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**July 27, 2023**

**Delaware Judicial Branch welcomes high school students to paid summer internships throughout the courts**

Twenty Delaware students, all rising juniors and seniors from public and private high schools across the state, are working within the Courts for six weeks this summer as part of a paid internship program, known as the Future Leaders Internship Initiative (FLii). The FLii program was created by the Department of State in partnership with the nonprofit organization Leading Youth Through Empowerment (LYTE).

“The summer intern program implements a key recommendation from the 2022 Delaware Bench and Bar Diversity Project. The next generation of Delawareans get to see first-hand the day to day work of our courts and justice partners. We hope the program will inspire some of them to pursue a legal career in Delaware.” said Delaware Chief Justice Collins J. Seitz, Jr.

The students are learning and working at nearly all levels of the Delaware State Courts including: the Supreme Court, Court of Chancery, Superior Court, Family Court, Court of Common Pleas, and the Administrative Office of the Courts. In addition to helping with staff duties and administrative tasks, the students also are observing court proceedings, including trials, interacting with judicial officers, and meeting with practicing lawyers in both the public and private sectors. The interns also traveled as a group to Dover to attend an oral argument at the Delaware Supreme Court.

The courts’ interns also receive enhanced law-related programming on Friday mornings provided by Widener University’s Delaware Law School. This programming is a collaboration between LYTE, the Delaware Law School, and the Courts to establish a “legal pathways” program to help stimulate the teens’ early interest in the law as a possible career.

The establishment of a paid summer internship program, as well as a legal pathways program, were both recommendations in the Delaware’s 2022 Strategic Plan to improve Diversity in the Bench and Bar which can be found on the Delaware Judiciary’s [website](#).