



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE of PENNSYLVANIA COURTS

News for Immediate Release

July 24, 2019

Pennsylvania Supreme Court Announces Retirement of State Court Administrator Thomas B. Darr

Chief Justice of Pennsylvania Thomas G. Saylor today announced the retirement of Court Administrator of Pennsylvania Tom Darr, who will depart at year's end after 30 years of service.

The state court administrator position is prescribed in the state constitution and heads the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC).

Darr will be succeeded by Geoff Moulton who currently serves as Counsel to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

"I would like to express the collective appreciation of the Unified Judicial System for Tom's over 30 years of dedicated service," said Chief Justice Saylor. "He has served as Pennsylvania's top judicial administrator with professionalism and integrity and he will leave at year end with the thanks of the Court and judicial branch for a job well done.

"Geoff Moulton's academic and legal background, coupled with his broad range of experience in the executive, legislative and judicial branches render him well qualified to assume the responsibilities of Pennsylvania state court administrator."

Moulton has devoted the bulk of his career to public service. Before taking his current position in 2018, he served as an appointed judge on the Pennsylvania Superior Court, as first deputy general counsel to Governor Wolf, and as an assistant United States Attorney in Philadelphia.

In addition, he has been chief counsel to a United States Senator, taught for many years at Widener University Delaware Law School, and represented media clients in private practice. Following his graduation from Columbia Law School in 1984, he served as a law clerk on both the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and the United States Supreme Court.

Darr began his tenure with the AOPC as director of legislative affairs and communications, advancing to director of administration soon thereafter. He was appointed deputy state court administrator in 1996 and state court administrator in 2015.

“It has been a privilege to serve in two branches of Pennsylvania state government for more than 38 years,” Darr said. “As is true with everyone who comes to Harrisburg with a new governor, the adrenalin to ‘do good’ is high. That was true for me in 1979 and has been a guiding principle through my much longer tenure with Pennsylvania’s court system.

“I have been deeply gratified to work for six chief justices and so many Supreme Court justices whose dedication to the law and to public service has been inspiring and also an education for this non-lawyer. Their respective commitments to public service have been unequivocal in my experience.

“My professional interest from the start has been to encourage collaboration within the court system and between branches of government, as important a goal now as ever but one that is increasingly complex to achieve. It’s a great time for Geoff Moulton to use his considerable and diverse experience to take up that challenge for the Supreme Court and with the assistance of a very capable AOPC staff.”

Among his other significant contributions, during Darr’s time with the AOPC he focused on the development of the Judicial Computer System (JCS) by helping to encourage the legislature and successive governors to provide the JCS with financial support.

Darr also worked with representatives of the Judiciary’s sister branches of government to create Pennsylvania’s Interbranch Commission on Juvenile Justice, in the aftermath of illegal actions by two judges in Luzerne County.

EDITOR’S NOTE – Please see attached bios for Thomas B. Darr and Geoff Moulton

###

Media contact: [Stacey Witalec](#), 717-877-2997





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.



Geoff Moulton, Counsel to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court

Geoff Moulton currently serves as Counsel to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. From August 2016 through December 2017, he was a judge on the Pennsylvania Superior Court, having been nominated by Governor Tom Wolf and unanimously confirmed by the Pennsylvania Senate. During his time on the court, he authored over 330 opinions.

Mr. Moulton has devoted the bulk of his career to public service. Following his graduation from Columbia Law School in 1984, where he was managing editor of the *Columbia Law Review*, he served as a law clerk on both the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and the United States Supreme Court. After his clerkships, he spent a total of eight years as a federal prosecutor in Philadelphia, including four years as First Assistant United States Attorney.

In addition, Mr. Moulton has been chief counsel to a United States Senator, chief of staff at the office of the Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program, and first deputy general counsel to Governor Wolf. He also represented media clients in private practice and taught for many years at Widener University Delaware Law School on a wide range of subjects, including Evidence, Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, and Professional Responsibility.

Finally, in the course of his pre-judicial career, Mr. Moulton directed two major independent investigations, one of the ATF raid on the Branch Davidian Compound in

Waco, Texas for the U.S. Department of the Treasury, and the other of the investigation of Jerry Sandusky for the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General.

Mr. Moulton's wife Lisa has been a special education teacher in the Jenkintown School District for 24 years. They have two grown daughters.