



## News Release

FROM: Chambers of the Chief Judge  
19th Judicial Circuit  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Waukegan, Illinois

The Nineteenth Judicial Circuit held its employees awards ceremony on Thursday which is an annual event to recognize employees for their continued dedication and commitment to provide the highest quality service to our families in the Lake County community. Chief Judge Foreman welcomed all present and thanked them for their hard work and overall performance of a job well done for the circuit.

The ceremony began with four special titled awards presented by the Chief Judge. They included:

The "Environmental Sustainability Award" is presented to an employee for their dedication to green practices and who promotes recycling, waste reduction and energy conservation. This year's award was presented to Robert Kocanda, a member of Judicial Information Services.

Since joining the 19<sup>th</sup> Circuit in 2007, Robert has initiated several "green" programs. One of them is the ink recycling program which properly disposes the toxic materials through a recycling broker. He also created a program to collect and recycle all of the court's computers, old cell phones, and related electronic equipment. This program has saved the court thousands of dollars in disposal fees, has helped reduce clutter and waste, and has provided a safe and sustainable end-to-end process for all of the court's electronic equipment. Bob's contributions have helped ensure the health and safety of the court organization.

The "Kay S. Finn and Sarah G. Anderson Exceptional Employee Award" is presented to a non-sworn administrative support employee who best exemplifies the highest effort in support of the Circuit's mission. This employee provides excellent customer service and is distinguished by multi-faceted talent and focused efforts that result in outstanding achievement.

The Exceptional Employee Award was presented to Candace Timokhin, Senior Secretary in Adult Probation. Candace provides the organization with high quality work product, volunteers for additional responsibilities, and displays a commitment to excellence. She has a pleasant demeanor, takes pride in her work, and presents a positive image of the organization. Candace joined the 19<sup>th</sup> Circuit in 2007.

Robert Geidner, Principal Probation Officer in Adult Probation Sex Offender Unit was the recipient of the "Lawrence Bonds Officer of the Year" award. The award is named in honor of Lawrence (Larry) Bonds, Principal Adult Probation Officer, who worked in probation from May 15, 1984 until his passing on April 6, 1997. This award is given to a sworn officer who represents the circuit in terms of ethical behavior, loyalty, dedication and passion and is a role model for others throughout the organization and community.

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Bob Geidner began his career with the 19<sup>th</sup> Circuit in 1988 in Juvenile Probation and later transferred to Adult. He has been a dedicated, positive, and hardworking member of the Sex Offender Unit for the past twelve years. He regularly facilitates Cognitive Restructuring groups (COG) for sex offenders and researches new computer technology to monitor sex offender activities on the internet. Among his accomplishments, Bob has co-chaired the Sexual Assault Council Treatment Committee for the States Attorney's Office, assisted in the Judicial Court Order revision project, and was instrumental in the redevelopment of the Sex Offender Manual. We are proud to have Bob on our staff.

The 2012 Leadership and Excellence Award was given to Robert Verborg, Senior Research Analyst in Court Administration. This award is presented to the judicial employee who best illustrates the 19<sup>th</sup> Circuit's mission to the citizens of Lake County, the judiciary and fellow employees by setting high standards in leadership and excellence. This person excels in commitment to the organization's values and ethics and is recognized for his contributions toward the quality and success of court programs.

Robert joined the Court in 2004 and is a dedicated professional to the field of research, performance management, statistics and results. In 2011 and 2012, Robert was selected to present his research findings at Rutgers University's Public Performance Measurement and Reporting Conference. He has been published four times over the last several years with two additional articles pending, and he was instrumental in developing the court organization's policy for release of court records waiver for researchers performing work on court resources. Bob has exhibited much energy and insight to the court's research, performance management and evidence-based practices.

The Employee of the Year award is the highest honor bestowed on any employee. The winner is selected from the twelve employees who were recognized as an Employee of the Month. Nominations are made by fellow employees, with the winners selected by a committee of peers representing the divisions of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit.

The Employee of the Year award for 2012 was presented to a person who steps in to assist wherever needed without being asked. He volunteers to meet additional clients, is a COG co-facilitator, and demonstrates a genuine determination to assist clients to become productive citizens of the community. In December, he will celebrate his 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the court organization. "I am proud to present the Employee of the Year award to James Schelinski," said Judge Foreman, and "thank you for your many years of outstanding and excellent service ."

Others selected as employees of the month for the year 2012 were: January-Julie A. Patterson, Adult Probation; February-Robert J. Verborg, Court Administration; March-Adam M. Kohl, Juvenile Detention; April-Kathryn A. Grzanich, Psychological Services; May-James E. Schelinski, Adult Probation; June-Paul R. DiJulio, Juvenile Detention; July-Dawn Bluma, Administrative Services; August-Jennifer Hanson, Juvenile Probation; September-Dr. Holly A. Hinton, Psychological Services; October-Dana M. Paschall, Adult Probation; November-Nubia G. Mackowski, Adult Probation; and December-Rodrigo Salgado, Juvenile Detention.

Awards were also presented to Court Reporter Candace Sartwell for 35 years of service and to Assistant Director of Judicial Operations Diane Flory for 45 years of service.

On behalf of all of the judges of the 19<sup>th</sup> Circuit, Judge Foreman once again thanked all the employees for their continued support and commitment to the organization.

The annual event took place in the Jury Assembly Room on Thursday, January 31, 2013.

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