



IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI
415 EAST 12TH STREET
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64106

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NEWS RELEASE
Commissioner and Courts Honored by
Missouri Association of Drug Court Professionals

The Honorable Molly Merrigan, Family Drug Court Commissioner, 16th Circuit Court of Jackson County, Missouri, was recently honored by the Missouri Association of Drug Court Professionals with the Claire McCaskill Award.

Named for the first recipient, the award is presented at the Association's annual drug court conference. In addition to Senator McCaskill, past honorees have included Missouri Supreme Court Judge the Honorable Ray Price, and Ann Wilson, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Coordinator with the Office of State Courts Administration.

The award acknowledges Commissioner Merrigan's significant contributions to the Missouri Drug Courts. As the first full-time Family Drug Court Commissioner, she brings a wealth of experience to the bench. Following graduation from Rockhurst University and the University of Missouri – Kansas City School of Law, Commissioner Merrigan worked at a residential drug and alcohol treatment facility and for the Missouri Board of Probation and Parole. Prior to her appointment in 1999, Commissioner Merrigan was an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for Jackson County, serving as the lead attorney in Drug Court.

Immediate Past President the Honorable Judge Brian C. Wimes, 16th Circuit Court, made the presentation to his colleague. "I am honored to present this award to Molly in acknowledgement of her commitment to justice and her caring nature for those who come before her. Her service as a founding Board member and as a past President of MADCP helped establish the foundation that our association continues to build on."

The Jackson County Circuit Court Family Drug Court and the Adult Drug Court were also honored. Each received a Certificate of Recognition from MADCP for being a "Pioneer" in the drug court movement and in continuous operation for at least 10 years.
