

On August 27, 2020, Carol Stocking, the Court Administrator with the 86<sup>th</sup> District Court- Antrim/Leelanau/Grand Traverse was awarded the 2020 Court Administrator of the Year by the Michigan Court Administration Association.

Carol has been the Court Administrator for the 86<sup>th</sup> District Court of Antrim, Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties for almost 20 years. She was the first true court administrator and literally built this position from the ground up. She is a hands on administrator who cares deeply about her employees and about providing the best possible service to the people of Grand Traverse, Antrim and Leelanau Counties.

Throughout her years as the administrator of the 86<sup>th</sup> District Court she was the administrator when the court went through its expansion from 2 counties to 3 and when it went from 2 judges to 3. She was at the helm when the court went through the process of building a new courthouse in Grand Traverse County and when a new facility was built to house the court in Leelanau County. When the State went through a downsizing in judge positions, and the court lost a Judge seat, she was there to figure out how the court was going to affectively provide the same level of service with less judge time.

Ms. Stocking has been instrumental in implementing the 86<sup>th</sup> District Courts sobriety and drug treatment courts as well as the community outreach court and she sits on the team for all three. In 2019, she, along with other members of the veteran community began the process of re-establishing a veteran's treatment court. In 2020, she spearheaded the successful certification process for both the drug and sobriety treatment courts through the State Court Administrators Office.

Throughout every triumph and adversity, her professionalism is what shines through most prominently.

Ms. Stocking was a former board member of the Michigan Court Administration Association and has been invited to sit on a number of task forces with the State Court Administrator's office over the years. She regularly confers with colleagues throughout the State and is always happy to be a resource for anyone that needs help.

Ironically, in a year where the COVID-19 pandemic has forced unprecedented technological changes on our court system, this year's Court Administrator of the Year award recipient is receiving this award in large part due to her leadership and innovative thinking regarding technology change within with in her court and for the people that utilize the 86<sup>th</sup> District Courts services.

Her vision to have our court go paperless began in 2012 with the civil division in Grand Traverse County. She then moved on to incorporate the probation department. The final and most labor intensive piece of the paperless puzzle involved bringing the criminal / traffic division into the paperless world, which she did in 2019. All of the paperless programs developed for each of the divisions, were built from the ground up and were specifically tailored to each department. This massive undertaking involved not only visualizing the concept of the system, but building and tailoring the system to suit our court's needs and to educating all court staff on the use of the program. She was the court leader involved for every step of this process and continues to be the driving force behind making these programs and processes more user friendly for everyone involved. It was with her leadership, visionary thinking, foresight and planning that we were able to successfully integrate all of the divisions.

And it is because of this visionary thinking, that the 86<sup>th</sup> District Court was poised to be in the perfect place when the COVID-19 pandemic struck. Since our court was already working in a paperless manner, we were able to seamlessly shift and adapt to the restrictions placed on courts in order to keep employees and court users safe while still facilitating justice.