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COURTS TO OPEN NEW INFO CENTER AT NOON ON SEPT. 17

Common Pleas Court President Judge Frederica A. Massiah-Jackson and leaders of the Philadelphia Bar Association will mark Citizenship Day (Tuesday, September 17) by cutting through symbolic red tape to open the new First Judicial District Citizens' Information Center, at noon, in the Market East portal at City Hall Courtyard. The Center is in Room 127 City Hall, just opposite the City Hall Visitors Center.

According to president Judge Massiah-Jackson, the new Information Center is designed for quick and easy use by anyone who needs or wants help or information from the court system. "This is really the important first step for anyone who is coming into contact with the courts," Judge Massiah-Jackson explained. "Right now, people often roam from one place to another," she said. "We want to make it easier for them."

NEW INFO CENTER/add one

The new Information Center will contain computer terminals and will be fully stocked with pamphlets and information on various aspects and divisions of the court system, directions to various offices, and forms that are needed for various filings. Judge Massiah-Jackson also noted that the Center will be staffed "with real live people who can help you and answer your questions during normal business hours. We will be able to help people fill out forms, find offices and even help them navigate the court's Web site." The Center will also be accessible via phone at 215-686-2526, or via the Internet at <http://courts.phila.gov>.

Philadelphia Bar Association Chancellor Allan H. Gordon says the 13,000-member Association welcomes the Court Information Center “as an important new step to make sure that everyone has access to the courts.” The Chancellor said, “almost everyone at one time or another has some interaction with the court system. For a lot of people, the mere thought of getting involved with the justice system is stressful. The whole process needs to be easier, simpler and less stressful, and we feel this can be an important step in that direction. We commend President Judge Massiah-Jackson and the court system for this convenient walkup center and look forward to cutting through some of the red tape and opening the doors on September 17.”