

April 14, 2004

**Statement of Administrative Director Richard J. Williams**

For the past twenty-three years, I have had the honor of serving the people of this state as a member of the Judiciary. It has been a privilege for which I am profoundly grateful. Now, after thoughtful consideration, I have made a decision that it is time for me to retire. I have advised the Chief Justice that my decision will be effective September first of this year.

I have reached my decision with mixed emotions. On the one hand, I look forward to spending more time with my family and using that time to find new challenges and adventures ahead. But I will also miss the work with members of our Judicial family. The opportunity to serve our state and to work with so many talented and dedicated colleagues is very special. The experiences shared, the friendships formed and the successes achieved have made my career rewarding beyond any reasonable expectations.

To each of my colleagues with whom I have served over the years, I want to express my heartfelt thanks. You have served with dedication and distinction. You have been willing to accept new ideas in an effort to continually make us a better Judiciary. You have offered constructive criticism, been open and accepting of differences, and been a constant source of support for doing what is right. Above all, you have always made me proud to be associated with you.

I am particularly grateful to Chief Justice Poritz for giving me the opportunity to serve as Administrative Director of the Courts, a position that has been the most challenging and satisfying in my professional life. Her intelligence, integrity and sense of fairness serve as continuing sources of inspiration and her friendship is a special joy. I also acknowledge my gratitude to Chief Justice Wilentz for his courage many years ago in choosing a then young and relatively new judge to serve as Assignment Judge in Atlantic County. I hope that my work has justified the confidence that each placed in me.

I am pleased that the Chief Justice has selected Judge Philip Carchman, whom I have known for over 25 years, to be my successor as Administrative Director. He is a knowledgeable jurist, a skilled administrator and a man of great integrity. He will fulfill the responsibilities of the office of Administrative Director with distinction.

In the next few months, as I prepare to make the transition to a new phase of my life, I look forward to the chances to talk more personally with my colleagues from over the years. I would welcome the opportunity to reminisce and share a laugh or two about the good times we have had together. I have been extraordinarily blessed and will always appreciate the friendship and support which has been so generously offered in this Judiciary.