

Employee of the Year

by *Rebecca A. Schmelz*
Probate Court Administrator



One of the most important tasks I have as Probate Court Administrator is also one of the most enjoyable of all my responsibilities. It comes once a year when I have the opportunity to present the Employee of the Year award to a Probate Court employee. This year's award was presented on December 17, 2008, to **Jacqueline Godoshian**.

Jackie has been with the Oakland County Probate Court for three years in the position of Clerk. She has a degree in Human Resources Management, and prior to joining us, Jackie was a teller at a local bank.

Essentially, Jackie is the master of many tasks that ensure the court runs smoothly. Her daily assignments range from scanning documents, to assisting customers in the file room, to processing incoming mail. She also acts as our substitute cashier, helps chambers with file issues, and generally does whatever it takes to keep things moving.

Most important, Jackie does just about everything with a smile and a true willingness to help. She never hesitates to offer her assistance to her co-workers when things get busy and does her best to ensure that her own work is completed accurately and timely. Jackie's job requires her to interact on a daily basis with multiple co-workers, the public and chambers. I have never seen her treat anyone with less than complete courtesy and the desire to help.

Jackie's contribution to the workplace extends beyond her assignments. She has co-chaired the March of Dimes committee for our court, participated in planning County events for employees, and co-planned social activities for the probate staff.

I asked Jackie what she liked about her current position. She said that she likes being busy and likes having three or four things happening at once, so she feels the job fits her personality well. She also appreciates the sense of accomplishment and the opportunity to interact with the public.

For Jackie though, the most important part of her life is her family. Jackie has been married to her husband, Ron, for 21 years. They have four children: Sarah, Andrea, George and Henry. She enjoys being able to provide her children with opportunities for education and new experiences.

An Employee of the Year is nominated by their co-workers to receive the honor. On the nomination form, one of Jackie's co-workers stated, "[t]o me she is a perfect example of what a Probate Estates employee should be." Another co-worker noted, "[i]t has been an honor to work along side her at Probate." I think those comments sum up very well why Jackie Godoshian is this year's Employee of the Year for Probate Court.

I would also like to recognize the entire Probate Court staff for the excellent work they do every day. On a daily basis, staff members in the clerk's area and in chambers deal with difficult issues, stressful schedules, and a large work load. I am constantly reminded how important is the work we do here when I see the compassionate assistance provided by a staff member to a party who is dealing with the death or incapacity of a loved one. Please join me in recognizing all of the Oakland County Probate staff for their excellence.

Reminders

Effective January 2, 2009, we had some shifts in courtrooms of which I would like to remind everyone. Chief Judge Elizabeth Pezzetti has moved to Courtroom 1F. Her chambers number remains 248-858-0240. Judge Daniel A. O'Brien will be sitting in Courtroom 1D. His chambers may be reached at 248-858-0287.

Oakland County Circuit Court **Chief Judge Wendy Potts** announced her judicial leadership appointments for 2009. The **Honorable James M. Alexander** will serve as Chief Judge Pro Tempore, the **Honorable Colleen A. O'Brien** will serve as Presiding Judge of the Civil/Criminal Division and the **Honorable Joan E. Young** will serve as Presiding Judge of the Family Division. Judge Potts says, "the experience, knowledge and dedication of these judges will enable the Circuit Court to continue its pace as one of the most productive courts in the United States."