

# Probate Court Employee of the Year

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It is truly the most enjoyable thing we do each year when we take the time to review the nominations and select the Courts' Employees of the Year. We received many nomination forms from co-workers that genuinely describe all those employees who take extra pride in their work, who go above and beyond, and who truly serve the citizens of Oakland County.

This year, the Courts have selected **Vicki Spicer** as the Probate Court Employee of the Year. Vicki has been with the Probate Court for almost 14 years. She started out as a Clerical Trainee on April 2, 1990; advanced to a Typist I and II in 1990; was promoted to Deputy Probate Register I in 1991 and to Deputy Probate Register II in 1995. Currently, Vicki serves as one of our Probate Specialists and has held that position since June 1, 2002. Probate Specialists are new positions that were designed specifically for those court employees with the most expertise and knowledge, who can readily deal with our difficult filings and file issues. Vicki has attended classes and, because of her expertise, is often asked by our supervision and administration to work on special tasks and to oversee many office functions. Vicki "volunteered" to help establish our new court procedures when EPIC was implemented and has, in fact, authored the office EPIC Manual used daily by our staff. (No, this manual is not for sale!)

We have experienced several long-term absences this year in her division and Vicki has selflessly deferred her time off on many occasions to assist her co-workers through high-volume times. She always completes her work and is a constant source of support for her co-workers. Her nomination speaks to her being helpful without being "patronizing or causing embarrassment." She sets

"good examples as court representative in both appearance and manner." She is hard working, ethical, has a sociable nature and is a "driving force" behind our Probate Specialist Unit.

What I most like about Vicki, and her co-workers agree, is that she truly seems to enjoy what she does. Her nominator says it best when she explains, "I am not sure we could ever pry Vicki away from our counter completely." She is one of our go-to people and one of the best in working with the public and helping to solve crises as well as those complicated legal issues that never seem to have a clear answer. She is always professional and has the ability to convey her knowledge in a way that shows concern for the situation without being condescending. She is extremely patient and is just simply able to handle all situations with "grace and composure" in a way that we are most proud of. I am sure that any of you who regularly practice at our counter will find that she is one of our staff always willing to stay past 5 o'clock to assist the public and get the job done.

One thing I bet most of you did not know about Vicki is that for years she has had typically more than one ferret in her house and, in fact, I think they have "ruled her house" for many years. I have seen literally hundreds of seasonal pictures of her ferrets dressed in just fabulous couture!

Please join me in congratulating Vicki Spicer as our Oakland County Probate Court's 2003 Employee of the Year. I also want to extend my sincere appreciation to all of those who were nominated and to those who took time to nominate a co-worker, as it does take a great amount of time to put these nomination forms together. Happy 2004! Stay tuned!