

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 29, 2020

Delaware Judiciary expresses condolences on passing
of Human Resources Manager Helen J. McKinley

The Delaware Judiciary is saddened to report the passing of Helen J. McKinley, who had been Human Resources Manager at the Administrative Office of the Courts, and offers their condolences to her family and friends and many co-workers in the Judiciary.

Helen, 57, first worked for the Courts as a clerk in the Prothonotary's Office in 1985-87 before leaving for a long career with New Castle County government in Human Resources. She returned to the Courts in April 2019 as Human Resources Manager with AOC. She passed away peacefully on June 21, 2020.

"Helen was a great HR manager; but, more important, she was a lovely human being. She was kind and competent and trustworthy, the best kind of colleague. She joined the AOC in 2019 after retiring from a long career with the County. She fit right in and quickly became an invaluable member of the team, helping the office transition to both a new Chief Justice and a new State Court Administrator," said State Court Administrator Gayle Lafferty. "She was a consummate professional and continued to support the office even after she became ill. I am so grateful I had the opportunity to work with and know her. She will be dearly missed."

Helen was born and raised in Delaware. She graduated from Claymont High School and then University of Delaware with a degree in Criminal Justice. Her career began with a seasonal summer position with New Castle County in 1981 and then she landed her first full-time job with the county in 1984 as a clerk/typist. Helen then worked briefly for the Courts in the Prothonotary's Office before returning to New Castle County in 1987 as an Account Clerk. Working her way up through the ranks over the next 30 years through a number of positions, mostly in human resources, Helen became a Human Resources Administrator in 2004, a position she held until joining the Courts in 2019.

One of Helen's hidden talents – at least to her Court co-workers – was that she played in a rock and roll band. During the COVID-19 pandemic, when Court employees had to work remotely, Helen reported she was happily working from home with her own HR department — her cats Biscuit and Dusty – supervising her closely.

In addition to her cats, Helen is survived by her partner, Luis Ramirez; her brothers, Dave (Margie), Jake, and Rob (Verna); her stepmother, Mary Ellen and her children; and many nieces, nephews, cousins.

Services for Helen will be held at a later date once larger public gatherings can safely occur.

Helen's full obituary can be found at: <https://www.dohertyfh.com/obituary/Helen-McKinley>