



Lincoln judge gets service award

By **LORI PILGER**
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A Lincoln judge has been awarded the Nebraska Supreme Court's highest honor this year for going above and beyond his day-to-day duties.

Lancaster County District Judge Paul D. Merritt Jr. earned the Distinguished Judge for Service to the Judiciary award for his years of involvement in committee work and volunteer teaching through court education programs and the University of Nebraska College of Law, said Janet Bancroft, spokeswoman for the state Court Administrator's Office.

He serves on several committees and volunteers for the District Judge Association and for the Executive

Branch and the Supreme Court Support Ad-

Merritt is a founding member of the Court Interpreter Advisory Committee, which proposes and evaluates policies for interpreters across the state; and of the Nebraska Adult Interstate Compact State Council, which assists probation in uniform procedures to manage state-to-state movement of adults under community supervision.

He has worked for many years on the review of appropriate child support levels for Nebraska's children and is on the Nebraska Child



MERRITT

visory Commission and the District Judges Child Support Guidelines Committee.

Merritt also is past president of the Nebraska District Judges Association and serves on its legislative committee.

And, he has taken a leadership role in program design and development of Drug Court. He is a regular lecturer for New Judge Orientation through the Supreme Court education

program and provides ongoing education for judges and court staff.

Nebraska Supreme Court Chief Justice Mike Heavican said Merritt's work ethic is unmatched on the bench, and his public reputation for hard work and a ready ear does service to the entire district court bench.

"For a definition of Paul Merritt's work as a judge, one might simply consult the America Bar Association Standards on State Judicial Selection," Heavican said in introducing Merritt. "Standard A1 starts with experience, and is immediately followed by integrity. I believe all who know Judge Merritt appreciate that he has both, in abundance."