

ELLAMARIE DELORETO

Our first honoree began her judicial career at the old GA 14 on Morgan Street in May, 1979.

Her dad would drive her back and forth from work each day.

She remembers there was no air conditioning; there were bugs everywhere; all the paperwork was stored in boxes on the floors and the lawyers would just come in and get the files they needed.

The conditions were terrible and she loved it.

She remembers her first courtroom experience – Judge Norko was on the bench – the prosecutors were Chris Morano and Peter Soulsby.

Her worst time was going to work on her birthday and instead of getting a cake & a celebration – she got a pink slip. That's how she ended up in New Britain.

Over the years she met many wonderful people, great judges, a good friend in Dottie Silvestri and one particular Temp. Asst. Clerk – Robert Pickering, who would later become her husband and the father of her two beautiful daughters.

LORI DELGAUDIO

This honoree began on March 15, 1982 as a part time clerk in the old GA 16 in West Hartford. She worked 2 days a week and went to college the other days.

The first Judge she worked for was Judge Joseph Morelli and when she first met him, he was in his chambers, feet up on the desk and smoking a cigar. (Judge Morelli happened to be EllaMarie Deloreto's uncle)

She began writing infraction receipts on a hand crank receipt machine with 3 part carbon paper. Eventually she was promoted to Court room clerk.

Some of her best memories include Judge Smith's retirement cookout behind the Courthouse and the close knit family of the West Hartford Court staff.

She remembers one day there was a big protest at Bishop's Corner – there were 400 arraignments and court staff worked from 7am till late in the evening. People were everywhere in every corner of the building, it was smelly and the staff's family brought pizza and soda to the Court for the staff.

In 2001, when GA 16 closed she transferred to New Britain. The following year she was promoted to deputy clerk, the position she still holds today.

LORI WARCHOL

This honoree began her judicial career as a night bail commissioner in Waterbury in November, 1981.

She remembers Mark Tierney the incumbent Bail Commissioner taking off and putting his prosthetic leg in his lap every time she walked into the room just to intimidate her.

Her first boss was Mike Hoban with whom she remains close friends to this day. She says she was amazed watching John Connolly try cases over the years – he was the best trial lawyer she ever witnessed.

One of her best memories was when Judge Dunnell set up and officiated a wedding for an inmate in Hartford who had turned his life around. Judge Dunnell provided all the trimmings – flowers, a cake, candles and even drinks for the toast – non-alcoholic, of course.

At one point, she left Bail to take a Federal Probation position - but after a year she returned to State service back in Waterbury.

It was Judge Damiani who suggested she apply for the caseload position in Waterbury. She took the job and when Judge Ionnotti left Waterbury for New Britain, this honoree followed him and she has been here ever since.

She says never in her wildest dreams would she thought she would be with Judicial for over 30 yrs.

NELIDA CRUZ

Our next honoree began working for the State of Connecticut on May 29, 1981 as an office clerk in the Hartford Family Relations office.

She was excited and exceptionally proud because she had only been in the United States for 1 year.

She had the pleasure of meeting and making a great friend in Rosemary Martin.

From Office Clerk she moved on to Administrative Clerk; then to Accounting Clerk and then on to her present position as a Support Enforcement Assistant.

Her best memory is when the office staff threw her a luncheon party right before her wedding. They gave her a complete set of cookware as a gift - and she still has it today - 32 years later.

Her worst memory was when she ordered 20 cases of paper for the office – and mistakenly had them delivered to her home. She was grateful that her supervisor at the time owned a van.

SUSAN CELLINO

Our last honoree began her judicial career in January, 1983 as a family relations counsellor in the basement of the old Columbus Blvd Courthouse.

At that time Family Services and Support Enforcement were combined. She didn't like numbers and preferred working with parents finding solutions and focusing on the best interests of the children.

Her first full custody evaluation was for a case where Vincent Trantolo had the father and Geraldine Battistoli had the mother. Of course – it went to trial and she had to testify in Court – in her first custody case.

After two years, she transferred to Waterbury to get away from the community where she lived and because in Waterbury – Support Enforcement was separate from Family Services. There she worked under Alfonse Pelosi whom she credits for mentoring her & teaching her the job.

In 1994 she was promoted to Waterbury Asst. Supervisor of Family Services - and in 2003 to Supervisor.

In 2007, she accepted a lateral transfer back to New Britain.

As she describes it, her career has come full circle and will end in the office where it all began, 31 yrs ago.