

Sudbury Teacher Receives 2013 Hux-Kiteley Exemplary Justice Educator Award



The recipient of OJEN /ROEJ's 2013 Hux-Kiteley Exemplary Justice Educators Award is Shari Blasutti, an educator from the Rainbow District School Board in Sudbury. Ms Blasutti is recognized for her innovative contributions to teaching secondary school law over a period of nearly 20 years. The award was presented in front of an audience of her friends, colleagues and local justice professionals in Sudbury on Friday, October 11th.

Shari Blasutti teaches grades 11 and 12 Law at Lockerby Composite School in Sudbury. When the Sudbury OJEN /ROEJ Committee launched its Mock Trial program in 2003, she was the first teacher to participate. She has taken the lead in organizing the annual competition with the Committee every year since. Her classes have participated each time, consistently advancing to the finals and winning more competitions than any other team in the area. Many of her students have won individual advocacy awards. Shari not only teaches her students about the democratic values that underpin the judicial process, she emphasizes the collegiality and civility that characterize the dealings of the members of the Sudbury bar.

"Justice education is central to a student's engagement in civic society," said Madame Justice Patricia C. Hennessy, who along with Mr. Trevor Kestle of the Sudbury law firm, Miller Maki LLP, nominated Ms. Blasutti for the award. "The Mock Trial program which Ms. Blasutti has piloted and shepherded over the years enhances the long term ability of these students to access justice as they need it and to be interpreters of the justice system within the communities they will build and sustain," "With the enthusiastic support of Shari Blasutti over the past decade, local students have had the opportunity to build relationships within the professional community, and to develop skills they will use throughout their lives."

Shari is generous in her support of other teachers, sharing her teaching materials with teachers across the city. She helps new Law teachers with the course curriculum and introduced them to the Mock Trial program and collaborated with a team of her colleagues to develop a marking matrix for Mock Trials.

For her collaborative approach to working with teachers and the justice sector in Sudbury, for innovation in teaching Law in her classroom and for her leadership with regard to the Sudbury Mock Trial Program, Shari Blasutti is a deserving recipient of the 2013 Hux-Kiteley Exemplary Justice Educator Award.