

## JUDICIAL BRANCH EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED



**Gayle P. Lafferty**, from the **Supreme Court**, was named the 2016 Judicial Branch Employee of Year. In her role as Chief Staff Attorney for the Supreme Court, Gayle is described by her superiors and co-workers as good-natured and an invaluable resource. This has been particularly true during this past year when she assisted on a number of projects in addition to her usual duties, including overseeing the creation of a Supreme Court intranet site. Thanks to Gayle's outstanding efforts, the Supreme Court now has a single, shared repository for forms, guidelines, calendars, and other useful information that is now easily accessible to Justices and staff, thus improving the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the Court. "Gayle Lafferty has been critical to the success of the Delaware Supreme Court and its Judiciary more generally for a generation. She is one of the finest attorneys in Delaware, has tremendous expertise in criminal law, professional ethics, and many other areas of law. We all look to her regularly for wise counsel. It is fitting that the public know what so many of us in the Judiciary have long recognized, which is that Gayle Lafferty is a model attorney and public servant," said Chief Justice Leo E. Strine, Jr.

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:

**Carla Robinson, Court Security Officer I, Family Court**. In April 2016, while conducting an Ex Parte PFA Hearing with a commissioner, CSO Carla Robinson observed that a petitioner appeared to have recent injuries to her face and neck. CSO Robinson's observations of the injuries led to the court reconvening on the record, describing the injuries and ensuring that the Domestic Violence Advocacy Program took photographs of the injuries. Without the CSO Robinson's observations and engagement, the petitioner may not have received proper care and necessary attention.

**Davina Mifflin, Senior Accountant, Superior Court**. Davina has taken care of the Accounting Unit with the talent, fierceness, tenacity and organization needed by a bookkeeper/accountant. Currently, Superior Court is moving the criminal accounting system to CJIS. This is a job that requires concentration and vigilance to make certain that all data is correct prior to the conversion.

**Carol Lemieux, Judicial Operations Manager, Court of Common Pleas**. Carol frequently surpasses the expectations and duties encompassed in her job responsibilities as a Judicial Operations Manager for the Court of Common Pleas, Kent County. She utilizes her extensive education to identify areas for improvement within the court's operations and to administer solutions. Carol's leadership and willingness to assist in process improvement projects – that increase the Court's efficiency, productivity, and improve service delivery to the public – are invaluable to the State.

**Jennifer Figueira, Coordinator of Court Interpreters Program, Administrative Office of the Courts**. As Coordinator for the Court Interpreters Program, Jennifer has faced numerous challenges since her start over two years ago. Jennifer was called upon to do more with less. Jennifer used her immense creativity and logical problem solving to create a win-win solution by devising a new contractual arrangement, which provides interpreters on a regular basis to the courts at a lower cost. Jennifer continuously displays great aplomb, grace and leadership in a way that is beneficial to all constituents.

**Court 11 Clerks, Justice of the Peace Court (Robin Bundy, Crystal Colclough, Crystal Thomas, Laurie Gravell, Janay Barron, Carly Juno, Charene Harris, Clare Messick, Andrea Flores, and Debbie Hall)**. The Court 11 Clerks have worked tirelessly despite staffing challenges. They have all found themselves working long hours; training new clerks, only to have them depart within a couple of months; working solo on outtake on a PPP day; and working with new judges. While juggling the above, they have helped to bring the new and veteran clerks together, creating a team that supports one another in all circumstances. And through it all they have continued to serve the public pleasantly and efficiently. ♦