

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**The Delaware Supreme Court names New State Court Administrator
and Supreme Court Administrator**

*Gayle P. Lafferty named State Court Administrator
and Karlis Johnson named Supreme Court Administrator*

The Delaware Judiciary announced today that former Supreme Court Chief Staff Attorney Gayle P. Lafferty will be returning to the Delaware Courts as State Court Administrator and Court of Chancery Court Administrator Karlis Johnson will be taking the position of Supreme Court Administrator.

Chief Justice Collins J. Seitz, Jr. announced the appointments on Friday, Dec. 20, 2019.

“We had a number of strong, qualified candidates for both positions and picking a finalist for each was an exceedingly difficult task. I offer my sincere appreciation to everyone who applied. I’m pleased to have Gayle Lafferty return to the Delaware Judiciary family, bringing with her more than 25 years of invaluable experience. Karlis will join us at the Supreme Court after her many years of exemplary work for our Court of Chancery. With these two key positions filled, we can continue the exciting work of building a court system ready for the challenges of the next decade,” said Chief Justice Seitz.

At his November confirmation hearing, Chief Justice Seitz said filling these two positions quickly would be one of his top priorities as Chief Justice, along with securing funding for the court modernization project.

Lafferty replaces State Court Administrator Amy Quinlan who resigned in October to take a court administration position in Maine. Johnson replaces Supreme Court Administrator William S. Montgomery who retired in September after more than 40 years of dedicated public service.

Both are expected to start in their new positions after the first of the new year.

Lafferty first joined the Delaware Supreme Court as Staff Attorney in 1994 and five years later rose to the position of Chief Staff Attorney. She was legal

counsel to three Chief Justices before her retirement in 2018. Prior to joining the Court, Lafferty was an Associate Attorney with Potter Anderson & Corroon LLP.

When Lafferty retired as Chief Staff Attorney, she returned to private practice as Staff Attorney at Legal Services Corp. of Delaware Inc., a non-profit law firm dedicated to representing low income Delawareans with poverty-related legal issues.

Lafferty is a graduate of the University of Delaware and the Dickinson School of Law.

Johnson, meanwhile, first worked for the Court of Chancery as a Judicial Assistant from 1998-2002, before moving on to work as an Administrative Assistant at Fannie Mae and then as Office Administrator at Wolf Block LLP. In 2009 she was Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff for Gov. Jack Markell. She returned to the Court of Chancery in 2011 as Court Administrator and Chief Register in Chancery.

Johnson is a graduate of Wesley College and is a member of the Mid-Atlantic Association for Court Management and the National Association for Court Management.

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