

Probate Court Employee of the Year – 2005

*by Lisa Langton
Family Division Administrator -
Probate/Juvenile Register*



One of the most significant and enjoyable events that the court holds every year is our employee awards ceremony. This year was no exception. After seeking nominations from the court staff, Probate Court employee **Colleen Bagazinski** was selected as the 2005 Probate Court Employee of the Year.

Colleen started as a student in our file room in 1999. She quickly was promoted through the ranks to clerk, office assistant and then, in 2003, to deputy probate register. Colleen was nominated by several of her co-workers who work with her every day and who certainly can highlight her fine qualities. To quote from some of these nominations:

- “Colleen brings a chipper attitude when assisting the public in their time of need.”
- “She always treats every person’s matter with compassion and kindness.”
- “Colleen was selected to be a trainer for the conversion of our new computer system and welcomed the challenge with an open mind and made a tremendous contribution to this effort.”
- “She is one person that never needs to be asked to help out, whatever the task is.”
- “Colleen is the kind of person that motivates you to do the best job possible.”

- “Colleen conquered the concept of our new computer system and shared her knowledge with all of the Probate staff and supervisors.”

- “Colleen inspires me to be a better worker.”

Her fellow employees also praised her for her ability to do many things at one time and her uncanny way of tuning everything out and just getting the job done. After talking with her, I discovered her secret: Colleen is one of seven children! She stated to me that she had to learn to “tune some of them out” just to keep her sanity!

Colleen was born and raised in Waterford and went to Waterford Kettering High School. She has four sisters and two brothers. They all reside locally except for one sister who lives in Ohio and one brother who is in Big Rapids. Although Colleen is very busy with her family, friends and job, she finds time to bowl in a winter league and plays on a beach volleyball league in the summer.

Colleen is certainly loved and appreciated by all of her co-workers. Her supervisor, Jill Koney Daly, states, “Colleen is a wonderful employee, a calming force and ultimate team player.”

Colleen is truly the type of employee that you want to have work for you. For those of you who come to our Probate counter, please take the time to congratulate Colleen on this wonderful achievement. Stay tuned!