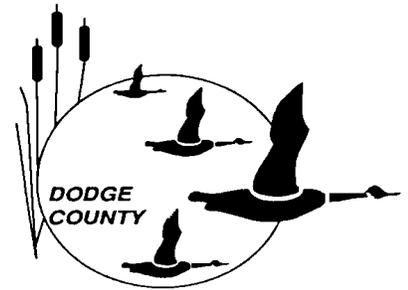


# OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Kurt F. Klomberg, District Attorney

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January 06, 2020

Dodge County Executive Law Enforcement Committee

**RE: Support Person of the Year Nomination of DA Legal Assistant Patti Kittleson**

Dear Fellow Members of DCELEA:

I write to advance a nomination for Support Person of the Year for District Attorney Legal Assistant Patti Kittleson related to her work on the Lavern Ware first degree intentional homicide prosecution. The case was resolved after a successful two-week jury trial in March of 2019. Patti's work was vital to the success we achieved in finding justice for the murder victim Sesalie Dixon.

Patti's role in the file was to maintain the file materials and all file organization. She was responsible for receipting all discovery from the agencies involved and then organize, copy and mail out the discovery to the defense. Additionally she was responsible for sending and receiving all correspondence, preparing and sending all officer notices, witness subpoenas and trial pleadings. These may seem like routine tasks, but the Ware case was anything but routine in these matters.

The Ware case involved 1487 pages of discovery and 67 disks and media files. Each of these items needed to be copied, labeled and sent to the defense. What made this a truly monumental task was that Ware changed attorney defense teams several times over the more than 2 years of prosecution. In total he had 12 different attorneys making up 6 successive representation teams. He also represented himself for a period of time. Each group of attorneys wanted a "fresh" set of discovery. As a result Patti had to recopy the entire discovery several times over, each time making sure that everything was in proper order and documented. Patti quite literally spend several days at the copy machine and many more days at her computer copying discs. This all was done without error, and no complaint from defense was received due to a discovery error on the part of Patti.

The case also involved 90 named witnesses, many of which were private citizens and even incarcerated convicts. Each required a notice or a subpoena for appearance at needed hearings and trial. What made this process exceptional is that the court adjourned the trial dates multiple times causing Patti to have to generate and send all the notices and subpoenas repeatedly, while also seeing that the prior notices were

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Peggy Novak  
Cayla Her

anceled. In total Patti generated and sent 104 officer notices and 145 witness subpoenas. She also was required to generate and file several prisoner transport writs to ensure incarcerated witnesses were present when needed. Each and every needed witness was properly served and noticed for their time to testify.

Additionally, over the course of the case Patti was required to receive and distribute all correspondence from the court, attorneys, victims and even the defendant (who at times was a rather prolific letter writer). As the prosecutor on the case, I received every letter, correspondence and pleading in a timely fashion to properly respond. Without Patti's organization I would have certainly missed important writings.

When it came time for jury trial, Patti saw that I had everything I needed to do proper jury selection obtaining the lists of the jurors and doing background reviews on each juror. This kind of work is time-consuming and tedious. Patti did these tasks in a fashion that was efficient, effective and ultimately in a way that provided me an organized package of materials to use during the selection of this important jury.

It is worth adding that the Ware case began in December of 2016 and did not conclude until Sentencing in June of 2019. Patti is responsible for these same duties in all felony cases for Dodge County. During that period of time, the Office filed well over 1000 additional felony cases. Patti was responsible for these same duties in each of those files. Maintaining this level of organization is truly exceptional.

We were able to achieve convictions after a 2 week jury trial in the Ware case for First Degree Intentional Homicide, Hiding a Corpse, Incest, and two counts of Felon in Possession of a Firearm. Ware was sentenced to Life plus an additional 18 years of prison. The earliest he could hope to seek release is in 2094 when he would be around 114 years old. While the police and prosecutors are publicly credited with protecting the public from dangerous individuals like Lavern Ware, it is the unsung heroes like Patti Kittleson upon whose shoulders we stand. We could never have been successful without Patti's work, and she should be recognized for her vital contribution in this case. Please support Patti Kittleson for Support Person of the Year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kurt F. Klomberg', written in a cursive style.

Kurt F. Klomberg  
District Attorney