



## **VJJA Meritorious Award for Court Services 2021**

**Joe Jackson**

Our award winner in the area of Court Services obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Columbia College in Columbia, Missouri, and a Master's degree in Public Administration from Troy State University in Alabama.

The recipient began his career with the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) in September 2003 as an intern in the 9th Court Service Unit's Yorktown Branch Office. He worked for the Statewide Video Intake Program as a wage video intake officer from October 2003 to May 2004, performing after-hours video intake for 10 CSUs.

In May 2004, he became a probation officer in the 9th CSU's Williamsburg office, where he performed case management, covered court cases and participated as part of the Family Assessment & Planning Team (FAPT). In February 2011, our award recipient was promoted to senior probation officer and in 2013 he was promoted to supervisor, supervising the Williamsburg and Gloucester offices. Both offices had a high volume of intakes and supervised cases.

In November 2017, the award winner was promoted to his present position as CSU Director for the 9th CSU, which covers 11 jurisdictions, has 5 Branch offices, 3 Judges – who circuit 9 court locations, 6 J&DR clerk's offices, 10 Department of Social Services, 3 CSBs, 11 school systems, 15 law enforcement agencies, 9 FAPTs, 8 CPMTs, and 2 VJCCA programs. Our recipient oversees the state budget for the CSU and reviews and submits budget requests to all 11 localities in the 9th CSU.

Under our recipient's leadership as CSU Director, the 9th CSU achieved 100% on its certification audit. He currently Chairs or co-chairs on several CPMTs. He started Dialogue and Restorative Justice in the 9th CSU and is currently working on Trauma Informed Care as well. He created a training team that provides training on Community Programs Policies and Procedures. The training team recorded a webinar for Judges and other Stakeholders on the use of DJJ's Assessment Tools. He was instrumental in obtaining a budget line item for the Statewide Video Intake

Program. He created a team that developed and designed a 9th CSU newsletter, which is sent to the CSU's Stakeholders to keep them updated on what is happening in the 9th CSU. He created a Direct Report Training Tracker to keep track of the training necessary for career progression. He rotates training and team building monthly with staff's input to maintain morale.

Our award winner is a stickler for details and does not procrastinate. He is said to be an exceptional leader and to accept blame and share successes. He is excellent at training, motivating and guiding staff. He believes in coaching and assuring that staff are trained correctly. He has excellent time management skills. Among his many attributes, he is said to be self-motivated, a critical thinker, and highly collaborative. He has great communication skills and supervisors are impressed with the way he problem solves and handles difficult situations.

Our recipient served as a leader in the Army for over 20 years of his 23 years of service until he retired in 2003 just prior to accepting the rank of Sergeant Major. In speaking of our recipient a staff member said, "His philosophy of a leader is that every staff member in the CSU is special. We are each special because of our Mission and Responsibility to the citizens we serve. We receive youth that are dealing with complex issues, trauma and dysfunction in their young lives. There is no profession more important than ours. We are charged with the responsibility of assisting these youth in becoming productive citizens".

**The 2021 VJA Meritorious Award Winner  
in the Area of Court Services is:**

**JOE JACKSON**