

**Report of the
Administrative Office of
Pennsylvania Courts
2006**

Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

*Chief Justice Ralph J. Cappy
Justice Ronald D. Castille
Justice Thomas G. Saylor
Justice J. Michael Eakin
Justice Max Baer
Justice Cynthia A. Baldwin
Justice James J. Fitzgerald III*

*'06 in Brief
(listed chronologically)*

Chief Justice of Pennsylvania Ralph J. Cappy releases Looking to the Future: The State of the Commonwealth's Courts, the first "state of the judiciary" report released in more than 20 years.

Supreme Court issues new rules to guide implementation of the new Protection from Abuse Act.

Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Board announces regulation change to assist lawyers returning from military service in complying with CLE requirements.

Supreme Court Justice Sandra Schultz Newman announces all magisterial district courts, central booking and night court facilities have been equipped with electronic security measures, including shatterproof safety glass, better restraints for in-custody defendants, digital cameras and duress alarms.

Supreme Court approves pilot continuing legal education project to explore accreditation of teleconferences as additional form of distance learning for attorneys.

Supreme Court adopts new statewide rules for juvenile dependency cases.

Supreme Court issues new rules to assist parents who adopt children from foreign nations by standardizing procedures to complete the adoption registration process.

Supreme Court adopts new rules for standardized forms for use in estate, trust and guardianship matters.

Superior Court establishes appellate mediation program to provide litigants with prompt, effective, less expensive alternative to resolving disputes.

Supreme Court announces creation of Office of Children and Families in the Courts to minimize the length of time dependent children must spend in foster care or other temporary living situations.

Supreme Court announces new public access policy governing electronic case records. The policy standardizes the availability of computer-generated case information while safeguarding the safety and privacy of citizens.

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