

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 11, 2024

STARK JFS CHIEF LEGAL COUNSEL RECEIVES STATEWIDE RECOGNITION

Canton, Ohio - Stark County Job & Family Services (SCJFS) is proud to announce that Quay Diane Compton, chief legal counsel for the Division of Children Services, has received the 2024 PCSAO Child Protection Support Advocate of the Year Award. The award was presented by the Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO) during their annual conference Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2024 in Columbus, Ohio.

Each year, PCSAO recognizes the achievements of child protection professionals who serve within an Ohio public children services agency. According to their website, the Support Advocate of the Year Award is, “presented to an individual who may not work on the frontlines, but whose work is critical to child and family outcomes.” SCJFS’ Division of Children Services is a member of PCSAO.



“I am honored to have received this award and humbled by all the kind words spoken today,” said Compton.

Compton is an attorney who has been employed by SCJFS for over 23 years. She began her career as a staff attorney in the Division of Children Services and currently serves in the role of Chief Legal Counsel. The work she does has a direct impact on the lives of children who have been affected by abuse and neglect.

“Quay is a passionate advocate and leader who truly deserves this recognition,” said Executive Director Jerry Coleman. “She selflessly donates her time and considerable talents to not only our agency, but also the community at large. She is always available to our courts and partners for consultation and proactively offers assistance to ensure our community works together for the benefit of our citizens.”

Compton is described by colleagues and community members as being fair, committed, compassionate, and empathetic. She is a valuable resource to the Stark County legal community and has a reputation for having extensive knowledge of child welfare laws and case history. In the office, she serves as a mentor to new staff and provides them with guidance and training to prepare them for the court room.

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“Attorney Compton’s understanding of the law and commitment to family reunification are evident in her legal arguments and court filings. She maintains compassion for families struggling with poverty, addiction, or mental illness and treats each with fairness,” said Stark County Family Court Magistrate Lori Brown. “I believe she is very deserving of this award because she is wholly committed to the children and families in Stark County and demonstrates a selfless commitment to others, including her staff and social workers.”

Compton’s commitment to the welfare and protection of children extends beyond her role at SCJFS. She is an active board member of Project KARE, a 501c3 charitable organization dedicated to addressing the needs of foster children and supporting foster families through programs such as the Adopt-A-Child Holiday Project and Foster Parent Recognition Banquet. Additionally, Compton has taught parenting skills classes for the past 13 years through Goodwill Industries of Greater Cleveland & East Central Ohio as part of a classroom-based program that educates parents who are at risk or who have had their children placed in foster care or alternative care.

“I have personally worked with Quay for over 20 years in many different roles and it is always apparent that the best interest of the child and family are at the forefront of everything she does,” said Judge Kristen Donohue Guardado, who currently serves as chairman of Project KARE. “She has a passion for advocating for our most vulnerable children and promoting families to be together. It’s not just a job to Quay, this is her life, and she genuinely cares about each and every child and family.”

Outside her legal career, Compton is an accomplished baker. Known locally as the “Cookie Queen”, her iced sugar cookies, shaped and decorated to match each occasion, are famous among her friends, family, and coworkers. She donates dozens of cookies every year to community organizations, such as Project KARE and the Children’s Network of Stark County, to be shared during their special events and fundraisers.

PCSAO is a membership-driven association of Ohio’s county public children services agencies that advocates for sound public policy, promotes program excellence, and builds public value for safe children, stable families, and supportive communities. Their three-day annual conference draws 500 child protection professionals from around Ohio, including caseworkers, supervisors, administrators, counselors/clinicians, attorneys, and child advocates.

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