

For Immediate Release:

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Justice Initiatives, Inc. Announces Winner of the 2016 Raising the Bar Award

Charlotte, NC – Melissa Beio has been selected as the winner of the 2016 Raising the Bar Award. Ms. Beio has served since 2008 as the Deputy Courtroom Clerk in Civil 6330 for the 26th Judicial District, State of North Carolina.

Graduating with a degree in Political Science from the University of Bridgewater (formerly Bridgewater State College), Ms. Beio began her career working as a foreign intellectual property paralegal before moving to North Carolina. Having grown up with a family member who was a lawyer, she has always known she wanted to work in the legal field.

Ms. Beio is known for her lawyer-like mind and curiosity, as well as a bent toward problem-solving, attentiveness, and organization. The judges nominating her for the award say of Ms. Beio's characteristics: "She doesn't just hand a docket and stack of files to the presiding judge...she informs the judge as to which motions appear problematic; which cases are particularly contentious; and which files may need special attention. She even marks previous orders and pertinent pleadings...."

Closely considering the intricacies of district court and noting practices that are causing delays, Ms. Beio has identified solutions which have been included among this year's revised local civil rules. For instance, in collaboration with other judges, her supervising clerk, and her co-clerk, she devised a procedure for removing a large subset of cases into civil court which has both improved productivity in civil court and eased an unnecessary burden from the domestic violence court.

Ms. Beio well represents all of Mecklenburg County's excellent courtroom clerks, and her contributions have helped improve the court's functioning for judges, lawyers and litigants.

The General Manager of North Carolina's Lawyer's Weekly, Kate McClain, presented Ms. Beio with the award at the Tenth Annual Evening at the Courthouse Fundraiser on April 28th. Ms. Beio has said of winning the Raising the Bar award: "I am extremely honored to win this award. It means a great deal to me that what I am doing is noticed and appreciated. I appreciate the support I get from everyone [I work with] as well."

Each year, this award is presented 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. It may be related to performance, leadership, innovation, advocacy, public education or some other meritorious area related to the public good. The board of directors determines the relevancy, level of importance and degree to which each contribution has made a difference. The winner receives a check for \$1,000.00, a plaque in recognition of his or her accomplishment(s) and the permanent listing of their name in the registry of past winners.

For more information please visit www.justiceinitiatives.org.