



WEST VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF PROBATION OFFICERS

December 10, 2025

The Honorable David Wilmoth
Chief Circuit Court Judge
Twenty-fourth Judicial Circuit
Randolph County Courthouse
2 Randolph Avenue
Elkins, West Virginia 26241

The Honorable Jaymie Godwin-Wilfong
Circuit Court Judge
Twenty-fourth Judicial Circuit
James F. Cain Courthouse Annex
4 Randolph Avenue, Suite 102
Elkins, West Virginia 26241

**Re: Kimberly Bonnett
Twenty-fourth Judicial Circuit School-Based Probation Officer**

Dear Chief Judge Wilmoth and Judge Godwin-Wilfong,

In 1979, subsequent to the Judicial Reorganization Amendment of 1974, a group of probation officers sought to create a representative body with the hope of opening lines of communication between judicial probation officers, judges and the Administrative Office. Intending to promote the betterment of each officer, and each Probation office, the West Virginia Association of Probation Officers (WVAPO) was created and has grown in membership to over three hundred (300) current members.

In addition to playing an integral role in developing the policies and procedures utilized by Probation offices statewide, the WVAPO Board elected, many years ago, to create an award in an effort to celebrate a single officer who has shown exemplary efforts in supporting their respective Judges, collaborating effectively with their fellow officers and colleagues while working diligently towards bettering their community. The intention was to applaud and celebrate a deserving officer reminding that officer that their hard work and efforts do not go unnoticed; that their fellow officers are proud and honored to serve with him/her.

Since inception, the WVAPO Probation Officer of the Year award is presented annually to the recipient chosen by the membership body of the WVAPO. While initially simply called the *PO of the Year Award*, in 2022, upon the recommendation of now-retired Chief Probation Officer Terry Stuck, the award was renamed to that of the *Steven Gitlin, II Probation Officer of the Year Award* in memory of First Judicial Circuit Probation Officer Gitlin who succumbed to injuries he sustained in a vehicle accident that occurred while he was on duty. The motion to rename the award was passed, unanimously, by the WVAPO Board.

For the past several years, I have had the distinct honor and privilege to serve as the committee chair for this prestigious award. And each year, I am truly humbled by the accolades shared by my fellow officers in honoring their colleagues.

This year, however, was exceptionally notable. Requesting nominations for a recipient for this year's award, I was struck by the fact that one nominee received **nine (9) nominations** coupled with **four (4) additional letters of support** authored by community leaders and stakeholders. The overwhelming support of the nominee is a testament to the foundational character of that amazing person and officer.

In reviewing the presented nominations and supporting letters, terms such as "professional", "dedicated", "exceptional", and efficacious were used to describe the nominee, followed by "witty", "humorous" and "feisty". This nominee has not only touched the hearts of her colleagues, these letters said, she has also touched the hearts of her charges and their respective families.

Kimberly Bonnett, this year's recipient, was nominated as a result of her tireless dedication in her service to the Court, to the community, to her colleagues and most notably, to those that she supervises. Fulfilling her ethical obligations and professional duties with enthusiasm, Probation Officer Bonnett is described as the epitome of the dedicated public servant who assiduously promotes the betterment of her charges while offering supportive services to their respective family members. Tirelessly, she has worked towards creating constructive partnerships to ensure impactful, positive outcomes building lasting relationships with community stakeholders who work collectively to promote those successes on both a micro- and macrolevel.

Over the course of my tenure, one of my greatest joys is witnessing the recipient receive the presented award while hearing their colleagues share their most heartfelt thoughts. I am truly saddened that I am not able to personally witness Probation Officer Bonnett receive this well-deserved award.

To Probation Officer Bonnett: I wish to personally congratulate you on receiving this award. You are the embodiment of who we should strive to be each day; a respected officer, a beloved colleague, and a phenomenal human being. Continue being amazing you as the world will only benefit from your continued kindness and wonderfulness.

Wishing you and yours a happy, safe and joyful holiday season, I remain

Respectfully yours,

Danielle D. Hofe

West Virginia Association of Probation Officers Board Member
and Committee Chair

Cc: Stephanie Bond, Director Probation Services, Administrative Office
Luke Harvey, Division of Human Services, Administrative Office
Keith Hoover, Administrative Director, Administrative Office
Kimberly Bonnett, 2025 Recipient