

NEBRASKA SUPREME COURT

Office of Public Information



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Norfolk Judge Patrick Rogers Recipient of Supreme Court's Highest Honor: Distinguished Judge for Improvement of the Judicial System Award

District Court Judge Patrick Rogers of the Seventh Judicial District was awarded the Distinguished Judge for Improvement of the Judicial System Award on Thursday, October 23, 2008, during the Nebraska Supreme Court's annual judicial dinner. The award, presented by Chief Justice Mike Heavican, is the highest honor given by the Nebraska Supreme Court recognizing members of the judiciary for meritorious projects and exemplary accomplishments that enhance the vision of justice within Nebraska communities.

Judge Rogers was nominated for his willingness to assist throughout the state's judicial system anytime or anywhere. During his tenure as a county court judge, and currently, as a district court judge, Rogers is often called on to assist with cases and projects throughout the judicial system.

Most recently, Rogers has been involved in a unique variety of projects ranging from judges' education, to drug courts, to access to the court system by non-English speaking litigants.

Rogers has been a member of the Interpreter Advisory Committee since its inception and served as keynote speaker at the most recent certification ceremony for court interpreters at the Supreme Court.

Rogers and Judge Robert Ensz were instrumental in the recent establishment of the Northeast Nebraska Adult Felony Drug Court and actively participate in its operation.

After being placed in the unimaginable position of trying multiple murders for an incident occurring only nine months after he took the district court bench, Judge Rogers turned his experience into an educational opportunity for other judges by taking a key role in organizing a conference on capital cases here in Nebraska. His prior teaching includes legislative updates and dealing with self-represented litigants.

Rogers, who has served on the district court bench in the Seventh Judicial District since 2001, also sat on the county court bench in the Sixth Judicial District from 1995 to 2001.

In presenting the award, Chief Justice Heavican thanked Rogers for his exemplary service on both the county and district court benches, noting that he has consistently demonstrated a judicial demeanor and competence during his tenure that brings credit to the judicial system and reflects very favorably upon the judicial branch of government.

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