

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Sharay Knight of the Court of Chancery Named
2024 Judicial Branch Employee of the Year**

The Delaware Judiciary is proud to announce that **Sharay Knight, of the Court of Chancery**, has been named the Delaware Judicial Branch's Employee of the Year for 2024.

Knight, who is a Judicial Case Manager I, has been an employee of the branch since 2022. One thing that made Knight stand out was her stellar customer service, reflected in the many written and verbal compliments from litigants who have worked with her, praising her dedication and assistance, that sometimes extended beyond regular court hours. When asked why she would take on additional work she simply replied, "Because it's for the court."

Knight's industriousness has been particularly helpful at a time of high caseloads and staffing shortages downstate. "Sharay has proven willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done in a timely and professional manner. Sharay is a pleasure to be around and goes above and beyond her day-to-day responsibilities to ensure that the court is accessible to all," wrote her nominator.

Sharay is also extraordinarily patient with, and kind to, even the most challenging self-represented litigants, providing the necessary forms, rules, and information for them to successfully litigate in the Court of Chancery. When filings cannot be accepted, Sharay provides thoughtful explanations to help the individual understand how to avoid the same errors in the future.

While there is supposed to be a one-to-one staffing ratio between case managers and judicial officers, Knight works for two judicial officers, assisted for a third, and after a staffing change, helped out with a fourth. "She did so without being asked and while continuing her own responsibilities," wrote her nominator. She keeps things running smoothly and efficiently and has impressed all who work with her – litigants, colleagues and judicial officers – with her "contribution and dedication to the mission of the Court of Chancery."

The Judicial Branch also recognizes and congratulates other employees who were nominated by their respective courts for Branch Employee of the Year, including:

Melissa Peters, Judicial Operations Manager, Justice of the Peace Court – Peters took on the challenge of a transfer to a new JP Court location in February of this year. She left the comfort of what she had helped to build at JP Court 20 and went to address some concerns at JP Court 11 which is the JP Court's busiest 24-hour location. "She increased accountability, knowledge, coaching, and most importantly, morale," wrote her nominator, adding, "The clerical staff at JP Court 11 is in a completely different environment today than they were less than a year ago and that is all thanks to Melissa and the changes that she has instilled."

Brian Bashkow, Judicial Case Manager III, Prothonotary's Office, Superior Court – Bashkow was described as an exceptional case manager in the Prothonotary's Office, especially to Superior Court Judge Eric Davis, during the Dominion v. Fox News trial, arguably the largest case Superior Court has ever handled, and he did so flawlessly. He is organized, efficient, passionate about his job, and is eager to learn new things. Bashkow takes initiative on many things and sees them through to the end, helping both judicial officers and co-workers. He also volunteers to cover hearings and trials whenever he is able. "Brian is known as being a great co-worker, always offering assistance, and in general an all-around wonderful person," wrote his nominator.

Amber Durr, Senior Investigative Services Officer, Court of Common Pleas – Durr, who serves as the Senior Investigative Services Officer for the Court of Common Pleas, has been a valued full-time employee since 2013. During her tenure, she has consistently gone above and beyond her designated duties, making significant contributions in several key areas, including in pre-sentence investigations and court reporting efforts. In addition to her core responsibilities, she has selflessly taken on tasks outside of her formal job description. Her nominator wrote that Durr's contributions to the judicial system statewide "have been immeasurable."

Ashley Tucker, Deputy State Court Administrator, Administrative Office of the Courts – Tucker's work ethic is described as "unmatched, and her drive is relentless." Though Tucker's duties always keep her busy, she will always lend a hand when asked, even if that causes her to stay late. "Large or small, Ashley is instrumental in nearly every project the AOC is working on. Not only is she a 'go to' for legal matters, but she is also a 'go to' for everything else," wrote her nominator. She was also praised for her attention to detail and advocating for her employees. Her work on a statewide security audit and accessibility issues during this past year was also highlighted.

Meghan McCarthy, Mediation Unit Supervisor, Family Court – McCarthy began her career with Family Court in Sussex County in 2016 and during her time with the court has become "a subject matter expert in all things mediation." McCarthy was praised for her high standards for quality work and customer service who "*always strives to look at the big picture.*" A supervisor praised her as a great resource to other managers and judicial officers who is frequently sought out by members of the Administrative Team. "Meghan is an exemplary public servant," her nominator concluded.