



The Court Reporter

A Message From Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio

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Recently, some staff members at the Court and two very special people who assist the Court so generously with their time and talent, were recently recognized for their workplace performance in the past year.

My congratulations to Xavier Hayes, Stacey Mathieu, and Tammy Stiles for receiving High Point Awards. Also, congratulations to Jeff Pope, a staff member who was recently honored by a state association for the very good work that he does.

I say this often, and it's because I mean it from the very bottom of my heart: the employees who received awards this year and in the past are a reflection of the dedicated work done every day by the members of the Juvenile Court staff. Certainly, it is always nice to have some acknowledgement of a job well done, but I firmly believe that no one works with the primary aim to receive a certificate for that work. I see it every day on so many levels, the hard work our Juvenile Court staff and our community partners do on behalf of youth and families in our community. That is the true measure of what we do here at the Court and I know it is something that is embraced by everyone here, and each of you has my gratitude.

Allow me to also extend my gratitude to Carol Reagan and Dr. Kristy Pytash for their devotion to this Court. Each lady, in their own way, works to provide a better environment for the youth and staff in Detention. I cannot thank them enough, and I cannot thank enough the people with whom they enlist to volunteer to advance the programming and activities they have introduced in the Detention Center.

Linda Tucci Teodosio



Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio

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Court Announces Employees of the Year

Each year, High Point Awards are given to County Government staff members in each office. In a recent ceremony at the Court, Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio announced the Summit County Juvenile Court's selections for Employees of the Year for the past year. They are:



Xavier Hayes: Noted as a calming influence in the Detention Center, Mr. Hayes is often asked to intervene when colleagues are confronted with a resistant or non-compliant youth. A voice of reason and model of calmness, Mr. Hayes also strives to improve his knowledge of his job and routinely offers to assist colleagues with scheduling and job responsibilities.



Stacey Mathieu: As Lead Deputy Clerk in the Clerk's Office, Ms. Mathieu brings an almost encyclopedic knowledge of the workings of the department. She advances that knowledge to both the public she greets on a daily basis and her colleagues. She is described as a staff member who "has an attitude that is exceptional and every day demonstrates perseverance, courtesy, professionalism, and respect."



Tammy Stiles: Described as the very definition of the "team player," Ms. Stiles is an Administrative Coordinator in the Family Resource Center. Working with families undergoing difficult circumstances, Ms. Stiles unfailingly treats them with humanity, dignity, kindness, and respect. Her goodwill is shared with others in the community through various volunteerism and she annually goes on missions abroad to help others.

Women's Board Member Earns Volunteer of the Year

It was typical of Carol Reagan.

Normally, the identities of the award winners during the Employee & Volunteer Recognition ceremony are kept secret until the announcements are made. Carol Reagan wasn't planning on attending the ceremony. Finally, her colleagues on the Women's Board had to give in and tell her that she was getting the award. She still didn't want to come.



Carol Reagan

It isn't because Ms. Reagan is unsociable. On the contrary, she is an open and humorous woman. But, she prefers to do her work on the Women's Board without fanfare or acknowledgement, and she does a considerable amount. Since joining the Board in 2009, Ms. Reagan has held numerous offices and chaired several committees. She is currently the Board Treasurer and is chair of the Ways and Means Committee. The major functions held annually by the Women's Board benefit from her energy and expertise, as she plays integral roles in the fundraisers and reward parties held in the Detention Center. A former Akron Public Schools teacher, she communicates well with the youth and provides encouragement for them to become involved in programs that are available in the Detention Center.

While it wasn't by design, it is a fortunate coincidence that Ms. Reagan was selected as Volunteer of the Year. The Women's Board is observing its 60th year at the Court, and beyond her outstanding work on the Board, her ties to the Court run deep: her father, William Kannel, was the Summit County Juvenile Court Judge for 24 years. It is obvious she learned well the lessons of her father and has embraced the same commitment to this Court and to the children who become Court-involved.

Kent State Professor Receives Special Recognition

Dr. Kristy Pytash thought she was coming to the Court for a meeting with Judge Teodosio. After all, in the last decade, Dr. Pytash has been a regular visitor to the Court. In theory, she was going to meet Judge Teodosio, but not quite in the fashion to which she was accustomed.



Dr. Kristy Pytash

After Judge Teodosio completed her introductions of the Court's Employees and Volunteer of the Year, she mentioned she had one more person to acknowledge. With that, Judge Teodosio began to outline the contributions Dr. Pytash has made on behalf of the youth in Detention since she introduced a program that she hope would spark in interest in some of the Detention Center youth.

It was a creative writing class, and it was Dr. Pytash's vision that once given the proper guidance and encouragement, the youth could begin to express themselves by putting pen to paper. Dr. Pytash enlisted the help of Kent State students who volunteered their time to work with the youth and instill the desire to reach into themselves through prose and poetry.

It is something Judge Teodosio has strived for in Detention; to provide alternative programming and activities that can capture their imagination and teach them tangible skills once they return to the community. As Judge Teodosio stated in her introduction of Dr. Pytash, "I was thrilled to find someone who shared that goal and I am so pleased we found each other. It has been a mutually beneficial partnership, and Dr. Pytash's passion and purpose has brought this program to life and I cannot thank her enough for her decade of devotion to this Court."

Court Employee Wins State Association Award

Jeff Pope was attending the Ohio Police Juvenile Officers Association (OPJOA) Conference, as he has done for the past five years.

This one turned out to be a little different.



Jeff Pope holds the plaque recognizing him as the Phil Huss Memorial Friendship Award winner

At the end of the conference, the association conducts a banquet for the attendees, and as part of the evening, they announce the winner of the Phil Huss Memorial Friendship Award, named in honor of longtime Fremont Police Department Officer Phil Huss, who served 17 years as the department's Juvenile Officer and played an integral role in the Fremont community and the OPJOA. He was particularly known for creating "Smokey the Clown," who entertained thousands of kids in the Fremont area.

As the introduction of the award winner was taking place, it began to dawn on Pope that the person being described was him.

"I was sitting there thinking, that sounds familiar, and then everyone at my table started smiling at me and patting me on the back," he said. "I was a little embarrassed, a little shocked, but very grateful."

The introduction noted that Pope has been on the Court staff for over 20 years and is a past Employee of the Year. The master of ceremonies illustrated the characteristics that make Pope so effective as the Court's Coordinator of the Child Responsibility Project (CRP), where youth are assigned to perform community service. As an example of Pope's work, in 2017, 135 youth participated in the CRP, completing 3,057 work hours and \$21,366.53 in restitution was paid to victims.

"He is open, friendly, understanding of kids and their needs, but he holds them accountable for their actions. He exemplifies the objectives of his job and this association and he is so deserving of this award."