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Judicial Fellow named for 2019–2020: Brandie S. Pugh

Brandie S. Pugh has been named a Judicial Fellow for 2019–20 school year by the Delaware Judiciary and the Institute for Public Administration at the University of Delaware.

Pugh, 30, of Lancaster, Ohio is a PhD Candidate in Sociology and Criminal Justice at the University of Delaware. This is the third year for the Judicial Fellows program for the Delaware Judiciary, which launched in January 2017.

Prior classes of Judicial Fellows focused on researching how to help inmates with debt from court and other state fees, participating in the preparation and planning for the Delaware Courts' Community Court initiative, and contributing to other Access to Justice issues. This year the Judicial Fellow is expected to focus on assisting with matters related to the launch of the Community Court program and the Judiciary's Annual Report.

The Judicial Fellows Program (https://www.sppa.udel.edu/ipa/student-

opportunities/judicial-fellows) is a joint effort between the Delaware Judicial Branch and the University of Delaware's Institute for Public Administration (IPA) and is modeled on IPA's successful and long-running Legislative Fellows Program. In the Judicial Fellows Program, a full-time graduate-level student works with the Delaware Administrative Office of the Courts, gaining on-the-job experience while assisting court staff in researching pressing government and legal issues and helping to implement solutions.

Pugh, a 2013 graduate of Ohio University in Sociology/Criminology and Psychology, received her Masters of Arts in Sociology at the University of Delaware in 2014 and is currently completing working on her PhD in Sociology. She has also published several peer-reviewed journal articles on various topics including substance abuse and sexual violence.

Pugh said she applied for the Judicial Fellows Program because she has long had an interest in criminology, and in particular on the interactions between law and society as it relates to violence in marginalized communities. "I'm also really interested in the Courts' Community Court program," she said, along with developing and implementing data-driven solutions.

For more information, please contact Deputy State Court Administrator Evelyn Nestlerode (302) 255-0465 or <u>Evelyn.Nestlerode@Delaware.gov</u>.