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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IPAC hands out awards for prosecutorial staff, victim advocate

Workers from Morgan, Sullivan and Wayne counties honored

(INDIANAPOLIS – December 11, 2018) – Three different office workers in Morgan, Sullivan and Wayne counties were honored for their service and dedication to prosecutor work during the Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council’s Award Ceremony.

Two of the award winners took home IPAC’s Kathy Falkner Richey award, named after IPAC’s long-time office administrator and was first presented in 2011. Recipients of the award show a commitment to service that characterized Richey’s long career.

Joanne Davis, the office administrator for the Sullivan County Prosecutor’s Office, took home one of the Richey awards. Davis has been in the office since 1979 and is retiring after 40 years of service in Sullivan County. She was introduced by Sullivan County Chief Deputy John Hiatt who said he isn’t sure how the office will run without her.

“She is so good at her job and running that office that she allows the attorneys to focus solely on court and their cases without having to worry about the day to day operations of the office,” Hiatt said. “Our hope is we can do a fraction as well without her.”



Sullivan County Office Administrator
Joanne Davis and Sullivan County Chief
Deputy John Hiatt

The other Richey Award winner was Lynetta Gray, the administrative assistant in Morgan County. Gray will be presented with her award in Morgan County later this week as part of her retirement celebration. Gray has worked in the Morgan County Prosecutors Office since 1981 for three different prosecutors. Morgan County Prosecutor Steve Sonnega said Gray’s institutional knowledge is unmatched and will be greatly missed. He also praised her adaptability as she has dealt with a multitude of changes throughout her lengthy career.

“Lynn was instrumental in the implementation of the PCMS (Prosecutor Case Management) system in the 1990s and recently took the lead on taking us to a paperless office,” Sonnega said.

IPAC also honored Melissa Dunnington, the Wayne County Victims’ Advocate with the Victims’ Advocate of the Year Award. Dunnington has been helping victims in Wayne County for more than 20 years. Michael Shipman, the Wayne County Prosecutor, complemented Dunnington’s hard work and



Wayne County Victims' Advocate Melissa Dunnington and Wayne County Prosecutor Michael Shipman

dedication to serving those who are in desperate need of help and guidance. Dunnington took over the victim program at a time when it was lacking funding and built it up into a full-time position funded by a grant. Shipman said she has the unique ability to make victims feel heard and cared for.

“When you have someone to listen to you as Melissa can, you feel not so alone,” Shipman said. “That is a quality that cannot be taught.”

The awards were handed out on December 3, during IPAC’s annual Winter Conference.

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