

**FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
OF IOWA**

**OFFICES IN DES MOINES, ADEL,
OSCEOLA, CRESTON, INDIANOLA,
KNOXVILLE, MOUNT AYR,
NEWTON AND WINTERSET**

JUVENILE COURT SERVICES

Arthur E. Gamble
Chief District Judge

Marilyn S. Lantz
Chief Juvenile Court Officer

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June 5, 2014

Women of Influence Awards Committee
Business Record
100 4th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing in support of Karla Fultz's nomination for a Women of Influence Award.

I first met Karla more than thirty years ago when she was the Juvenile Court Referee and I was a young attorney appearing frequently in her courtroom. Women attorneys were a rarity then, and it was important to me to have a successful female judge as a role model.

Our careers both took other turns along the way, but we began working together again in 2002 when I became the Chief Juvenile Court Officer and she was a Juvenile Court Judge. Among the projects we worked on was finding ongoing funding to support the Juvenile Drug Court Karla had created. Karla's program has made a life changing difference for hundreds of young people. It was later emulated in other parts of the state and is now a line item in the state budget.

Karla also created the Family Drug Court for parents in the child welfare system who struggle with substance abuse issues. She had no funding for this project – just a vision and her characteristic determination, creativity and hard work. That program too has been copied in other jurisdictions and was touted by Chief Justice Mark Cady as a Judicial Branch priority in his State of the Judiciary address to the legislature last January.

The creation of these two programs is but a small part of the impact Karla has had on juvenile justice in Iowa. She has been a leader and an advocate, willing to take on a fight for what she believes is in the best interest of "her" children. The young people who came to her courtroom knew that she had very high expectations, but that she believed in them and cared about their success.

Karla is intelligent, creative and eloquent. She pursues her goals with enormous energy and passion. She can be tenacious when she believes in a cause. She is generous with both her time and her money. I had the honor of presenting Karla with the Donald L. Tidrick Award from Mentor Iowa in 2010 for her many good works in the community.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this most deserving candidate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marilyn S. Lantz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Marilyn" and last name "Lantz" being clearly legible, and "S." as a small initial between them.

Marilyn S. Lantz, J.D.
Chief Juvenile Court Officer