

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 18, 2006

**FOUR DELAWARE STATE COURT JUDGES NAMED AMONG THE 500
LEADING JUDGES NATIONWIDE**

Four Delaware State Court judges -- Myron T. Steele, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Delaware; Jack B. Jacobs, Justice of the Supreme Court; William B. Chandler, III, Chancellor of the Court of Chancery; and Leo E. Strine, Jr., Vice-Chancellor of the Court of Chancery -- have been named among the 500 leading judges in America. Lawdragon, an industry publication, recently published its first guide to the nation's 500 leading public and private judges. The 500 leading judges in America were selected based on thousands of lawyer nominations and significant contributions to the legal community -- from the more than 30,000 federal and state judges, plus the estimated 20,000 retired judges, arbitrators and mediators nationwide. Three of the judges named -- Chief Justice Steele, Chancellor Chandler and Vice-Chancellor Strine -- were also included in the Lawdragon list of the 500 leading attorneys nationwide, which was published earlier this year.

The guide to the 500 leading judges nationwide compliments other recent studies commending Delaware's Judiciary, including the Harris Poll State Liability Systems Ranking Study conducted for the United States Chamber Institute for Legal Reform, which rated Delaware as the number one court system overall and Delaware's Superior Court as the premier court of general jurisdiction in the country.

Other Delaware based judges on the Leading 500 judges list included Thomas L. Ambro, 3rd United States Circuit Court of Appeals; Sue L. Robinson, United States District Court, and Peter J. Walsh, United States Bankruptcy Court.

Governor Ruth Ann Minner stated that "These rankings demonstrate, once again, that the excellence of the Delaware Judiciary is recognized on the national level. We in Delaware are extremely proud of our outstanding bench, including these esteemed judges, and we are committed to ensuring that Delaware Courts remain the best in the nation."

Helen Winslow, president of the Delaware State Bar Association, noted that "As Delaware's courts are ranked top in the country, and Delaware corporate law is admired throughout the world, it is no surprise that Delaware judges would have significant representation on the list of top judges in the nation. Chief Justice Steele, Justice Jacobs, Chancellor Chandler, and Vice Chancellor Strine have all played important roles in Delaware's judicial success."

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT
PATRICIA W. GRIFFIN
STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR
302-856-5406**