

## Carrie Sharlow - Unsung Hero Award [#1]

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**From:** "State Bar of Michigan" <no-reply@wufoo.com>  
**To:** <csharlow@mail.michbar.org>, <webmaster@mail.michbar.org>  
**Date:** 3/6/2016 5:37 PM  
**Subject:** Unsung Hero Award [#1]

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<b>Name of Nominee:</b>	Tessa K Hessmiller
<b>Title:</b>	Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Office of the U.S. Attorney of the Western District of Michigan
<b>Firm or Organization:</b>	Office of the U.S. Attorney of the Western District of Michigan
<b>Address:</b>	United States Attorney's Office, P. O. Box 208, Grand Rapids, MI 49501
<b>E-mail:</b>	tessa.hessmiller@usdoj.gov
<b>Name of Nominator:</b>	Erin Doyle Toburen
<b>Title:</b>	Attorneys
<b>Firm or Organization:</b>	Dematic Corp.
<b>Address:</b>	507 Plymouth Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505
<b>Phone:</b>	<a href="tel:616-987-6788">616-987-6788</a>
<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:erin.toburen@dematic.com">erin.toburen@dematic.com</a>

**Explain the merits of your nomination, submit any supporting materials for your nominee by e-mail, fax, or mail. Give specific examples.**

It is our privilege to nominate Tessa K. Hessmiller (P79845) for the Michigan Assembly's Unsung Hero Award. Ms. Hessmiller's professional practice and personal commitments embody the highest standards of the legal profession and demonstrate a commitment for the benefit of others. An Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Michigan, Ms. Hessmiller is a trial attorney in Violent Crimes Unit with a focus on crimes against children. Her dedication to improving the lives of others does not end at sentencing, rather Ms. Hessmiller enthusiastically serves the community improving the lives of all those she touches. For the following reasons, we encourage the Representative Assembly to award Ms. Hessmiller the Unsung Hero Award.

### I. A Career Benefitting Others

Few will professionally accomplish and help as many people in the course of a career as Ms. Hessmiller has accomplished. A graduate of Georgetown University Law School, Tessa enlisted in the U.S. Army Judge

Advocate General Corps. From 2009 through 2013, Tessa served as a Captain in the JAG Corp. Tess graduated from the Army's Basic Airborne Course and then was stationed in South Korea. In the JAG Corp., Tessa prosecuted 14 court-martials as a trial attorney and worked inside two military prisons where she providing legal advice as part of the wardens' senior staff. First stationed In South Korea, Tessa led a twenty (20) person legal team at five training sites to ensure international law compliance and received the Korean Defense Service Medal. Ms. Hessmiller was then stationed in Fort Leonardwood, Kansas, until 2013. Tessa also received the Army Achievement Medal and the Army Commendation Medal x 2.

At the end of her Army Career, Tessa and her husband Joshua, also a State Bar of Michigan Member, began looking for a State to call home. Michigan was the very fortunate state that the Hessmillers chose to call home. In December of 2013, Tessa began serving in her current position of assistant U.S. Attorney for the Office of the Western District of Michigan. In her position, Tessa works with the FBI, Homeland Security Investigations, and other federal agencies to investigate and prosecute violent crimes in the western half of Michigan. Tessa primarily prosecutes crimes committed against victims of human trafficking and victims of child pornography. In this position, she comes face to face with the most heinous crimes that few in our profession would have the stomach to handle. In her past three years as an assistant U.S. Attorney in West Michigan, Tessa has, among others, stopped a grandmother from acting as "john" for her minor grandchild, stopped a radio D.J. from engaging in further unspeakable acts with children, and empowered a teenage boy to speak-out against his attacker on the witness stand. Tessa works tirelessly to reach justice for those children who have been wronged and truly obtains justice for them.

As a prosecuting attorney, Tessa only brings the highest of ethical skills to the trial table. Tessa works on a daily basis with local and federal law enforcement throughout Michigan to ensure that she has obtained all of the facts necessary prior to prosecuting an individual. Her honesty, work ethic, and candor are her greatest attributes; attributes which were recognized by Director of the FBI this past December.

Not only does Tessa "wow" a jury on a regular basis, she also takes her trial skills to younger Members of the Michigan Bar. A teacher at the Hillman Trial Advocacy Program, Tessa teaches trial and advocacy skills at this Three-Day Trial Seminar held each year in Grand Rapids. She is an active member of the Federal Bar Association and the Grand Rapids Bar Association.

## II. Unsung Hero Benefitting the Community

At the end of each workday, Tessa kicks-off her trial heels and steps into her community service work boots. Tessa volunteers for numerous organizations that benefit children. Tessa not only fights crimes against children, but in her free time she is found educating the community on how to stop crimes against children before they start.

First, Tessa is an advocate for and a board member of the Kent County Children's Assessment Center. The Center provides a safe haven for children who are the victims of sexual violence to be assessed and

supported in recovery from such traumatic experiences. Tessa and the Center take a proactive approach to the problem of sexual violence against children by educating the community on how to recognize and prevent such heinous violence against children.

Second, Tessa serves as the Chairperson of the Kent County Human Trafficking Task Force (<http://stopthistraffic.org/>). The Task Force is comprised of local law enforcement, educational, and community leaders to provide resources to, including an emergency number, victims of human trafficking. In her role as Chairperson, Tessa teaches seminars where she educates community leaders on how to recognize the signs of human trafficking or how to recognize when someone might be a victim of human trafficking. Tessa works zealously to ensure that human trafficking is stopped before it starts.

Third, Tessa is a Board Member of the Grand Rapids Junior League. The Junior League is an organization of women volunteers "working to improve children's physical health by increasing access to safe, cooperative play for those children in situations or neighborhoods where it is needed most." (<https://www.juniorleaguegr.com/>) Tessa has educated the Junior League (who's members work in all aspects of the West Michigan Community) about the dangers of human trafficking and how each member can become an advocate in their daily lives for children's safety. In addition, Tessa is seen on a regular basis leading the League's efforts to build safe play areas for children, educating children on healthy eating, and further educating children on how to improve their overall health.

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Ms. Hessmiller's resume will be submitted along with the signed letter from Mike and Erin Toburen.

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**Optional: List news, magazine, radio, and TV features about the nominee's accomplishments (do not submit actual articles or DVDs). Feel free to include any hyperlinks to these stories, if they are still online.**

**State date/page and media e.g. 12/12/07, p. 12, Lansing State Journal, "Lawyer Begins TLC Program in Schools"**

Tessa appears in numerous publications for her professional service. Just a few of these publications are referenced below:

1. Federal Bureau of Investigations, Nov. 25, 2015: <https://www.fbi.gov/detroit/press-releases/2015/michigan-man-tyrone-smith-pleads-guilty-to-sex-trafficking-four-victims-including-one-minor>

2. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, September 29, 2015: <https://www.atf.gov/news/pr/kalamazoo-security-company-owner-sentenced-27-years-child-pornography-and-illegal-firearms>

3. Channel 95.7, September 14, 2015, <http://mychannel957.com/new-kent-county-human-trafficking-task-force-launches-red-flags-dotting-west-michigan-explained/>

4. Battle Creek Enquirer, March 3, 2015:

<http://www.battlecreekenquirer.com/story/news/local/2015/03/03/battle-creek-woman-sentenced-child-porn/24332085/>

5. U.S.A. Today, December 12, 2015: <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/12/11/ex-christian-radio-host-gets-40-years-for-child-sex-crimes/20279987/>

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# Michael and Erin Toburen

4712 Little Harbor Drive SE ~ Grand Rapids, MI 49512 ~ [erintoburen@gmail.com](mailto:erintoburen@gmail.com) ~ 616-987-6788

Ms. Carrie Sharlow  
Representative Assembly Awards  
State Bar of Michigan  
306 Townsend St.  
Lansing, MI 48933-2012

**SENT VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL**

RE: Award Name: Unsung Hero Award Nomination  
Award Nominee: Tessa K. Hessmiller (P79845)

Dear Ms. Sharlow:

It is our privilege to nominate Tessa K. Hessmiller (P79845) for the Michigan Assembly's Unsung Hero Award. Tessa's professional practice and personal commitments embody the highest standards of the legal profession and demonstrate a commitment for the benefit of others. An Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Michigan, Tessa is a trial attorney in Violent Crimes Unit with a focus on crimes against children. Her dedication to improving the lives of others does not end at sentencing; instead, Tessa enthusiastically serves the community improving the lives of all those she touches. For the following reasons, we encourage the Representative Assembly to award Tessa the Unsung Hero Award.

## **I. A Career Benefitting Others.**

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against victims of human trafficking and victims of child pornography. In this position, she comes face to face with the most heinous crimes that few in our profession would have the stomach to handle. In her past three years as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in West Michigan, Tessa has, among others, stopped a grandmother from acting as "john" for her minor grandchild, stopped a radio D.J. from engaging in further unspeakable acts with children, and empowered a teenage boy to speak out against his attacker on the witness stand. Tessa works tirelessly to find justice for those children who have been wronged and truly obtains justice for them.

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Not only does Tessa "wow" a jury on a regular basis, she also takes her trial skills to younger members of the Michigan Bar. A teacher at the Hillman Trial Advocacy Program, Tessa teaches trial and advocacy skills at this three-day trial seminar held each year in Grand Rapids. She is an active member of the Federal Bar Association and the Grand Rapids Bar Association.

## **II. Unsung Hero Benefitting the Community.**

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Third, Tessa is a Board Member of the Grand Rapids Junior League. The Junior League is an organization of women volunteers "working to improve children's physical health by increasing access to safe, cooperative play for those children in situations or neighborhoods where it is needed

most." (<https://www.juniorleaguegr.com/>) Tessa has educated the Junior League (whose members work in all aspects of the West Michigan Community) about the dangers of human trafficking and how each member can become an advocate in their daily lives for children's safety. In addition, Tessa is seen on a regular basis leading the League's efforts to build safe play areas for children, educating children on healthy eating, and further educating children on how to improve their overall health.

### **III. Publications.**

Tessa appears in numerous publications for her professional service. Just a few of these publications are referenced below:

1. Federal Bureau of Investigations, Nov. 25, 2015:  
<https://www.fbi.gov/detroit/press-releases/2015/michigan-man-tyrone-smith-pleads-guilty-to-sex-trafficking-four-victims-including-one-minor>
2. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, September 29, 2015:  
<https://www.atf.gov/news/pr/kalamazoo-security-company-owner-sentenced-27-years-child-pornography-and-illegal-firearms>
3. Channel 95.7, September 14, 2015,  
<http://mychannel957.com/new-kent-county-human-trafficking-task-force-launches-red-flags-dotting-west-michigan-explained/>
4. Battle Creek Enquirer, March 3, 2015:  
<http://www.battlecreekenquirer.com/story/news/local/2015/03/03/battle-creek-woman-sentenced-child-porn/24332085/>
5. U.S.A. Today, December 12, 2015:  
<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/12/11/ex-christian-radio-host-gets-40-years-for-child-sex-crimes/20279987/>

### **IV. Tessa is a True Unsung Hero.**

Tessa does all of the foregoing and more with a smile on her face and without recognition. Tessa zealously prosecutes perpetrators of crimes against the most vulnerable in our society. She educates young lawyers on trial advocacy skills and works with the West Michigan Federal Bar Association. Tessa then continues to educate the community on how to identify when children might be victims of crimes and how to prevent such crimes. She inspires others (including the undersigned) to benefit the community, and her impact is truly felt.

We are happy to nominate Tessa K. Hessmiller for the Unsung Hero Award. She is an ideal member of the Michigan Bar and a true Unsung Hero. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Toburen", written over the printed name below.

Michael and Erin Toburen



## Carrie Sharlow - Unsung Hero Award [#2]

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**From:** "State Bar of Michigan" <no-reply@wufoo.com>  
**To:** <csharlow@mail.michbar.org>, <webmaster@mail.michbar.org>  
**Date:** 3/18/2016 12:34 AM  
**Subject:** Unsung Hero Award [#2]

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<b>Name of Nominee:</b>	Jerrold E. Schrotenboer
<b>Title:</b>	Chief Appellate Attorney & Special Assistant Attorney General
<b>Firm or Organization:</b>	Jackson County Prosecutor's Office
<b>Address:</b>	312 S.Jackson Street, Jackson, MI 49201
<b>Phone:</b>	<a href="tel:517-788-4283">517-788-4283</a>
<b>E-mail:</b>	jschrote@co.jackson.mi.us
<b>Name of Nominator:</b>	Jennifer Veronica Lamp
<b>Title:</b>	Attorney
<b>Firm or Organization:</b>	Jennifer V. Lamp, Attorney at Law, PLLC
<b>Address:</b>	PO Box 1937
<b>Phone:</b>	<a href="tel:517-937-2444">517-937-2444</a>
<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:lawoffice@jennifervlamp.com">lawoffice@jennifervlamp.com</a>

**Explain the merits of your nomination, submit any supporting materials for your nominee by e-mail, fax, or mail. Give specific examples.**

This nomination is for his mentoring and being a resource to others over the course of his career.

Jerry Schrotenboer is one of the most ethical and generous lawyers I know. He has mentored countless numbers of new lawyers and law students. He makes time for anyone walking into his office with a question, regardless of what he has going on (and he always has A LOT of work going on). Did I mention that he also is remarkably intelligent? It is not uncommon in Jackson County to argue a motion (especially when it is on an obscure issue) and have the court listen to both sides and then ask: "What does Jerry Schrotenboer think?" It is for those reasons that I think he is a perfect candidate for the Unsung Hero Award.

He is, by his own selfless giving of his time and talent, a huge asset to the members of the Michigan Bar who have the pleasure of knowing him. Jerry's wife, Karen Lewthwaite (also an exceptional attorney), describes his zeal to help other members of the bar as being rooted in his honest belief that justice is best served when everyone knows what they're doing. In other words, if everyone does their job well, a just outcome is more likely.

When I was a brand new attorney in the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office, in 2002, Jerry was kind enough to mentor me. He oversaw my first appellate brief and my first oral argument. Jerry makes sure that everyone in the prosecutor's office has a chance to do an appellate brief and argument.

Jerry does not believe in wasting time with extra language or extra words. For example, on one of his appellate cases, his oral argument was essentially: "You read the brief. Any questions?" Whenever I find legalese trying to sneak its way into a brief I am writing, I think "Jerry Schrotenboer would not approve." When he mentors people, he teaches them to say things in simple language that everyone can understand. He also has a great sense of humor - but the funniest jokes are the times when you don't know if he's joking or not.

Jerry Schrotenboer, in a nutshell, is an attorney without an inflated sense of self. He is genuinely interested in helping other attorneys do a better job. He makes people feel at ease. If you make a mistake, he doesn't beat you over the head with it either - he helps you figure out how you can do better in the future.

Jerry has spent his career almost entirely in public service. He graduated from UCLA Law School, along with his wife, in 1981. With the exception of four years, Jerry has worked in the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office since 1986. During the four years he was in private practice, he donated 100 or more pro bono hours to Legal Services - giving them the benefit of an exceptionally gifted and persuasive appellate attorney.

In addition to mentoring attorneys, providing ethical guidance, and managing the entire appellate docket for the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office (among other duties), he also is a member with the National Association of Extradition Officials. Jerry used his expertise in this area of law, in working with the Governor's Office, to help re-write the extradition laws in Michigan in order to streamline the process for the benefit of all involved in extradition proceedings.

It has been, for me, both a pleasure and a privilege to have had Jerry Schrotenboer mentor me and continue to provide ethical guidance. He has inspired me to want to be the best attorney I can be - and I know that there are many other people who feel the same way. It is my hope that you will consider awarding him the Unsung Hero Award as I believe he would be an appropriate and deserving recipient.

I have attached some additional letters of nomination. I expect that I may receive some more tomorrow and will forward them on.

Thank you for your consideration

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Reason for Nomination: Extraordinary mentor of many attorneys and law students. Exceptional generosity of time and talent in answering questions for attorneys in and out of the Prosecutor's Office, and also a resource to our local judges. He is very intellectual and shares his knowledge generously. Additionally, he is a gifted attorney with outstanding skills of persuasion.

Graduated from UCLA Law School in 1981.

Public Service: He has worked in the prosecutor's office since 1986 (with the exception of 4 years in private

practice). During his time in private practice he donated over 100 pro bono hours to Legal Services.

Member of the National Association of Extradition Officials. He used his expertise, in working with the Governor's Office, to streamline Michigan legislation to make our process more efficient for everyone involved.

United States Supreme Court: He has argued here.

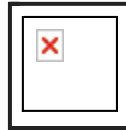
Award: 2010 Evelyn Holt Award Recipient for his extradition work.

**Optional: List news, magazine, radio, and TV features about the nominee's accomplishments (do not submit actual articles or DVDs). Feel free to include any hyperlinks to these stories, if they are still online.**

He has been named in several newsworthy publications including the Jackson Citizen Patriot, Mlive.com, Legal News, etc.

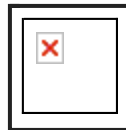
State date/page and media e.g.  
12/12/07, p. 12, Lansing State Journal,  
"Lawyer Begins TLC Program in Schools"

Attach Document (Optional)



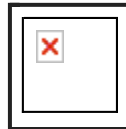
[schrotenboer\\_jerry\\_03.17.2016.pdf](#)  
170.07 KB · PDF

Attach Additional Document (10MB Limit)



[schrotenboer\\_corey.pdf](#)  
59.13 KB · PDF

Attach Additional Document (10MB Limit)



[schrotenboer\\_nicoson.pdf](#)  
43.93 KB · PDF

**JENNIFER V. LAMP**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW, PLLC

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PO BOX 1937  
Jackson, MI 49204

lawoffice@jennifervlamp.com  
Phone/Text: (517) 937-2444  
Fax (866) 620-1275

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March 18, 2016

State Bar of Michigan  
ATTN: Carrie Sharlow  
Representative Assembly Awards  
306 Townsend Street  
Lansing, MI 48933-2012

RE: Nomination of Jerrold Schrottenboer for Unsung Hero Award 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

Jerry Schrottenboer is one of the most ethical and generous lawyers I know. He has mentored countless numbers of new lawyers and law students. He makes time for anyone walking into his office with a question, regardless of what he has going on (and he always has A LOT of work going on). Did I mention that he also is remarkably intelligent? It is not uncommon in Jackson County to argue a motion (especially when it is on an obscure issue) and have the court listen to both sides and then ask: "What does Jerry Schrottenboer think?" It is for those reasons that I think he is a perfect candidate for the Unsung Hero Award.

He is, by his own selfless giving of his time and talent, a huge asset to the members of the Michigan Bar who have the pleasure of knowing him. Jerry's wife, Karen Lewthwaite (also an exceptional attorney), describes his zeal to help other members of the bar as being rooted in his honest belief that justice is best served when everyone knows what they're doing. In other words, if everyone does their job well, a just outcome is more likely.

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them to say things in simple language that everyone can understand. He also has a great sense of humor – but the funniest jokes are the times when you don't know if he's joking or not.

Jerry Schrottenboer, in a nutshell, is an attorney without an inflated sense of self. He is genuinely interested in helping other attorneys do a better job. He makes people feel at ease. If you make a mistake, he doesn't beat you over the head with it either – he helps you figure out how you can do better in the future.

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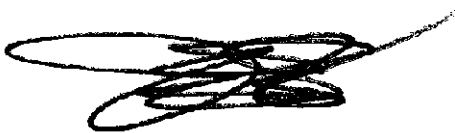
In addition to mentoring attorneys, providing ethical guidance, and managing the entire appellate docket for the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office (among other duties), he also is a member with the National Association of Extradition Officials. Jerry used his expertise in this area of law, in working with the Governor's Office, to help re-write the extradition laws in Michigan in order to streamline the process for the benefit of all involved in extradition proceedings.

It has been, for me, both a pleasure and a privilege to have had Jerry Schrottenboer mentor me and continue to provide ethical guidance. He has inspired me to want to be the best attorney I can be – and I know that there are many other people who feel the same way. It is my hope that you will consider awarding him the Unsung Hero Award as I believe he would be an appropriate and deserving recipient.

I will attach and/or forward some of the other endorsements which I have received for his nomination.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer V. Lamp". The signature is stylized with loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jennifer V. Lamp

I met Jerry Schrottenboer in my second year of law school, in 2003. I'd been told by a professor that Jerry was requesting a student to help him with research for a case he was arguing before the Michigan Supreme Court. I knew that he'd won a case at the U.S. Supreme Court, and I was suitably nervous on the drive to the prosecutor's office. I knew—*knew*—that someone with his reputation had to be a high-powered, no-nonsense type. If I made any mistakes, my law career would be over before it began.

When he came out of his office to meet me, it wasn't with the brisk no-time-for-small-talk stride I'd expected. He walked out easily, nodded at me amiably and waved me back for me to follow him without saying anything. He had a relaxed manner and spoke casually, which helped to put me at ease. I quickly figured out that Jerry didn't need "help" with the case, he was just curious to see what a student at the new law school could do. I was fortunate to find some case law that bolstered the argument he would be making, and he was generous enough to let everyone concerned know that I'd been the one to come up with that particular point.

After that, I did some more work for him. That led to working in the district court in Jackson County as an intern. When I graduated, I stayed in touch with Jerry. He was an excellent mentor, and in fact, he hasn't stopped being one. Since graduating, I've called him with questions, and if it had anything to do with criminal appellate law, that was all the research I needed to do. If it was an area of law that wasn't within his realm of expertise, he could recommend someone who would be able to give me an answer.

To anyone who asked me if I've profited from knowing Jerry, I would answer that I continue to do so. I'm now living in Cincinnati, so that twelve years after graduating from law school, whenever he's in town to argue at the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals and I'm able to leave work I still go to see him. And whenever I do, I pick up something new. I've been an attorney for a while now, and I'm still learning from my first mentor.

Joseph Corey

[josephcorey@hotmail.com](mailto:josephcorey@hotmail.com)

513-578-7737

I support the nomination of Jerry Schrottenboer for the Unsung Hero award. While I am not an attorney, I am educated and trained as a paralegal. Jerry was my supervisor in my first “official” position.

In 2000 I was hired by then-prosecutor John McBain as an Asset Forfeiture Paralegal, working directly under Jerry Schrottenboer. Although I had the education and degree, I had very little actual work experience. Upon coming in to the Prosecutor’s Office, I was immediately impressed with the knowledge Jerry had, regarding both the substantive and procedural areas of the law. While I had been trained in legal research using both books and electronic means, Jerry was a walking encyclopedia of knowledge! He had more information in his head than I could find with hours of research.

As a supervisor, and mentor, Jerry was the best! He taught me to use “common English” rather than the “legalese” I had learned in school. He showed me by example how to be ethical and yet, professional. Jerry trained me well, making sure I knew exactly what needed to be done and the proper way to do it, then let me do my job without unnecessary “micro-managing.” While as the supervising attorney, he was the one ultimately responsible for my work product, he trained me so well that eventually I was the one doing most of the work in the Asset Forfeiture department. There were occasions that he actually deferred to me as the person with the knowledge of a particular case. While many attorneys are afraid to admit they don’t know everything, Jerry was quick to give credit to someone else when warranted. He had a way about him that even when he was correcting a mistake, I never felt demeaned or criticized. I can honestly say that was my favorite job and he was one of my favorite supervisors.

I truly believe that Jerry Schrottenboer is definitely an Unsung Hero.

Dawn Nicoson

[dnicoson@justice.com](mailto:dnicoson@justice.com)

517-250-0570

Unsung Hero Award Nomination

March 17, 2016

Dear Ms. Sharlow,

I am writing you today to nominate Jerrold Schrottenboer for the Unsung Hero Award. Although Jerry ostensibly works only for the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office, he has been a mentor to a whole generation of young attorneys, prosecutors, defense counsel, and court staff alike.

When I first began working for the Jackson County Courts, Jerry immediately took me under his wing, giving me practice advice, assisting me with research, and giving me invaluable career contacts. He always has time for young lawyers, and I can say for certain that I have learned more from Jerry about practical lawyering than I ever did in law school. Indeed, there were many days in which I interrupted him at work to ask him questions; there were many days, too, during which he stayed late to help me or discuss files. He was always more than willing to spend time with me. His wealth of knowledge and his drive to impart that knowledge on me is something for which I will be forever grateful.

Through it all, Jerry has been nothing short of a consummate professional. Even when we have sometimes disagreed as to the correct course of action the Court should take as to a motion on its desk, I have never doubted Jerry's honesty and integrity in his work. If he believes a mistake has been made, he works diligently to correct it. If he believes a defense motion is correct, he moves to have it granted. I have personally known him to prepare letters on his office letterhead to assist members of the public who, having had their convictions set aside, were having issues finding jobs and housing due to these convictions still appearing on their criminal background checks. Jerry went out of his way to ensure that these people, having worked to better their lives, would not now suffer because of bureaucratic sloth. He routinely goes above and beyond to do justice and to serve his community, both of Jackson and of the lawyers therein.

I know that I am not alone in my respect and admiration for Jerry. He has endeared himself to every other law clerk in the building, judges, court staff, and the local legal community for his giving nature and tireless dedication to our profession. I can think of no better recipient of this award, and no one more deserving.

Thank you for your consideration,



Megan A. Smith (P79626)

Law Clerk

Co-Signed by:



Melissa Kyllonen (P78223)



Anna Widgren (P75009)



Bruce W. Crews (P75276)



Lori A. Davis