

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 16, 2026

**Administrative Assistant Sarah Bowers
Named 2025 Judicial Branch Employee of the Year**

The Delaware Judiciary is proud to announce that Sarah Bowers – Administrative Assistant to the State Court Administrator – has been named the Judicial Branch Employee of the Year for 2025.

Bowers, who works in the Wilmington office of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), was also named AOC Employee of the Year for 2025 in conjunction with the branch-wide honor. Bowers has been working for the Judicial Branch for over 11 years. She started out with the Child Placement Review Board, a non-judicial agency under the Judicial Branch, in March 2014 before moving to the AOC in July 2017.

According to her multiple nominators, Bowers routinely goes above and beyond her set duties as an administrative specialist and is credited with setting a supportive and helpful tone for the office. “She balances the demands of her job with calm and kindness,” wrote one nominator. “Her stamina and upbeat attitude seem to have no limits ... Sarah Bowers is an unsung hero of the Judicial Branch!” Her work in the office – as a greeter, communicator and logistics specialist, coordinating with the AOC, all of the Delaware State Courts and outside partner agencies – was described as indispensable. But she was also praised for her work away from her desk. Bowers has travelled up and down the state to help out with policy rollouts – like the Judicial Branch Employee Wellness Program – to morale boosting occasions like holiday parties and staff recognition events. And because she is organizing and running the latter events, it often means Bowers is working and not able to fully enjoy the festivities like her co-workers.

Bowers was also cited for her willingness to volunteer for things like the AOC Social Committee and editing the AOC newsletter. “Sarah is a one-woman show working for the benefit of all Judicial Branch staff,” wrote a different nominator.

The Delaware Judiciary congratulates Bowers on this well-deserved recognition and her name will now be forwarded to the Governor for consideration for the Delaware Award for Excellence and Commitment in State Service.

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

Lisa Dolph, Court Clerk, Supreme Court – Dolph has been a loyal and dependable Branch employee for almost 30 years, taking her current role as Clerk of the Court in 2017. In this position she not only supervises and trains new staff, but also oversees the annual registration of more than 4,900 attorneys, a task that recently became twice as complicated with the addition of a second ceremony. She also serves as clerk for the Court on the Judiciary that investigates misconduct claims. “Lisa’s people skills are unmatched,” wrote her nominator, “She interacts with a wide variety of people on a daily basis, including the Justices, judicial officers and staff in other courts, lawyers, unrepresented litigants and vendors.” And she treats all with the same respect, professionalism and grace.

Candice Weimer, Judicial Secretary Court of Chancery – Weimer was praised for her “extraordinary dedication and commitment to the Court” over the past years by serving as the assigned judicial assistant to two magistrates while also providing part-time, transition support for four other magistrates simultaneously. Her duties include managing complex calendars, scheduling and day-to-day operations while also ensuring the office continues to run efficiently. To get all this done, Weimer worked nights and weekends and never let the quality of her work slip, while also maintaining a warm and positive attitude. “Her dedication, resilience, teamwork and kindness make her an essential party of the Court of Chancery team,” wrote her nominator.

Leslie Rementer, Sussex County Chief Deputy Prothonotary, Superior Court – Rementer, who has worked for the Judiciary for 35 years, was praised for her comprehensive institutional knowledge gained by rising through the ranks to become an expert in both civil and criminal procedures. “She approaches every challenge with grace and confidence, earning a reputation for her calm demeanor and problem-solving skills and mindset ... ‘Sure, let me help you with that. We’ll figure it out together,’” captures her collaborative spirit, wrote her nominator. Rementer is “an inspiration to all who work with her.”

Chastity Uhde, Judicial Case Supervisor, Family Court – “Chastity consistently demonstrates exceptional leadership, initiative and commitment to excellence in service to the court, her staff and the public,” wrote her nominator. Uhde was credited with quickly identifying organizational challenges and acting to correct them, “taking initiative without hesitation.” This included not only a reorganization of the file room, but also a large-scale archiving project in Sussex County. She also was praised for her quick action during a security incident, taking calm and decisive action to ensure employee safety.

Melanie Barry, Kent County Judicial Operations Manager, Court of Common Pleas – According to her nominator, Berry has demonstrated “extraordinary commitment, leadership, and professionalism” throughout her 15 years with the court. Her work for the court was described as “transformative” and that she “possesses a rare ability to see both the ‘big picture’... while

also understanding the small but essential details.” She has helped “elevate staff morale and create a positive, respectful and supportive workplace culture,” concluded her nominator.

Denise Zielinski, Management Analyst, Justice of the Peace Court – Zielinski was described as “an exceptional leader and a dedicated and caring employee who makes a difference.” Zielinski started her 16 years with the judiciary as an assistant to the court administrator before serving as a management analyst and information security officer (ISO) for Justice of the Peace Court. Zielinski’s responsibilities then grew further when she took on supervision of Casual Seasonal clerical support staff and interns, providing guidance while having them help with a long-neglected document scanning project. “Denise works hard every day to make sure that the Justice of the Peace Court is a great place to work,” wrote her nominator.