

MAY 2002 ~ JUN 2002



**LISA KNIGHT - 2001-2002
RECIPIENT OF THE DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE AWARD**

by the DSA Committee

For those of you not familiar with the DSA, it's akin to a lifetime achievement award. In Colorado, it's the highest award within our state association. This year, the DSA Committee, comprised of the past three recipients - Mary George, Catherine Rodriguez, and Jason Meadors - received five nominations.

The winner of the DSA usually has an extensive history of service in the association, has various committee experience, has various state and national certifications, and more often than not, has served as president of the association. This year's recipient has done all that.

This year's recipient, like so many of us, is a transplant to Colorado. But this year's recipient came here during school years, and her entire working life has been here in Colorado.

Most past presidents of CCRA can point to some crisis that was a hallmark of their term, and that crisis is often legislative in nature. But this year's recipient came to office when the association itself was staggering. Our president that year was completely committed to getting back to basics - putting the checkbook in order, riding herd on the committees that carried out the basic functions of our association, and instituting a budget and accountability process that turned our association away from impending disaster.

But as important as that factor is, it is overshadowed by her crowning achievement in her long list of contributions.

We have 20-some CIC installations now, but that wasn't always the case. We started with one. It was in Denver for a short time before that judge moved on, and then it went out to Arapahoe County in Judge Ken Stuart's courtroom.

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LISA KNIGHT - DSA RECIPIENT (cont. from page 1)

While some of us in the association were patting ourselves on the back for our level of participation, this reporter was doing our work EVERY DAY - spending hours every day, every week, preparing her job dictionaries for the docket that day, training attorneys on the system, working on getting her JUDGE enthused about the system, and trouble-shooting what was then a beta-test site for the CAT vendor.

In the words of Judge Stuart, she had a large-scale vision of what the CIC meant to the reporting profession. She expended incredible amounts of energy, as well as her fine intellect and superlative reporting skills, in making that happen. And it worked. Thanks to Lisa Knight, it worked. And the fruits of that labor can be seen now in CIC installations around the state and the fact that through that recognition and funding, the legislature SUPPORTS our professional efforts.

To quote Judge Stuart: "Lisa distinguished herself by having the strength and ability to be a pioneer in realtime reporting." But perhaps Lisa was meant to do this. According to her mother, Lisa found out about court reporting in high school and wanted nothing else for her career from that point.

Lisa holds the RPR, the Merit, and is a certified realtime reporter. She's been on numerous committees, and her participation is always tireless. Those who know Lisa know how committed she is to anything - whether it be her writing skills, her computer, any issue at any given time, or the qualitative differences of various forms of chocolate. (We MUST mention chocolate.)

Lisa shares her life with Don Knight, an attorney who gave her fits in her realtime career. She's told him that she always wondered about her skills when he was talking in the courtroom, until she came to the realization that it was HIS speech rate and not HER abilities that was the problem. His response, as you might expect from an attorney, is, "Hey, I can't help it if you're not fast enough to keep up."

Joking aside, it is the DSA Committee's pleasure to bestow this award on such a richly deserving court reporter. Please join us in congratulating this year's DSA recipient - Lisa Knight.

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