of January 1, 2010.

The COTS civil system, which was previously implemented in the Justice of the Peace Court and the Court of Common Pleas, also provides for better document management, significantly improved management reporting, and access to

civil case information remotely through CourtConnect. This enhanced public access allows internet access to general information about the progress of civil cases in the three courts in which it has been implemented.

For more information contact Carole Kirshner by e-mail at carole.kirshner@state.de.us or by phone at 302-255-0850.



Pat Battersby (seated) from the New Castle County Superior Court's Judgment Division and Barbara Palo (COTS Trainer from JIC) entering judgments into the Contexte system following implementation of COTS in Superior Court on October 5, 2009.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT OPENS NEW CONSOLIDATED COURT FACILITY

A recently opened consolidated Justice of the Peace Court facility will provide better facilities and more efficient service for court users. The new facility, which is known as JP Court 11, is located at 2 Penns Way, Suite 100 in the New Castle Corporate Commons. It incorporates the former Court 11 which had been located on Christiana Road in New Castle, and JP Court 15 which had been located on Hickman Road in Claymont, as well as the Court's administrative offices and constable central. The Court, which opened for business on December 23rd, held an official opening ceremony on December 29th, with remarks by Chief Magistrate Alan G. Davis and County Executive Chris Coons.



Part of the crowd attending the opening of new Justice of the Peace Court 11.

New Court 11 is a 24 hour court which handles a variety of criminal and traffic matters. The new facility boasts six courtrooms, as well as an enhanced front desk, special victim's room and spacious lobby, all of which should help it to better meet the needs of court users. The consolidated court is handling all Justice of the Peace Court DUI matters in New Castle County, including arraignments, as well as all Hispanic arraignments (for which an interpreter is available as a matter of course).

Telephone and fax numbers are the same as for old Court 11 and are: phone: 302-323-4450; fax: 302-323-4452.

As the result of these changes, JP Court 10 hours will change to Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Wednesday 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. All new Castle County Red Light camera cases will be processed at Court 10.

For further information contact Marianne Kennedy by e-mail at Marianne.kennedy@state.de.us or by phone at 302-323-4530.



Bob Hill, President of Emory Hill, Inc., giving Chief Magistrate Alan G. Davis the key to new Justice of the Peace Court 11, along with the Honorable Bonita Lee, Deputy Chief Magistrate for New Castle County, and Marianne Kennedy, Court Administrator of the Justice of the Peace Court.

SUPERIOR COURT IMPLEMENTS ONLINE DATABASE OF TRADE, BUSINESS AND FICTITIOUS NAMES

Registering a trade, business or fictitious name has recently become easier thanks to a new online tool implemented recently by the Superior Court. Registration of such names with the Prothonotary's Office of each county in which persons, firms or associations transact business is statutorily required by the State of Delaware (if the name does not disclose the first and last names of each of the persons owning the business). Before a name can be registered, an applicant must determine whether there is an existing business or organization using the same name to ensure that the name they are proposing is unique.

The Court's new online database makes this process easier, faster, and more convenient by

making the search available online. Previously, anyone seeking this information had to conduct a search on an access database in the Prothonotary's Office. Once an applicant determines that the proposed name is a unique one, the applicant can then complete the registration certificate online and mail or hand deliver the notarized certificate to the Prothonotary's Office.

Funding for the project was provided through the State of Delaware's e-government initiative.

For further information contact Maureen Frederick by e-mail at Maureen.frederick@state.de.us or by phone at 302-255-0798.

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Middle school students from several New Castle County schools are having an opportunity to spend a morning in the New Castle County Courthouse to learn more about how the court system works and to speak informally with prosecutors and public defenders. Starting with a tour of the courthouse, the students learn about the “nuts and bolts” of the justice system, including new technologies used in the courtroom, as well as court facilities and security, and watch a demonstration by Pocket, the dog whose well-trained nose aids Capitol Police in protecting the courthouse.

Thereafter, they get an opportunity to learn about the legal aspects of the court system from a judge who explains how trials work. And, then, when they least expect it, they get to experience a trial themselves – albeit a mock one. As they are listening to the judge explain the various aspects of a trial, a “theft” occurs and the alleged perpetrator is put on trial. Students act as prosecutors, public defenders, judges, bailiffs, and jurors, with their real-life counterparts coaching them on their roles. After the trial is completed and the jury reaches a verdict, the group discusses what occurred at the trial and why the jury reached its verdict. The visit concludes with lunch and an opportunity to speak informally with the real life prosecutors, public defenders, and others involved in the trial.

All of those attending expressed a great deal of enthusiasm about the experience. “I loved every-

thing!” exclaimed one student on his evaluation. “My favorite part of the day was the mock trial. It was fun to act like it was a real case,” said another. A third student appreciated the one-on-one contact with those who work in the field, saying “My favorite part of the day was talking to Mr. Andy [Public Defender Andrew Rosen]. He told me some important things.” And the professionals involved enjoyed working with the students, as well, according to “Mr. Andy” of the Public Defender’s Office.

In November and December, the project hosted approximately 25 students from Bayard Middle School in Wilmington, as well as about 180 students over three days from Newark Charter School. In the upcoming months, the project is slated to host students from East Side Charter, Springer Middle School, and H.B. duPont Middle School.

The project, which is spearheaded by the Administrative Office of the Courts, is a cooperative effort with the Attorney General’s Office and the Office of the Public Defender. It originated last year as part of the Delaware Supreme Court’s racial and ethnic fairness initiative, which is co-chaired by Justice Henry duPont Ridgely of the Supreme Court and Chief Judge Alex J. Smalls of the Court of Common Pleas.

For further information contact Kirsten Morris by e-mail at Kirsten.morris@state.de.us or by phone at 302-255-0094.

KRIS KRINGLE GOES TO TRIAL



Kris Kringle again experienced his “day in court” in Delaware in December 2009. For the sixth year in a row, the Delaware State Bar Association, the Delaware Courts and the Administrative Office of the Courts, worked on a joint project initiated by Richard K. Herrmann, Esquire, presenting the courtroom scene in the *Miracle on 34th Street* to thousands of school children in Superior Court in all three Delaware counties. The Sussex presentation of *Miracle* included a high ranking mail delivery person in the cast -- Supreme Court Justice Randy J. Holland, who is pictured after making his delivery, while the trial judge, Justice Henry duPont Ridgely, reacts to the mail in support of Kris Kringle.

NEW TEEN CONFLICT RESOLUTION PROGRAM

Starting in September 2009, ten students under the age of fourteen have been participating in an innovative alternative dispute resolution program, known as the *Resolve and Dissolve Conflict Resolution Program*, thanks to the efforts of Commissioner Bernard Pepukayi of the Family Court, who came up with the idea and got it off the ground.

Working in partnership with the H. Fletcher Brown Boys and Girls Club in Wilmington and with financial assistance from several members of the Delaware

Judiciary, the program will involve the students over the course of an eleven month time period.

The students, who were selected from among volunteers participating in the Boys and Girls Club, are learning successful techniques to *Resolve* familiar issues in order to *Dissolve* unnecessary conflicts through a three phase program. The first phase is 33 weeks long and involves weekly dinner meetings/classes at which students learn conflict resolution skills to enable them to

Commissioner Pepukayi expects that the project will have a positive impact on the Judicial Branch as well as the students since, as he says *"it should foster life-time skills that will help to prevent involvement in the juvenile and criminal justice systems."*

Resolve their own conflicts. Classes are taught by Commissioner Pepukayi, along with a staff member from the Boys and Girls Club. In phase two, the students will participate in a four week counselor's training program in which the focus will be on developing their ability to *Dissolve* disputes between younger children attending the

Boys and Girls Club during summer camp. Phase three involves the possibility of summer employment with the H. Fletcher Brown Boys and Girls Club for participants 14 years of age and

older, if the funds are available to hire them, and of volunteer counselor-in-training work for those who are younger than 14.

For further information contact Commissioner Bernard Pepukayi by e-mail at Bernard.pepukayi@state.de.us or by phone at 302-255-2416.



Commissioner Bernard Pepukayi of Family Court (center back row), and Justice Henry duPont Ridgely of the Supreme Court (center right back row) pictured with members of the H. Fletcher Brown Boys and Girls Club visiting the Delaware Supreme Court.

RUSSIAN JUSTICES OF THE PEACE LEARN ABOUT DELAWARE'S COURT SYSTEM

During this past December, the Delaware Justice of the Peace Court hosted five Russian Justices of the Peace who visited Delaware to learn more about Delaware's court system. While here, they observed court proceedings and case processing in the Justice of the Peace Court, as well as the Family Court, with an eye toward learning about these courts' handling of customer service, technology in the courtroom, and high volume case processing. In addition, they participated in a one day educational program at Widener University School of Law. The visiting judges also had an opportunity to learn more about the Delaware justice system and government through meetings with Governor Jack A. Markell, Chief Justice Myron T. Steele and the other justices of the Delaware Supreme Court, as well as representatives of the Delaware Department of Justice and the Office of the Public Defender.



Chief Justice Myron T. Steele (fifth from left), Chief Magistrate Alan G. Davis (fourth from left), along with the visiting Russian Justices of the Peace during an educational program at Widener University School of Law.

Other highlights of their visit included cultural and community activities, among them observing the investiture of newly admitted Delaware attorneys, a tour of Longwood Gardens, and a visit to the Delaware beach. The judges also were able to experience American family life through home stays with Delaware justices of the peace.

The trip was made possible by a grant from the Open World Leadership Center to the Russian American Rule of Law Consortium. Open World was established by the United States Congress to enhance understanding and capabilities for cooperation between the United States and Russia along with post-Soviet states by developing a network of leaders in the region who have gained significant, firsthand exposure to American government and economic systems.

For more information contact Chief Magistrate Alan G. Davis by e-mail at alan.davis@state.de.us or by phone at 302-856-5871, or Maura Shelden, Open World Public Affairs Officer at 202-707-6197.

"The Delaware Justice of the Peace Court is honored to have been selected to host this delegation," said Chief Magistrate Alan G. Davis. "We were pleased to be able to share information about our judicial system with the visiting judges. Meeting with them was an exciting learning experience for both sides of the exchange."

DELAWARE JUDICIARY RECOGNIZED

Chief Justice Myron T. Steele of the Supreme Court was appointed to serve on the Conference of Chief Justices Task Force on the Regulation of Foreign Lawyers and the International Practice of Law. He also serves on the board of directors of the Conference of Chief Justices. **Chief Justice Steele** was also elected to the American Bar Association's Section on Business Law.

Justice Randy J. Holland of the Supreme Court received the James Wilson Award from the University of Pennsylvania Law School on October 7, 2009. The Wilson Award honors service to the legal profession and is the highest honor conferred on a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School.



Justice Randy J. Holland with Chief Justice In-Jaw Lai of Taiwan.

At Chief Justice In-Jaw Lai's invitation, Justice Holland traveled to Taiwan in December 2009 to give nine speeches on Delaware corporate law, including to the entire judiciary of Taiwan and the Taiwan Stock Exchange. Justice Holland also served as the keynote speaker on a program organized by the Taiwan Corporate Governance Association.

Justice Henry duPont Ridgely of the Supreme Court was elected to the American Law Institute (ALI). ALI is the leading independent organization in the United States producing scholarly work to clarify, modernize, and otherwise improve the law. The Institute, which is comprised of lawyers, judges, and law professors of the highest qualifications, drafts, discusses, revises, and publishes Restatements of the Law, model statutes, and principles of law that are enormously influential in the courts and legislatures, as well as in legal scholarship and education.

Justice Jack B. Jacobs of the Supreme Court was a lead speaker at the United States/Israel Corporate Governance Conference, co-sponsored by the Law Schools of Hebrew University and the University of Pennsylvania, in Jerusalem, Israel on January 7, 2010. He also briefed members of the Israeli Supreme Court and trial courts on how corporate law cases are processed and adjudicated by the Delaware courts.

Judge William C. Carpenter, Jr. of the Superior Court was elected secretary of the National Conference of State Trial Judges. Judge Carpenter will also serve as Chairman of the Judicial Division Membership Committee that serves nearly 4,000 judicial members.

Judge Joseph R. Slights, III of the Superior Court was a member of a panel discussing "Managing the Complicated Case" at the Fifth Annual Meeting of the American College of Business Court Judges held in November 2009.

Judge Calvin L. Scott, Jr. was elected to the National Conference of State Trial Judges Executive Committee. He will also serve as Chair of the Conference's By-Laws Committee.

Commissioner Bernard Pepukayi received the Delaware State Bar Association's New Lawyers Distinguished Service Award on December 8, 2009.

THE COURT OF CHANCERY WELCOMES NEW VICE CHANCELLOR

Vice Chancellor Travis J. Laster was sworn in as a vice chancellor of the Court of Chancery by the Honorable Jane R. Roth, U.S. Court of Appeals, Third Circuit, at his investiture held on October 9, 2009. Present with him are his wife, Becky; son Hayden; and daughters Grace and Adeline. Prior to joining the Court of Chancery, Vice Chancellor Laster was a partner at Abrams & Laster, where he practiced corporate law.



Photograph by Elisa Morris of Elisa Morris Photography.



Judge Edward G. Davis receiving tributes from the House of Representatives

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT JUDGE HONORED

Honorable Edward G. Davis, Justice of the Peace in Sussex County, received tributes from the Delaware House of Representatives and the Delaware Senate in honor of his more than 35 years on the bench. Judge Davis retired on January 27, 2010.

FILING AND PAYMENT CENTER REVAMPS OPERATIONS

Lines have been reduced in the Filing and Payment Center, located on the first floor of the New Castle County Courthouse, due to a new cross-training program which began last summer. As the result of the training, all employees can now accept payments for each court, as well as for the Office of State Court Collections and the Department of Correction Supervision Fees. This change has brought greater efficiencies to the Center by eliminating the needs for separate lines for different courts/departments.

For further information contact Robin Jenkins by e-mail at robin.jenkins@state.de.us or by phone at 302-255-0079.

FILING AND PAYMENT CENTER VOLUNTEER ALEXANDRA M. JOYCE

The Filing and Payment Center was assisted last summer by a high school age volunteer, Alexandra M. Joyce, who prepared records of the Office of State Court Collections Enforcement for archiving. Her assistance was invaluable in bringing this long needed project to fruition while enabling full-time staff to continue with their daily functions of taking new payments. According to Robin Jenkins, Manager of the Filing and Payments Center, "Alex was a tremendous asset to the Center. She never lets her physical challenges get in the way of spreading joy or working hard; and she and her service dog, Dee Dee, brought a special spark to all of those around her. She is a dedicated and thorough worker; and I am sure that she will succeed at whatever she chooses to do in life."

Alex is currently a senior at St. Marks' High School where she was voted "student of the year" in her junior year. She likes swimming and shopping and has a talent for sewing. An honor student, she is planning on attending college in the area next year.



Alex with her service dog, Dee Dee.

For further information contact Robin Jenkins by e-mail at robin.jenkins@state.de.us or by phone at 302-255-0079.

We are pleased to present the Winter 2009/2010 issue of the **Delaware Docket**, the Newsletter of the Delaware Judiciary, which is published semi-annually to provide updates on activities and events in the Judicial community. All are welcome to suggest topics, contribute articles for future editions, and provide suggestions on the newsletter. This, and previous versions of the Delaware Docket, are available on line at <http://courts.delaware.gov/AOC/?publications.htm>.

Patricia Griffin, State Court Administrator and Managing Editor, Patricia.Griffin@state.de.us

Christine H. Sudell, Deputy State Court Administrator and Articles Editor, Chris.Sudell@state.de.us

Connie Magee, Executive Assistant and Layout Editor, Connie.Magee@state.de.us



Administrative Office of the Courts
500 N. King Street, Suite 11600
Wilmington, Delaware 19801

Phone: 302-255-0090

Fax: 302-255-2217

WEBSITE: <http://courts.delaware.gov/AOC/?publications.htm>