

Thomas B. Darr, Court Administrator of Pennsylvania

Tom Darr was recruited to be the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Court's director of communications and legislative relations by former Court Administrator of Pennsylvania Nancy Sobolevitch. Working with the court administrator, Supreme Court Justice Stephen A. Zappala, and others, his initial mission was to help jump start funding for the Unified Judicial System's ambitious state computerization plans.

Since then, as director of administration and for 18 years as Deputy Court Administrator of Pennsylvania, his broad-based management and advisory role has allowed him to be part of the major events that have shaped the AOPC and the judicial system over the past 31 years.

Within that role, he helped Chief Justice Ronald D. Castille in creation of Pennsylvania's Inter-branch Commission on Juvenile Justice, for which he helped to write the establishing statute. The commission, which he served as an advisor, was empaneled to review the circumstances of and make recommendations in the aftermath of illegal actions by two judges in Luzerne County.

For the late Chief Justice Ralph Cappy, Tom wrote the original concept paper and then led the judiciary project team during design and construction of the Pennsylvania Judicial Center. Working with successive chief justices, he has played a significant role in crafting successful strategies to ensure fiscal support of the judicial system and has conceived a variety of media themes in support of judiciary projects. Among his greatest pleasures has been working to develop AOPC's professional staff. As Court Administrator and before as Deputy, he has served as commissioner of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime & Delinquency.

Previously, he was deputy secretary for legislative affairs to former Governor Dick Thornburgh, and briefly a producer at C-SPAN and a writer for *Governing* magazine. His undergraduate degree is from Grove City College and he earned graduate degrees from the University of Pittsburgh in public administration and Northwestern University in journalism. He is a member and secretary of the Pennsylvania Capitol Preservation Committee and a member of the University of Pittsburgh's Thornburgh Forum on Public Policy advisory committee.

He is a past president and current board member of the national Conference of Court Information Officers. He has participated in or helped to plan a number of national court conferences and programs with the National Center for State Courts, and the American Bar Association and was privileged to be invited to participate in several ABA-CEELI programs in support of eastern European democracies.