

JUDICIAL BRANCH EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED



Tracy Davis from the Justice of the Peace Court was named the 2015 **Judicial Branch Employee of the Year** and was recognized for her consistently valuable service, positive and professional attitude and in particular for her work in creating and implementing trial and shift rotation schedules. In her role as Management Analyst III, Tracy has proven to be an invaluable asset to all sections of the Justice of the Peace Court. In addition to her innovative ideas, Tracy is pleasant, helpful and professional and has never failed to make herself available either over the phone, in person or over Skype messenger.

Sussex County Superior Court Chief of Security Rene Flores was given a 2015 **Delaware Award for Heroism** at the State Employee Awards in Dover. Chief Flores received the Heroism award for his actions on April 16, 2015, before his promotion to Chief, where he and Justice of the Peace Court Security Officer Cody Clogg came upon the scene of a school bus crash on their way into work. The two men immediately stopped and rushed to the bus that was carrying several children to get them off the bus and out of harm's way. The chain-reaction accident involving three school buses was caused by a Mack dump truck running a red light, according to police, and as a result of the ensuing accident the gas tank of the vehicles ruptured, causing a fuel spill. The two officers checked each of the children, who were headed to a child-care center in Lincoln, for injuries and worked to calm and comfort the children who ranged in age from four to seven years old. The officers then helped get the school bus drivers and the driver of the dump truck away from their vehicles and assisted in directing traffic away from the scene. Officer Clogg was also nominated but has since left his position with the state.



Other employees nominated for the Branch Employee of the Year award, and who were honored as Employee of the Year for their respective courts are:

Tamara Burton, Deputy Court Administrator, Court of Common Pleas. As the only Deputy Administrator for the Court of Common Pleas, Tamara devotes her time to the court staff of all three counties and does so with a positive attitude and strong dedication to all the Court's 130 plus employees. Tamara was instrumental in the development and implementation of the State of Delaware's first DUI Court in New Castle County.

Michelle Hoffman, Management Analyst III, Family Court. Michelle has been an incredible asset to the Family Court Enhancement Project since its inception. According to her supervisors, she has gone above and beyond in her dedication and availability to the subcommittees. While dedicating herself to the work of the FCEP, Michelle has nonetheless continued to carry out her regular (and sizable) workload in an exemplary fashion.

Katie Coombes, Special Projects Analyst, Administrative Office of the Courts. Katie has epitomized the team player from the get go. In her role as Special Projects Analyst, Katie has filled the need on many different projects ranging in topics from mental health initiatives, community outreach, Access to Justice, grant monitoring and much, much more. Her willingness to do what it takes to get the job done is second to none.

Laura Makransky, Judicial Law Clerk, Superior Court. Laura served as the Judicial Law Clerk for the Honorable Diane Clarke Streett. Laura was knowledgeable about not only her job but also was willing to assist with other key judicial chambers responsibilities whenever necessary to get the job done. Laura was commended for her exceptional initiative and customer service to the Superior Court through her actions to substitute for the administrative assistant and making sure the Judges' Chambers ran smoothly, while still meeting her law clerk responsibilities. ♦