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DELAWARE RECOGNIZED FOR RACIAL JUSTICE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT EFFORTS

The Delaware Courts, criminal justice agencies, and others were recognized for their leadership in efforts to implement racial and justice fairness initiatives during a conference sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and the American Bar Association (ABA) on October 21 – 22, 2011 in Washington, D.C. In September 2010, Delaware was selected as one of four states to receive a two-year Racial Justice Improvement Project (RJIP) grant sponsored by the BJA and the ABA as a part of the ABA’s program to support state criminal justice systems in efforts to enact key practices to promote fair, efficient and accountable systems. Representatives of the jurisdictions receiving the ABA grants attended the Conference held to review progress midway through the grant period.

Cynthia Jones, RJIP Project Director, said:

“We congratulate the Delaware RJIP initiative for the outstanding progress it is making in efforts to enhance racial and justice fairness. As a Delaware native, I am especially proud of the progress that has been made in the Delaware criminal justice system.”

The Delaware RJIP initiative is led by Supreme Court Justice Henry duPont Ridgely, with task force members including Chief Judge Alex Smalls of the Court of Common Pleas, Peggy Bell, Executive Director of Delaware Criminal Justice Information System (DELJIS), Public Defender Brendan O’Neill, Colonel Robert Coupe, Delaware State Police Superintendent, Curt Shockley, the Director of Probation

and Parole, Attorney General Joseph R. Biden, III, State Prosecutor Richard Andrews, Drewry N. Fennell, Esq., Executive Director of the Criminal Justice Council, community representative Janet Leban, Executive Director of Delaware Center for Justice, State Court Administrator Patricia W. Griffin, Esq., and Task Force Facilitator, Amy A. Quinlan, Esq., Deputy State Court Administrator.

Delaware’s RJIP task force’s approach is two-pronged. First, steps are being taken to ensure that racial disparity does not play a role in cases in which a criminal defendant is charged with a violation of probation (VOP). Efforts completed include adopting bias-free decision making policy and training requirements for probation officers. Additional training for probation officers in the motivational interview process and changes to DOC’s automated data collection system to allow for automated tracking of graduated VOP sanctions are planned for the second year of the grant. Curt Shockley, Director of Probation and Parole, stated: “The RJIP initiative is providing an opportunity for the Division of Probation and Parole to review its internal processes to ensure that racial disparity does not play a role, no matter how small, in its officers’ decisions. We are grateful to have the support of the courts, the ABA and the criminal justice community in these efforts.”

Second, the task force is working with the Criminal Justice Council on implementation of the CJC’s Declaration of Leading Practices to Protect Civil Rights and Promote Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Criminal Justice System. The Declaration, adopted in April 2010, outlines steps to be taken by

courts and criminal justice agencies, in a variety of areas, to ensure civil rights and racial and ethnic fairness. The Declaration can be viewed at <http://cjc.delaware.gov>.

Other actions taken as a direct result of task force initiatives include efforts by the Delaware State Police, which already has a strong initiative promoting bias-free decision making, to automate additional aspects of the traffic complaint/warning process. Colonel Robert Coupe, Delaware State Police Superintendent, expressed his appreciation of the RJIP process and

stated "I believe that the law enforcement community generally, and the State Police specifically, is benefiting from the work of the RJIP task force's concentration on racial and justice fairness initiatives. When the automation of traffic warnings is completed, we will have the structure in place, as we do with automated traffic tickets, to readily review decisions to ensure they are bias-free."

For additional information contact Amy Quinlan by e-mail at Amy.Quinlan@state.de.us.

"The American Bar Association supports Delaware's efforts to ensure that racial disparity does not play a role in the state's criminal justice system. By implementing reforms that address fundamental fairness in the courts, in law enforcement and criminal justice agencies, the state ensures fair, efficient and accountable systems. Probation and parole reform, for example, can minimize the reliance on technical violations and remove signs of disparate racial impact while protecting public safety. These reforms will help ensure a fair criminal justice system and save money that can be used to help shore up the judicial system in other areas."

American Bar Association President William T. (Bill) Robinson III.

HISTORIC OPENING OF THE NEW KENT COUNTY COURTHOUSE

On June 14, 2011, the new Kent County Courthouse officially opened. Kent County Superior Court Resident Judge William L. Witham, Jr. coordinated and oversaw the Courthouse Opening Ceremony; in attendance at the event were judicial officers, attorneys, government leaders, other dignitaries, and members of the public. Governor Jack A. Markell, Chief Justice Myron T. Steele, Superior Court President Judge James T. Vaughn, Jr. and Judge Witham spoke at the ceremony. Judge Henry duPont Ridgely provided historical comments. Tributes were presented by President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Anthony DeLuca, and Representative E. Brad Bennett. Special presentations at the ceremony included the presentation of the portrait of the late Superior Court Judge William G. Bush, III, which will hang in the new Courthouse, and presentations to Mrs. Robert O'Brien in honor of her late husband by the State of Delaware and by Kent County. Following the presentation of the

key to the Courthouse by Director Ann Visalli, Office of Management and Budget, to President Judge Vaughn, those in attendance toured the Courthouse and attended a reception hosted by the Kent County Bar Association.



Governor Markell speaking at the Kent County Courthouse opening ceremony. Seated (from left) are President Judge Vaughn, Chief Justice Steele, Resident Judge Witham, President Pro Tem DeLuca and Justice Ridgely.

The new construction, and the renovation of the historic courthouse, was the first major Kent County Courthouse expansion since 1874. Governor Markell and other speakers commented that the new wing of the Courthouse was completed "under budget and ahead of schedule." Chief Justice Steele remarked that the new wing of the Courthouse provides a well-designed, dignified and secure court facility that will support modern day court demands and high volume court operations. The many advantages offered by the new facility are courtrooms equipped with the latest technology to enhance courtroom efficiencies; "green" technology features

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that reduce energy consumption, such as an integrated light-sensing system that dims interior lights when outside light is available, and solar panels that help power the building; design features that make it easy for Kent County citizens serving their duty as jurors to find the Jury Services Assembly Room (in the old building, locating the Jury Services Room was a navigational feat); and “moth-balled” courtrooms to

allow for future growth. The new wing of the Courthouse is connected to the existing historic Courthouse by an enclosed walkway. The historic Courthouse renovation, the final phase of the project, is anticipated to be completed by the fall 2012.

For additional information contact Joe Klenoski by e-mail at Joe.Klenoski@state.de.us.

CHIEF JUSTICE STEELE’S REMARKS AT THE JUDICIARY’S PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

On November 8, 2011, Chief Justice Myron T. Steele, along with representatives from all of the courts and the Judicial Branch agencies, presented the Judicial Branch’s FY 2013 budget to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and others. The Chief Justice spoke of the impact of the current volatile economic climate on the budget process and stated that, because of fiscal concerns, the Judicial Branch limited its budget request for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2012 to only absolutely necessary expenses. He categorized the Judicial Branch’s top two budget priorities for FY 2013 as “the funding needed to eliminate funding deficits for legally mandated Family Court contract attorneys who provide representation to indigent parents and children in dependency and neglect proceedings and the annualization costs for the new Superior Court judges and staff.” He discussed that the additional Superior Court judges and staff were originally authorized in FY 2009 without full funding, due to the fiscal crisis, and that “delay in providing these resources to support Superior Court operations in New Castle County will seriously hamper New Castle County citizens’ access to justice and will jeopardize our Court system’s national reputation.”

The Chief Justice lamented that, by acting as a strong fiscal partner with the other branches of government, the Judicial Branch’s ability to provide constitutionally obligated services in a timely and effective manner is affected. He stated:

“Our courts’ resource issues are not unique. Insufficient funding for courts across the country has become a national crisis. At a recent national symposium on the practical and constitutional impact of court underfunding, the current President of the American Bar Association, Bill Robinson, concluded that court underfunding is causing a “fundamental threat to our constitutional democracy.”

The Chief Justice expressed his relief that court employees will receive a 2% increase beginning in January 2012; although he recognized that, even with that increase, compensation rates for court employees fall further and further behind inflation and benefit cost increases. He spoke about the similar erosion to judges’ pay, which (when information and benefit increases are factored in) eroded by more than 14% since 2005 when the last Compensation Commission report was issued. As a result, Delaware judges’ national standing based upon judicial compensation comparisons with other states has fallen.

The Chief Justice also provided an update on the initiative to establish a separate division within the Public Defender’s office to administer the program for court-appointed attorneys providing representation to indigent criminal defendants in conflict situations. The new conflict program structure was implemented on November 1, 2011 and will provide great benefits to the justice system. The program centralizes conflict services under a single agency, allows for the coordination of service providers and eliminates potential ethical issues that arise when judges are involved in contracting with conflict attorneys and approving their fees and expenses in cases before them.

Chief Justice Steele mentioned that a continuing concern related to indigent services is the federal mandate contained in Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which, according to the United States Department of Justice (USDOJ) communications, requires that state courts provide interpreter services to limited English proficiency parties in all civil, criminal and administrative proceedings conducted inside or outside the courtroom at no cost to the parties – without regard to the parties’ ability to pay. This USDOJ initiative is causing concern among state courts

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and the Conference of Chief Justices who, without regard to motivation, find this a particularly difficult time to deal with yet another unfunded, and expensive, federal mandate.

Chief Justice Steele expressed his appreciation of the support of the Office of Management and Budget, the Governor and the Legislature for the Kent County Court Complex construction project. He noted that, finally, members of the public in Kent County have joined those in other counties having access to a well-designed and secure courthouse for Superior Court, Court of Common Pleas and Court of Chancery operations. The final phase of that project – renovations to the historic Kent County Courthouse – is anticipated to be completed within the next year.

Chief Justice Steele also remarked about the physical overcrowding and security deficiencies in Family Court's Kent and Sussex County courthouses, which make construction projects for those courthouses high priorities, particularly given the potentially volatile nature of the proceedings that the Family Court hears. These projects would create centralized Family Justice Centers downstate, starting in Sussex County.

The Chief Justice also highlighted a few recent Judicial Branch initiatives, as well as accolades, emphasizing the important role that the Courts play in enhancing system efficiencies and in attracting businesses to Delaware. Highlights included:

- Delaware was one of four jurisdictions nationwide awarded a racial and ethnic improvement project grant from the ABA. The Delaware team, led by Justice Ridgely and including Chief Judge Smalls, the Attorney General, Public Defender, and others, is focusing on enhancing racial and justice fairness in the criminal justice system. Delaware's efforts, through this initiative, were recognized at a racial justice improvement conference in Washington, D.C. held this fall.
- An attorney ad litem desk reference book was developed by the Court of Chancery and the Administrative Office of the Courts.
- The Superior Court established the first Diversionary Veterans' Treatment Court, which Resident Judge, and retired DEANG Colonel, Witham oversees, to serve veterans with mental illness involved in the court system.
- The Court of Common Pleas established a SPEED docket for expediting civil litigation, as well as new court procedures for managing consumer debt collection litigation.
- The Family Court's Court Appointed Special Advocate, or CASA, program was honored to receive the 2011 Governor's Award for Outstanding Volunteer Organization.
- Family Court's revised website, creating an electronic resource center for self-represented litigants.
- The Justice of the Peace Court's Police Prosecution Project promises great success. Preliminary statistics show that the project has caused a 50% reduction in the number of traffic cases being transferred from the JP Court to the Court of Common Pleas. For example, statistics gathered by DELJIS indicate in the first quarter of this year that 8,400 fewer cases were transferred than in the same period last year. In addition, the Delaware State Police statistics show a correlating one-third drop in their in-court overtime since the Police Prosecution Project began.

The Chief Justice concluded with his acknowledgment of "the exceptional efforts and commitment of all of the Judicial Branch employees." He stated:

"I marvel at their resilience and dedication in making sure that the job "gets done," while confronting exponentially increasing workloads and declining resources."

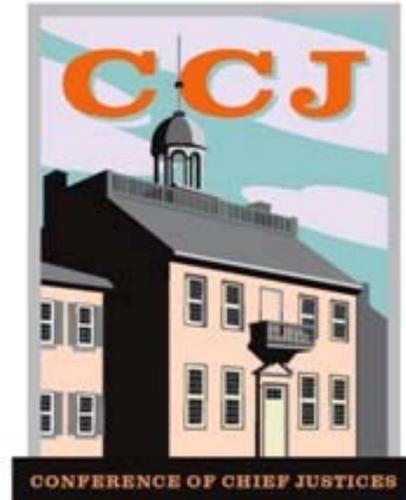
For additional information contact Patricia Griffin by e-mail at Patricia.Griffin@state.de.us.

THE DELAWARE JUDICIARY
FY 2013 BUDGET: BUDGET PRIORITIES AND
CRITICAL COURT NEEDS



DELAWARE HOSTS 2012 CONFERENCE OF CHIEF JUSTICES MIDYEAR MEETING

Supreme Court Chief Justice Myron T. Steele will host the upcoming **2012 Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ) Midyear Meeting**. This is the first time that Delaware has hosted the Conference of Chief Justices. The Conference of Chief Justices was founded in 1949 to provide an opportunity for the highest judicial officers of the states to meet and discuss matters of importance in improving the administration of justice, rules and methods of procedure, and the organization and operation of state courts and judicial systems, and to make recommendations and bring about improvements on such matters. Attendees from across the country will participate in the four-day conference which will include an exciting educational program focusing on "Commercial and Business Law" with renowned panelists from both the United States and abroad, as well as social activities at local landmarks. Chief Justice Steele will begin his term as President of CCJ next summer (August 2012).



The Supreme Court's "From Classroom to Courtroom" Program Provides Delaware Teachers with Valuable Tools to Bolster Civics Education

June 2011 saw another successful year for the Supreme Court's "From Classroom to Courtroom" program. Eleven middle and high school teachers from across the State participated in the three-day externship program offered through the University of Delaware. Participants gained detailed information about the court system which they then take back to their schools and apply to their civics curriculum. This year's program included presentations by several members of the Judiciary, including Family Court Judge William L. Chapman Jr., Superior Court Judge Mary M. Johnston and Justice of the Peace Court Judge Susan Cline. Jeff Curley, Esq., Executive Director, Our Courts, iCivics, Inc., from Georgetown University Law Center, gave a demonstration on iCivics -- a web-based education program begun by retired Supreme Court of the United States Justice Sandra Day O'Connor that provides teachers with material to promote civics education. Additionally, the teachers were given an overview of the New Castle County Courthouse as well as the Court's information and technology system, including an introduction to the Judiciary's website. Discussions on issues relating to the death penalty, led by Assistant Public Defender Edmund Hillis and Deputy Attorney General Paul Wallace, were also part of the program. The externship culminated in a morning of Supreme Court arguments followed by a luncheon with the Supreme

Court Justices at which the teachers were presented with Certificates of Participation as well as signed copies of *The Delaware State Constitution*, authored by Justice Randy J. Holland.



Some participants in the 2011 "From Classroom to Courtroom" program pictured with Justice Henry duPont Ridgely.

For additional information contact Franny Haney by e-mail at Franny.Haney@state.de.us.

Family Court CASA Program Received the 2011 Governor's Award for Outstanding Volunteer Organization

The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program of the Family Court of the State of Delaware was honored to receive the 2011 Governor's Award for Outstanding Volunteer Organization. This is an esteemed award given annually to individual volunteers as well as volunteer organizations. Nominees are selected based on highly selective criteria about the number of people serving the organization, the type of service provided to the community, the level of impact that the organization has on the community, and the volunteers' commitment to service within the organization.

The mission of the CASA program is to provide independent and quality representation and advocacy for all abused and neglected children who are the subject of Court proceedings. The CASA volunteers have varied professional, educational and ethnic backgrounds and are selected on the basis of their objectivity, competence and commitment. The volunteers are appointed by Family Court Judges to represent a child's best interest in court. The CASA volunteers establish the child's best interest by gathering information, making recommendations to the Court and monitoring the circumstances surrounding the child(ren) in question. The CASA program has 270 active volunteers serving over 700 children state-

wide. Over 50% of the volunteers have remained assigned to a case beyond the initial 18 month commitment.

The CASA volunteers' efforts were recognized by the Governor, the State Office of Volunteerism, and the State of Delaware on November 3, 2011. The efforts of the CASA volunteers have a true impact on the lives of the children and families that they so passionately serve.



Christina Harrison, CASA Statewide Director, holding the plaque along with CASA coordinators and volunteers.

For additional information contact Andrea Mills by e-mail at Andrea.Mills@state.de.us.

Expansion Efforts Underway for the Limited *Pro Bono* Legal Assistance Program

The Delaware Administrative Office of the Courts is expanding efforts to attract additional volunteer attorney participants to its Limited Pro Bono Legal Assistance Program. The Program, a joint effort with Delaware Volunteer Legal Services, is designed to assist self-represented litigants by providing a free 15 minute consultation with an attorney to obtain answers to specific legal questions concerning their Family Court civil case. These consultations provide *pro se* litigants with important information on key points of their case and advice on how to streamline the litigation process.

Many Courts have been overwhelmed by the tidal wave of *pro se* litigation in recent years. Family Court has not been spared. Court resources have been shaved in light of budget constraints, yet the number of case filings continues to increase. The consultations offer desperately needed insight and focus to unrepresented litigants which limits the impact on already taxed judicial resources. The representation is limited to the 15 minute consultation which allows attorney participants the opportunity to provide critical assistance to litigants for a minimal time commitment. Program volunteers can make a difference doing work that matters within the time constraints of their

busy careers.

Volunteer attorney Curtis J. Crowther, who is new to the Program this year, wondered how helpful he would be as he had hardly any family law experience, but he learned most questions were very basic and that:

"It is quite easy to share a lot of knowledge and experience, in very short increments, while volunteering as a pro bono attorney in the Limited Pro Bono project."

Many volunteers cite the satisfaction they obtain from being able to make a difference for those they assist. For example, according to frequent volunteer attorney Richard (Buzz) Hannum, "The regularity with which the users of the program express appreciation for the guidance provided is undisputed evidence of the value of the program. I continue to volunteer because there is no question in my mind that I am helping those who seek my guidance."

The Limited Pro Bono Legal Assistance Program is fortunate to have attorney participants such as Curtis J. Crowther, Buzz Hannum, and others who generously volunteer

their time to assist the growing number of pro se litigants. Program volunteer attorneys enable the program, which operates each Monday from 11 a.m until 1 p.m. in the Self Help Center of the New Castle County Courthouse, to serve over 250 individuals annually in the area of family law. The AOC also hopes, with support from members of the Bar, to expand the program beyond family

law. Patricia Griffin, State Court Administrator, stated: "The attorneys who volunteer provide a critically needed service. We thank them all and hope others will join rank with our seasoned volunteers who are among the best attorneys in the area."

For additional information contact Karen Antonelli by e-mail at Karen.Antonelli@state.de.us or by calling (302)255-0480.

OSCCE Welcomes New Technology – Payment Kiosks

In today's economic atmosphere, completing more work with fewer resources is a must. Often this is accomplished through improved agency efficiencies. As we strive to improve agency operations with leaner budgets, we continue to look for creative solutions to make the most of limited resources.

The Office of State Court Collections Enforcement (OSCCE) takes another step towards reaching this goal with an innovative new payment kiosk initiative. This initiative will expand the ability to collect fines by providing payment accessibility to Delawareans without the need for new staff resources. AOC/OSCCE representatives researched the possibilities of payment kiosks for court payments for over a year and concluded that the payment kiosk initiative has the potential to be a cost effective collection tool for the Courts. Some of the advancements the payment kiosks will bring to OSCCE collections include multi-lingual screens, currency counterfeit readers and client accessibility. The first implementations of the new payment kiosks are scheduled for locations within the Department of Correction Probation & Parole offices in New Castle, Dover, Georgetown and Seaford. Kiosks will accept cash as well as all major credit/debit cards and are fitted with the latest in security features. With easy to follow step-by-step kiosk instructions, Delawareans will be able to make payments on outstanding judgments in multiple courts. Transactions are processed through kiosks in real time so the payment information is immediately available to OSCCE.



Watch for a Kiosk near you soon!!

For additional information contact Bill DiBartola by e-mail at William.DiBartola@state.de.us.

DELAWARE PUBLIC DEFENDER ASSUMES MANAGEMENT OF THE CONFLICT COUNSEL PROGRAM

The U.S. Constitution and Delaware law require appointment and payment of conflict counsel to represent indigent criminal defendants who cannot be served by the Delaware Public Defender's Office. The difficult question has been how to deliver those services in a manner that is effective and cost efficient. The Fiscal Year 2012 budget bill paved the way for the creation of the new Office of Conflict Counsel ("OCC") which falls under the Public Defender's Office ("PDO"), and eliminates the patchwork team of judges, secretaries, court clerks and court administrators that previously managed the conflicts counsel program on an ad hoc basis. The OCC provides a separate structure between the conflict program and the PDO's other work, which is necessary to address ethical concerns. On November 1, 2011, the OCC assumed the administration of Delaware's criminal conflicts counsel in the Superior Court and the Court of Common Pleas. The OCC is staffed by a full time lawyer, Stephanie Volturo, Chief Conflict Counsel, joined by

paralegal Jennifer Young. Its administration functions independently from the PDO.

The new program relieves the judiciary of the obligations of administering Delaware's criminal conflicts counsel program, thereby eliminating any potential ethical concerns that can arise when judges hire and pay appointed criminal defense counsel. It also consolidates the administration of the conflict counsel program into a single office which standardizes procedures, with the goal of creating a more efficient and cost effective system for providing conflict defense services. "We look forward to providing top flight representation for clients who would otherwise be ineligible for Public Defender representation. The new OCC will be well served by Stephanie and her team," said Brendan O'Neill, Delaware Public Defender.

For additional information contact Stephanie Volturo by e-mail at Stephanie.Volturo@state.de.us.

DELAWARE JUDICIARY RECOGNIZED

Supreme Court Chief Justice Myron T. Steele was a panelist at the Global Business Law Forum in London, Sept. 21-23, 2011. The forum, sponsored by the American Bar Association Business Law Section, focused on cross-border business law issues, with an emphasis on financial reform and its effect on clients. Chief Justice Steele served on two panels about business acquisition. Lawyers from more than 20 countries attended the conference which featured subject matter experts from Europe and North America. **Chief Justice Steele** also gave a recent interview to "Who's Who Legal" of the International Law Section of the American Bar Association. The article focused on the Chief Justice's background, his path to the bench, his experience as Vice Chancellor of the Court of Chancery and Chief Justice of the Delaware Supreme Court, as well as his many other professional accomplishments. The interview was featured in the October 2011 issue of www.whoswholegal.com.

Supreme Court Justice Randy J. Holland's new book entitled *Delaware Corporation Law: Selected Cases*, was recently released in Taipei, Taiwan. The book contains edited decisions by the Delaware Supreme Court and commentary. It is being published in Chinese only for initial distribution in Taiwan and later in China. It will be used primarily by law students and was translated into Chinese by professors from Taiwan's leading law schools. In a preface to Justice Holland's book, the former Chief Justice of Taiwan, In-Jaw Lai, wrote: "To understand the United States Company Law, people must study the Delaware legal system." Justice Holland has worked with Chief Justice Lai for the last few years in developing a commercial division within Taiwan's trial courts. Several judges from Taiwan have visited Delaware's courts to learn about deciding commercial cases. The release of Justice Holland's book coincided with the delivery of his keynote address to the Taiwan Corporate Governance Association, and his meetings with former Chief Justice Lai and some of Taiwan's highest ranking judges to discuss issues relating to commercial courts and judicial ethics. Justice Holland also spoke at both of Taiwan's stock exchanges and the National Taiwan University School of Law.

Supreme Court Justice Jack B. Jacobs spoke at the Widener University School of Law commencement on May 21, 2011. The ceremony for the 37th graduating class was broadcast live online. In addition to his many judicial activities, Justice Jacobs serves as an Adjunct Professor of Law for Widener University School of Law, as well as the New York University School of Law and Columbia University School of Law. **Justice Jacobs** recently coauthored an article on hostile takeovers in developed and emerging markets with colleagues John Armour (Professor of Law and Finance at the University of Oxford) and Curtis J. Milhaupt (Professor of Comparative Law and Japanese Law at Columbia Law School). The article, published in the Winter 2011 issue of the Harvard International Law Journal, is entitled *The Evolution of Hostile Takeover Regimes in Developed and Emerging Markets: An Analytical Framework*.

Supreme Court Justice Henry duPont Ridgely was honored for his outstanding judicial service at the recent Judicial Education Retreat held on October 12, 2011. Chief Justice Myron T. Steele made the presentation recognizing Justice Ridgely's "uncommon devotion to duty in and outside the courtroom above the customary excellence demonstrated by his peers." Among his many accomplishments, the Chief Justice specifically noted his willingness to chair many of the important initiatives being undertaken by the Judiciary, including Delaware Supreme Court's e-Filing committee, the Delaware Supreme Court Task Force on Criminal Justice and Mental Health, the Delaware Criminal Justice Council's Committee on Racial and Ethnic Fairness, the Supreme Court's Legislative Team, and the Project Leadership Team of the Delaware Court's Automation Project. Also noted were Justice Ridgely's numerous leadership roles on many national-level initiatives, as well as his dedication to a vast array of local community service projects. In addition, **Justice Ridgely** has been reelected to the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association as the Conference Delegate of The Appellate Judges Conference of the Judicial Division. The Appellate Judges Conference includes state and federal appellate judges, appellate lawyers, and staff attorneys from across the country. The House of Delegates is the policy making body of the ABA and votes on issues affecting the Association and the legal profession. It consists of 566 members from State and local bar associations, ABA affiliates and ABA entities. Justice Ridgely was first elected to the House of Delegates in 2008. His new three-year term began September 1, 2011. He will also continue to serve as an officer on the Executive Committee of the Appellate Judges Conference of the Judicial Division.

Late Supreme Court Justice Maurice A. Harnett was honored during a special session of the Supreme Court held on June 14, 2011. Justice Harnett, who died May 11, 2009, served on the Supreme Court from 1994 to 2000 and was a Vice Chancellor on the Court of Chancery from 1976 to 1994. Justice Carolyn Berger spoke on behalf of the Court. The Honorable Anne Hartnett Reigle, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in Kent County and daughter of Justice Harnett, and Pamela S. Tikellis, Esq. also made presentations before the Court in honor of Justice Harnett.

The Supreme Court and Court of Chancery were named to the National Association of Corporate Directors' 2011 list of the 100 most influential individuals and institutions in corporate governance. No other courts were included in the Directorship 100. The Directorship 100 is compiled yearly by the editors of the Directorship magazine based on input from a reader survey and a panel of corporate governance experts. Chief Justice Myron T. Steele, Justice Randy J. Holland, Justice Carolyn Berger, Justice Jack B. Jacobs, Justice Henry DuPont Ridgely, Chancellor Leo E. Strine, Jr., Vice Chancellor John Noble, Vice Chancellor Donald R. Parsons, Jr., Vice Chancellor J. Travis Laster and Vice Chancellor Sam Glasscock, III were recognized.

Chancellor Leo E. Strine, Jr. was appointed as Chancellor of the Court of Chancery on June 22, 2011, having previously served as a Vice Chancellor since 1998. Chancellor Strine also has long-standing positions as the Austin Wakeman Scott Lecturer in Law at the Harvard Law School, Senior Fellow at the Harvard Program of Corporate Governance, and Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Pennsylvania and Vanderbilt University Law Schools. He also serves as the Special Judicial Consultant to the Corporate Laws Committee of the American Bar Association.



Chancellor Leo E. Strine, Jr. taking the oath of office. Former Delaware State Senator Nancy Cook is holding the bible.

Vice Chancellor Sam Glasscock, III was appointed as Vice Chancellor on June 29, 2011 after having served as Master in Chancery from 1999 to 2011. He previously worked as an associate at Prickett, Jones, Elliott, Kristol & Schnee in the litigation section and as a Superior Court special discovery master.



Vice Chancellor Sam Glasscock, III taking the oath of office from Betsy McGeever, Esquire. Sister-in-law Joyce Hein holds the bible.

DELAWARE JUDICIARY RECOGNIZED continued

Chancellor William B. Chandler, III retired from the Bench on June 17, 2011. He served on the Court of Chancery for 22 years (including 14 years as Chancellor) and four years as a judge in the Superior Court (1985-1989). Chancellor Chandler's illustrious judicial career was recognized with tributes from the House of Representatives, Senate and Governor Markell, among others, prior to his retirement. His service to the Court was also celebrated at a luncheon with Court of Chancery staff.



From left: Representatives John Atkins and Gerald Hocker, Chancellor Chandler and Representative Melanie George. (Picture courtesy of Nancy Hickman of the House of Representatives).

Court of Common Pleas Judge Andrea L. Rocanelli recently spoke at Harvard Law School as part of the 1L Speaker Series. The visit was sponsored, in part, by the Harvard Law School's Office of Public Interest Advising which provides career services to students interested in public interest law. In addition to addressing a group of law students in a more formal setting, Judge Rocanelli (HLS '89) met with the Women's Law Association and a Boston-area legal services center. Judge Rocanelli spoke on court-centered access to justice, her career in public service, and Court of Common Pleas initiatives with respect to credit card debt collection actions and rehabilitative justice, including in the specialty courts and trauma-informed probation services.

Family Court Judge Aida Wasserstein was selected by the Hispanic National Bar Foundation as the recipient of the 2011 Judicial Leadership Award. Judge Wasserstein participated as a panelist at "The Future Latino Leaders Law Camp" in Washington D.C. on July 21, 2011 and was recognized during a luncheon held that day. Each year, the Foundation honors individuals who have made contributions to the Hispanic community, the legal profession, and education. The Foundation recognized Judge Wasserstein's tireless commitment to social justice and improving the lives of Latinos, and, in particular, of Latino students.

Family Court Judge Michael K. Newell was named one of the Irish Legal 100 for 2011 by the Irish Voice newspaper and Irish America magazine. The Irish Legal 100 recognizes the most prominent lawyers of Irish descent throughout the United States. Joining Judge Newell on the 2011 Irish Legal are Bill Daley, Chief of Staff to the President of the United States, and Bill Robinson, incoming President of the American Bar Association, among others. Judge Newell was honored at the award ceremony on October 13, 2011, at the Washington D.C. home of H.E. Michael Collins, Irish Ambassador to the United States.

RECENT COURT OF CHANCERY APPOINTMENTS



A recent Court of Chancery appointment was Abigail LeGrow as Master in Chancery. Ms. LeGrow comes to the Court of Chancery from a position as a corporate litigation associate at a Wilmington law firm.

Another appointment in the Court of Chancery was Karlis Johnson as Court of Chancery's Court Administrator and Register in Chancery. Ms. Johnson most recently served as executive assistant to the Chief of Staff for Governor Markell and has previous experience working at the Court of Chancery.



Both appointments took place on October 17, 2011.

JUDICIAL BRANCH PERSONNEL PARTICIPATE IN CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS TRAINING

In partnership with the State's Department of Technology and Information (DTI), Judicial Branch personnel branch-wide are participating in information security awareness computer-based training. They are expected to complete an introductory level online security course to help them gain expertise in various cyber security topics. The course normally takes a couple of hours to complete and is completed at the employee's convenience, whether all at once or during several sittings. The Information Security 101 computer-based training is accessible from within the state network on the Delaware Judiciary's intranet site.

The Chief Justice thanked Judicial Branch personnel "for their efforts – past and future – to promote cyber security so that court data and technology systems are protected."

The Chief Justice has expressed his strong support for cyber awareness training. After Court of Common Pleas and Judicial Information Center/Administrative Office of the Courts staff piloted the training, a branch-wide announcement about the training was sent out

on October 12, 2011, with non-judicial personnel being asked to complete the training before December 31, 2011. As of October 27, 2011, 376 Judicial Branch employees had registered for the training. Of those, 226 of those have completed the training.

Jim Sills, Chief Information Officer for the State of Delaware and the head of DTI, stated:

"I want to thank the Chief Justice and the Judicial Branch for working in partnership with DTI to protect the State of Delaware, and those who interact with the State, from the serious cyber threats affecting the State on a daily basis. Cyber crime is ranked by the FBI as the 3rd greatest threat to the United States' national security – just after nuclear war and weapons of mass destruction. The more awareness that all of us have of cyber security risks, the more vigilant we can be in preventing those risks from impacting state operations or us personally."

For additional information, contact Don Hudgins at Don.Hudgins@state.de.us.

AOC Summer Youth Program Sees Tremendous Expansion in Year Three

The AOC Summer Youth Program, brain child of AOC's Manager of Support Services Robin Jenkins, continued to expand with 49 high school students enrolled this past summer. The program, which began in 2009, has more than doubled in size since its inception three years ago. Through the program, participants from the foster care system, and others, receive invaluable work experience and learn new skills that they can apply to school and everyday life.



Participants awaiting their "jury service" during Summer Youth Forum Mock Trial.

Growth was seen not only in the volunteer pool but also in the participating courts and agencies, including the Supreme Court, Superior Court, Court of Common Pleas,

Family Court, AOC, OSCCE, JIC and Capitol Police. This year, participants assisted with archiving projects and general office work in four different locations throughout the State. Participating courts and agencies reaped the benefits of a hard working and motivated work force creating a win-win situation for all involved. In addition to the work performed, volunteers participated in a mock trial, a resume writing workshop, learned how to complete a job application and received instruction on voicemail etiquette and the use of social networking in a responsible manner with an eye towards future employment. The effort was supported by several local businesses, including Colonial Parking, Dunkin Donuts, Season's Pizza, Dr. Herbert T. Casalena, Shop Rite, Walt's Flavor Crisp Chicken, Pepsi Cola Company, 4imprint and Chick-Fil-A. Most recently, the City of Wilmington Department of Parks & Recreation designated the AOC as a summer youth employment site. Based on the success of the program to date and Parks & Recreation's seal of approval, look for more youth volunteers coming to a court location near you in Summer 2012.



Participant Dreyanna Broomer serving as the "judge" during the Summer Youth Forum Mock Trial.

Delaware Courts Selected as Pilot Site for Mental Health Court Project

"This grant is a wonderful opportunity for our State. The technical assistance our Mental Health Courts will receive will undoubtedly improve our ability to address the over-representation of individuals with mental illness. Our Mental Health Courts are excited to pilot the curriculum developed by policymakers, practitioners, and expert advisors from around the country".

Superior Court Judge Jan Jurden, who launched and presides over the first felony level Mental Health Court in Delaware.

"I have really been encouraged by the Courts' understanding of the importance of treating mental health conditions. Mental Health Courts play a critical role in diverting people from incarceration to treatment and have a proven track record of success. Delaware can be very proud of the recognition by the Bureau of Justice Administration for the work that the courts have done in our state."

Jim Lafferty, Executive Director of the Mental Health Association in Delaware.

The Delaware Courts were selected by the Council of State Governments Justice Center (Justice Center) through the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) as a pilot site for their *Developing a Mental Health Court: An Interdisciplinary Curriculum* project. The program offers technical assistance in developing a curriculum for best practices for the Mental Health Courts in Delaware. The curriculum consists of eight modules that provide practitioners with basic information about mental health court program elements, design and operation considerations, and background in relevant criminal justice and behavioral health concepts.

In selecting Delaware Courts, the BJA noted that the commitment to the success of the Mental Health Courts in Delaware distinguished Delaware's application from the very competitive application pool which was submitted by numerous states of all sizes and jurisdictions from all regions of the country. A Delaware representative will participate in train-the-trainer sessions sponsored by the Justice Center and BJA on the Mental Health Courts' best practices curriculum. The curriculum will be presented, on a pilot basis, in Delaware in early 2012.

"The state is grateful to the Bureau of Justice Assistance for being selected to participate in its Mental Health Court Curriculum Pilot Site Program. For Delaware, this is another critical step forward in our commitment to providing community-based services for people with mental illnesses. The option for judges to order mental health treatment for some offenders rather than jail will be an important way to improve the lives of those with mental illnesses, while ensuring public safety and using the state's resources most effectively," said Rita Landgraf, Secretary of the State Department of Health and Social Services.

Delaware Courts have long recognized the benefits of addressing defendants'

mental health issues through the criminal justice process and the important role that courts that focus on mental health issues can play. Delaware's Mental Health Courts include:

- ◆ **Superior Court**, with a felony-level pre-adjudication diversion and probation mental health court in New Castle County. 142 defendants participated in that Court in FY 2010 and 2011. Felony-level post-adjudication and probation mental health courts operate in Kent and Sussex Counties, and a veterans' court in Kent County addresses mental health and addiction issues of defendants who are veterans.
- ◆ **Family Court**, with a pre-adjudication diversion mental health court for juveniles charged with delinquency in New Castle County. That court began in January 2007, with 125 juveniles entering the program, and 71 graduating, since then.
- ◆ **Court of Common Pleas**, with a misdemeanor pre-adjudication diversion mental health court in New Castle County. 263 defendants have entered the New Castle County CCP mental health court since its inception through FY 2011. CCP plans to expand the mental health court statewide in FY 2012.

Since late 2008, the Delaware Supreme Court's Task Force on Criminal Justice and Mental Health, with representatives from the courts, prosecutors, public defenders, state agencies and community organizations, has focused on improving system-wide responses to persons with mental illness involved in the criminal justice system, as well as preventing such persons from entering or re-entering the system. The Task Force uses inter-branch communication, collaboration and resource allocation as critical tools to accomplish its goals.

For additional information contact Amy Quinlan by e-mail at Amy.Quinlan@state.de.us.

The Courts' Approach to Case Management System Development

Following the completion of the civil phase of the COTS automated civil case management system, the Supreme Court adopted a modified governance structure for technology in 2010 through a revision to Supreme Court Administrative Directive 176. That approach, called the Delaware Courts Automation Project (DCAP), represents a change from the earlier COTS project approach. A key feature of DCAP is that it leverages existing technology to enhance and modernize the trial courts' criminal case management systems, as well as the Family Court civil case management system. DCAP's goal is to improve the courts' ability to manage their caseloads and to serve the needs of the public and the Bar; to enhance information sharing capabilities across courts and agencies; to streamline court processes and procedures; and to capitalize on state-of-the-art technologies as a means of gaining court operational efficiencies.

DCAP is governed by the Project Leadership Team (PLT), which is chaired by Justice Henry duPont Ridgely, and includes the Presiding Judge of the affected trial courts, the State Court Administrator, and the Secretary of the State's Department of Technology and Information (or designee) as an *ex officio* member. The PLT has responsibility for overall project planning and implementation, and oversees the activities of the Trial Courts Coordinating Committee (TCCC). The TCCC, chaired by Marianne Kennedy, Court Administrator of the Justice of the Peace Court, includes the Court Administrators of the affected trial courts and oversees the project management team, consisting of the Project Manager, Functional Lead/Team, and Technical Lead/Team.

DCAP Project Manager, Dale Matthews, reports to the TCCC and oversees the project's progress to ensure timely delivery of products that meet the courts' needs. He works with the project teams to develop and implement a comprehensive project plan addressing resource requirements, risks, communications, implementation schedules, change management, vendor relationships, and financials. The Technical Lead, Don Hudgins, oversees the technical team of Judicial Information Center staff, that develop the final product. He is responsible for developing and implementing the project's technology plan and in ensuring that the appropriate systems, equipment, and technology development approaches are in place to implement the technological improvements. The Functional Lead, Tom Mraz, works with the courts to define their needs and document the desired processes and results. He ensures that the functional team performs user accep-

tance testing and that the courts agree to move forward with the proposed solutions.

Steps already completed with DCAP include development of plans addressing critical project areas, such as:

- ◆ **Communications Plan**—Outlines the method and frequency of communication with all DCAP stakeholders and interested parties
- ◆ **Risk Management Plan**—Addresses the mitigation or management of risks that may impact the project's success
- ◆ **Resource Plan**—Defines the staff resources required for the project and their responsibilities
- ◆ **Project Schedule**—Provides a detailed view of all project activities with scheduled start and completion dates
- ◆ **Project Spending Plan**—Details the project budget and spending over the project life cycle

DCAP consists of four project phases, or portfolios, of technological projects and will be implemented through 2015. The first phase, Portfolio 1, was launched on August 1, 2011. It consists of:

- **Single View/Inquiry:** Developing a new single view containing case data and documents pulled from different databases into a consolidated screen, which will provide easier access to case information by court staff and judicial officers
- **Bail Posting:** Eliminating manual check writing and ledgers by courts related to the posting of bail
- **Document Management:** Providing the ability to store court documents in an electronic format and to link those documents to appropriate cases and records
- **Eliminate Case Acceptance:** Allowing cases to automatically transfer between courts rather than requiring manual acceptance
- **Superior Court Financials:** Migrating of Superior Court financial information to an internally managed database
- **E-Filing:** Expanding e-filing to include all criminal and Family Court civil cases

Efforts undertaken since the beginning of Portfolio 1 in August 2011 include the documentation of the business requirements for the Bail Posting and Single View projects. JIC is in the process of developing the technical plans necessary to translate the business requirements into actual technological improvements.

In Portfolios 2 through 4, additional technological improvements in the court's systems will be implemented, such as enhancements to court financial management systems and sentencing components in the case management system, e-payment, automated

documents forms and generation, and expanded interfaces with justice agencies. As DCAP progresses, regular updates will be provided to all court staff.

For additional information contact Dale Matthews by e-mail at Dale.Matthews@state.de.us.

DELAWARE COALITION FOR HEALTH AND JUSTICE RECEIVED FUNDING FOR WOMEN IN SUPPORT OF HEALTH (WISH) PROGRAM

In September 2011, the U.S. Office of Women's Health ("OWH") selected the Delaware Coalition for Health and Justice ("DCHJ") to receive \$1.5 million over 5 years in funding to address the unmet health needs of the sex worker population in Delaware. The funding comes as a result of DCHJ's success in phase 1 of OWH's program to develop a Strategic Plan to determine the structure and process of a long-term solution. This phase 2 funding will provide Delaware with resources to implement the Strategic Plan developed by DCHJ through the start up of the proposed comprehensive intervention program known as the Women in Support of Health (WISH). The WISH program will expand and enhance access to medical and behavioral health care and community supports for women who engage in sex work in New Castle County.

The History of DCHJ

DCHJ is a unique collaboration between the courts, law enforcement, public health and private organizations created to shift local government's approach to prostitution, aiding women and girls to permanently exit the criminal justice system. DCHJ aims to promote the health of at-risk women who are engaged in prostitution by applying a public health approach to prostitution and related criminal activity with a focus on the following goals:

- To frame prostitution/sex work in Delaware as a public health and social service issue requiring multi-level engagement;
- To improve the health and well-being of those engaged in, or at risk of becoming engaged in, prostitution or sex work;
- To design a plan for expanding services that responds to the identified needs of those engaged in, or at risk of becoming engaged in, sex work or prostitution;
- To improve and coordinate the system responses toward those engaged in, or at risk for becoming engaged in, sex work or prostitution.

DCHJ provides a dynamic departure from the typical practice of revolving door arrests of prostitutes with little or no services for women and girls which resulted in extremely high recidivism rates (80% of prostitutes

arrested are repeat offenders), continuing sexual exploitation, trauma, violence, and enormous costs to the criminal justice and public health systems.

Public health and social service practitioners have worked alongside criminal justice stakeholders on DCHJ to identify evidence-based interventions that address the social and gender-based determinants of health. At the onset, DCHJ was focused on modifying the court system, exploring the concepts of "diversion" or "problem solving" courts. Most sex workers ("go under the radar" of the criminal justice system (are not charged as prostitutes) and cycle through the system without addressing issues relating to prostitution. A paradigm shift occurred during DCHJ's early deliberations based on findings that these women needed healthcare and social services but were trapped in the criminal justice system with limited access to these services. This shift from a court to a community-based focus affirmed DCHJ's goal to promote health by applying a public health approach and a new model of collaboration to prostitution and related criminal activity.

The WISH Program

Delaware is 1 of 10 applicants selected to receive the \$1.5 million phase 2 WISH program funding.

Program Design

Beginning in early 2012, the Coalition will implement services for the target population using a cross-disciplinary approach with a public/private partnership. Services offered through WISH:

- **Outreach** to sex workers on the street, in prisons, in homeless shelters—Harm reduction goals include encouraging safer sex practices and substance abuse treatment
- **Care Advocacy** (case management)—Linkage to substance abuse treatment, housing programs, primary medical care, other ancillary services in a nonjudgmental environment that employs motivational interviewing and strengths-based case management
- **Trauma Therapy**—Trauma Recovery Empowerment Model administered to help women explore

Continued on next page

how the trauma they experienced as children and youth (and in their current work) affects their mental health; and strategies for coping and healing

- **Advocacy Training**—Sex workers will work with advocates to identify issues of interest to present to policymakers

Problem Solving Courts

Several Court of Common Pleas Judicial Officers and court staff have been instrumental in the success of

the Coalition to date, including Judge Andrea Rocanelli, Commissioner Mary McDonough, Court Administrator Carole Kirshner, and Judicial Secretary Kristin Dangelo. DCHJ is also exploring the concept of developing a dedicated court program that would provide trauma-informed criminal justice processing as well as serve as a conduit for sex workers to be linked to the WISH Program.

For additional information contact Carole Kirshner by e-mail at Carole.Kirshner@state.de.us.

Directive Ensures Adjudication on the Merits in Consumer Debt Collection Claims

Delaware's Court of Common Pleas is at the forefront of a growing number of courts that are revising court rules to effectively manage consumer debt collection claims. On March 16, 2011, the court issued Administrative Directive No. 2011-1 regulating the content and procedure governing consumer debt collection actions filed after July 1, 2011. The impetus behind the Directive is twofold: to manage the strain imposed on the judiciary's finite resources by the explosion of e-filed consumer debt claims and to address the perceived procedural and substantive deficiencies raised by such claims. Like many other state courts, the Court of Common Pleas has experienced a marked increase in the number of collection claims. This increase reflects not only the state of the economy but also the convoluted structure of the debt collection industry. Under this structure, old debt is bundled and sold to a debt collector. The information sold may be outdated, cursory or inadequate to file a claim but is, nonetheless, used to generate automated complaints which are then e-filed.

Until the implementation of the new Directive, a multitude of issues affected collection claims in the Court of Common Pleas. Many plaintiffs did not communicate with the debtor before resorting to legal proceedings, or communications that did occur, were often inaccurate. Complaints lacked sufficient evidence to put a consumer on proper notice of the debt or included insufficient evidence to support the claim. In other instances, defendants were not served in a timely manner. As a result of these inadequacies, cases in the Court of Common Pleas were being resolved by defaults rather than adjudication on the merits. When the claims did go to trial, plaintiffs were often unprepared to present their case.

Recent efforts by Court of Common Pleas have worked to change the tide by instituting a standardized process providing adequate notice of a plaintiff's claim

to the defendant while preserving the plaintiff's ability to enforce valid contractual rights.

Through this Directive, as of July 1, 2011, a consumer debt collection filed in the Court of Common Pleas must provide: (1) the name of the original creditor and the current owner of the debt in the caption; (2) the name of the original creditor with the last four digits of the debtor's original account number; (3) the name of the current owner of the debt; (4) if the current owner is not the original owner, the name of all previous owners of the debt; and (5) the amount claimed as currently owed, broken down by principal due at the time of default, interest, fees and other charges.

Exhibits must include a copy of the original contract or other documentary evidence of the original debt and a copy of the assignment or other documentary evidence establishing that the plaintiff/creditor is the owner of the debt. If the debt has been assigned more than once, proof of each assignment must be attached to establish an unbroken chain of ownership and must contain at least the last four digits of the original account number of the debt purchased, as well as show the debtor's name associated with that account number.

On the trial date, the court can dismiss the action with or without prejudice, continue the matter, or enter any order as justice requires, including awarding costs if one or more of the parties do not appear or are not prepared to proceed at trial. Attorneys' fees awarded must be reasonable. If the plaintiff/creditor fails to abide by the Directive's procedures, the court may deny or withdraw the entry of judgment.

The Court of Common Pleas' goal is that adherence to the Directive should result in a more efficient and streamlined court process that will ultimately benefit all parties involved.

For additional information contact Carole Kirshner by e-mail at Carole.Kirshner@state.de.us.



YOUTH FORUM

Superior Court Judge Jan Jurden on the bench for a Mock Trial at the New Castle County Courthouse for a 5th grade class from Claymont Elementary School.



AOC's Staff Training Focus

The Administrative Office of the Courts is currently reviewing past, present and future training methods in order to provide the best training opportunities for the courts. A survey has been developed by the new staff trainer at the Administrative Office of the Courts to identify specific court needs for future training.

So far, two areas of focus have been identified. First, training in Microsoft Office 2007 is necessary to accompany recent computer updates. The AOC is presently developing a schedule to accommodate this need. Customer service training is the second identified area of concern. Many court personnel provide direct service to the public, highlighting the importance of good customer service techniques. Additionally, internal customer service is an important focus in many of these training programs, as is the value of positive daily interactions with colleagues.

Several training programs are already in place, such as WestLaw Next training for the new Law Clerks, Red Cross re-certifications for CPR/AED and Blood Borne

Pathogens for the Constables of Justice of the Peace Court, diversity training, and an orientation program for new employees.

Training methods continue to change and develop. However, the classroom will always be an important venue for certain types of training, such as team building and communications-based seminars. As the demands on judicial resources continue to mount, it becomes increasingly difficult to cover out-of-office time for critical staff without interrupting the work flow. This is where creativity and technology come into play. Shorter training sessions are an option (such as lunch and learns) and limit the impact of any lost time. Offering multiple training sessions on a particular topic provides the employee with flexibility to lessen the work-flow impact and could reach a larger audience. Technology also plays a part. Planning for online training sessions is underway and will be offered on a variety of topics in the near future.

For further information contact Carol Ann Wilcock by e-mail at carolann.wilcock@state.de.us.

We are pleased to present the Fall 2011 issue of the *Delaware Docket*, the Newsletter of the Delaware Judiciary, which is published semi-annually to provide updates on activities and events in the Judicial community. All are welcome to suggest topics, contribute articles for future editions, and provide suggestions on the newsletter. This and previous versions of the Delaware Docket are available on line at <http://courts.delaware.gov/AOC/?publications.htm>.

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