

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 30, 2022**

### **Chief Justice Collins J. Seitz Jr. speaks to educators about civic education and due process**

On Tuesday June 21, 2022, Delaware Supreme Court Chief Justice Collins J. Seitz, Jr. spoke with about 25 fourth grade teachers from across the State about the Delaware Judiciary and the Constitution as part of a new training program emphasizing civics for elementary school educators.

The focus of the meeting in Newark, organized by the Delaware Center for Civics Education, Democracy Project Institute for Teachers, was changing civic and history standards for grade 4 teachers. Chief Justice Seitz, during his hour-long session, focused on the Constitutional right to due process followed by a question-and-answer session. As part of a recent study to improve diversity in the Delaware Bench and Bar, a key recommendation in the Strategic Plan was to improve civics education in elementary school – and specifically education about the law – to get students with diverse backgrounds interested early on in the law as a career. [The study is available on the Delaware Judiciary's website.](#)

According to the civics education group, Delaware is shifting its social studies curriculum and assessments in grade 4 to focus exclusively on civics and history standards beginning in the fall of 2022. The three-day seminar held June 21-24 was designed to offer grade 4 teachers professional learning and resources to allow them to prepare for this shift.

In addition to the presentation by the Chief Justice the seminar featured Senator Tom Carper and included:

- Deep dives into the grade 4 civics and history standards and clarifications
- Overviews of Black history and other culturally relevant features of the curriculum
- Interactions with government officials that focus on key standards concepts such as separation of powers, due process, and civic responsibility