



MAR ~ MAY 2003



SUSAN BECKER

2003 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT

by Lisa Knight

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

Susan was born in Kansas City, Missouri, and moved to Colorado Springs. Before beginning her career as a reporter, Susan spent her time cutting up chicken, and then, as a step up, moved into the deli department at King Soopers. Somewhere down that long macaroni-salad road, she decided to make the switch from making tuna salad to making the record. So off she went to Mile Hi College some 24 years ago.

Her first job out of school was with Jim Ford, reporting NLRB, OSHA, and SEC hearings. She was paid very little and worked very hard! There was a huge volume of work with usually a three-day turnaround time. But, as always, she hung in there. (con't page 4)

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It is time for us all to stand and cheer for the doer, the achiever --
the one who recognizes the challenges and does something about it. ~Vince Lombardi

Susan Becker (con't from page 1)

After spending her formative reporting years with Jim Ford, she moved onto Denver District Court as one of three floaters. Proving her skills yet once again, she was retained as a full-time reporter for Judge Flowers once Otto Ulrich retired. Then she spent the bulk of her time with Judge John Coughlin and was the managing reporter for many years. Now she is reporting with Judge Martinez and shares the managing reporter position. She received the Confidential Employee of the Year award in 1994.

Quoting the nomination form: "At a time when our state is facing severe budget cuts and the jobs of our official reporters are once again threatened, I think it is only appropriate to award one of our preeminent official reporters this honor." We, on the DSA committee couldn't agree more.

Susan Becker has worked in Denver District Court for over 20 years. She handles the pressures and transcript load of her own courtroom, and she has helped coordinate the schedules of other reporters so that backlogs are minimized and courtrooms are covered. Susan has also been instrumental in working with the State Court Administrator's Office and the appellate courts to reduce transcript backlog of court reporters to help further the cause of justice. This includes her personally transcribing the notes of reporters who are no longer available to fulfill their own responsibilities. She has always been there to say "yes" to serving CCRA and the courts of Colorado.

In talking with Judge Coughlin, who is with us today to honor Susan, he couldn't praise her enough. He states, "As president, she worked extremely hard for the Association; as chair of the Legislative Committee, she was at the capitol all the time, working for the Association, the reporters. She attended every function. Susan cares not only for the profession, but it's the *People* she cares most about."

He told me about a redistricting case he heard around Christmas time and how Susan completed the record during the Christmas holidays, (before it was even ordered) not knowing whether she would be paid or not, but making darned sure they would receive the record on time. Judge Coughlin states, "Susan is an amazing person (and a great court reporter) with an incredible amount of integrity."

Susan has chaired and been instrumental in the Officials Committee and most recently the Legislative Committee. She has held all of the executive CCRA offices, including the office of President. She holds the CSR, RPR, and two legs of her Merit.

Susan has helped set the standard for excellence in the field of court reporting by her hard work, dedication, and professionalism and deserves to be recognized by CCRA. At this important crossroads of our profession, her recognition by CCRA could not be more timely.

Susan has a large family, ranging from a sister, half-sisters, half-brother, stepchildren, and ever three grandchildren. Please join us in congratulating this year's DSA recipient, Susan Becker.