



News Release

FROM: Chambers of the Chief Judge
19th Judicial Circuit
Lake County
Waukegan, Illinois 60085-4359

Date of Release: 11/03/08
Point of Contact: James K. Booras
Diane Flory
Telephone: 847.377.4500
847.377.3818

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Waukegan, Illinois

PROBATION OFFICERS HONORED

Three Lake County Adult Probation Officers were recently honored at the annual fall meeting of the Illinois Probation and Court Services Association (IPCOSA), according to Chief Judge James Booras. "We are fortunate to have officers who continually strive to improve practices and service in the probation field," said Booras, "and we are proud to have them as staff of the 19th Circuit.

The three officers; namely, Jamie Shatkus, Tamika Finch-Hall, and Jalonta Jackson, each received a Distinguished Service Award for their service and contributions made to the Lake County Court Services Division and to the Illinois Probation and Court Services Association.

Jamie Shatkus, who is from Deerfield, joined the 19th Circuit in August 2000 as a principal probation officer in the adult sex offender unit and is an active member of IPCOSA's sex offender committee. She is a certified trainer for motivational interviewing and has helped train the entire adult staff in this technique which helps motivate offenders to positively change their behavior. Jamie earned a Bachelor of Science degree in law enforcement and a Master's in criminal justice both from Western Illinois University.

Tamika Finch-Hall, a Waukegan resident, was hired in April 2006 as a probation officer in the adult standard casework unit. She has a Bachelor of Science in Social Work and a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice earning both from Southern Illinois University. Tamika has facilitated cognitive restructuring groups where offenders learn new appropriate ways to respond to problems in their lives. She is a member of IPCOSA'S substance abuse committee.

Jalonta Jackson, who lives in Park City, began her employment with the 19th Circuit in May 2006 as a probation officer in the adult standard casework unit. Jalonta is currently on IPCOSA's gender responsive committee and has served on the victim's concerns committee. In Lake County, she monitors a gender specific caseload of high risk female offenders and has been a leader in the group reporting project. Jalonta has a Bachelor of Science in Social Work and a Master's in Social Work obtaining both from Southern Illinois University.

The annual meeting was held at the Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles.

###