

We all remember how the introduction to the Superman series goes; “It’s a bird, it’s a plane...No, it’s Superman.” To introduce this legal professional one could say, “she’s an assistant, she’s a paralegal, she’s a spreadsheet genius, she’s a manager, she’s a friend, she’s a mentor, she’s a photographer...No, it’s...well, I can’t use her name just yet; but you will soon *know who!* Suffice it to say, she is multi-skilled, multi-talented, and critical to our everyday survival and progress as a firm. This professional just celebrated her 18th careeriversary with us, and before coming to us, she worked five years as a legal secretary, paralegal, receptionist, and bookkeeper in a different firm in Lincoln. She is a Kearney State College graduate with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration and Political Science and also received an Associate Degree in Applied Sciences in Paralegalism with a Commercial and Family Law Option from Metropolitan Community College in Omaha. She has the credentials and often pushes, nudges, and encourages the rest of us in our continued quest for education and growth by offering and setting up seminars and webcasts. On her most recent annual review, attorneys wrote, “*You-know-who* is super competent and her work is very valuable to us and to this organization. We trust her when we have issues with just about everything. We trust her implicitly. *You-know-who* knows all aspects of firm operations. She advocates for the best things at our firm. She has earned our trust through a history of accurate and competent work, and she has been crucial to the firm’s success and to the positive change in culture we have worked so hard to obtain. *You-know-who*’s support has been undying.” These sentiments speak to her high ethical standards, her continued pursuit of excellence and professionalism and to her resolve to make things better. I received a kind note from an attorney who works for us in another state after flying *You-know-who* there to assist with an effort in that small office. Among the things stated in the note was this, “*You-know-who* not only took charge, but accomplished far more than I expected all the while working as she does in the most collegial and professional manner possible.”---and the note goes on. It always seems that when around *You-know-who*, the bar rises, effort increases, and spirits rise. The team is always better when she’s involved. Most of us go to her when we need help with something, or if we have an unanswered question. She will have the answer, the solution, a good idea, a creative thought, or a method to discover the answer, AND the energy and resolve to help you...always. She sometimes struggles to understand how much she is appreciated and valued. When she is complimented for her efforts or recognized for an achievement, I often have to say, “Now, did you hear that? Did you REALLY hear that?” Her personality is also such an asset---as she has the perfect balance between sweetness, humor, and edginess ---just what attorneys sometimes need to get them over the hump. In other words, she can hold her own and take a punch as well as land a few. It’s amazing to witness! Don’t get me wrong here...she is always a professional and has a servant’s heart even in the tensest moments. She gets it. She has the courage and grit to make a difference...to her, her role is more important than her job description. She also helps train new folks around here, and as one staff member told me, “She really helped me in understanding the work-life balance when I first started here ---I was putting in lots of extra hours and probably looked a bit stressed out. She asked me, ‘Can it wait until tomorrow?’ and then said, ‘Great...let’s go home now.’ That left a lasting impression on me.” She has touched the lives of many--- over many years ---in the legal professional. She is currently the chapter’s media chair, and often brings a guest to chapter events. She’s an active member of the Scooter Club in Lincoln, and is currently taking classes at Southeast Community College honing her advanced photography skills, which our firm is finding to be a valuable skill for us also. She is passionate about the Missouri Valley Boxer Club where she adopted Zeus, a rescued Boxer. She once wrote, “Zeus is the happiest boy I have ever known. Every morning he wakes up, he acts like he is celebrating a brand new life! His perspective on life has helped me through some really hard times and he has been a Godsend.” Okay... *You-know-who* is not perfect---she’d be the first to admit that---but she strives for excellence. She doesn’t just show up for practice, she is committed to playing in the Super Bowl. Thank you for allowing me to recognize *You-know-who* for a shot at the 2018 Lincoln Legal Professional of the Year.