Justice Joseph T. Walsh served in the Delaware Judiciary for 31 years, starting with his appointment to the Superior Court in 1972, followed by his appointment as a Justice on the Supreme Court, where he served from 1985 until his retirement in 2003. While on the Court, he authored over 300 opinions in areas of civil, criminal and corporate law, and previously served on both the Superior Court bench and the Court of Chancery.

Justice Walsh was a tireless advocate for equal access to justice for all Delawareans and co-founded both the Carpenter-Walsh Delaware Pro Bono American Inn of Court and the Annual Rubenstein-Walsh Seminar in Professionalism and Ethics. He received numerous awards during his judicial career for his outstanding service to the community, including the Order of the First State, the highest state government honor, which he received in 2003 from Governor Ruth Ann Minner.

“I was privileged to get to know Justice Walsh when I was a very young Counsel to the Governor and he was Chairman of the Courts’ Long-Range Planning Committee. It would be difficult to identify a better role model. Despite being such a distinguished judge -- heck, he was on Chancery for barely a year and decided both Moran and Revlon! -- he was entirely about the mission, and not himself. A regular guy in the best sense of that term whose contribution to the cause of justice and commitment to those in need was extraordinary.” — Supreme Court Chief Justice Leo E. Strine, Jr.

“Justice Walsh embodied all of the exemplary qualities that are wanted in a jurist during his long and distinguished service on the Superior Court, the Court of Chancery and the Delaware Supreme Court. It was my honor to appear before him in all three courts when I was an attorney and to serve with him on the Delaware Supreme Court for 18 years. He established the gold standard for Delaware judges. Throughout his professional life he was a tireless advocate for indigent parties and established the first Pro Bono American Inn of Court to provide free legal services. I have no doubt that the Delaware Bench and Bar will continue to be inspired by his example for many years to come.” — Supreme Court Justice Randy J. Holland

Many thanks to the Presiding Judges, Court Administrators and others in the Courts, and the Administrative Office of the Courts for their efforts in preparing this annual report.

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