

2018 NJJA Evelyn E. Labode Service to Youth Award

Kathleen Hein

Platte County Juvenile Court Clerk

Kathleen is the Platte County Juvenile Court Clerk in Columbus, NE. When we think of a child advocate, we often think of those that work for a child advocacy agency. However, Kathleen's role in the lives of children and families in Columbus has resulted in a unique collaboration among attorneys, families, probation and DHHS, which in turn has translated into better results for the youth and families. Kathleen is an advocate by reason of what she does, not by reason of the position she occupies.

Kathleen's dedication is a genuine and heartfelt desire to be a positive force in the lives of children involved in the Court system. She takes it as her personal mission to assure that the children and families receive all the services that the Court can offer.

She makes sure every child in foster care is "adopted" by someone in the community so that these children receive presents at Christmas. Hundreds of children have bright holidays due to her efforts.

She goes above and beyond her professional duties by finding ways for the community to band together and provide happiness and support for Platte County children and their families. Kathleen plays an active role on the Adoption Day Board by making sure these new families have a special day of celebration.

In his nomination letter, Judge Skorupa stated that "Too often I hear her say, "I'm just a clerk". Kathleen may be just a clerk but she is a clerk who is passionate in her belief that we must take care of our children and because of her, I believe the Platte County Court does a better job of serving our youth and our families.

Kathleen received 18 letters of support for her nomination which all expressed the same theme that she is the glue that holds all the working relationships together and makes the juvenile court process in Platte County operate for the benefit of the children and the families.

On behalf of NJJA, congratulations Heather on receiving the 2018 Evelyn E. Labode Service to Youth Award.