



PRESS RELEASE

**New York State
Unified Court System**

**Hon. H. Patrick Leis III
District Administrative Judge,
Tenth Judicial District (Suffolk Co.)**

**Contact: Warren G. Clark,
Public Information Officer
Tenth Judicial District (Suffolk Co.)**

**(631)853-5368
Fax: (631) 853-7741**

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Carmela Fucci is Suffolk County's Court Employee of the Month

CENTRAL ISLIP, N.Y. - Suffolk County's District Administrative Judge, H. Patrick Leis III, is pleased to announce that Carmela Fucci, an Associate Court Clerk in the Support Magistrate's Department of the Family Court in Central Islip, is being honored today as the Employee of the Month for January.

Carmela began her career in the court system as a Court Officer assigned to the Brooklyn Family Court in 1981. Over her next twenty-one years of service, Carmela worked as a Senior Court Clerk in Manhattan Family Court, Staten Island Family Court and Queens County Supreme Court, Criminal Term, located in Kew Gardens. In 1994, Carmela was promoted to Associate Court Clerk and remained assigned to the Criminal Term of the Queens County Supreme Court. In October of 2002, Carmela was transferred to the newly established Integrated Domestic Violence Part (IDV) of the Supreme Court, Suffolk County where she remained until December of 2003. As part clerk, Carmela oversaw the day to day operations of this very specialized part, including the calendar, interaction with the resource coordinator and communications with litigants, counsel and outside agencies.

Carmela began her most recent assignment as an Associate Court Clerk in the Support Magistrate's Department of the Suffolk County Family Court in Central Islip. As an Associate Court Clerk, Carmela is responsible for a wide variety of duties relating to the supervision of 31 non-

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judicial employees located in both Central Islip and Riverhead, including assignments, scheduling, filings and promulgation of procedures and policies.

Carmela, a resident of Bethpage, New York, is being recognized for her tireless efforts and unyielding commitment in helping to establish the Integrated Domestic Violence Part of the Supreme Court in Suffolk County. In October of 2002, when Carmela transferred to Suffolk County to take on this tremendous challenge, Suffolk County was only the fourth jurisdiction in New York State to establish this very important court. The purpose of the Integrated Domestic Violence court is to sensibly put all the matters involving one family before a single judge, enabling the court to deal with a family's problems in a comprehensive, coordinated fashion. As a result, every civil and criminal issue facing the family, including divorce, custody, visitation, child support, child abuse and neglect, criminal prosecutions, juvenile delinquency proceedings, PINS petitions, orders of protection and domestic violence is heard before a single judge.

Since each case in the Integrated Domestic Violence Part is treated separate and handled in accordance with the rules and procedures of the originating court, Carmela was required to familiarize herself with the rules of the originating court and the duties of the respective part clerks in the other courts. This is unlike other IDV courts which are staffed by separate part clerks in accordance with the types of cases calendered. Nevertheless, Carmela became more than proficient in here many roles as part clerk, essentially organizing the part from the ground up.

Perhaps more important than her expertise in this innovative area, each and every day Carmela brought with her a professional calmness to this very busy and stressful court room. Carmela's ability to treat all those coming before the court with dignity and respect, whether they be attorneys, litigants or agency representatives, under extremely difficult circumstances, make Carmela simply the best of the best.

In sum, Carmela is a model public servant whose performance of her duties at the highest level, day in and day out; year after year; serves to positively reflect on every Suffolk County court employee. While the sterling leadership qualities which she consistently demonstrates each day certainly make Carmela, without more, worthy of this recognition, it is the genuine respect, warmth and affection which is expressed for her by those she has worked with in the past, as well as the present, which certifies that her contributions are indeed priceless.

For all of the above and more, Carmela Fucci is the recipient of this month's Employee of the Month Award.

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