

NEBRASKA SUPREME COURT



Office of Public Information

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Beatrice Judge Paul Korslund Recipient of Supreme Court's Highest Honor: Distinguished Judge for Service to the Community Award

District Court Judge Paul Korslund of the First Judicial District was awarded the Distinguished Judge for Service to the Community 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 Korslund was nominated for the extraordinary attentiveness he shows to the citizens of his district in conducting his judicial responsibilities.

Last year Korslund's openness to use broadcast technology brought a program from Lincoln, Nebraska and another from Washington, D.C. directly to students in the Beatrice High School on Law Day. This interest in broadcast experimentation also brought a high-interest trial into the homes of many residents of Southeast Nebraska when Korslund agreed to televise the *State v. Griswold*, trial last May.

In volunteering as the first trial court judge in the state of Nebraska to preside over a televised jury trial, Korslund used the opportunity to bring greater understanding of Nebraska's judicial system to the public. Capitalizing on the opportunities presented by the case, Korslund provided numerous interviews explaining the function of the judicial branch, which were used to create an educational video regarding cameras in the courtroom.

Additionally, Korslund worked closely with Judge Vicky Johnson in setting up a drug court in their district to serve those in need.

Korslund, who has served on the district court bench since 1998, also sat on the county court bench from 1977 to 1980. In presenting the award, Chief Justice Heavican thanked Judge Korslund for his creativity and innovation, mentioning the many hours the judge has spent providing law-related education to school students and members of the local community.

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