

# In Memory of Dr. Pamela S. Howitt

**Oakland County Circuit Court-Family Division  
Deputy Court Administrator-Court Services**

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

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**A**s many of you know, on May 11, 2004, the Family Division lost a valued administrator and friend. Pam Howitt was the court's Deputy Court Administrator for Court Services. In her role, she supervised our Youth Assistance staff, Psychological Clinic staff, and Juvenile Probation Officers.

Pam received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Windsor in 1984. She began her long career dedicated to the service of families and children as the Assistant Director for the Wayne County Clinic for Child Study in 1984. In 1989, she joined the Oakland County Probate Court as the Manager for the Court Psychological Clinic. As her career continued, she was appointed as the Oakland County Circuit Court - Family Division's Deputy Court Administrator in 1994. Her professional responsibilities included the personnel and budget management for her area. She was required to make statistical forecasts and set goals for the numerous court operations within her division. Perhaps her strongest skill was that of program development and management. During her tenure at our courts, she designed and implemented more than 10 new treatment programs, acquiring over two million dollars in competitive grants. Most recently, she developed and implemented our Juvenile Drug Court program, called "Options." What started off as an idea on paper has become a model program across the state, all under Pam's careful management.

All who knew Pam knew of her tireless efforts to improve the services that Oakland County provides to our kids and families. She spent hours conferencing with court

staff and outside agencies to find the right program and the right placement and services for a particular child. If she could not find one, she felt it her goal and mission to implement one. The Honorable Edward Sosnick, who has known Pam for many years and had the opportunity to work with her on many projects, recalls, "She was a person who could accomplish anything asked of her. I relied on her wisdom, counsel and compassion on a daily basis. I will miss her both professionally and very much personally."

Judge Eugene Arthur Moore, Chief Judge of Probate Court, was very saddened to hear about her death. Judge Moore stated, "While death is always sad, perhaps hers will make each of us more sensitive to the needs of others and more understanding and desirous of helping others. She spent her life doing just that."

Family Division Presiding Judge Jim Alexander notes ironically, "The people who will miss her most probably never met her, namely the countless kids and families that her programs have helped. Those children's successes, large and small, are a direct result of Pam's great commitment to her work. I honestly cannot think of a person who worked harder, who cared more, or who has left behind such a lasting legacy of accomplishments."

On a personal basis, Pam was Mom to Spencer and Anya. For those of us who saw her on a daily basis, we kept track of her wonderful children through her stories and anecdotes.

We will miss Pam's expertise, her wisdom, her counsel, her tireless efforts and her unique sense of humor that often brought laughter to our daily lives. Stay tuned.