

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Master In Chancery Patricia W. Griffin Retires
After More Than 29 Years With The Delaware Judiciary**

The Honorable Patricia W. Griffin retired from the bench today after serving for five years as Master in Chancery in the Delaware Court of Chancery. Her retirement caps a nearly 30-year career with the Delaware Judiciary. Master Griffin's service to the Delaware courts began in 1993 at the Justice of the Peace Court where Master Griffin served as Chief Magistrate for 12 years, followed in 2005 by a 12-year stay in the Administrative Office of the Courts as State Court Administrator, until her appointment to the Court of Chancery in 2017.

Master Griffin's replacement has not been immediately announced but the court expects to name a new Master in Chancery to serve in Sussex County in the coming months. Master Griffin has graciously agreed to continue serving the court in retired status on a part-time basis, with a particular focus on guardianship matters.

"We want to thank Master Griffin for her extraordinary service to the Delaware Judiciary over the past 29 years and to the Court of Chancery in particular. The Delaware Courts are far better for her many years of service and we wish her well in retirement," said Chancellor Kathaleen St. J. McCormick. "I personally feel fortunate to have overlapped with Master Griffin in my service to the court. She has been a constant source of wisdom from which we hope to continue to draw in the many years ahead."

In 2019, the Delaware State Bar Association recognized Master Griffin for "Outstanding Service to the Courts and the Bar Award" for her years of dedication to the Delaware Courts and the law. Master Griffin was nominated by the Women and the Law Section of the Delaware State Bar. Retired Delaware Supreme Court Chief Justice Myron Steele endorsed Master Griffin's nomination saying that "there are very few people I have met in my 49 years of service to the Bar and Bench that could meet her standards and none that have ever surpassed them."

During her tenure at the Administrative Office of the Courts, Master Griffin focused on enhancing services provided by the AOC, including by improving the court's accessibility to litigants with psychiatric impairments and enhancing language access and interpretation services. Master Griffin also served as President and Board member of the Conference of State Court Administrators and Vice Chair of the Board of Directors for the National Center for State Courts.

When Master Griffin was appointed as Chief Magistrate, she was the first woman in Delaware history to serve as a presiding judge over a branch of the courts. As Chief Magistrate, Griffin established the Truancy Court for which she received several national awards, including the 2003 Program of the Year and the 2004 Crystal Star Award from the National Center for Truancy and Dropout Prevention. She also created a formal legal education program for Justices of the Peace that continues to this day.

Master Griffin received her Juris Doctor from Washington and Lee University and earned her bachelor's degree from Duke University.