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News Release

For Immediate Release

Municipal Court probation officer Jody Austin receives Liberty Bell Award



SMBA presenter, Judge Chantel Alberhasky and Springfield Municipal Court Probation Officer Jody Austin

The Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association presented Springfield Municipal Court Probation Officer Jody Austin with its Liberty Bell Award at today's Law Day 2014 luncheon at Hickory Hills Country Club.

Austin's career includes 19 years with the 31st Circuit Court, Springfield Municipal Division probation office and five years with the Greene County Juvenile Justice Center. She has served on Burrell Behavior Health's Homeless Task Force; as a board member for Youth Services Group of the Missouri Department of Corrections' "Over the Wall" program, as a board member of Sigma House and as a team member of the Greene County Mental Health Court since its inception. Austin has also worked with the Community Partnership of the Ozarks' HOPE Connection for four years, and is a member of the Springfield Police Department/Greene County Sheriff's Office Justice Mental Health Collaboration Program.

"The Liberty Bell Award recognizes outstanding service performed by a non-lawyer citizen who has given of his or her time and energy to strengthen the effectiveness of the American system of freedom under law, in keeping with the spirit of our Constitution," said Todd M. Thornhill, chief judge for Springfield Municipal Court.

Previous Liberty Bell Award recipients include Sen. Bob Dixon, former Springfield Police Chief Lynn Rowe, Sister Lorraine Biebel, RSM, Dr. Kenneth Rutherford, Councilwoman Cynthia Rushefsky, Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce President Jim Anderson, Urban Neighborhoods Alliance Director Bob Horton, Care to Learn Executive Director Morey Mechlin and Crime Stoppers.

For more information, please contact Springfield Municipal Court Administrator Deanna Farley at 417-864-1360.