



CK T. ARNOLD
Judge

Probate Court of Gratiot County
and

Family Division - Circuit Court

Courthouse
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Ithaca, Michigan 48847-0217

MARY KAY HUNTER
Register of Probate

ERICA A. DENMAN
Chief Deputy Register

CORY CRAWFORD
Deputy Register

June 25, 2010

MECRA
Court Reporter of the Year Nominating Committee

To whom it may concern:

I am pleased to have this opportunity to support the nomination of Erica Denman for Court Reporter of the Year. Erica has been an employee with the Probate Court since 1998. When she first hired in, she was the back-up court recorder, filling in when necessary for the primary court recorder. When the individual left our Court, Erica became *the* court recorder for the Probate Court. Along with my Probate responsibilities, I handle the juvenile matters and one-half of all divorces with children, support, custody and visitation matters in the Family Division of the Circuit Court. Erica records for all these matters.

I have experienced some very serious health issues that required me to take extended medical leaves at various times over the past four years. Fortunately, my Court was assisted by my fellow judges here in Gratiot County along with judges from neighboring counties. Erica worked with each judge to see that they had all the information they needed as they stepped in for me and she did whatever was necessary to make their time with our Court a pleasant experience. I know they appreciated her dedication and follow through on matters to keep the court docket moving and to allow them to get back to their own courts in a timely manner.

Due to county budget constraints, our Court lost a position for approximately six months. Erica not only kept up with her court recording duties, she also made sure that the work in the Probate Court continued smoothly. Whenever a staff member is out, she takes on whatever duties need to be completed in their absence along with performing her court recording duties. A few years ago, I decided to have two members of my juvenile office take the necessary steps to become CEO's. Erica trained both of them while still performing her recording duties and both were able to receive their certification.

Erica Denman is a fine representative of the Gratiot County Probate Court and the Michigan Electronic Court Reporters Association and deserving of the honor of Court Reporter of the Year.

Sincerely yours,

Jack T. Arnold
Probate and Family Division Judge

JTA/mkh