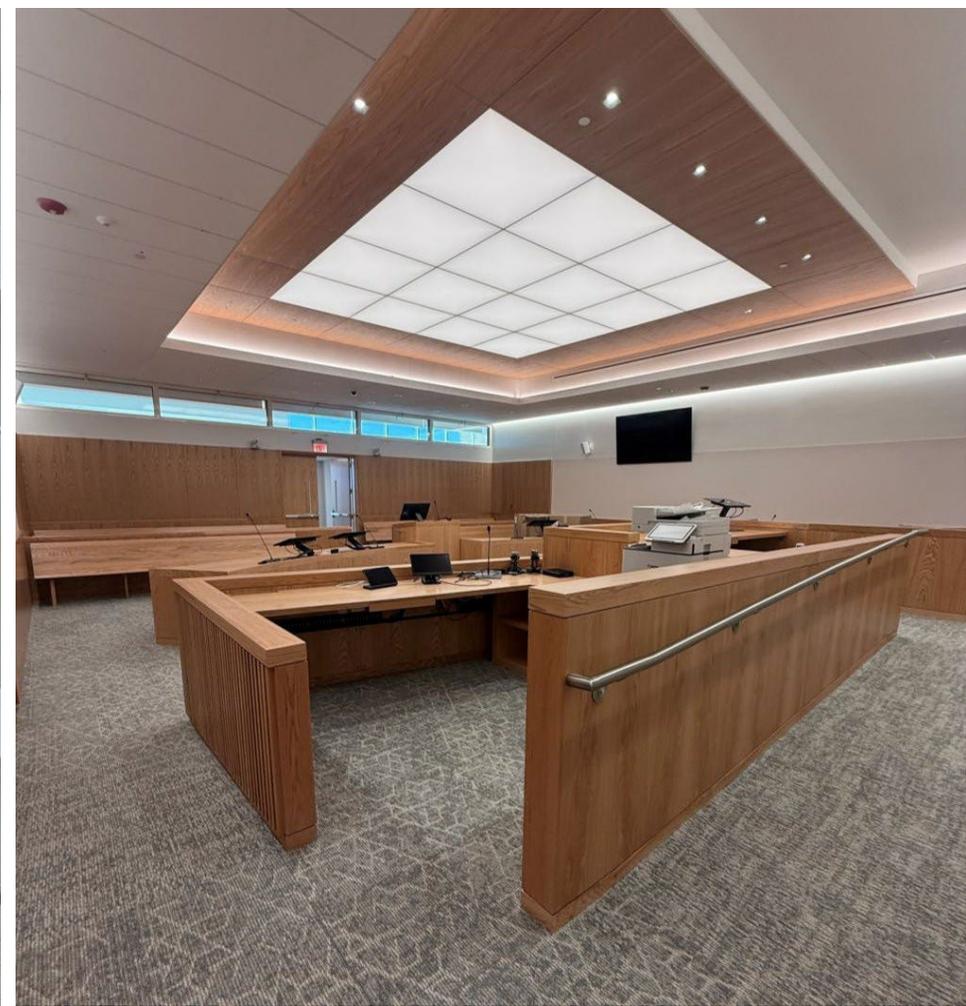
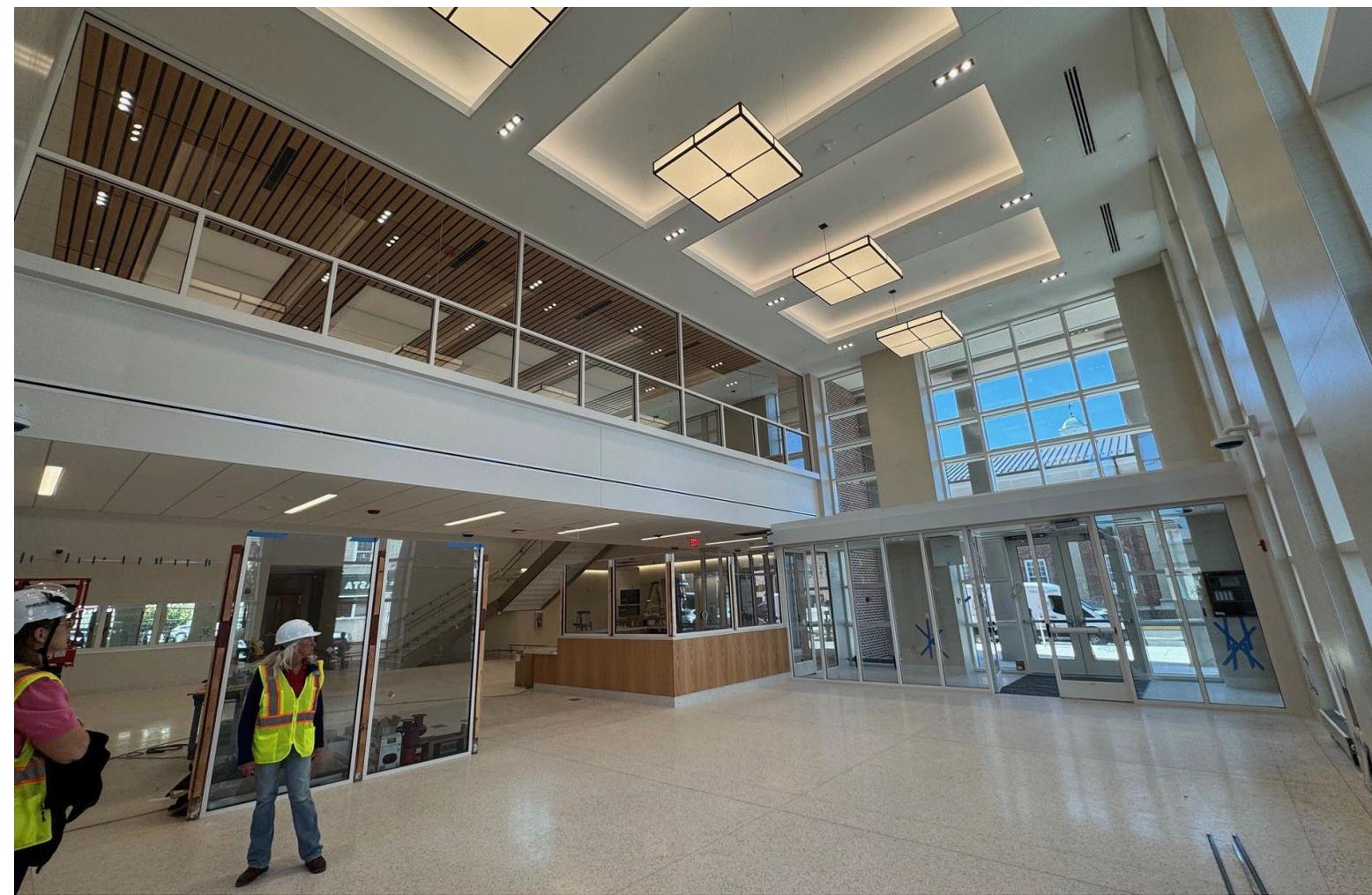




JUDICIAL BRANCH
FY 2027 JOINT FINANCE HEARING
February 19, 2026



Thank you for your support



Sussex County Family Court Courthouse

RIBBON-CUTTING WAS NOVEMBER 13, 2025



Kent County Family Court Courthouse

SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION ANTICIPATED SUMMER 2026



Custom House

SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION ANTICIPATED FALL 2026

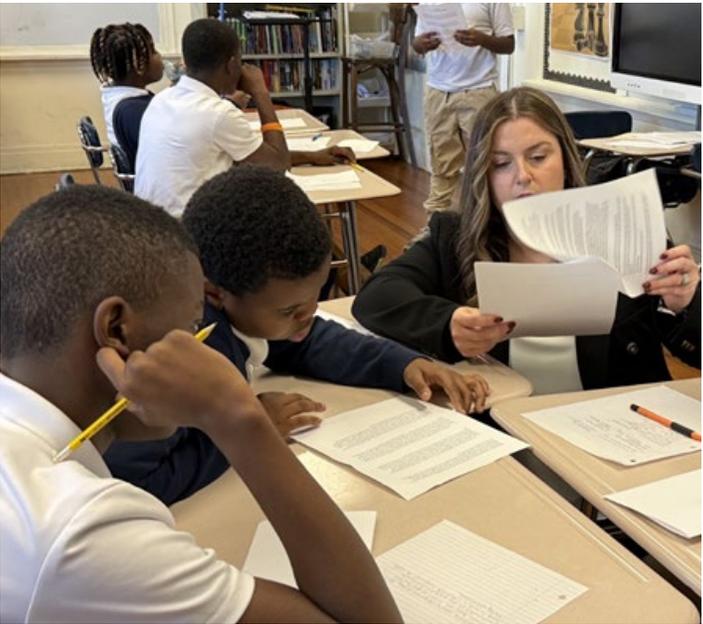


 **ELREC**
DELAWARE Law Related Education Center

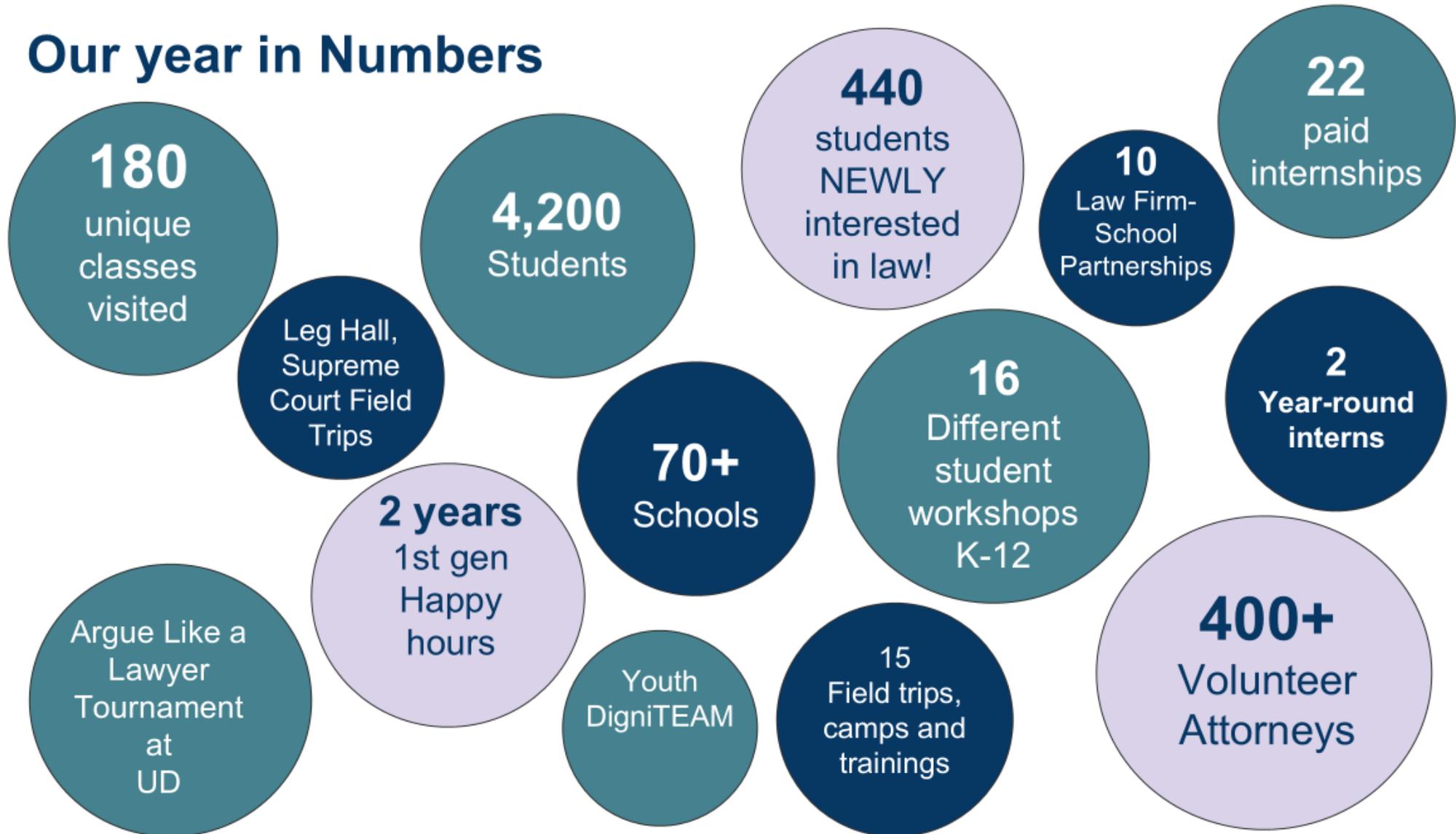




ELREC
DELAWARE Law Related Education Center



Our year in Numbers



Performance Measures, FY 25 Actual

% of cases/petitions disposed within 90 days of the date of submission

- Supreme: 99%
- Court of Chancery: 95.49%
- Family Court PFA: 99.1%

% of civil cases rendered within 90 days of taking the matter under advisement

- Family Court: 99.7%

Weeks from CCP arraignment to trial (varies by county)

- Non-Jury Trials: 5.3 to 7.7
- Jury Trials: 6.4 – 15.2

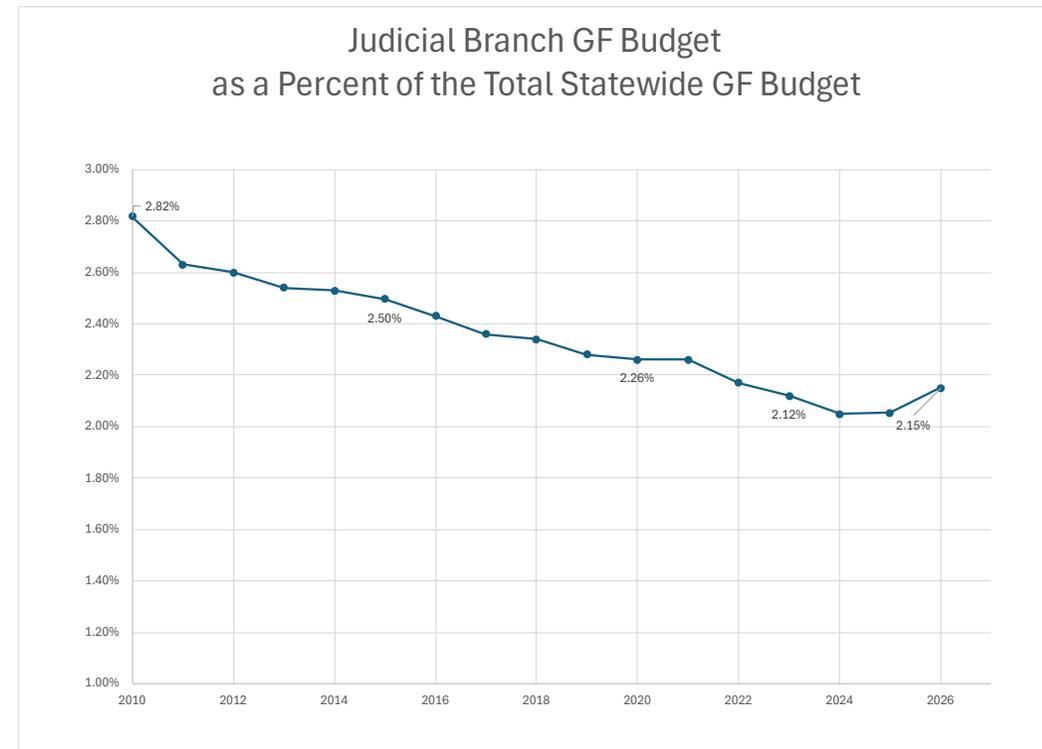
% of videophone proceedings within 45 minutes of receipt

- JP Court: 87%

Judicial Branch Budget

The Judicial Branch General Fund Budget is about 2% of the overall statewide budget.

The ASF Budget Authorization is currently 1.2% of the Statewide Budget Authorizations and has similarly gone down as a percentage.



Judicial Branch Filings

- Branch-wide, there were 401,423 Total Filings in FY 25, an 8.5% increase over FY 24.
- The Court of Chancery totaled a record-breaking 1,507 Civil Action filings CY 25 (excludes Guardianships, Trusts and Estates).



Vacancy Report

*Vacancy information as of February 1st of each fiscal year.

Total Judicial Branch Vacancies

Fiscal Year	Total FTEs	Total Vacancies	% of Total FTEs
2026	1,394.3	143.3	10%
2025	1,369.3	144.3	11%
2024	1,344.3	124.3	9%
2023	1,328.3	153.8	12%
2022	1,295.3	146.8	11%

Highest Vacancy Rate Positions

Fiscal Year	Judicial Case Processors	Court Security Officers	Judicial Case Managers	Total	% of Total Vacancies
2026	38.5	15	26	79.5	55%
2025	40.5	13	24	77.5	54%
2024	32.5	8	24	64.5	52%
2023	57	17	13	87	57%
2022	58	15	25	98	67%

Recommended Door Openers

Personnel Contingency, \$5,365.3

Personnel Annualizations, \$1,204.1

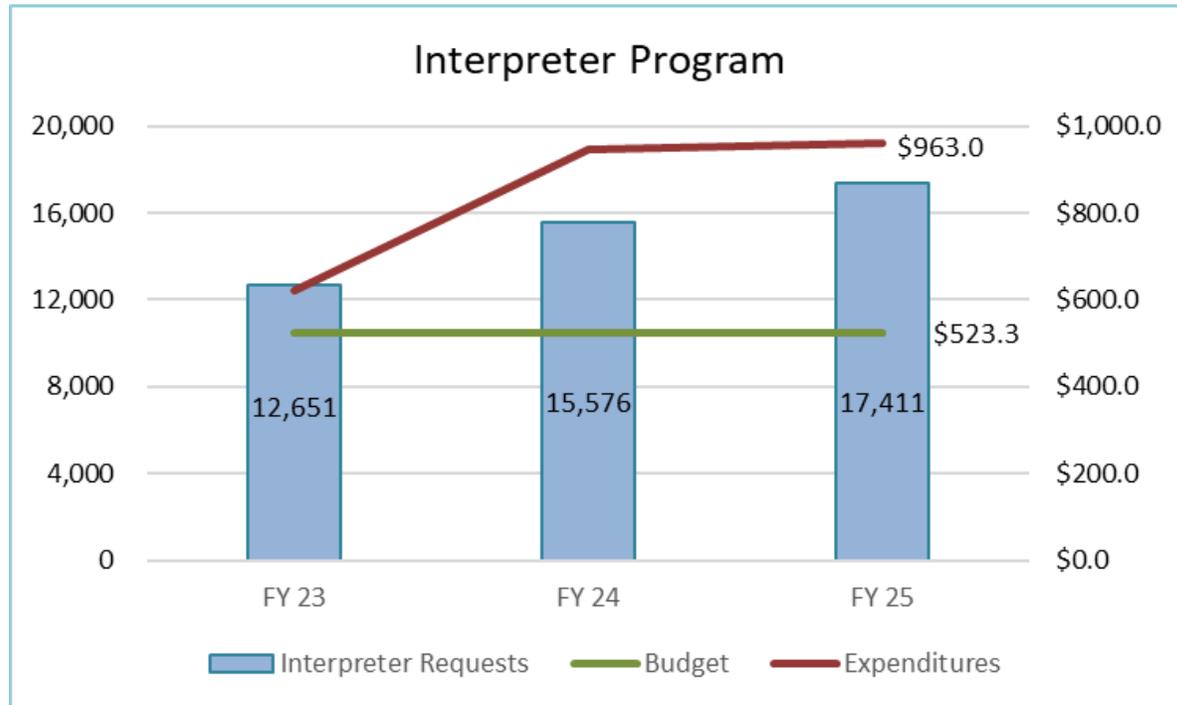
Lease Costs

- JP Court 20, 824 North Market Street, \$67.8
- JP Court lease escalators, \$73.5
- Judicial Information Center in Newark, \$44.3



Recommended Door Openers

Court Interpreters, \$340.6



- The number of litigants needing interpreter services increased from 12,651 in FY 23 to 17,411 in FY 25.
- The AOC disbursed \$963,000 in FY 25, which was 146% of our annual budgeted amount.
- Insufficient resources may delay calendars, time to dispositions, and clearance rates.

Recommended Door Openers

Court Security Fund Shortfalls

JP Court
Switch-Fund to GF
10 FTES and \$785.7

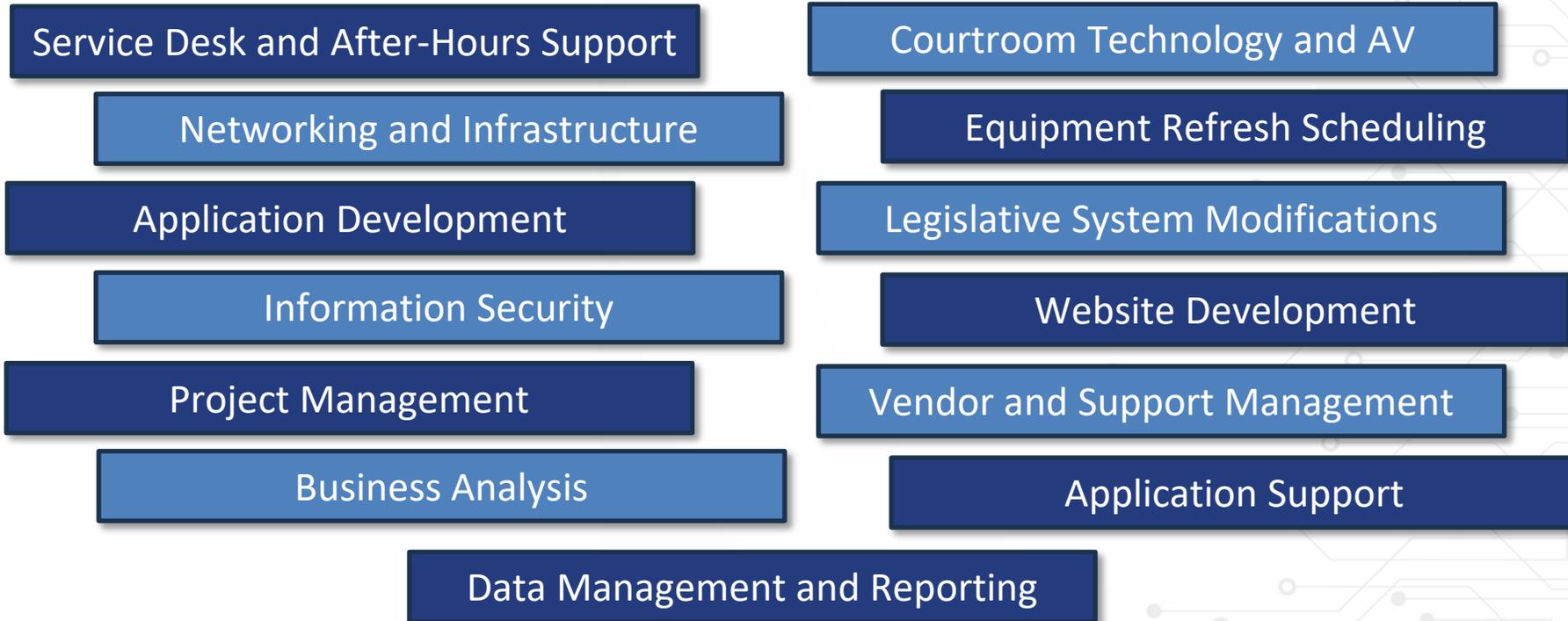
CCP
GF Operating Costs to
relieve the Fund
\$97.5

The Technology Backbone of the Delaware Judicial Branch

40
Staff

14
Facilities

1700
End
Users



CASCADE



Unified Civil e-Filing, Case Management, Document Management *On-Time and In-Budget (Kicked Off – July 2024)*

Phase 1 will Go-Live December 2026:

- Court of Chancery
- Superior Court
- Court of Common Pleas
- Justice of the Peace

Phase 2 will Go-Live December 2028:

- Family Court**
- First Digital Doc Management System
 - First E-Filing System

Recommended: Judicial Information Center



2.0 Desktop Technicians, \$174.9 in Operating Costs, and \$13.4 in One-Time Costs, one each for Kent and Sussex County.



1.0 Network Manager, \$108.1 in Operating Costs and \$6.7 in One-Time Costs, to manage the Network, Telecom/Audio-Visual, and Security Teams.



Requests for Safety and Security

Requests for Safety and Security

LLWJC Space
Efficiency Review

Statewide Judicial
Branch Security
Audit

Judicial Officer
Safety

START THE DAY HERE

Greenland tensions loom over Davos. DOJ investigating church service protesters. Solar radiation storm headed to Earth.

Police: Texas judge shot outside her home

By Greg Botelho and Carma Hassan, CNN

3 min read · Updated 10:25 PM EST, Mon November 9, 2015



Maryland judge killed in his driveway, authorities search for suspect who 'targeted' him over divorce case ruling

Washington County Circuit Court Judge Andrew Wilkinson, 52, granted custody of Pedro Argote's children to their mother hours before the judge was found shot outside his home.



News Article

Man Accused of Trying to Assassinate Brett Kavanaugh Receives Trial Date

PUBLISHED

AUG 20, 2024 AT 07:05 PM EDT



Indiana Judge and His Wife Are Shot at Their Suburban Home

The police in Lafayette, Ind., said they were investigating the nonfatal shootings of a Tippecanoe County Superior Court judge and his wife on Sunday.

Listen to this article · 2:35 min [Learn more](#)

Share full article





Requests for Safety and Security

LLWJC Space Study

Critical review of entire building.

Running out of space for staff, files, and evidence storage in Wilmington.

Studying courtroom usage for better sharing of space between courts.

Requests for Safety and Security



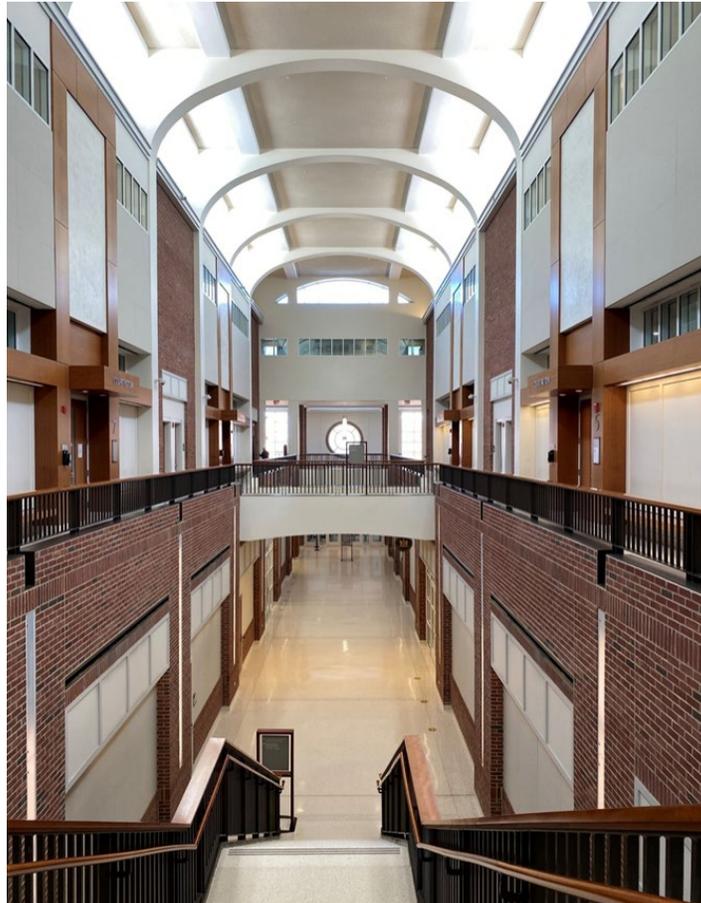
Security Audit

Recommendations from a recent branch-wide security audit are being reviewed and prioritized.

- ✓ Physical Security
- ✓ Technical Security
- ✓ Staffing
- ✓ Emergency Measures
- ✓ High Risk Trial Measures

Requests for Safety and Security

Prioritize and Execute Security Audit Recommendations



- Need a centralized statewide security operations center
- Video surveillance technology must be upgraded.
 - ✓ \$300.0 new operating request for licensing and maintenance contracts
 - ✓ Associated capital cost
- Increase in MCI spending (ballistic glass, bollards, doors, etc.)

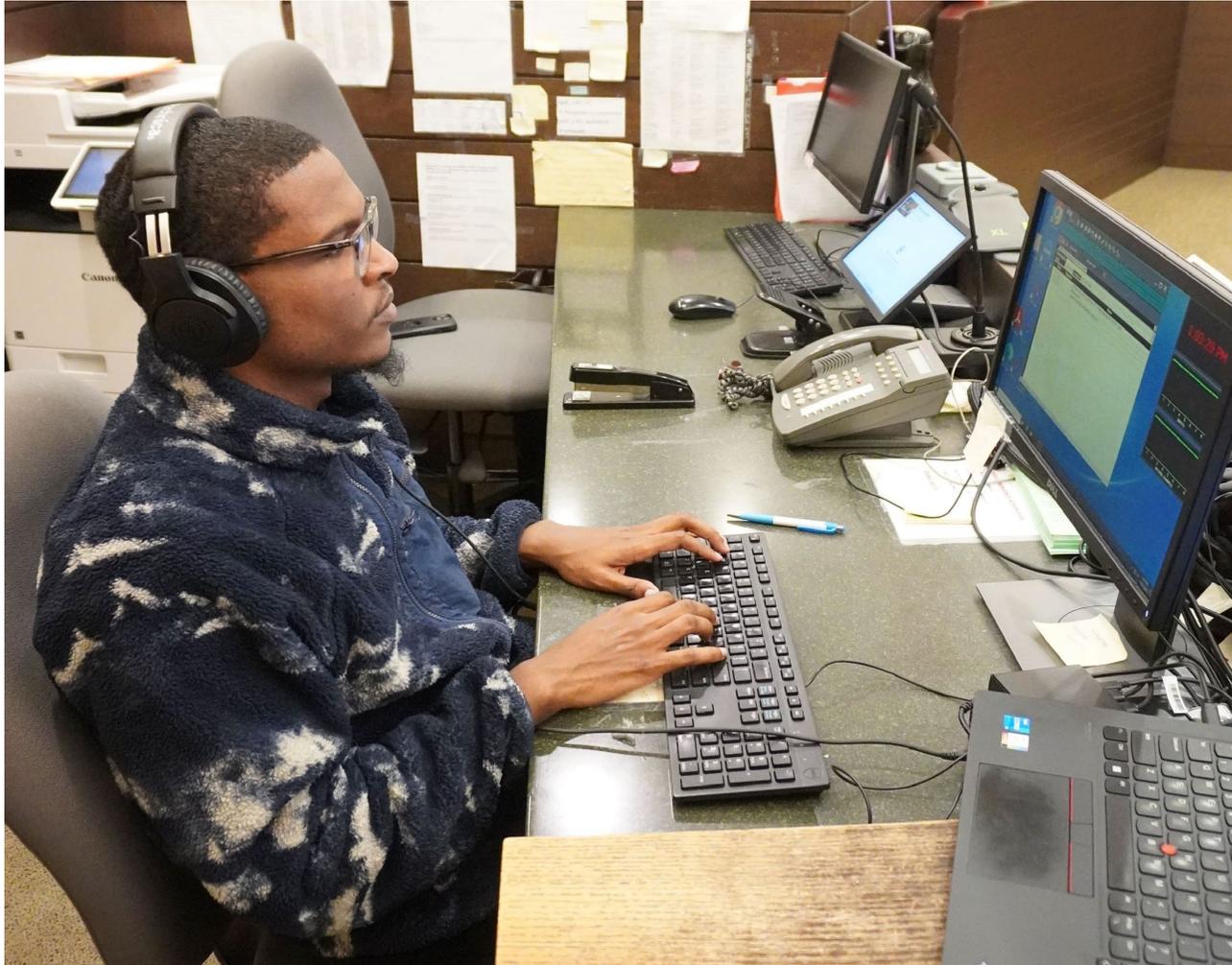
Requests for Safety and Security

Judicial Privacy

\$250.0 Increase in Contractual Service to support a more robust solution for Judicial Privacy



Requests for Current Operations



Family Court

2.0 FTEs Electronic Court Reporter

- \$100.6 Operating Costs, \$13.4 One-Time
- Position ensures that testimony is being accurately captured, logs case information, tests equipment for proper operation
- Allows Judicial Security to focus on their primary duty -- security

Requests for Current Operations



Court of Common Pleas

1.0 FTE MA III (Community Court Coordinator)

- To replace grant-funded contractual position
- Federal funding beyond September is uncertain
- \$88.4 Operating Costs, \$6.7 One-Time
- Position manages daily operations, including participant screening, case management and filing

Requests for Current Operations



Superior Court

2.0 FTEs Complex Commercial Litigation Law Clerk

- \$159.9 Operating Costs, \$13.4 in One-Time
- The Division handles cases that would otherwise go to the Court of Chancery
- Specialized focus
- Currently 5 judges and 3 full-time law clerks

Requests for Current Operations

Technology Maintenance

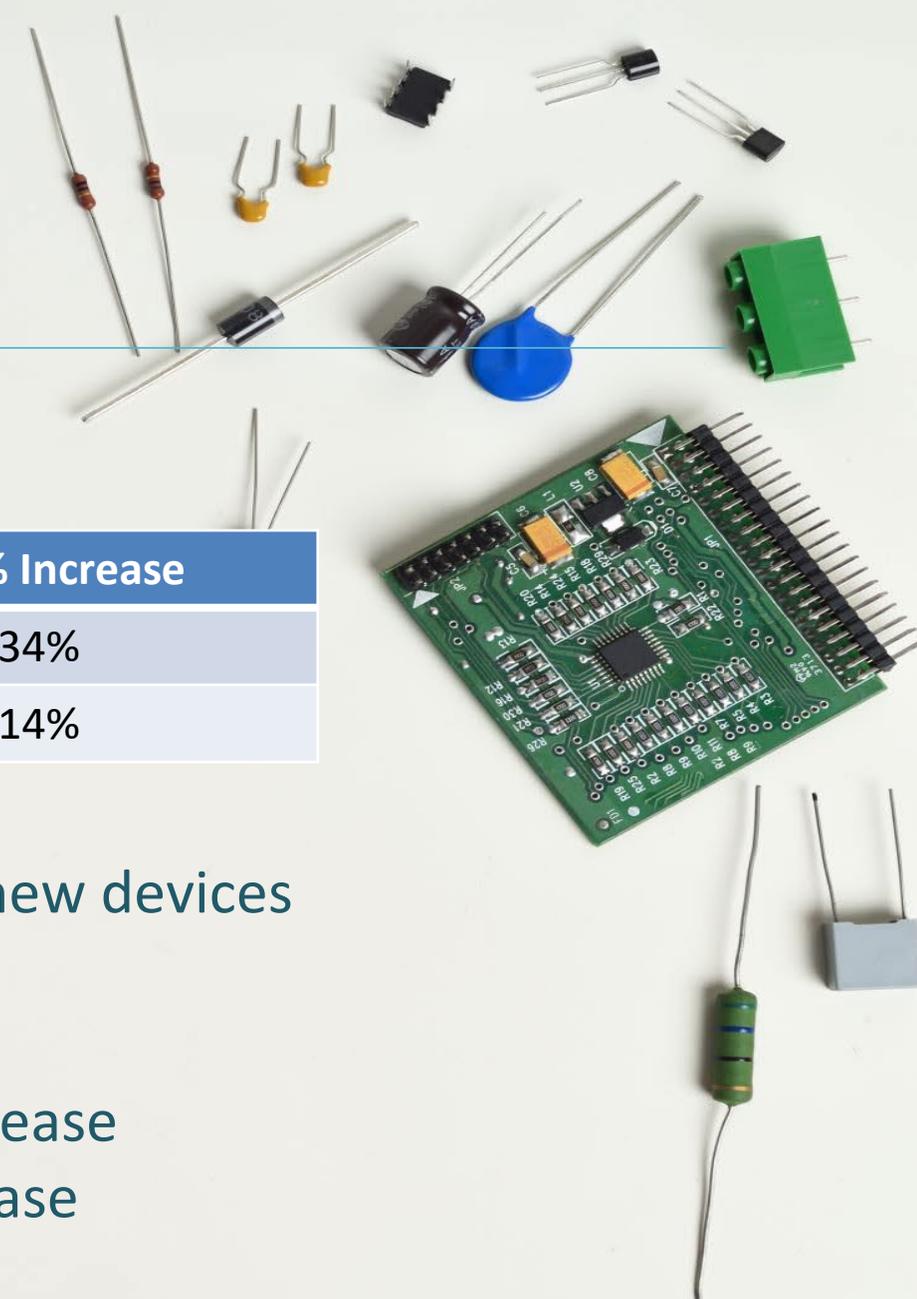
Technology Maintenance: Additional \$250.0

Device	2024 Unit Cost	2026 Unit Cost	Increase	% Increase
Lenovo Laptop	\$1,405.56	\$1,882.00	+\$476.44	~34%
Lenovo Desktop	\$745.37	\$848.00	+\$102.00	~14%

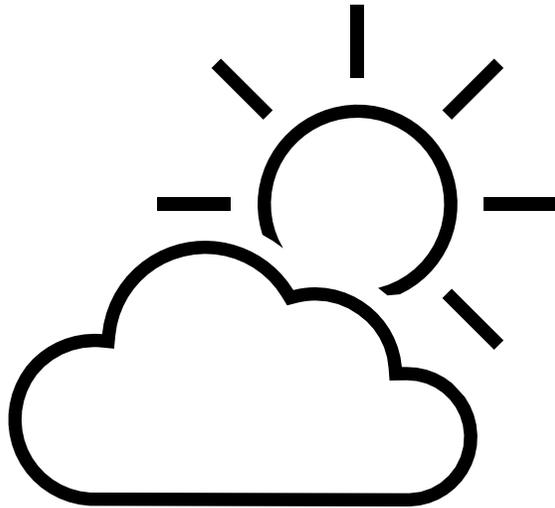
- Annual Computer Refresh includes approximately 500 new devices
- Maintains a 5-year refresh schedule for Judicial Branch

400 Laptops x \$476.44 = \$190,576 Increase

100 Desktops x \$102 = \$10,200 Increase



Other Critical Needs



- OSCCE lease space in NCC
- JP Court: 1.0 FTE Operations Manager
- JIC: 1.0 FTE Project Manager
- Superior Court: 1.0 FTE Human Resources Supervisor
- JP Court: 2.0 FTEs Judicial Case Processors

Other Critical Needs

- AOC: 1.0 Training and Education Specialist III
- Family Court: 1.0 Family Service Program Support Administrator
- Court of Common Pleas: DUI, Drug Court increase to meet national standards of testing
- JP Court: Kiosks for 24/7 court operations

Right to Representation



- 1,726 new cases in year 2, impacting over 6,000 Delawareans including 1,926 children
- 1,138 cases closed in year 2 – over 80% had positive outcomes including:
 - ✓ Evictions prevented
 - ✓ Housing subsidies preserved
 - ✓ Safer housing secured including accommodations for vulnerable tenants
 - ✓ Negotiated settlements including additional time to move when needed

Non-Judicial Agencies

Office of the Public Guardian

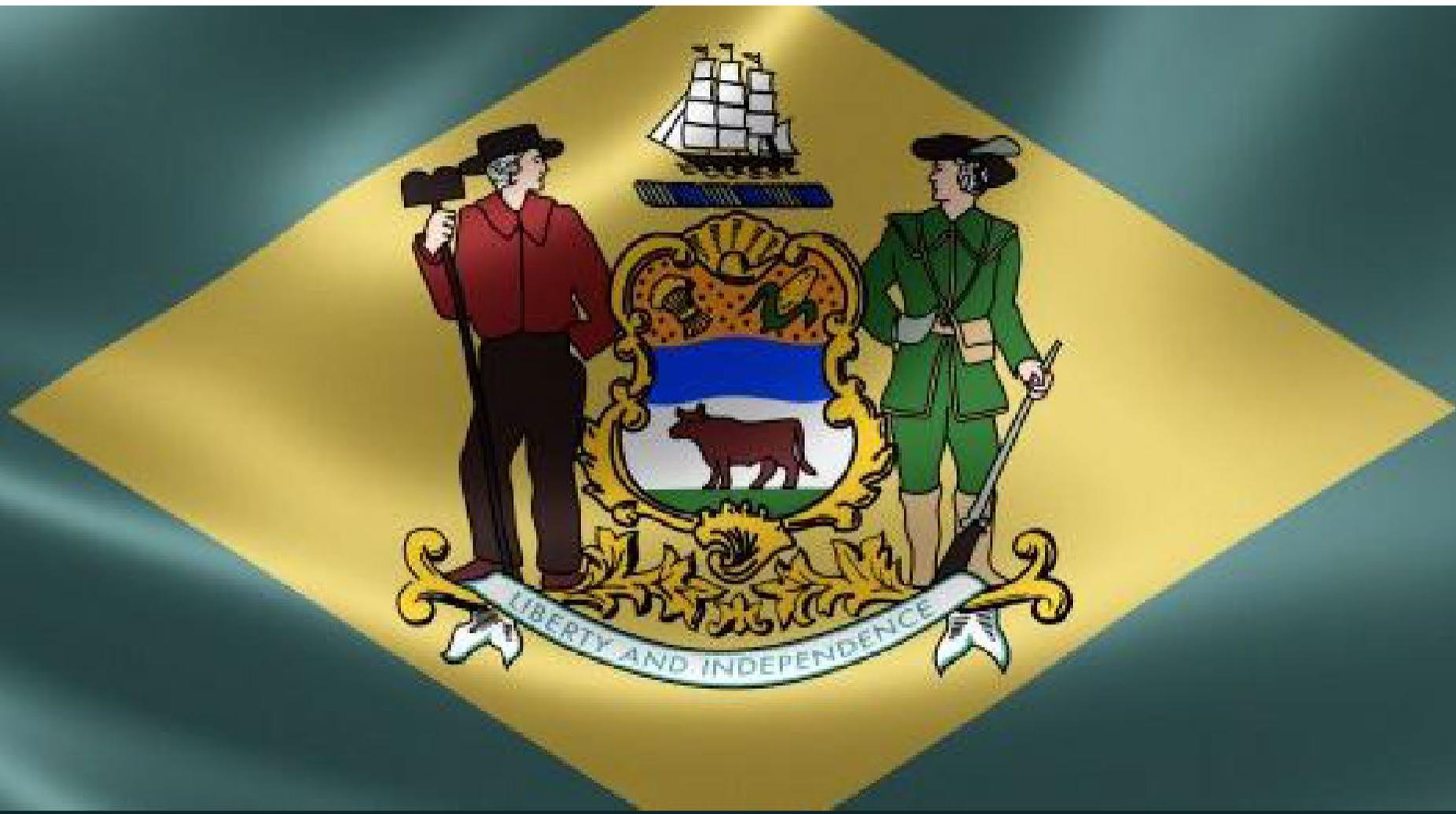
Office of the Child Advocate

Maternal and Child Death Review Commission

Delaware Residents' Protection Commission

Non-Judicial Agencies

- The NJAs are advocates and agency watchdogs, while the Judicial Branch is the fair and neutral arbiter of cases.
- The NJAs report to their own Executive Branch commissions or boards, with one appointed by the Governor.
- Much of the NJAs mission falls outside the work and expertise of the AOC.
- The Judicial Branch supports any steps that would reduce the NJAs reliance on the AOC and advance the goal of restructuring.



Thank You!