



# 2023 VJJA Meritorious Award in the Area of Court Services

Name: CLEVON BELFIELD

Each year the association presents a Meritorious Award in the Area of Court Services. The honor is bestowed upon a worker who has demonstrated a high degree of skill and professionalism, who embraces the philosophies upon which VJJA was founded, who embodies exceptional dedication and who consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty to positively and significantly contribute to the juvenile justice field and the children it serves. The nominee should be an employee of a court service unit, as well as a member of VJJA (in good standing).

(See award write-up below)



(L to R) Samantha Higgins, VJJA President, Clevon Belfield, Award Recipient, Katherine Farmer, Awards Committee Chair.

Our 2023 award winner received an associate degree in liberal arts and a bachelor's degree in criminology from St. Leo University. Our recipient was in the Army for 11 years as a 13 Bravo Cannon Crew Member. (Thank you for your service).

This recipient has been working in the juvenile justice field for 13 years. In March 2022, he began working at the Norfolk CSU as a probation officer in the Little Creek satellite office. This recipient immediately hit the ground running. He exudes a team player approach and coach like characteristics as evidenced by his willingness to step in and assist the Janaf and Little Creek Parole Units, while maintaining his probation caseload. He has developed meaningful connections with youth and families across both probation and parole units. He then took on

the task as a GREAT facilitator in Norfolk. Prior to attending the GREAT training, he volunteered to assist Dr. Deyonta Johnson with the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> GREAT Cohorts in Norfolk.

This receipt also mentors new staff by providing guidance and modeling the way of DJJ's mission. He has taken on the role of assisting other units with no hesitation by providing training to new staff, covering court cases, assisting co-workers with staffing cases to come up with different solutions that are beneficial to the families. He is creative in ways to get youth involved in extra-curricular pro-social activities.

His co-workers say that this recipient is hard working and selfless with strong work ethics and should be the employee of the day, week, month and year if such an award existed. He puts the needs of his clients first by utilizing resources. He has obtained funds to make sure his clients get certificates that are required for them to work, obtain identification cards, haircuts, and proper work attire to help them be successful. This recipient often says that "if there is something I can do to help these kids get off the streets and stay out of the streets, I will!"

For all of these reasons and more, please join me in congratulating our

**2023 VJJA Meritorious Award Winner in the Area of Court Services:**

**CLEVON BELFIELD**