

## JUDICIAL BRANCH EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED



**Assistant Jury Services Manager Ken Creedon of the Delaware Superior Court** was named the 2018 Judicial Branch Employee of the Year. Ken also led the Jury Improvement Innovation Team that was recognized with the Governor’s “Commitment Award” for 2019. The team was responsible for a series of innovations that improved the efficiency and operations of Jury Services including the “Web Solution Project” that for the first time allowed prospective jurors to fill out a jury questionnaire online and request a postponement or dismissal, if needed. The change not only provided a welcome time-saving convenience for prospective jurors, but it also saved the Superior Court thousands of dollars in staff time and supplies. Other members of the Jury Improvement Innovation Team included the following employees from Superior Court: Kristin Dangelo, Lisa Parker, Mei-Ling

Cosgrove, Karen Horsey, Karen Taylor, Melanie Ewing-Lahutsky and Brian Clairmont; the following employees from the Judicial Information Center: Shawn Facen-Simmons, Ryan Fontello, Ann Hsu, Ken Kelemen, Saoud Khan, Achille Tcheou and Amy Whitman; and the following employees from the Department of Technology & Information: Nikia Wongus, Paul Kanich and Robert Jacobs.

For his individual honors, both as the Superior Court and Judicial Branch Employee of the Year, Creedon, who is now Superior Court Prothonotary, was cited for his enthusiasm and innovation in his position as a supervisor. In the words of Jury Services Manager Andrew Brennan, Ken is “a true gentleman, and if you meet him for one moment, you have become a better person.”

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

**Niakesha Selby, Social Services Specialist II, Family Court.** Niakesha, who has been with Family Court since 1998, was cited for her exceptional performance, achievement, initiative and selflessness in her duties. “I’ve witnessed Niakesha communicating with our litigants on many occasions and she has a way of explaining our process that has a calming effect,” said her supervisor, Cynthia Burris. Niakesha also often goes above and beyond, such as when she worked diligently to get a fee waived for a father who did not have the funds to pay for a needed paternity test.

**Jennifer Shaffer, Sussex County Judicial Operations Manager, Court of Common Pleas.** A Court employee since 2005, Jennifer was cited for her willingness to assist, on top of her regular duties, in a number of jobs during a period of high employee turnover in Sussex County Court of Common Pleas. Jennifer is organized, has effectively trained numerous new employees, and faces challenges and difficult situations with patience and tact. Her dedication and devotion to excellence reflects what we hope to see in all our employees.

**Francis Walker, Court Security Officer II, Justice of the Peace Court.** Francis was praised as a “unique and vital member of the Court.” During a staffing shortage, Francis volunteered to work as the “Constable Central Dispatcher,” allowing other Constables to attend to other important duties while he manned phone lines and monitored radio traffic. He also assisted with training 29 officers on a new system and attended more firearm practices than any other officer in the state.

**Betsy Bachmurski, Judicial Information Center Developer, Administrative Office of the Courts.** Betsy, who has been with the Judicial Information Center since 1997, was cited for her dedication and work ethic over her long service to the Courts. Betsy “takes problems and can think in many different directions to identify options and define the best solution,” said Ken Kelemen, Information Systems Manager. He added that Betsy not only excels at completing a great quantity of assignments but does so with a high level of quality. ♦