

For Immediate Release

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

Recognizing Excellence in Court Administration

Justice Initiatives, Inc. announced Elisa Chinn-Gary, Family Court Administrator for the 26th Judicial District Trial Court Administrator's Office, as the winner of the third annual Raising the Bar Award at the 4th Annual Evening at the Courthouse Event on May 11.

While the general public may never come in direct contact with Elisa, they benefit from her hard work, vision, and contributions to the court system. Elisa is a coveted employee who will go the extra mile to ensure a job is done right. The fundamental mission of the 26th Judicial District's Trial Court Administrator's office is to provide fair and accessible justice to the community. Combine that with Justice Initiative's mission to educate the community about the court system, and you find the embodiment of Elisa Chinn-Gary. Elisa leads by example in her interactions with the general public, attorneys, agency administrators, judges and court personnel. She leads her co-workers in a deliberate effort to be fair and respectful to each and every person with whom she has contact. She often goes out of her way to ensure individuals have a true understanding of the process that brought them to her. Thanks to Elisa, other court personnel are able to focus on the business of the court: administering, delivering, and upholding justice for the citizens of Mecklenburg County.

Each year, the Raising the Bar award is presented by Justice Initiatives, Inc. to honor a court employee who has made a significant and notable contribution to the advancement of the Mecklenburg County court system. The type of contribution made can vary, and may be related to performance, leadership, innovation, advocacy, public education or some other meritorious area related to the public good. The Board of Directors of Justice Initiatives, Inc. determines the relevancy, level of importance and degree to which each contribution has made a difference. The winner receives a check for \$1000.00, a plaque in recognition of their accomplishment and the permanent listing of their name in the registry of past winners.

When asked how she feels about winning this award, Elisa says, "I am truly honored to receive the 2010 Raising the Bar Award. It is my privilege to be considered among those who have demonstrated outstanding service and leadership in the court community. I'd like to thank the Board of Directors of Justice Initiatives for making this award possible. I'd also like to thank Chief District Court Judge Lisa Bell and Trial Court Administrator Todd Nuccio for their support and empowerment. Lastly, I'd like to recognize and convey my heartfelt appreciation to the Family Court judges, attorneys, mediators and coordinators who serve families with patience and concern each and every day. I am pleased to work among such a distinguished group of professionals."

**For more information regarding this news release,
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