



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Debra L. Gwin Awarded National Certified Guardian Excellence Award

During the National Guardianship Association's Annual Conference in Tampa, Fla., Debra L. Gwin, NCG, was recognized with the National Certified Guardian Excellence Award. One of the highest honors bestowed by the Center for Guardianship Certification (CGC), the award recognizes the person's exemplary work as a CGC National Certified Guardian and demonstrated knowledge of advanced guardianship concepts, ethics and issues.

Since June 1988, Gwin has been an employee in the Office of Clay County Public Administrator and served as the Deputy Financial Auditor for 10 years. She also served as the Assistant Deputy Public Administrator for six years in that office.

In 2005, she established the first restoration program in Missouri for Clay County for individuals under the care of the Public Administrator's Office. Gwin collaborated with Dr. Patricia Schoenrade, Ph.D., at William Jewell College and her team of case managers in the office of Clay County Public Administrator to provide an empowering environment conducive to health, affirmation and growth that promotes feelings of dignity, security, hope and fulfillment in the individual.

Gwin also worked to educate others about being a guardian. To establish the Missouri Guardianship Alliance, she worked with a local public administrator and past co-worker. This organization promotes awareness of, and support for, an association of individuals serving as guardian or having interest in becoming guardian in Missouri. The Alliance has provided seminars explaining the process and responsibilities of serving as a guardian/conservator for loved ones.

Despite all she has done, Gwin is still trying to advance guardianship. She is helping to establish a Public Administrator Restoration University Program with a local assisted living facility. It is an education program designed to teach skills that maximize self-determination, self-reliance and quality of life. Gwin comprises the characteristics that being a National Certified Guardian Excellence Award recipient requires.

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(Photo of Gwin available upon request)

CGC was founded in 1997 by the National Guardianship Association and is headquartered in Harrisburg, Pa. CGC has 1,600 National Certified Guardians and 66 National Master Guardians. For more information about national guardianship certification or to find a guardian, conservator or fiduciary in your area, please visit www.guardianshipcert.org.