

# LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

The Judiciary's legislative team brings together representatives of the courts and the Administrative Office of the Courts to enhance the effectiveness of the Judicial Branch's relationship with the General Assembly by serving as the main Judicial Branch contact for legislative matters and by monitoring and analyzing legislation for impact on the Judiciary. The following legislation affecting the Judicial Branch was passed during FY 2008 by the 144<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly.

Bill Number	Description
SB 216	Provides for the establishment of boundaries defining the territorial jurisdiction of Justice of the Peace civil courts in summary possession cases
SB 217 as amended by Senate Amendment No. 1	Amends verification requirements for service of process in the Justice of the Peace Court
SB 218	Enhances the means by which a Justice of the Peace Constable may conduct a sale of goods that have been levied upon in execution of a chattel judgment
SB 219	Sets the Justice of the Peace Court costs for electronic filing
SB 221 as amended by Senate Amendment No. 1	Requires the holder of a motor vehicle related judgment which is unsatisfied after 60 days to file a motion requesting a certified copy of the judgment be sent to the Secretary of Transportation
SB 237	Adds unlawfully passing a school bus to the list of offenses not eligible for voluntary assessment
SB 242	First leg of Constitutional Amendment making the Chief Magistrate a State Judge under Article IV of the Delaware Constitution
SB 260	Increases the time period for filing an appeal of a Family Court Commissioner's final order to a judge from 10 to 30 days
SB 289	Honors the late former Chief Judge Robert D. Thompson, Jr. by naming the Sussex County Family Courthouse after him
HB 299 as amended by House amendments Nos. 2 & 3	Establishes the qualifications and procedures for licensing of professional bail agents
HB 413	Provides for consistent treatment of conditional sales agreements involving residential real estate
HB 496	Revises procedures for expungements of records relating to misdemeanor charges

## COTS HIGHLIGHTS



Debbie Mowbray, Clerk of Court, signing onto *Contexte* on the first day of implementation in the Court of Common Pleas in New Castle County.

Phase 3 of COTS, which was implemented in June of 2008, brought *Contexte* to civil case processing in the Superior Court and the Court of Common Pleas (CCP) in Sussex County.

Phase 4 began with the incremental implementation of *Contexte* and e-filing in CCP in New Castle and Kent Counties in November 2008. Carole Kirshner, CCP Court Administrator and COTS Executive Steering Committee Chair, stated: "CCP staff are adjusting well and we appreciate the benefits that e-filing and access to management reports have brought CCP's operations." Phase 4 implementation will be completed with the scheduled implementation of *Contexte* in Superior Court in Kent and New Castle Counties in early FY 2010.