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**Delaware Judiciary releases two-year update to
Bench and Bar Diversity Strategic Plan**

More than two-thirds of recommendations completed or in progress

The Delaware Judiciary this month released a follow up report to its 2022 Strategic Plan to Improve Diversity in the Delaware Bench and Bar. At a Delaware State Bar Association event on May 10, 2024, Chief Justice Collins J. Seitz, Jr. reported that, of the 50 recommendations in the Strategic Plan report, nearly two-thirds have been implemented or will be put into action in the coming months. “There will always be more to do, but we are well on our way to putting in place the recommended initiatives and are making good progress,” he said.

The 2022 report, created by a court-appointed steering committee in partnership with the National Center for State Courts and the Access Lex Institute, was divided into five focus areas: pre-college engagement, colleges and law schools outreach, modernization of the bar exam and attorney admissions, diversity in the bar, and diversity on the bench.

The greatest strides have been made in pre-college engagement and reforms to the Delaware bar exam and admission process. The remarkable progress in pre-college engagement was due in large part to the successful effort to re-imagine and re-energize the Delaware Law-Related Education Center (“DELREC”). With a new board of directors and executive director, DELREC launched new outreach programs and energized educational initiatives. “DELREC has engaged law firms, lawyers, and students at every level with civics and legal educational programming. The hope is to show students that a Delaware legal career is not only possible, but a rewarding career for those interested in public service. The Executive Director, Betsy Renzo, is responsible for the excitement around its mission,” Chief Justice Seitz said.

For Delaware bar admission, twelve recommendations have been implemented with more in progress. The changes include passing score adjustment; reduced testing subjects and essays; twice a year administration (eliminating a major barrier for some aspiring attorneys); and reduced fees.

Finally, there was a range of improvements across the other focus areas. These include improved outreach to colleges and law schools to improve the pathway for diverse candidates, new internship and mentorship programs and implicit bias training. The Court also hired its first Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer to implement the recommendations of the Strategic Plan and develop ongoing training and education program.

“In the years to come, I am confident we will continue to make progress on implementing our Strategic Plan recommendations. We look forward to a future when the Delaware Bench and Bar will better reflect the community we serve,” Chief Justice Seitz said.

The full report, detailing this progress and where all 50 of the recommendations stand, has been posted on the Delaware Courts [website](#) alongside the original 2022 [Strategic Plan](#).