

LIBERTY BELL AWARD 2014

This year's Liberty Bell Award recipient is Dritan Mersini, who works as an office clerk at the G.A. #18 in Bantam.

Dritan was born in the small town of Struga, Macedonia. He immigrated to the United States with his parents when he was 2 years old from a country high in poverty that offered very little education or employment opportunities. Growing up, his parents, Milaim and Baftisha, instilled in Dritan and his brothers a strong work ethic and a desire to learn. Dritan learned the English language and became a citizen of the United States. He earned his Associates Degree in paralegal studies from Naugatuck Community College and then went on to earn his bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Central Connecticut State University in 2009. He came to the Bantam G.A. in December of 2009 as an Office Clerk. Outside of the office, he enjoys reading, learning, and being a handy man. In addition, Dritan has worked construction, as a security officer, and with children at amusement parks.

Dritan was the unanimous choice to receive this year's award because of the wonderful job he does each and every day. Whether working with his co-workers, attorneys or self represented parties, Dritan is respectful, informative, and courteous. He is the consummate professional: efficient, hard-working, and is always ready to go the extra mile to get the job done.

However, it is not only that he gets the job done even under demanding circumstances. It's the way he interacts with everyone that sets Dritan apart. It is not uncommon to see a very upset, very distraught and very disgruntled person approach the Clerk's Office. Dritan has a remarkable ability to calm people down and get them the answers they need so that by the time they walk away, they are no longer upset, they are no longer distraught and they are no longer disgruntled. In fact, they are extremely pleased because they walk away having been treated fairly and with respect. In fact, people have been so amazed with Dritan that they have actually taken the time to write to the judicial branch to praise his work. Court Operatives Newsletter has featured Dritan numerous times, quoting the compliments he has received from those who walk through the Courthouse doors. For example, one woman wrote: "I do understand the law prevents giving legal advice, however it does not prevent civility, patience, kindness, helpfulness and compassion which ... Dritan demonstrates liberally." Another person wrote: "Dritan, who I believe works in the Clerk's Office of the Superior Court in Bantam has been more than helpful. I feel he is extremely helpful, knowledgeable, and provides excellent customer service skills. ... He was extremely pleasant every time I spoke to him. I am sure he speaks to several people regarding several different cases every day, however, when I phoned him, he remembered my case, which was much appreciated."

This year's Law Day theme focuses on every American's right to vote as the foundation of our representative democracy. It is very fitting that the Liberty Bell Award be given in this particular year to someone who earned the right to participate in our democracy by becoming a citizen and fulfilling his parents' dreams of becoming an education person who works extremely hard and always treats others with respect, compassion, and integrity.

Therefore, for his professionalism, compassion, and ability to handle difficult situations with grace and respect, the Litchfield County Bar Association is proud to present the 2014 Liberty Bell Award to Dritan Mersini.