

NOTICE

The First Judicial District and the Philadelphia Sheriff's department have entered into an agreement to work together and unite their law enforcement officers to better carry out the mission of both agencies. On Wednesday, June 25th, 2014, at 3:00pm in courtroom 305 in the Juanita Stout Center for Criminal Justice, Administrative Judge John W. Herron, presided over the swearing in of 25 Pretrial Services Warrant Officers as they took the oath of Deputy Sheriff. The oath was given by Jewell Williams, Sheriff, Philadelphia County and in a matter of minutes history was made. In 1972 Court Administrator Judge Blake created a Warrant Unit out of Pretrial Court personnel. Their mission was to serve the numerous judicial bench warrants of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas and the Philadelphia Municipal Court. This unit grew over the next 30 years to become a well trained, armed law enforcement arm of the courts. They have apprehended thousands of some of Philadelphia's worse criminals. At the same time the Philadelphia Sheriff's has also worked to serve and execute the writs and warrants of the Courts. Due to the overlapping mission and work of the Pretrial Warrant Unit and the Sheriff Department a joint venture has begun between these two agencies. They are joining forces in order to better serve the judiciary and the citizens of Philadelphia. This temporary joining brings the Warrant Officer under the supervision of the Sheriff Department. The Warrant Officers are working as Deputy Sheriffs alongside staff from the Sheriff Department. It is hoped that this cooperative effort will increase the apprehension of fugitives of justice, eliminate redundancy in work performed by the two agencies and strengthen the Sheriff's department ability to carry out its mission of removing dangerous criminals from the streets of Philadelphia.

Hon. John W. Herron

Administrative Judge
Court of Common Pleas - Trial Division
Chair, Administrative Governing Board
First Judicial District Of Pennsylvania