

ADVOCACY AT THE CORE

2023 Kentucky CASA Conference

Empowering Advocates. Empowering Children

Awards Luncheon Program

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2023

WELCOME

Andrea Bruns - Kentucky CASA Network, State Director/CEO

Beth Denham - Kosair for Kids, Senior Vice President of Development

MINI PLENARY

Cameron Galloway - Coalition Supporting Young Adults

Kentucky CASA Network 2023 Awards of Excellence:

BOARD MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Christopher Conley - The Buffalo Trace CASA Program

JUDGE OF THE YEAR

The Honorable Gina Kay Calvert - Jefferson Family Court, Division 9

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION SPOTLIGHT OF THE YEAR

CASA of Lexington

CASA of the River Region

CORE MODEL PROGRAM OF THE YEAR

CASA of Lexington

BOB BABBAGE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Vicki Schmidt - CASA of the Heartland

CLOSING

Andrea Bruns - Kentucky CASA Network, State Director/CEO



2023 BOB BABBAGE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Vicki Schmidt | CASA of the Heartland

Vicki Schmidt has been selected as the 2023 Bob Babbage Volunteer of the Year. Vicki has demonstrated exceptional dedication to advocating for CASA children for more than 13 years. Vicki has also been heavily involved in other crucial aspects of the CASA program, including recruitment and fundraising. The Kentucky CASA Network is proud to present this year's award to Vicki.

“Vicki Schmidt represents CASA in an impeccable manner that supports the CASA mission and exemplifies our guiding principles while providing best-interest advocacy for children in our community. Vicki is an asset to our program, and I could not think of anyone more deserving of this honor.” -*Michelle Kail, Executive Director, CASA of the Heartland*

2023 BOARD MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Christopher Conley | The Buffalo Trace CASA Program

Christopher Conley has been selected as the 2023 Kentucky CASA Network Board Member of the Year. Christopher joined the Board of Directors in September 2021 and fully embraced his role, becoming Board Chair less than a year later. Christopher is very involved with board governance and continually seeks ways to make The Buffalo Trace CASA Program better. The Kentucky CASA Network is proud to present this year's award to Christopher.

“Christopher Conley has worked tirelessly since joining the Board of Directors to assist the CASA program in any way. Christopher is an amazing Board Member and an amazing advocate of our CASA program.” -*Rebecca Palmer, Executive Director, The Buffalo Trace CASA Program*

2023 JUDGE OF THE YEAR

The Honorable Gina Kay Calvert | Jefferson Family Court, Division 9

Jefferson Family Court Judge Gina Kay Calvert has been selected as the 2023 Judge of the Year. Judge Calvert has served Jefferson County for over 30 years, and has been a Family Court Judge since 2016. Judge Calvert is highly regarded and respected in the legal community, by her constituents and families she serves, and by CASA of the River Region's volunteers and staff. The Kentucky CASA Network is proud to present this year's award to Judge Calvert.

“Judge Calvert welcomes every CASA volunteer into her courtroom, carefully reads each CASA report submitted to her, and regularly thanks the volunteers for their work with children. She values their input and allows time in every hearing to give volunteers an opportunity to make comments, ask questions, and to clarify situations involving the children they serve.” -*Emma Bamba, Advocacy Supervisor, CASA of the River Region*

2023 CORE MODEL PROGRAM OF THE YEAR

CASA of Lexington | Serving Bourbon, Fayette, Garrard, Jessamine, Lincoln, Scott, and Woodford Counties

CASA of Lexington has been selected as the 2023 Core Model Program of the Year. CASA of Lexington has developed an exceptional reputation within its seven-county service area due to the professionalism, volunteer-driven advocacy, high-quality training, and cultural dedication to excellence that its volunteers, staff, and board members demonstrate. The Kentucky CASA Network is proud to present this year's award to CASA of Lexington.

"CASA of Lexington goes to great lengths to ensure everyone involved in the mission understands the importance of the National CASA Guiding Principles. These principles unify our community and keep us focused on truly connecting with the children we serve, making our reports as effective as possible and getting results." -*Maynard Crossland, Board Chair, CASA of Lexington*

2023 DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION SPOTLIGHT OF THE YEAR

CASA of Lexington | Serving Bourbon, Fayette, Garrard, Jessamine, Lincoln, Scott, and Woodford Counties

CASA of the River Region | Serving Bullitt, Henry, Jefferson, Oldham, Shelby, Spencer, and Trimble Counties

CASA of Lexington and CASA of the River Region have been selected as the recipients of the 2023 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Spotlight Award. Both programs serve the most populous and diverse areas in the Commonwealth, and have committed to incorporating the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion into their everyday work, through continuing education offerings, recruitment, and more. The Kentucky CASA Network is proud to present this year's awards to CASA of Lexington and CASA of the River Region.

"Ultimately, we believe children are safest and most likely to thrive when they can be themselves and be seen by the court for all of themselves. CASA of Lexington is true a leader in making this happen." -*Hon. Traci Brislin, Hon. Ross Ewing, Hon. Libby Messer, Hon. Tiffany Yah, Fayette County Family Court*

"One of the things I appreciate most about CASA of the River Region is how they've made inclusivity a core part of their core mission. They've taken the extra step to engage judges, like myself, in their DEI journey. This collaborative spirit has not only strengthened our working relationship but has also paved the way for a more inclusive child welfare system." -*Hon. Shelley Santry, Jefferson Family Court, Division 2*

Thank you to our Awards Luncheon Sponsor:



KCN LEGISLATIVE CHAMPIONS

Senator Brandon Storm

Kentucky Senate District 21 (Casey, Laurel, Lincoln, Rockcastle Counties)

Representative David Meade

Kentucky House District 80 (Garrard, Lincoln, Pulaski Counties)

2023 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR FINALISTS

Dr. Ellen Burnett – CASA of Graves County & Southwest KY

Emily Burge – CASA of Graves County & Southwest KY

Kathleen “Kathy” Kenney – CASA of Madison and Clark Counties

Sharon Meade – CASA of the Northern Bluegrass Region

Toni Miller – CASA of West Kentucky

Teresa Nolet – CASA of the Bluegrass

Karen Proctor – CASA of West Kentucky

Stephen Scalf – The Buffalo Trace CASA Program



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

KENTUCKY CASA NETWORK

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