



*For Immediate Release*

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## **Illinois Probation Association Honors Kane County Probation Staff**

The Illinois Probation and Court Services Association (IPSCA) held its annual fall convention remotely on October 28, 2021. They recognized and awarded four Kane County Court Services staff of the 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit for their dedication and contributions to the field of probation. “I encourage all of our employees to be active participants in our communities – especially around community corrections and community work in general. Strong communities build resilience and protective factors for everyone. The 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit has always been a leader in the field and I’m incredibly proud of the work that we do here,” said Lisa Aust, Executive Director of Court Services.

LaTanya Hill, a Court Services Director, received the Frank Calkins Award in recognition of her dedication and passion for juvenile justice. She has spent her 16 year career in probation working on matters related to the juvenile court, most recently advocating for changes in the law calling for greater judicial review of Illinois Department of Children and Family Service’s DCFS use of detention for minors who are waiting for a residential placement and working out the details on how minors’ probation cases are handled when they move between counties.

Lisa Aust, said of Mrs. Hill, “Her enthusiasm is overwhelmingly contagious. She understands how all of the pieces of the system are connected and brings practical and concrete ideas for improving the lives of court involved youth and their families.”

The Distinguished Service Award is given to those who best represent the field of probation and have done outstanding work for their Court Services Departments. Three 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Supervisors were nominated by their peers for this award.

Daniel Gates has been integral to the department for 13 years with his contributions to the Pretrial program as a line staff and now as a Supervisor where he is in charge of fleet management and works to improve field safety for the probation officers. Mr. Gates co-chairs the IPSCA Research Committee facilitating the use of evidence based practices by probation departments across the state.

Lindsey Liddicoatt has worked for the 16th Judicial Circuit for 11 years, much of that as the Coordinator of the Mental Health Court working one on one with the participants, and now as a Supervisor of the sex offender monitoring unit. She is currently the Treasure of the local chapter of the National Association on Mental Illness (NAMI) for Kane, DeKalb, and Kendall (KDK) counties.

Jason Mathis has worked for the 16th Judicial for 17 years, first as a youth counselor in juvenile detention at the Juvenile Justice Center, then was a vital part of the Electronic Monitoring program when it was operated by Court Services, and is currently a Supervisor in the Pretrial program. Mr. Mathis is the co-chair of the IPSCA Supervisor Committee.

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