

John F. Seiberling Jr. Award for Excellence in Elected Public Service

Judge Elinore Marsh Stormer

Summit County Probate Court

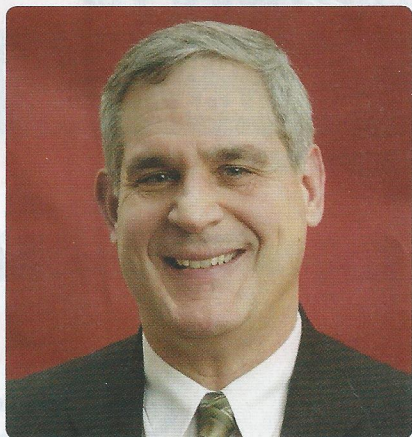


► **The Seiberling Award** goes to a public figure who has gone out of his or her way to demonstrate the spirit of charity. Judge Elinore Marsh Stormer has exhibited this trait throughout her career by supporting programs that focus on the idea of “therapeutic jurisprudence,” — looking for ways to allow the system to promote healing.

“Whatever I have done, it was simply because I saw a need and had the ability to do something about it,” Stormer explains. She has done this from her creation of Summit County’s first Re-entry Court — which helps felons become law-abiding citizens after their release — to her recent commitment to helping the court become a problem-solving system instead of a breeding ground for repeat

and multiple generations of offenders. She calls the latter one of her most fulfilling projects. “We were seeing the same people over and over again, not to mention their children and grandchildren,” she explains.

By creating a Problem-Solving Court, Stormer and her team have been able to break the cycle of illegal activity or addiction and help people get the treatment they need to get their lives — and the lives of their families — back on track. The treatment is individualized in order to be effective, and it really works. “I’ve had people who we’ve helped come back to tell me about their success,” she says. “It’s so much fun to watch them come to awareness, take steps to change and finally find joy.”



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