

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 2, 2021

Mark E. Hitch appointed as Justice of the Peace Court Administrator

*Hitch replaces Marianne Kennedy who retired on July 30 after
21 years with the Delaware Courts*

Mark E. Hitch has been named Court Administrator for the Delaware Justice of the Peace Court starting on Aug. 2, 2021. He replaces Marianne Kennedy who retired from the Court on July 30, 2021 after more than 21 years of service with the Delaware Courts.

Hitch has been with the Justice of the Peace Court since 2013, serving most recently as Operations Manager. Prior to joining the Justice of the Peace Court, Hitch was a 24-year veteran of the New Castle County Police Department. Hitch began his career as a patrol officer in 1988 and worked his way up through the ranks to detective, sergeant, lieutenant, captain and ultimately departed the department as a major in 2012.

Hitch received his BA in criminal justice from the University of Delaware and received training at the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Academy in Quantico, VA and the JFK School of Government at Harvard University.

In his new capacity as Court Administrator, Hitch will be responsible for overseeing the operations of more than 280 staff in 15 locations across the state, along with such duties as budgeting, personnel, security, and case management.

Hitch takes over from Marianne Kennedy who worked for various state and federal courts for more than 35 years in the Mid-Atlantic region and California. Kennedy began her career with the Delaware Courts in 1995 as a project leader with the Delaware Supreme Court. She then moved to the Administrative Office of the Courts in 1998 before leaving the court system in 1999. She returned in 2004 as Director of Case Processing for the Family Court and then took over as Operations Manager at the Justice of the Peace Court in 2006 before being elevated to Court Administrator in 2009.

"I want to wish Marianne well on her retirement and thank her for her years of service to the courts in general and the Justice of the Peace Court in particular," said Justice of the Peace Court Chief Magistrate Alan Davis. "Marianne leaves an impressive legacy of achievement for our Court, her institutional knowledge is unparalleled, and she will be dearly missed. I am, however, confident that Mark will step up in his new role just as he has done throughout his career in law enforcement and with the Justice of the Peace Court. I know our Court is in good hands and Mark will do an excellent job for us and for the people of Delaware."