

Dear Mr. Shepard:

I would like to take this opportunity to nominate Edna Staudt, Justice of the Peace Precinct Two in Williamson County, Texas for the Glenn Shepard Leadership Award.

I have worked for Judge Staudt for almost 13 years and in that 13 years I have seen her give of herself, her time, her talents, and most of all her passion. She not only leads with passion and compassion but leads by example.

She ran for office in 1994 and has been in office since that time. The people keep re-electing her as they know that she is fair, understanding, and leads with great character and integrity.

Judge Staudt has worked diligently in efforts to repeal laws that may affect the liberties of the people. She, also, speaks regularly to civic groups and students educating on laws and policy and has sponsored numerous programs to address issues seen regularly in and out of the Justice Court.

Since her time as Justice of the Peace she has accomplished many great things. One of them being the Teen Court Program. She partnered with the Greater Williamson County YMCA in 1997 to create the first Teen Court program in Williamson County that serves any student willing to learn the Judicial System. This leadership program has provided teenage defendants the opportunity to keep their criminal record clear of convictions. Many students who have participated in this program have continued to work and study in the Judicial System after High School Graduation. She not only teaches these students, she mentors them; leading them and guiding them into a better future for themselves, equipping them to become positive and productive citizens in their communities.

Seeing the need for more resources to address family problems, Judge Staudt created the Justice Court Mentoring Program which networks with local businesses and ministries to assign mentors to troubled teens in her court. The Justice Court Mentoring Program has served hundreds of students providing the support to finish school and make positive choices. Students have obtained their high school education, entered college, obtained jobs, restored relationships, become confident in themselves, and have obtained the ability to face life's challenges because of this mentoring program. Judge Staudt has truly made a lifelong impact on these students.

Not only does she lead students with confidence and integrity, she has led many different organizations and groups and has served on numerous boards. Her influence in the community is because of the positive, efficient, and strong leadership skills that she provides to all whom she encounters.

I could continue and fill pages upon pages on why Edna Staudt deserves the Glenn Shepard Leadership Award; however, I will end my nomination with this: I, myself, have become a better leader and person in every area of my life under her leadership and I now lead her great staff with her and for her.

Sincerely,

Melissa East