

**Report of the
Administrative Office of
Pennsylvania Courts
2007**

Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

*Chief Ronald D. Castille
Justice Thomas G. Saylor
Justice J. Michael Eakin
Justice Max Baer
Justice Debra Todd
Justice Seamus P. McCaffery
Justice Jane Cutler Greenspan*

*'07 in Brief
(listed chronologically)*

Statewide criminal court computer systems installed throughout Pennsylvania, unifying case-processing, improving access to court data, aiding law enforcement and underscoring Pennsylvania's position as a national leader in judicial automation.

Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts releases Public Health Law Benchbook, providing guidance to state judges in dealing with unprecedented challenges to be faced in a major public health threat or pandemic.

Supreme Court adopts new orphans' court rule, forms to provide more uniform, clearer process for those appointed to administer trust funds, estates.

Chief Justice Ralph J. Cappy announces medical malpractice data continues to show decline in case filings and verdicts throughout Commonwealth.

Supreme Court adopts policy on public access to financial records, formalizing long-standing practice of making information open, available to media, public.

Supreme Court slates its first statewide "Children's Roundtable" to address ways courts can help move abused, neglected children more rapidly from foster care to permanent homes.

Chief Justice Ralph J. Cappy announces retirement after nearly 30 years as member of Pennsylvania judiciary.

Supreme Court upgrades security at county courthouses with x-ray machines, magnetometers, duress alarms, card key entry systems. Also introduced: nation's first automated security incident reporting system, already in use in magisterial district courts.

Commonwealth Court Judge James Gardner Colins announces resignation after more than 20 years on the court.

Supreme Court announces plans to upgrade statewide computer system serving magisterial district judges to improve performance, flexibility, accessibility. E-filing, Internet fine payments planned.

Supreme Court adopts non-discrimination, equal employment policy, strengthening commitment to ensure dignity and respect to all who use, work in Pennsylvania's courts.

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