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Delaware Supreme Court Conducts First Video Admission Ceremony

Nine law students who will be summer interns at the Department of Justice sworn in over Zoom

On June 3, 2020, Justice James T. Vaughn, Jr. presided over a first in the history of the Delaware Courts – a video admission ceremony.

The Supreme Court admitted nine summer interns at Delaware’s Department of Justice under Rule 56, which allows admission of eligible law students to the Bar for the limited practice of law. Such admission ceremonies are held every year for Department of Justice interns, but they are usually conducted in person at the Supreme Court building in Dover.

This year, however, because of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, the Court conducted the ceremony via the videoconferencing platform Zoom. Justice Vaughn presided over the ceremony from the Supreme Court’s courtroom in Dover while the participants joined remotely. The ceremony proceeded as it normally does, with the Justice calling out each person by name and having them raise their hand and repeat an oath.

Justice Vaughn said he was pleased to be part of the historic ceremony and believed that the new procedure worked well. “It was a pleasure to preside over this ceremony and to be able to have these law students admitted now by Zoom rather than have them wait. I thought this was an innovative use of technology by the Court during these challenging times,” he said.

“While the admission ceremony wasn’t conducted in its traditional sense, it remains an honor to be admitted to the Delaware Bar for limited practice and to take part in what will be remembered as an historic moment for the Delaware Courts,” said Carol Thompson, one of the Department of Justice summer interns. “I am thankful that we were able to participate and be sworn in via Zoom.”

While this is the first admission ceremony held over video, it will not be the last. The Supreme Court is anticipating that on June 16, 2020 the Court will be holding a similar remote admission ceremony for attorneys that will be serving as in-house counsel to companies and businesses in Delaware.

The following is a list of law students that were sworn in via Zoom on June 3, 2020:

Abbey Block
Liliane Cooper
Kimberly Coverdale
Rickeisha Edmonds
Savannah Figueroa

Ashley Harper
Jordan Hitch
Hannah Rogers
Carol Thompson