

CSSD Chronicle

*State of Connecticut Judicial Branch
Court Support Services Division*

November 14th 2019



CSSD Annual Employee Recognition Awards

Prior to his retirement, former Director of Adult Services, Greg Halzack talked about and envisioned a yearly event to recognize and celebrate staff for their hard work, accomplishments and distinguished service to the Branch. A committee comprised of Adult Services field staff, supervisors, and central office administrators was created to develop and implement Greg's employee recognition concept. To that end, the committee established individual awards for Adult Probation and Bail Services staff.* Subsequently, Juvenile Probation and Family Services followed with their own such awards. This issue of "The Chronicle" will highlight the distinguished honorees that were recognized in Bail, Adult Probation, Juvenile Probation, and Family Services.

The awards given in Bail Services are: Bail Officer of the Year, Support Staff of the Year, Bail Supervisor of the Year, and the Ann McKenna Award for Outstanding Contribution, which was added in 2015. The Ann McKenna Award is a special recognition of a staff member who exemplifies the virtues by which Ann lived— honesty, dependability, dedication, a positive attitude, and a willingness to help others.

The awards given in Adult Probation are: CPO of the Year, APO of the Year, Support Staff of the Year, and Certificates of Merit, which include the categories of Distinguished Service, Outstanding Act, Community Service, and Valor. Juvenile Probation presents the following awards: Going the Extra Mile, Risk Reduction Warrior, Leading by Example, Super Support Staff, and Community Champion. Family Services distributes the Team Player and Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Awards.

Sara Barron, Manager of the Jail Re-Interview Program, emphasized the value of these awards by explaining that "the consistent heartfelt, meaningful small things, not grand gestures, are a very important piece of the puzzle. Our jobs are not just to manage people, but to celebrate them." Sara also noted that Mike Hines, Assistant Director of Bail Services, who has been instrumental in carrying on this tradition from year to year, is someone who exemplifies that notion. He leads by example and models the behavior that he wishes to see in his team members. The employee recognition awards are meant to give us all the opportunity to shine a light on the people at CSSD who inspire us to do our best. Overall, the awards enhance morale, foster cohesion, promote accountability, and acknowledge excellence.

Congratulations to all of our esteemed honorees and thank you for your dedication to the Branch and all the people we serve.

*Adult Probation and Bail accept their nominations year round. The latest date to submit a nomination for Bail is November 15, and for Adult Probation it is December 15. Juvenile Probation nominations coincide with their annual staff development day in June. Nominations are accepted in May. Family nominations are also accepted in May.

2018 Employee Recognition Awards

Adult Probation

Certificates of Merit

CPO of the Year

Hector Logan, Manchester

APO of the Year

Robert Boyd, Danielson
Sheila Stewart, Bristol
Craig Capone, New Haven
Jason Grady, Norwalk
Shuan Green, Bridgeport

Support Staff of the Year

Gale Neumann, Torrington

Tim Haggerty
Stephanie Hoffman
Michele Esdaile
Kellie DeCapua
George Hamberg
Kolab Bun-Gallo
Vanessa Merizaldi
Shavonne Calixte
Angela Zanolli
Alex Diaz
Heather Cato
Monica Alvarenga
Megan O'Shea
Melissa Chin-Hing
Jeff Coffey
Shane Vincelette
John Baldwin
Maurice Flowers
Steven Hayes
Brian Battista
Alexsis Edwards

Distinguished Service
Community Service
Outstanding Act
Distinguished Service
Distinguished Service
Cultural Diversity
Distinguished Service
Distinguished Service
Distinguished Service
Distinguished Service
Distinguished Service
Distinguished Service
Outstanding Act
Outstanding Act
Distinguished Service
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Notable Acts

Shane Vincelette, John Baldwin, Maurice Flowers, Steven Hayes, Brian Battista, and Alexsis Edwards were recognized for Distinguished Service for their invaluable work on a cold case murder investigation involving one of our clients.

Melissa Chin-Hing and Jeff Coffey were recognized for Outstanding Actions for safely delivering a probationer who had a medical emergency on a flight during an interstate transfer.

2018 Employee Recognition Awards

Bail Services

Bail Officer of the Year

Maria Lisa Votto
Amanda Hickey

Support Staff of the Year

Jennie Ortiz
Carolina Arcila

Bail Supervisor of the Year

Bridget Blake
Mat Divilo

Ann McKenna Award

Nate Cotton

2019 Employee Recognition Awards
Juvenile Probation

Going the Extra Mile

Catherine “Katy” Hart, New Haven

Risk Reduction Warrior

Carly Skevas, New Britain

Leading by Example Award

Maura Brennan, Bridgeport

Community Champion

Ed Battle, New Britain

Super Support Staff

Erin Jasso, Bridgeport

2019 Employee Recognition Awards

Family Services

Team Player

Gail Fisher-Brown, New Britain

Above and Beyond the Call of Duty

Paul Lorenzo, Vernon

Michelle Pereira, Bridgeport

CPO of the Year

Adult Probation's CPO of the year, **Hector Logan**, Manchester, is described as someone who leads by example. He is a consummate professional, a great listener, and always willing to assist his POs in the field, especially when difficult situations arise. Hector treats everyone with great respect and encourages growth and independence amongst his staff. He has cultivated a significant amount of trust and respect from his staff, and is therefore adept at conflict resolution and overall leadership. Congratulations on a job well done!

"I am honored to have received the Chief Probation Officer of the Year Award. I am earnestly grateful for this recognition because I am sure that there are a number of Chief Probation Officers throughout the state, who are also worthy of winning this award. I am also extremely humbled by the fact that I received several nominations for this award from Probation Officers who I have worked with at Manchester Office of Adult Probation. I have been stationed at Manchester Probation for over 14 years and can honestly say that Manchester Probation is an amazing team with hardworking, conscientious staff members who are always willing to do what is needed to support one another, the Courts, our clients, and the Judicial Branch/CSSD mission. I would like to thank the Adult Probation Recognition Advisory Committee for selecting me as the award recipient. I would also like to thank CPO II Tim Kane for providing leadership and guidance, CPO I Lisa Cato and CPO I Carlos M. Acevedo for providing peer support. Most importantly, I would like to thank all of the Manchester Probation Officers, Intake Assistants, and Clerks for their tireless efforts in provided services to the Manchester and Rockville Superior Courts and the communities they serve." —Hector Logan



Support Staff of the Year

Gale Neumann

"It has been a wonderful honor and a pleasant surprise to be honored by CSSD. In my 4 years with CSSD, it has been a pleasure working for Adult Probation and the entire Bantam/Torrington Courthouse staff. Most importantly, I would like to thank the fabulous group of people we have in this office who encourage me daily. Every day is a new experience with many surprises!"



Bail Officer of the Year

Amanda Hickey

"As a public sector employee, your work is important and fast paced. It also takes teamwork and good supervision to do your job well and there are times you may wonder if anyone has noticed your hard work. I am humbled and honored to have been selected as the Bail Services Officer of the Year 2018. The eloquent nomination submitted by my supervisor, Heather O'Dell showed me that she did take the time to acknowledge my hard work and accomplishments. To be selected for an award is a recognition of CSSD's commitment to recognize the hard work at all levels. I am truly lucky to be part of this organization."

-Amanda Hickey,



"I have had the pleasure of working with Nate for over 25 years. In that time I have watched Nate develop into one of our best Bail Supervisors. As many know Nate has also sacrificed to protect all of us many time in his tours with the Military overseas. Nate's sacrifices to his family and all of us he protected have not been lost on any of his co-workers. I could think of no other employee who deserves the Ann McKenna award more than Nate. He is more than a co-worker, but a true friend."

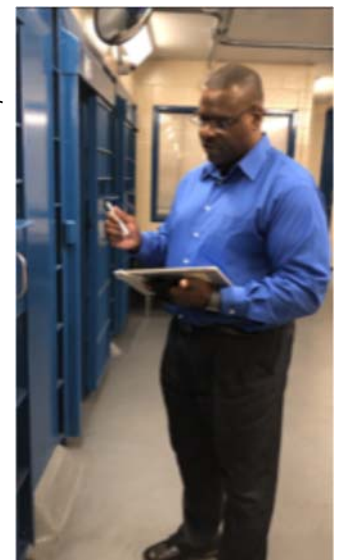
— Mike Hines

Ann McKenna Award

Nate Cotton

"It is better to be prepared for an opportunity and not have one, than to have an opportunity and not be prepared."

— Nate Cotton



Community Champion Award

Ed Battle

"It has been a pleasure to work for CSSD. The work we do as probation officers is fulfilling in that we are stocked with resources that can be shared with the various communities throughout the state. These supports manifest in stronger family dynamics and values making our world a better place. There is nothing more rewarding than helping someone become the best version of themselves."

— Ed Battle



Bail Supervisor of the Year

Mathew Divilio

"I have been with Bail Services for the past fifteen years, and in the capacity of a Supervising IAR Specialist for the last eight. It has been an amazing experience for me, as I have been fortunate to work alongside so many wonderful colleagues. I was humbled when I was chosen to receive such a honorable recognition as Bail Supervisor of the Year for 2018, and even more so when I realized that I had left a positive impression on so many. This award is a confirmation to the importance of always maintaining a positive and professional attitude when servicing The Court, Clients and fellow staff. Thank you to ALL of the Bail Services staff who work so hard each day in lowering recidivism in our State!"

— Mathew Divilio



Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award

Paul Lorenzo

Paul is an instrumental part of the Tolland JD. Not only does Paul frequently offer to cover court for his colleagues when needed, he also has taken on the responsibility of creating a "weekly preview" of the upcoming calendar to ensure coordination of coverage. Paul goes out of his way to assist the court with pre-trial negotiation services and off-calendar negotiations that consistently settle cases. He demonstrates empathy with clients, has a sense of humor, and brings years of experience to assist both training of new Family Relations Counselors and assisting the families we work with. Paul is well respected by the bar as well as other court department personnel and works tirelessly and collaboratively with them to help reach positive outcomes for the clients we serve.

— Lynne Gamache



Above and Beyond the Call of Duty

Michelle Pereira

“Michelle is a hard worker that strives to do a great job with keeping things around her running smoothly. She goes above and beyond to ensure counselors and the public have the information and materials they need to have a productive experience in the Family Court. Michelle has exceeded expectations when she had the responsibility of providing intake assistance for four offices at once during a shortage of Intake Assistants. During that time she still managed to reach out to offices and offer her support when she was aware there were staffing needs due to counselors being out of the office for various reasons. Michelle never complained about the extra responsibilities; instead, she would create a cheerful work environment for herself and those around her by decorating for nearly every holiday, baking homemade goods, and sharing funny anecdotes about her family. Michelle would never be okay receiving recognition for the great work she does. Nevertheless, it is her eagerness to please coupled with her humble demeanor that makes her an asset to any team lucky enough to have her. Hats off to Michelle and any Intake Assistant fortunate enough to have shadowed her during their training.”

— Ashley Hanley



Leading by Example Award

Maura Brennan

“Supervisor II Maura Brennan is a competent and capable leader who directs her office with a combination of encouragement and high expectations. Maura is as passionate today about her work as she was in 1995 when she joined the Judicial Branch. Maura is an absolute pleasure to work with and an asset to the juvenile probation management team.”

— Mark Irons



Juvenile Probation Support Staff of the Year

Erin Jasso

“Erin can best be described as the glue that holds us all together. She manages the front office entirely by herself. She is the true definition of a “multi-tasker”. Erin is the first person that our families interact with upon arrival to our office. She greets everyone in a kind, professional manner. She pays attention to people and gets to know who are probation kids are—often times the kids don’t have to say their names when they check in, as she knows who they are and who they are here to see.”

— Maura Brennan



Bail Support Staff of the Year

Jennie Ortiz

“It was a surprise and it was an honor to be chosen from so many that were submitted. I’d like to thank everyone who took part in the process. I will continue to do my best as an employee of Court Support Services Division.”

— Jennie Ortiz



Team Player Award

Gail Fisher-Brown

“Gail Fisher Brown has over 30 years of experience working with domestic violence offenders and victims. Gail’s expertise in the area of domestic violence issues has been acknowledged by the Bench, Bar, and other professionals working within the New Britain GA court and around the state. Ms. Fisher Brown’s excellent work focuses on offender accountability, victim safety, and recidivism reduction.”

— Joe DiTunno