



## PRESS RELEASE

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New York State  
Unified Court System

Hon. Alan D. Oshrin  
District Administrative Judge,  
Tenth Judicial District (Suffolk Co.)

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### Joan Romanowski is Suffolk County's Court Employee of the Month

**CENTRAL ISLIP, N.Y.** - Suffolk County's District Administrative Judge, Alan D. Oshrin, is pleased to announce that Joan Romanowski, a Senior Court Office Assistant in the Data Entry Department in the Commissioner of Jurors Office, is being honored on February 15, 2002, as Employee of the Month for February.

Joan began her career in the Unified Court System in 1987 as a Data Entry Clerk in the Data Entry Department in the Commissioner of Jurors Office. In 1990, she became Data Entry Supervisor in the department and is presently a Senior Court Office Assistant responsible for the supervision of a staff of four (4). Joan and her fellow employees in the Data Entry Department are responsible for a wide variety of duties, including the processing of juror payrolls, the review and entry of juror qualification questionnaires, the issuance of summonses for jury service, including trial jurors and grand jury and, in addition, the preparation of reminder notices and subpoenas which seek compliance with the summons for jury service.

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It is fair to say that the Data Entry Department is the heart and soul of the Commissioner of Jurors Office. Approximately 15,000 juror qualification questionnaires are mailed from Albany to Suffolk County residents every other week which are returnable by prospective jurors to the Commissioner of Jurors. To adequately manage this tremendous volume requires dedicated and committed employees such as Joan and her staff.

Joan, a long time resident of Mattituck, will be sharing this special day with her three (3) children, Henry, Kevin and Stacey. Needless to say, they are all very proud of their mother's accomplishments.

Joan is being recognized for her outstanding effort and commitment to streamlining the processing of juror payrolls. Jury service is the cornerstone of the American justice system and has been the subject of important reforms across the state due to the legislative initiatives of New York's Chief Judge, the Honorable Judith S. Kaye. When a citizen of Suffolk County is called to jury service, pursuant to law, the state will pay the juror for each day of physical attendance unless certain exceptions apply. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of Joan and her staff, the amount of time that it takes for a juror to be paid once he or she has completed service, has been reduced to four (4) days. This is significant in light of the fact that as recent as 1996 it took nearly thirty (30) days for this process to be completed. Although Joan is the first to say that she could not have accomplished this formidable task alone, without her even-handed guidance, diligence and innovative skills this important improvement would not have been possible. Clearly, the professional work ethic demonstrated by Joan each and every day makes those who work along side her even better.

In sum, for her invaluable and professional dedication to her job and to her fellow citizens of Suffolk County in furtherance of the ongoing process of jury reform, Joan is most deserving of this month's Employee of the Month award.

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