



IOWA DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERT ADVISORY BOARD

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2019 KIP HAYWARD AWARD

In 1992, Polk County Deputy Sheriff Kipton Hayward was among the first officers in Iowa to be certified as a Drug Recognition Expert while he was assigned to Polk County's Alcohol Safety Action Program, or ASAP, unit. He served in that capacity until the early morning hours of October 9, 1993 when he was on the scene of a fatality crash involving a drunk driver. While performing collision-related duties, Deputy Hayward was struck and killed by a passing motorist, who continued driving from the scene and was stopped over one mile away by an Iowa State Trooper. That driver was also found to be intoxicated by drugs and alcohol.

In 1994, the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau memorialized Deputy Hayward's ultimate sacrifice by forming the "Kip Hayward Award". In 1995, the GTSB began awarding one officer each year at this very conference. This award was designed to select an officer who epitomizes what Deputy Hayward stood for and to honor their exemplary service to the citizens of the State of Iowa in combating impaired driving. This award is a very special award amongst the DRE community and it signifies an officer reaching the highest mark in excellence to combating impaired driving.

This year's recipient of the Kip Hayward award is not a DRE, or even a Police Officer. In fact, there has been only one other time in the history of our DRE Program that a civilian was selected for this award, but the assistance she continually has provided to the DRE Program needs to be recognized. The 2019 winner of the Kip Hayward Award is Assistant County Attorney **Christine Circo**.

Ms. Circo came to our program as the Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor (TSRP) with the Iowa Attorney General's Office. She was approachable and immediately became a resource and asset to the DRE Program. It was immediately apparent she was as passionate, if not more, on interdicting impaired drivers and effectively prosecuting them. She developed presentations with up-to-the minute case law updates, she provided sound legal advice and strategies to bolster the fight against impaired driving, and she availed herself to the DRE Instructors to ensure all instruction being given was legally correct and based on current case law. Ms. Circo has presented DRE-based programs at our ARIDE schools, every DRE School, the County Attorney's Conference, the Judge's Conference, and several others. This big-picture approach dramatically improved the overall understanding of the training DREs go through, their effectiveness at accurately detecting an impaired person, and the overall unified approach to making Iowa's roadways safer and free of impaired drivers. Her dynamic and attention-grabbing presentations became so widely appreciated by prosecutors and law enforcement alike, prosecutors would regularly drop what they were doing to come listen to her speak during ARIDE schools. Word continued to spread and, next week, she will be presenting at the (now virtual) DRE National Conference.

Ms. Circo clearly enjoys providing this valuable training, but it became clear she missed the fight in the courtroom and, two years ago she returned as the Assistant County Attorney in Pottawattamie County. She has continued to work hand-in-hand with her replacement with the AG's office and continues to provide valuable training to our program. The most recent being a search warrant workshop where our program has worked hard to get all officers and county attorneys on the same page and streamline the toxicological warrant process to minimize possible errors on these very important cases. Ms. Circo provided this training, a standardized warrant template, and this training was so successful it was adopted by the Iowa State Patrol and their attorney has continued this training to all Troopers.

A person could go on and on about how valuable Ms. Circo's expertise is to our program. Her local, state, national, and international involvement in the DRE Program is unparalleled. Between her leadership, spot-on training, and genuine care of improving traffic safety, she has undoubtedly saved lives and made the roadways safer for all of us.

Ms. Circo was nominated by Captain Matt Bruner, Iowa DNR and Sergeant Paul Batcheller, Iowa City Police Department.