

Office of the Kane County State's Attorney



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KANE COUNTY RESIDENTS AMONG THOSE EMPLOYEES HONORED FOR WORK IN 2011 IN STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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Three employees of the Kane County State Attorney's office were honored March 9, 2012, for their contributions to the office and their commitment to public service and law enforcement in 2011.

Assistant State's Attorney **Michele Niermann** was named Prosecutor of the Year, and **Deborah Day**, supervisor of DUI, Domestic Violence and Kane Branch Court support staff, was named Employee of the Year. In addition, Assistant State's Attorney **Christina Wascher** was the recipient of the Ace of Spades Award.

Michele Niermann has been a Kane County ASA since 1995 and is the deputy chief of the office's Civil Division. She represents Kane County on environmental issues and also represents the county in labor negotiations. She has received rulings in the county's favor that has resulted in hundreds of thousands of dollars in fines being paid to the county for environmental hazard and zoning ordinance violations. Michele takes great pride in working for a clean environment for Kane County's residents.

In 2011, Michele served as interim chief of the civil division for the six months.

Michele, the longest serving ASA in the Civil Division, is a native of Belvidere, a 1988 graduate of Augustana University in Rock Island, and a 1991 graduate of the University of Illinois College of Law. She loves to travel with her family to some of America's most treasured outdoor and wilderness destinations.

"Unlike the Criminal Division, it is difficult to quantify the work done by the Civil Division lawyers. But one measure is the frequency I hear of the respect Michele has earned from the employees of Kane County," Kane County State's Attorney Joe McMahon said. "Michele has great perspective, and the ability to work through complex issues and get incredible results. Last year, Michele handled many additional responsibilities. She never flinched, and the quality of her work never suffered. She is a great person and a great lawyer."

Deb Day has been with the office since 2010. She joined the office as an administrative assistant in Traffic and Misdemeanor Division. Her affinity to make

jobs and tasks more efficient quickly became apparent, as she found methods to turn a two-person job into a one-person job. In 2011 Deb was promoted to supervisor of support staff for the Domestic Violence, DUI, and Traffic & Misdemeanor divisions, and for Kane Branch Court.

Deb ran her own successful publishing business for more than 20 years. She then put her resourcefulness and ingenuity to work to for the people of Kane County. Her private sector background and problem-solving skills have been a great asset to this office and to the people of Kane County.

Deb has lived in Kane County most of her life – she moved here from Tennessee as a child – and greatly enjoys gardening. Deb is a master gardener who offers her talents and expertise to customers at a gardening retailer.

“Deb has helped us find solutions to accomplishing more with fewer employees. She is organized, friendly and makes a great contribution to the success of the office,” McMahon said. “The people of Kane County are fortunate to have such a dedicated and valuable employee at their service.

Wascher was recognized for her excellence in the courtroom as recipient of the Ace of Spades Award. The award is based on a number of factors, including the number of trials completed, the complexity of the trials completed, the willingness of the prosecutor to serve as co-counsel to other prosecutors in their trials, the steps taken to improve and develop new trial skills, and the way in which the prosecutor mentors and inspires other prosecutors to try cases.

Christina prosecuted 17 felony trials.

Christina is assigned to Courtroom 319. She is a native of Kane County, a graduate of Winona State University in Winona, Minn., and the Loyola University Chicago School of Law. She joined the SAO in January 2007.