

Andrew Jackson Higgins  
Excellence in Juvenile Justice Award  
Thursday, October 29, 2015 -Noon



## The Recipient

Alan M. Greml served the children and families of the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit (Clay County) for more than 36 years. Alan joined the court in 1978, shortly after graduating from the University of Missouri-Kansas City with a Bachelor's Degree in Education and a Masters in Special Education. Alan was first hired as a Deputy Juvenile Officer, working in both the delinquency and child abuse and neglect units. In 1987, Alan was appointed as the Juvenile Officer for the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit. He continued as the Juvenile Officer until 2000, when he was appointed as Juvenile Officer and Director of Court Services, a position he held until his tragic and untimely death on December 26, 2014.

Throughout his career, Alan strived to do what was in the best interest of each and every child who came to the attention of the court. Locally, Alan was responsible for developing several programs and services that truly benefited the children and families of Clay County. Specifically, he was responsible for implementing the Transitions Family Visitation Program; Community Justice Boards and the CARE program.

Alan was a longstanding member of the Missouri Juvenile Justice Association, having joined the association in 1982; he remained a member until his passing in 2014. Alan served on the MJJA Legislative Committee for several years beginning in January of 2000. He provided legislative support on numerous juvenile justice related matters, and was particularly supportive of legislation that improved the care of foster children in the state of Missouri. Alan also served on the State Juvenile Detention Standards Workgroup, contributing to the revision of the Standards for Operation of a Juvenile Detention Facility. These standards were adopted by the Missouri Supreme Court and became effective January 1, 2015.

Alan was a dedicated member of his church and the Knights of Columbus. His civic engagement included the United Services Community Action Agency and parish liaison with the Uplift Organization. Alan was an active volunteer at St. James Catholic Church and Mercedarian Missionary Sisters at Our Lady of Mercy Country Home to name just a few.

Alan had a special bond with children and young adults, dedicating over half of his life to serving, teaching and protecting children.

Alan and his wife Nancy were married for thirty years. Nancy resides in Liberty, Missouri.