

# Sussex County receives PARIS Award for Excellence



Sussex County Records Manager Dan Freed presents County Clerk Erma Gormley with a PARIS Award for Excellence for her role in managing the county's enterprise-wide imaging project.

The *PARIS Award for Excellence* was awarded to Sussex County by the New Jersey State Records Committee during a recent ceremony in Trenton, which celebrated the successes of the PARIS grants program.

Clerk Gormley was Sussex County's first PARIS project manager and presided over the county's initial PARIS projects prior to the hiring of a full-time county records manager.

The state's PARIS award team had this to say about the efforts put forth by Sussex County in support of its growing imaging program:



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Sussex County has been a model county government in the formation and support of a county-wide electronic document management system (EDMS) as part of a comprehensive records management strategy. In addition to PARIS funds, the county contributed over \$125,000 of its own towards the project. The new EDMS allows the county to leverage all of its back scanning activities. Beginning in 2005, Sussex County will have imaged the mortgages, deeds and associated property maps back to 1950, the engineering drawings, site plans, maps and aerial photos back to the 1850s, Surrogate Court probate and adoption case files to 1854, minutes for the Board of Chosen Freeholder from 1753, County Tax Board minutes from 1910, and Prosecutor's case files — nearly seven million images.

The completion of this project allows the county to move forward with substantial shared service offerings to its municipalities. Sussex County acted to help its municipalities benefit from the project by identifying existing imaging systems throughout the county, helping to get them certified by the state, and integrating them into the EDMS. ”

**PARIS**, the **Public Archives Records Infrastructure Support** Grants Program, is the nation's leading state program for upgrading the security, integrity, and efficiency of local government records administration. Administered by the Division of Archives and Records Management (DARM) in the Department of State, PARIS distributes up to \$27 million annually to county and municipal governments to support archives and records management infrastructure improvements. Since its inception in 2005, PARIS has emphasized comprehensive strategic planning, promoting inter-governmental shared services, and encouraged enterprise solutions to records management challenges in the electronic information age, transforming local governments' business practices and responsiveness to citizens.