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Judicial Branch Employee of the Year Cynthia Coleman receives 2021 Governor's Award

Following being named Superior Court Employee of the Year and the Judicial Branch Employee of the Year, Superior Court Judicial Operations Manager Cynthia Coleman this week was named one of the recipients of the 2021 Governor's Award for Excellence and Commitment in State Service.

Coleman, who joined Superior Court in 2003, is one of five state employees that received the Governor's Award for 2021, which is designed to honor employees "who exemplify the highest standards of excellence and commitment in state service."

Coleman and other nominees were recognized in a virtual ceremony as part of this week's Public Service Recognition Week. The Selection Committee, which includes a member of the Governor's Cabinet, a Local 81 representative, and a past winner, evaluated Coleman and other nominees and selected her based on her accomplishments, contributions and performance in state service.

Coleman, who worked her way up from a casual/seasonal employee through the ranks to Judicial Operations Manager was nominated as one of Superior Court's "shining stars" for her professionalism over the years, her management style and her unfailingly positive attitude. However, her work during the pandemic was of particular note.

Court officials said Cynthia had to get very creative during the pandemic to have staff work from home as well as have on-site duties performed while coping with a backlog caused when the ability to issue writs was halted. "Cynthia worked with her superiors and staff to organize the ever-growing backlog of writs by establishing a filing system," wrote her nominator. "By the time that her department was able to start issuing some writs again, the filing area was filled to capacity. Cynthia established a scheduling system to allow for the maximum number of writs to be issued, and other on-site duties completed, with the reduced number of permitted staff in her department. She kept managers and the Civil Administrative Judge apprised of her unit's progress and immediately addressed issues as they arose to prevent additional backlogs from occurring.... This feat was unlike any others that this department has experienced before, and Cynthia was able to have her amazing team handle this within only a few short months."

Cynthia was also praised for being a team player, capable of handling her own duties while pitching in to help others when they needed it. "The most satisfying quality that Cynthia possesses is her positive attitude throughout the Judicial Emergency," wrote her nominator, "Cynthia Coleman's brave front throughout this pandemic has truly made her a leader to all Prothonotary staff... She is truly an asset to the Judicial Branch."