



News Release

FROM: Chambers of the Chief Judge
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EMPLOYEE ANNUAL AWARDS PRESENTED

Chief Judge Dave Hall met recently with all of the nominees and their co-workers to find out who was selected as the 2007 Employee of the Year of the 19th Judicial Circuit. As anticipation grew, Hall read the name of Arminda Badgerow. "Mandy," as she is known in the office, is well respected by her fellow workers and supervisors, and her enthusiasm, pleasant demeanor and willingness to take on additional responsibilities in the interest of the organization make her a very valuable employee of the circuit," said Hall.

Mandy began working for the courts on February 5, 1986 and she is an executive secretary for the Judicial Operations unit. She has excellent computer and customer service skills and assists in special projects including Law Merit Badge, Law Day, and the preparation of the circuit's interdepartmental newsletter and various publications that are available to the general public.

The Employee of the Year is selected from all of the employees of the month of a calendar year and is chosen by the Employee Recognition Committee based on the quality of service demonstrated to the public and the court system, competency, and efficiency of overall performance. As the awardee, Mandy was presented with a #1 keychain; a plaque; an overnight package stay at the Marriott Lincolnshire that includes dinner and theatre; and a gift certificate for a professional photo session.

Arminda "Mandy" Badgerow was selected as the September employee of the month for 2007. Other employees of the month for 2007 included: January – Karin McLafferty; February – Lori Carrier; March – Kristen Perez; April – Matt Junkin; June – Veronica Kennedy; July – Carla Calderon; August – Shawn Brennan; October – Gerrod Brown; November – Daniel Filson; and December – Margaret Fontana. The Employee of the Month Committee did not convene in May.

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Other annual awards included:

The Lawrence (Larry) Bonds Officer of the Year Award. This award is named in honor of Lawrence Bonds who was a Principal Adult Probation Officer with the 19th Circuit from May 15, 1984 until his death on April 6, 1997. The employee nominated for this award is a sworn probation officer or juvenile counselor who demonstrates a high degree of professionalism and competence and is recognized for these qualities by the court, co-workers, the community and clientele. In addition, the person contributes to the organization's culture; goes beyond the boundaries of the job in program development, service delivery, and a positive approach to duties, participates in professional and community organizations; and is a role model. The 2007 award was presented to Cheryl D. Shearer.

Cheryl Shearer is a principal probation officer in the Adult Pre-Trial Unit. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Indiana State University and was hired by the 19th Circuit in August 1977. Cheryl has outstanding expertise in multiple criminal justice computer systems and serves as the agency's representative to enhance the exchange of this valuable information. She has served as the intern coordinator for the past six years and has provided adult probation with 33 interns totaling over 8,000 hours of free service. (13 of these interns have been hired full-time with the circuit and come "Cheryl" trained.) Cheryl is the Committee Chair for the Employee of the Month program and has been with the program since its inception in 1993 having helped recognize over 160 Employees of the Month and 14 Employees of the Year. On August 18, 1977, Cheryl was recognized for her 30 years of dedicated service. Cheryl and her Deputy Sheriff husband Lenny and family reside in the Gurnee community.

The Kay S. Finn and Sarah G. Anderson Exceptional Employee Award. This year's award was given to Beverly Karpan. The award is named in honor of Kay S. Finn, Principal Adult Clerk, who was employed with the circuit from July 29, 1985 to her death on April 16, 1999 and for Sarah G. Anderson, Executive Adult Secretary who was employed with the circuit from April 18, 1991 to her death on February 20, 2001. The award is given to a non-sworn employee who strives to provide legendary service and believes that improvement is a way of life. This person demonstrates high achievement and positive commitment and is recognized as a valuable resource.

Beverly's title is Human Resource Generalist III in the Judicial Human Resource Unit. After working with the County's Building Commission, Bev was hired by the 19th Circuit on December 31, 1997. Beverly's knowledge of human resource rules, ordinances, statutes and policies is very beneficial as she applies this knowledge and information in response to the many questions that are posed by employees of the circuit. One of her most important responsibilities is to make sure that the payroll for over 275 employees of the circuit is submitted correctly and timely. Her attributes include patience and understanding, and she is always responsive to requests and needs of others.

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The Leadership and Excellence Award. Winnie Webber was named by Chief Judge Hall as the nominee to receive the circuit's 2007 Leadership and Excellence Award. This award is presented annually to a non-judicial employee who best illustrates and promotes the mission of the 19th Judicial Circuit to the citizens of Lake County, the judiciary, and fellow employees by setting the standard in leadership and excellence.

Winnie Webber has been with the 19th Judicial Circuit since April 25, 1994 and is the Manager of the Judicial Information Unit. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Math and Computer Science from the University of Manila and she is currently working on a master's degree. She has attended courses at the National Center for State Courts in Williamsburg and in 2006 received certification as a Certified Court Manager. She is also involved in providing a leadership role in the new IS Manager's group formed by the National Center. With Winnie's skills and endless efforts, her unit's accomplishments are gaining recognition beyond the state of Illinois. As an example, the circuit's website has been ranked third best in the nation. Winnie inspires her unit to always strive for excellence in their work and is committed to the success of the organization's goals and values.

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<http://19thcircuitcourt.state.il.us>