

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Superior Court Security Officer Erika Bradley named
Judicial Branch Employee of the Year and
recipient of Governor's Award for Excellence

The Superior Court and the Judicial Branch have named Superior Court Security Officer Erika Bradley as the 2017 Employee of the Year. Ms. Bradley received this honor on May 7, 2018, where she was also recognized as one of five recipients of the Governor's Award for Excellence and Commitment in State Service for 2018. The event, held at Delaware State University, acts as a kick-off for Public Service Recognition Week, and honors state employees who render public service in an exemplary manner.

"Erika has consistently demonstrated the utmost professionalism and dedication," said Superior Court President Judge Jan R. Jurden who attended the May 7, 2018 breakfast where Ms. Bradley was honored. "Not only does Erika provide safety and security in the courtroom for members of the public, litigants, staff and judges, the court frequently receives feedback from jurors about Erika's excellent customer service and helpfulness. She is richly deserving of this recognition and honor," said Judge Jurden.

Erika, who has worked for Superior Court for 18 years, received the Governor's award at a ceremony at Delaware State University where she was congratulated for her exemplary service by Gov. John Carney, Chief Justice Leo E. Strine, Jr., Sen. Bruce Ennis and Rep. Trey Paradee. The ceremony marks the first time in recent memory that a Judicial Branch employee has been recognized with the Governor's Award for Excellence and Commitment in State Service.

Erika was nominated to be the Superior Court's Employee of the Year by her supervisor, Chief Security Officer Robert G. Hastings, who also attended the May 7 breakfast. "This is well-deserved and long overdue," said Hastings. "From my personal perspective, she gets it. There are a lot of nuances to the job. Just because you come into a courtroom doesn't mean you are necessarily a bad person. We understand that you have to be fair and impartial. She takes that extra step to make people feel comfortable in this environment and that she has empathy for their situation."

Erika's professional yet friendly manner with jurors has been particularly appreciated. Last year, following a long and difficult trial, the first thing jurors told the trial judge at a post-trial meeting was how much they appreciated Erika and her pleasant and professional demeanor. On another occasion, jurors presented Erika with a signed card. "Erika served with a great deal of professionalism and at the same time she treated us with kindness and respect," wrote the jurors. "We would like to commend her."

Ms. Bradley's actions exemplify the service that the Courts strive to provide to citizens when they enter the courthouse.

The Delaware Judiciary congratulates Erika on receiving these well-deserved honors.

Other employees nominated for the Judicial Branch’s Employee of the Year Award, who the Delaware Judiciary also thanks and honors, include:

Barbara Carroll, Judicial Case Processor III, Family Court. Barbara, who first worked for the Court of Common Pleas before joining Family Court, was cited for her exceptional customer service, dedication, innovation on the job, and willingness to help whether it is a co-worker or member of the public. “Barbara epitomizes a team player on the Family Court Team,” said Fran Spinelli, her supervisor. “Barbara is always willing to assist both staff and litigants. She exhibits a can-do attitude and willingness to do what it takes to get the job done.”

Rachel DeColli, Management Analyst II/Information Security Officer, Court of Common Pleas. During a particularly challenging year for the Court of Common Pleas, Rachel DeColli demonstrated a work ethic and willingness to take the initiative to handle large projects confronting the Court including the conversion of the Court’s new e-filing system and addressing an issue with court notices. Rachel took the lead and worked tirelessly to address the situations and coordinate efforts to execute timely responses.

Kevin Jackson, Constable, Justice of the Peace Court. An invaluable asset to Justice of the Peace Court, Kevin not only maintains the regular job duties of a constable at a high level of proficiency, he has stepped up to become the leading firearms instructor. Recently, he assumed greater responsibility in the training and certifying of new hires and has reworked parts of the training program, giving new life to the instruction process.

Ashley Tucker, Staff Attorney, Administrative Office of the Courts. Ashley is known in the Administrative Office as a hard-working, honest and wise person who demonstrates a common-sense and down-to-Earth attitude that makes her a great co-worker and attorney. In particular, Ashley was cited for her work over the past year organizing and carrying out a new set of agreements for the court interpreter program.

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