

## Office of the Kane County State's Attorney



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### **KANE SAO ANNOUNCES 2020 AWARD WINNERS**

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Kane County State's Attorney Jamie Mosser recently honored seven employees for their work in 2020.

In addition to the longstanding awards of Prosecutor of the Year, Employee of the Year, Felony Ace of Spades and Misdemeanor Ace of Spades, SA Mosser added three awards:

- The Lifetime Achievement Award
- The Debra Bree Voice for Victims Award
- The Most Hearings Award

#### **The Winners:**

##### **Lifetime Achievement Award, Pursuit of Justice**

Throughout her nearly 24 years as a Kane County Assistant State's Attorney, **Christine Bayer** has always embodied the broader mission of the office, making Kane County better for everyone who lives, works and plays here. Christine has handled a variety of difficult cases, from trafficking to sexual assault to first-degree murder. Christine particularly made her mark a few years ago, prosecuting a number of child sex trafficking cases with prosecutions that withstood the scrutiny of the higher courts.

##### **Prosecutor of the Year**

**Erin Brady** worked tirelessly in 2020 dealing with myriad issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Erin, deputy chief of the Civil Division, provided legal support and guidance to the health department and coroner's office, as well as a number of other county offices and departments and the county board. In addition, she helped to develop a program to distribute \$92 million to various entities in Kane County in federal CARES Act money.

##### **Employee of the Year**

**Anthony Ortiz** leads by example, tirelessly works long hours to get things done. He will do anything he's asked to do. Anthony was hired as an administrative assistant and in a short time rose to become the support staff supervisor. Anthony is a U.S.

Marine Corps veteran, having seen combat in Iraq.

### **Debra Bree Voice for Victims Award**

**Debra Bree** is both the namesake and the first winner of this award. Deb made defending victims, particularly child victims, her life's work, showing great compassion and passion at all times. Deb was always available to provide a kind word and motivation. She loved her job, and was never seen without her confident and friendly smile, despite her terminal illness and the subject matter of her work. We will miss her forever.

### **Ace of Spades, Felony**

In a short time **Hillary Sadler** has made her mark in the office and in the Kane County courts as a lawyer with a high acumen for the law and as a tireless preparer of every case she prosecutes. Hillary seeks to win every case assigned to her. Assigned to the Special Prosecution Unit, Hillary took seven cases to trial in pandemic-impeded 2020.

### **Ace of Spades, Misdemeanor**

**Hannah Thayer** is always prepared for her hearings and court calls. Her six trials in 2020 were impressive given that all were difficult domestic violence cases and they took place during a pandemic. Hannah rose to the challenge each time.

### **Most Hearings**

It was not just the number of hearings that **Bridget Sabbia** conducted. It was the conditions, circumstances and level of difficulty she faced. Bridget moved from Juvenile Delinquency to Abuse & Neglect because of the exorbitant increase in cases. She conducted 33 shelter care hearings, 26 adjudicatory hearings, 21 dispositional hearings and 1 hearing to terminate parental rights.

### **SA Mosser said:**

“Not every elected official was lucky enough to take over an office already staffed by dedicated employees as I was. I had the good fortune to work with many of them when I was an assistant state’s attorney. In my first two months as the state’s attorney, it was apparent that the men and women of this office were more than willing to continue to fight to keep our community safe. It was difficult for me to choose amongst all of these great employees to win an award, especially when they all did so during a pandemic. I am proud of everyone who excelled during a very trying year in which the level of difficulty increased dramatically because of the pandemic. In an office of stellar employees, these award winners stood out as extraordinary. I am truly grateful for the work that they did and am happy to have been able to recognize them.”